



High school football previews — week 1

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City water building brought to life by local artist

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San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 28, 2024

\$1

SLV Today Registration open for Miner Walk/Run

ALAMOSA — The 2024 Stephanie L Miner 5K Walk/Run will be on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Cole Park in Alamosa. The event begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements to help fight cancer. All proceeds benefit the local cancer center.

Registration opens on Aug. 28 and closes on Sept. 18. Cost is \$30 per person. Teams of 10 or more are \$25 per person. Registration is \$35 on the day of the event. T-Shirts are included in the price for the first 700 participants.

Run-Walk options are 1-mile healthy walk, 2.5-mile walk, or a 5k walk.

People can register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Alamosa/StephanieLMiner5kWalkandRun>. Shirts will be ready on Aug 30.

To register offline see the SLVH Foundation at 1921 Main St. or contact Arieen Khoketkham, Foundation Assistant, at 719-587-6359.

'Milagro Beanfield War' in Saguache

SAGUACHE — "The Milagro Beanfield War" by John Nichols and directed by Millie Duran will be performed on the stage at the Mountain Valley School, 403 Pitkin Ave., Saguache, on Thursday, Aug. 29. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. Students from the SLV will offer this stage adaptation of the novel by Nichols.

No change in Kit Carson Peak name

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Although the proposal to rename Kit Carson Peak to Tabeguache Ute Peak in Saguache County is under consideration by the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, the issue was not on the agenda of the at their meeting on Aug. 26. The next meeting of the board has not yet been announced.

SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 80/47
Thurs: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 79/43
Fri: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 78/45

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Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust announces new executive director

STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA — The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) announced this week that Laura Cusick has become the Executive Director of the organization. Laura joined the land trust in March of 2023 to direct the Land Protection Program.

Cusick grew up in the Pacific Northwest and has lived in Maine, Wyoming, Oregon and New

Zealand. She loves to travel and experience new places, cultures and food. She holds a B.S. in environmental education, a graduate diploma in viticulture and enology, and her previous career as a winemaker in the Willamette Valley led her full circle to pursuing her true passion of conservation. Working with wine growers and vineyards across the state gave Laura plenty of ex-

perience with agriculture and small business operations, and tending her own small acreage motivated her to help others conserve their land.

In addition to those passions, Cusick loves the outdoors and enjoys skiing, hiking, camping, cooking, and curling up with a good book and glass of wine by the fire on a snowy day. She is excited to continue her career collaborating with

all of RiGHT's partners on land and water conservation in the San Luis Valley.

"We are excited to have Laura at the helm of our organization," read a press release submitted by Kyler Brown. "We are currently looking to fill a position a development/fundraising position within our staff. RiGHT is currently taking applications for new board members." ■ See CUSICK page 3



Courtesy photo

Laura Cusick is named new executive director of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust.

History Colorado to engage communities in preserving San Luis Valley's past

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier reporter

DENVER — History Colorado has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to collaborate with residents of the San Luis Valley to develop sustainable, community-led preservation plans that preserve sites of meaning, provide economic and social benefits and increase representation of the Valley on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The basis of this project is to create deep, meaningful engagement with local leaders and community organizations in the San Luis Valley to identify 10 sites that are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers.

Sites will be considered



Photos Courtesy of History Colorado

S.P.M.D.T.U. in Antonito is an example of historic resources in the San Luis Valley currently on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

for research and nomination based upon the benefit their designation will be to the public, including factors like how accessible

the site to the community is, what kind of learning opportunities can the site provide and what are the site's relationship and

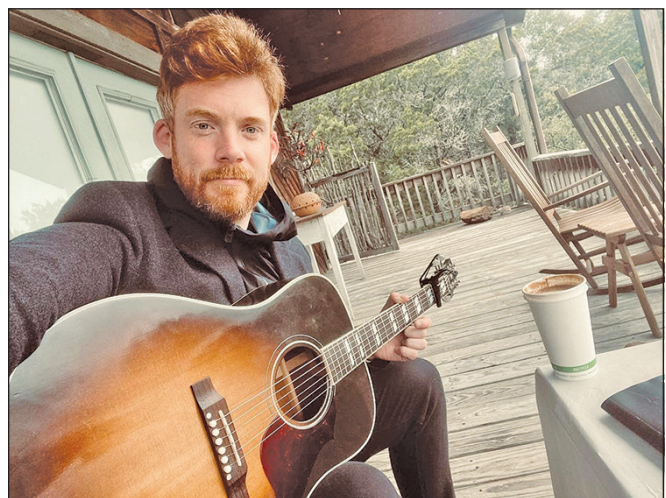
contributions to the local economy and social infrastructure.

"The San Luis Valley was historically both a geo-

political and cultural borderlands, in which the combination and collision of Indigenous, Hispano, and

■ See PAST page 3

Society Hall welcomes back singer-songwriter Byrne



By SOCIETY HALL ALAMOSA — Society Hall is excited to bring back Irish singer-songwriter Pat Byrne to Alamosa. Now making his home in Austin, Texas, Byrne has rapidly been making a name for himself in Americana and

Irish singer-songwriter Pat Byrne is returning to Society Hall for a concert on Aug. 31 in Alamosa.

Courtesy photo

alt-country circles everywhere across the country.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31, at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at www.societyhall.org and at the Green Spot, 711 State Ave., Alamosa. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel.

An Irish singer-songwriter, Byrne has come a long way since his first deal with Universal. In late 2017, Byrne began his migration to Austin, Texas. In 2019, he took the US by storm, with breakout performances at the 30A Festival, SXSW, Kerrville Folk Festival and the Americana Festival. Being immersed in the Texas music scene, his sophomore US re-

■ See BYRNE page 3

CRHC celebrates Safety Net Clinic Week in Alamosa

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Colorado Rural Health Center staff travelled to Alamosa recently to host a luncheon aimed at celebrating Colorado's rural safety net clinics during this year's Annual Safety Net Clinic Week (SNCW), Aug. 12-16.

CRHC chose San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center to honor the work of San Luis Valley Health staff and to hold a reading of a governor's proclamation.

"Safety net clinics are essential points of access for healthcare services in rural communities across the state. Quality care is

provided to those who are uninsured, underinsured, or insured through public programs like Medicaid, CHP+ and Medicare thanks to our safety net clinics," said CRHC CEO Michelle Mills. ■ See SAFETY page 3

Pictured left to right, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske, Alamosa City Councilor Dawn Krebs, Colorado State Representative Matthew Martinez, SLVH Special Projects Manager Becky Daniels, Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman, and Colorado Rural Health Associate Director for Outreach Matthew Enquist.

Courtesy photo



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Record

Creating new affordable housing can stabilize Saguache County workforce needs

By SAGUACHE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

SAGUACHE COUNTY – In the current housing crisis, developing more rental units that are priced to meet the wages of employees working throughout Saguache County has been an ongoing desire. The typical standard of affordability defined by HUD is only 30% of a household's gross income should be spent on housing. The development of Range View in the Town of Saguache will directly benefit households by meeting this standard of housing affordability.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines "low income" as a household earning equal or less than 80% of the Area Median Income. The most recent HUD 2024 Income Limits for Saguache County indicate that a household is considered to be "low income" with incomes noted below:

- a single-person household may earn equal to or less than \$52,750 annually;
- a two-person household may earn equal to or less than \$60,300 annually;
- a three-person household may earn equal to or less than \$67,850 annually;
- a four-person household may earn equal to or less than \$75,350 annually or less, etc.

Saguache County as a geographical region has generally depressed wages when compared to other regions in the state. The income levels noted above represent wages significantly higher than the average wage in Saguache County and in many cases would be considered a good salary for many jobs throughout the County.

The issue of depressed wages in Saguache County is so impactful that the San Luis Valley Housing Needs Assessment — facilitated by SLV Housing Coalition under the leadership of Dawn Melgares, the Executive Director (see assessment for Town of Saguache) — identified the need for additional affordable housing opportunities at rates

far below the asking price for most rentals in the area.

This substantial need for additional affordable housing units was more precisely defined in a site-specific "market demand study" commissioned by Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp (NWRECC) which indicated that Range View could consistently serve households with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The most recent Census noted the median income in Saguache County was \$51,946 compared to the State of Colorado's median income of \$89,309 (HUD's figures are more recent than the last census).

The average person's income for Saguache County is \$34,311 and when comparing these numbers to the allowable HUD income levels — it is possible to see how building the 32-unit Range View and expanding the Saguache County Housing Authority will impact employee retention.

When considering the above noted income levels — for context it is important to consider for example the pay rate of teachers at Mountain Valley School. The first-year base pay salary for a teacher is \$37,000. Attracting more teachers who would like to live in this rural community and who could also apply for SCHA affordable housing program now and into the future with the completion of Range View — one can see how folks who are attracted to the region could put down roots, and possibly grow a family with both a steady job and affordable housing.

"The beauty of Range View is that in partnership with Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp and all the contributing partners — the project directly impacts the process of building up our community and can help change old poverty narratives into that of a thriving Saguache County," stated the Saguache County Board of Commissioners.



OBITUARY

Dustin James Kirkendall

Dustin James Kirkendall passed away on Aug. 21, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the age of 43. Born on March 29, 1981, in Denver, Colo., Dustin's boisterous nature left a permanent mark on the hearts of all who knew him.

Dustin is survived by the love of his life Tabatha Downing, and their three cherished daughters, Olivia, Isabella, and Sayde May Kirkendall, his parents Frank and Debi Kirkendall of Mosca, and his grandpa James Warner of Saguache, his grandparents Ted and Merry Kirkendall of South Dakota, his aunts Carlana (Larry Rodriguez) Ceja of Nebraska and Carla (Dale) Fogry of Nebraska, his uncle Ryan Williams, and aunt Nicole Soto both of Denver. His life was enriched by his close-knit relationships with his cousins Kyle, Darren, and Jasper Ceja, Cameron (Austin) Gray and Jordan and Jeffery Heckman, along with numerous other family members and dear friends who will miss him deeply.

Dustin was preceded in death by his sister and her husband, Nicole



(Cyril) Carragher, his cousin Terry Ceja, and his grandparents Willa May and Roger Williams, and Dean Kirkendall.

For 22 years, Dustin dedicated his professional life to Publication Printers in Denver, where he was not only an employee but a cherished member of the work community. He loved his job and the people he worked with, giving the same passion and enthusiasm to his career as he did to every aspect of his life.

Known for his laughter and ability to light up any room, Dustin's presence was a source of joy and comfort. He loved his sister very much and missed her very much. His caring and generous spirit made him a beloved figure, and his selfless nature was evident in every interaction.

An avid outdoorsman, Dustin relished the time

spent fishing and hunting, embracing the beauty of nature. His love for his family and friends was unmatched, and he deeply cherished spending time with them. His favorite team was the Denver Broncos, one of his favorite pastimes was to watch them play.

Dustin's laugh was a melody that all who knew him wish they could hear just once more. His generous, loving, and selfless character will forever be etched in the memories of those he touched. Dustin James Kirkendall lived a life full of love and laughter, and his legacy will continue to inspire and warm the hearts of many. He will be profoundly missed!

There will be a visitation on Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa, then we will proceed to the Alamosa Cemetery for a graveside service to honor his life, starting at 11 a.m. Services are in the care of Rogers Family Mortuary.

To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Dustin's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Cloyde Snook Gallery opening reception is Friday



Courtesy photo

ALAMOSA – The Adams State University Cloyde Snook Art Gallery currently features 'Floor Saga,' the Church Project Community Art Center. Art alumna and founder/director of the project, Madeleine Ahlborn, will present a free lecture at 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, in the Visual Art Building room 130. Her presentation will include over 60 black and white photographs documenting the opening and renovation of an old church in Monte Vista into a community art center. A free reception, serving barbecue, will immediately follow the lecture. The reception includes recent works by art alumni Nora McBride and Matt Capell in the Hatfield Gallery. The shows continue through Sept. 20. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will keep his name on Colorado's ballot

By JESSE PAUL
The Colorado Sun

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, who suspended his campaign last week and threw his weight behind Republican Donald Trump, won't remove his name from Colorado's ballot.

Kennedy's campaign informed Colorado election officials of its decision on Tuesday.

"We are not withdrawing in Colorado," Kennedy's campaign wrote to the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

Kennedy suspended his campaign Friday, saying he didn't have a pathway to victory. He endorsed Trump as he exited the race.

In suspending his campaign, Kennedy said he would remove his name from the ballot in about 10 swing states. However, he never said which ones.

Colorado used to be considered a swing state but now is generally regarded as firmly in Democrats' hands.

The Colorado Sun reached out to Kennedy's campaign several times after the announcement Friday asking if it would keep Kennedy's name on Colorado's November ballot. We did not hear back.

Kennedy's campaign can still change its mind. It has until Sept. 6 to remove his name from Colorado's ballot. While Kennedy has verbally suspended his campaign, he will remain on the ballot in Colorado and other states until he formally withdraws his name.

Kennedy qualified Aug. 1 to appear on Colorado's presidential primary bal-

lot as an independent presidential candidate after gathering at least 1,500 voter signatures in each of the state's eight congressional districts.

The Associated Press says Kennedy has withdrawn his name from the ballot in Arizona and Pennsylvania. But election officials in the battlegrounds of Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin told The AP it would be too late for Kennedy to take his name off the ballot even if he wants to do so.

Kennedy has said he has qualified to be on the ballot in about 20 states.

Kennedy's decision to stay on the ballot in Colorado may be a play to help Trump.

Before President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid, Kennedy was, for a third-party candidate, polling relatively well in Colorado.

A poll conducted by Global Strategy Group among 800 registered voters from June 17-24 showed Kennedy capturing 12% of the vote in Colorado. Biden had 42% of the vote, according to the poll, while Trump had 36% and 5% were undecided.

The poll had a 2.5 percentage point margin of error. The Democratic firm accurately predicted 2022 election outcomes in Colorado.

Andrew Baumann, the Global Strategies Group pollster who conducted the survey, said at the time that Kennedy was the reason for Biden's relatively low numbers compared to his 13.5 percentage point victory in Colorado in 2020.

The Colorado Sun has not seen public presi-

dential race polling from Colorado since Biden dropped his bid and was replaced by Vice President Kamala Harris.

Only four third-party presidential candidates have received more than 10% of the vote in Colorado since 1904:

- In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt, running under the Progressive Party banner after serving as a Republican president, won 27% of the presidential vote in Colorado. Democrat Woodrow Wilson won the state with 43% of the vote, while incumbent Republican President William Howard Taft got 22%.

- In 1924, Progressive Party candidate Robert La Follette, a former Republican, got 17.5% of the presidential vote in Colorado, while Republican Calvin Coolidge, the ultimate winner, got 49%. Democrat John Davis got 19%.

- In 1980, U.S. Rep. John Anderson, a former Republican, took 11% of the presidential vote in Colorado while running on the National Unity Campaign ticket. Republican Ronald Reagan got 55% of Colorado's vote while defeating incumbent Democratic President Jimmy Carter, who got 31%.

- In 1992, Texas businessman Ross Perot took 23% of the vote while running as an independent candidate. Democrat Bill Clinton got 40% to defeat Republican President George H.W. Bush, who received 36%.

School Menu Wednesday August 28, 2024

BREAKFAST

Sausage Patty On A Roll
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

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Veggie Cups
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

PENDING OBITUARY

Cleo Patsy Cordova

Cleo Patsy Cordova, 75, a kind and generous woman, passed away peacefully on Aug. 26, 2024, in Alamosa, Colo. Services for Cleo are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary.

Valley News

Labor Day celebration set to spice up Creede

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — Creede has been a busy place this summer and the mountain town has the best way to spice up the summer goodbye with a Labor Day weekend sure to entertain families of all ages.

Friday, Aug. 30, begins the weekend with the Creede Farmer's Market that offers a wide variety of goods, fresh veggies and homemade crafts.

Saturday kicks off with the annual Creede Mountain Run in the morning. This annual tradition is a great way to enjoy the last warm days of summer by running on some of Creede's beautiful trails.

According to the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, the Creede Mountain Run, established in 1987, celebrates the end of summer and the beginning of fall in the historic moun-

tain town. This event offers participants the opportunity to enjoy the breathtaking San Juan Mountains on a 2, 12, 22 mile, or 50K course.

The race begins in the town of Creede, leading racers along Main Street early in the morning, as sleepy stores open and coffee shop patrons step onto the street to cheer racers on. The course follows Willow Creek out of town and up toward the Black Pitch, testing their endurance for a quick altitude gain while piquing their interest with old mines hanging precariously from vertical cliffs. The 12-milers round out the Bachelor Loop, while the 22-milers climb up to the top of the Continental Divide, before making their return into Creede and the start-finish line.

Registration for the 22 Mile and 50K closes at 7 a.m. with a prompt 7:30 start time.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Labor Day weekend in Creede is expected to be spicy affair. Everyone is invited to enjoy the festivities and participate in the annual Salsa Fiesta

Registration for the 12 Mile and 2 Mile Run/Walk closes at 8:30 a.m. with a prompt 9 start time.

The fun doesn't end there. Several shops will be open and welcoming people. Local restaurants will be serving delicious food and there will be musical entertainment

throughout the town.

The annual Salsa Fiesta begins at 11 a.m. and features local recipes that are sure to keep things spicy throughout the day.

Salsa Fiesta tickets are on sale now through Labor Day weekend and can be purchased at the chamber. This is an excellent opportunity for local

restaurants and business owners to show off their culinary talents by offering salsa in four distinct categories — red, green, fruit and freestyle.

In years past, the winners have only received bragging rights but now, thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, each winner receives a trophy to show-

case their culinary skills.

Be sure to come to the Creede Repertory Theatre to see some of the last productions of the season, including "Prima's Guide to Funerals," Boomtown, "Baskerville," and "Young Frankenstein." For tickets or a full schedule of shows, visit www.creederep.org.

PAST

Continued from Page 1

Anglo peoples formed a hybrid culture that is like no other in the United States," said Dawn DiPrince, President/CEO of History Colorado and State Historic Preservation Officer.

"Preserving the sites that tell the authentic stories of the Valley and provide collective meaning to its people is critical to recognizing the full breadth of our state's history before it is lost to time.

"This effort will also provide us an opportunity to invest in the future prosperity of the Valley as historic designations can provide access to funding avenues that can be used to protect sites which define communities," DiPrince said.

While the specifics of how this project will be

implemented are still being developed, Luke Perkins, History Colorado's Manager of Communications and Public Relations, told the Valley Courier, "We're planning to hold three major convening events where we will engage with community leaders to identify the sites. We'll also be offering an honorarium for those people who attend."

In addition to providing technical support in researching and nominating sites, this grant funds consultation opportunities with grant-writing and sustainability planning experts who will help locals establish sustainability plans for each of the sites added to the State and National Registers. This consultation will assist locals to develop funding applications that support ongoing maintenance, operation,

and/or redevelopment and restoration plans for sites so they both preserve the past and serve the contemporary and future needs of San Luis Valley and its residents.

It's the hope of History Colorado that the preservation support and projects put in place by this grant will continue to pay dividends for the community long after the grant funded effort is completed by empowering locals to lead preservation efforts across the San Luis Valley and provide a model for how preservation can meet the needs of under-resourced communities.

"We are lucky that San Luis Valley communities have fiercely and lovingly preserved their rich historic resources for generations, and we are eager to support their stewardship with additional resources and tools," DiPrince said.

"This project has the potential to set a standard for how historic preservation can turn the vital markers of the past into economic drivers of the future."

The work done in the San Luis Valley will also provide History Colorado an extensive opportunity to evaluate the processes and procedures which govern nomination to the State Register. It is the organization's hope that community input provided through this project will help remove any undue barriers that restrict marginalized communities from accessing historic designation and preservation funding.

"When people think classically about historic properties, they envision stunning Victorian houses, and the creations of renowned architects, but this only represents a portion of our shared history," DiPrince

said. "This work allows us to advance what historic preservation looks like and build an inclusive historic record that represents the experiences of all of Colorado's people."

Colorado Heritage for All is an intentional effort by History Colorado to address the lack of representation of all of Colorado's diverse communities on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Colorado Heritage for All supports nominations and the listing of 150 currently unrecognized historic resources that tell the stories of marginalized communities by the end of 2026.

History Colorado's mis-

sion is to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past. We serve as the state's memory, preserving and sharing the places, stories, and material culture of Colorado through educational programs, historic preservation grants, collecting, outreach to Colorado communities, the History Colorado Center and Stephen H. Hart Research Center in Denver, and 10 other museums and historic attractions statewide. History Colorado is one of only six Smithsonian Affiliates in Colorado. Visit HistoryColorado.org, or call 303-HISTORY, for more information.

Safety

Continued from Page 1

CRHC hosts SNCW each year to celebrate, honor and raise awareness of the work of safety net clinics and to educate policymakers, healthcare advocates and community leaders on the necessity of keeping our safety net intact and thriving."

Konnie Martin, CEO of San Luis Valley Health, expressed gratitude and pride in being part of the safety net system, stating, "We are thankful to have a safety net system and very proud to be part of the safety net and taking care of our community."

Even though supplemental federal funding is unavailable to them, RHCs provide essential healthcare services to rural and underserved populations. While RHCs are diverse in their business and practice models, they are comparable in their commitment to providing health and healthcare services to people in need. They deliver meaningful results and value to their communities de-

spite limited funding for general operations, workforce challenges, growing reporting and accountability requirements and changing payment and delivery models.

This year, CRHC hosted a celebratory luncheon for policymakers, funders, providers, and other healthcare partners in Alamosa on Aug. 16. CRHC chose Alamosa to honor the hard work of San Luis Valley Health employees in the effort to pass SB24-168 this past legislative session.

SLVH Becky Daniels testified in front of the committee. Becky Daniels shared her personal experience, noting, "This is the biggest and best thing I've done with my career in my 11 years of healthcare. It gives me a way to help our patients in a way they have never been helped before."

Martin concluded, "It is an honor to have had the voice and to have had the team behind this important initiative."

This vital piece of legislation, signed into law in May and co-sponsored by local representative Matthew Martinez (D),

expands access to Remote Patient Monitoring services and Continuous Glucose Monitors for Medicaid members across Colorado. Read more about the bill on CRHC's website <https://coruralhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/168-Fact-sheet-april-26.pdf> and view a short advocacy video on CRHC's YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/Li6UBd9jMI>).

"The efforts of San Luis Valley Health, as well as Melissa Memorial in Holyoke and countless other facilities and partners, made the passage of SB24-168 possible this year. From testifying in front of committee to education campaigns, the work of dedicated advocates such as these will make a real difference in patients' lives," said Mills. "Showcasing the important work done by our members is what the week was all about. Happy Safety Net Clinic Week."

Governor Jared Polis also signed a declaration proclaiming August 12-16 Safety Net Clinic Week in the state of Colorado. According to the procla-

mation, "these care settings often lack sufficient workforce and technical resources, but are creating innovative solutions to delivering patient-centered, high-quality care in an efficient and effective manner.

"We express our gratitude to these clinics who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to serving their communities," the proclamation continued.

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a non-profit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality.

For more information, visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

Cusick

Continued from Page 1

members. Go to rightslv.org to contact us." The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust was founded as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization in 1999 to help secure water for the future. Self-described as the only community's land trust that serves

the entire San Luis Valley, RiGHT is committed to working with private landowners, public agencies, and other conservation organizations to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area and to promote a sustainable agricultural way of life.

As stated on the RiGHT website, the goals of the organization are to protect and support working

ranches and farms, water resources, wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, and inspire a culture of conservation in the San Luis Valley.

A land trust is a non-profit organization that, as all or part of its mission, actively works to conserve land. Land trusts traditionally achieve their conservation goals by acquiring and stewarding land

or conservation easements.

More recently many land trusts, like RiGHT, have started to broaden their programs beyond property acquisitions to help all people benefit from conserved lands. As stated on their website, "We believe working with more of our community will support our goal of protecting land and water forever."

Byrne

Continued from Page 1

lease, "Into the Light," has an edgier feel underscoring both emotional depth and greater confidence, while blending new influences with his rich Irish heritage.

Upon seeing Byrne and his band playing "Dublin Blues" in Gruene Hall, Peter Blackstock, esteemed Austin (Texas) American Statesman music writer, said, "I know this song is on Steve Earle's new album, but Pat does it better, and I'll stand on Guy Clark's workbench in my brown suede Merrells and say that."

Blackstock is not the only one out there describing Byrne as one of the most promising young singer-songwriters. Stuart Gray of Hot Press Magazine wrote, "Pat's voice strikes an emotion-


al chord with his audience; ranging from seductive whisper one moment, to full-bodied rock 'n' roll growl the next."

Even the vaunted Folk Alley was beside itself when it discovered Byrne in January of 2019 at the 30A Songwriters Festival in Florida: "When you combine the transcendent poetry of Bob Dylan with the gritty, real-world rock-roll storytelling that Bruce Springsteen made so famous, and then add a dash of the political activism embodied by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, you'll have Irish singer-songwriter Pat Byrne."

Grab your tickets today for a special evening with Pat Byrne, who brings with him an undeniable voice born from a mashup of Cocker, Springsteen and Dylan, bridging the gaps of blues, folk and soul, live on Aug. 31 at Society Hall.

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Opinion

Go all-electric—and help change the world

The company I work for recently built a new ticket office at the base of Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen, Colorado. Environmentally, we killed it: argon-gas-filled windows, super-thick insulation and comprehensive air sealing, 100 percent electrification using heat pumps instead of gas boilers. All within budget.

Writers On The Range



Auden Schendler

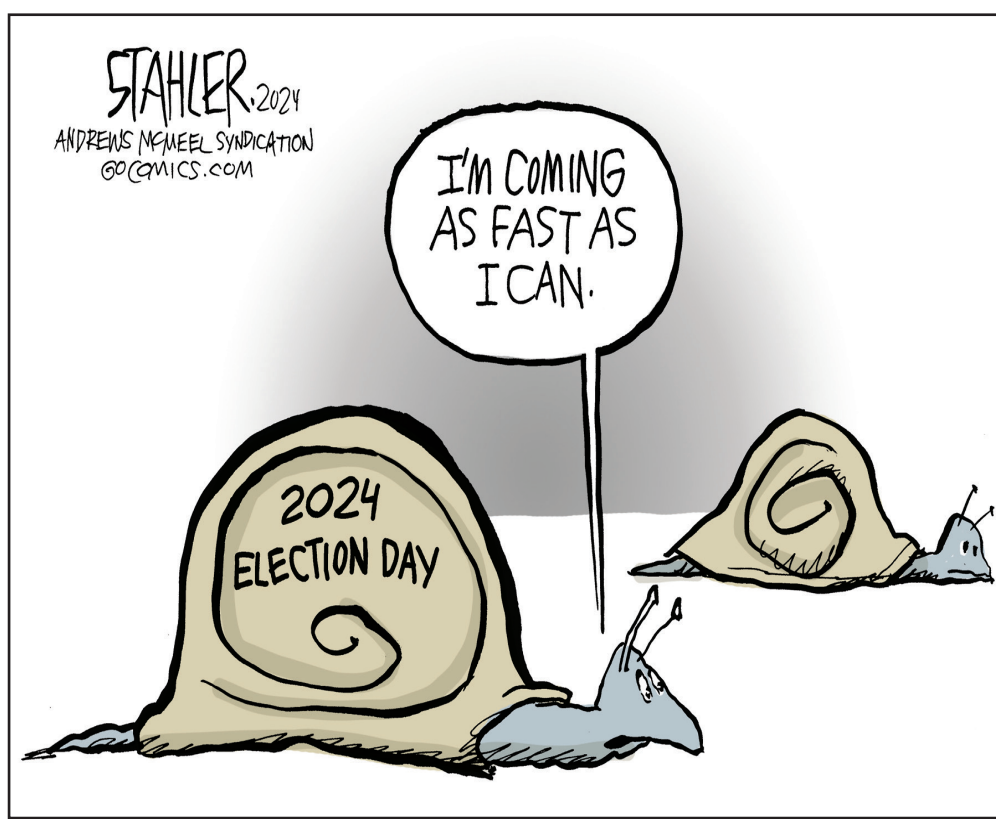
Yet one of the first comments we received was from a famous energy guru: “Nice building. But why do you have a heating system at all?” Or more simply put: “Why didn’t you build a perfect building, instead of just a really good one?”

Solving climate change could depend on how we answer that question. My answer: Society needs the Prius of buildings, not the Tesla X.

The green building movement didn’t originate only from a desire to protect the environment. It often had elements of the bizarre ego gratification that trumped practicality.

Recall “Earthships” that used old tires and aluminum cans in the walls. Geodesic domes were interesting looking but produced inordinate waste to build. They also leaked. Rudolf Steiner’s weirdly wonderful Goetheanum was an all-concrete structure designed to unite “what is spiritual in the human being to what is spiritual in the universe.”

Early practitioners such as Steiner, Buckminster Fuller, and Bill McDonough, among others, were often building monuments, whose ultimate goal became the concept of “net zero.”



Net zero was a building that released no carbon dioxide emissions at all.

Designers achieved that goal by constructing well-sealed, heavily insulated, properly oriented and controlled buildings — but then they did something wasteful. They added solar panels to make up for carbon dioxide emissions from heating with natural gas. The approach zeroed out emissions, but at extraordinary cost that came in the form of added labor, expense and lost opportunity.

While net zero wasn’t a good idea even when most buildings were heated with natural gas, the rapid decarbonization of utility grids — happening almost everywhere — and advances in electrification make the idea downright pointless.

Instead, all you need to build an eventual net zero building is to go all-electric. It won’t be net zero today, but it will be net zero when the grid reaches 100% carbon-free power. So, all that really matters is that building codes require 100% electrification.

Yet many communities remain focused on that sexy goal of net zero, and therefore include requirements for solar

panels, or “solar ready” wiring. Even apart from the issue of cost, many utilities don’t need rooftop solar because they increasingly have access to huge solar arrays, giving them more electricity than they need in peak times.

What utilities really need is energy storage and smart management.

That means home batteries and grid integration that allows utilities to “talk” to buildings and turn off appliances during peak times. The problem is that environmentalists haven’t evolved: Just like we can’t retire our tie-dyes, we think “green” means rooftop solar panels.

My company’s Buttermilk building passes the only test that matters: “If everyone built this kind of structure, would it solve the built environment’s portion of the climate problem?” The answer for our building is “yes.”

Still, aspirational monuments matter. We need the Lincoln Memorial, the Empire State Building. But if we’re going to solve climate change in buildings, which is about a third of the total problem, new structures will have to reconceive what we consider efficient and beautiful. And it doesn’t have to break

To submit news, email:
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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.”

the bank.

Electrification, for example, is getting cheaper every year. Years ago, I served on an environmental board for the town of Carbondale in western Colorado. The overwhelming interest there ended dandelion spraying in the town park. But at one point, we worked on a building.

After a long conversation about the technical tricks and feats we could pull off, a Rudolf Steiner disciple named Farmer Jack Reed said: “We should also plant bulbs in the fall so colorful flowers blossom in the spring.” “Why?” I asked, stuck in my own technocratic hole. He said: “Because flowers are beautiful and they make people happy.”

So, too, are realistic solutions as we adapt to climate change.

Auden Schendler is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is senior vice president of sustainability at Aspen One. His book, “Terrible Beauty: Reckoning with Climate Complicity and Rediscovering our Soul,” comes out in November.

ASD: Why your vote in November matters

By DIANA JONES AND LUIS MURILLO

We’ve all seen the positive changes sweeping through the Alamosa School District, and it’s clear that our collective efforts are making a difference. From the ambitious Strategic Plan to the dedication of our educators, parents, community partners, and the enthusiasm of our students, we are witnessing a remarkable transformation in our schools. This momentum reflects our shared vision: to create an educational environment where every student can thrive and every teacher feels supported.

The heart of this transformation is rooted in our Strategic Plan, which includes Core Beliefs, Mission, Vision, and the Profile of a Graduate. This plan has guided us toward fostering a strong sense of belonging, academic excellence, and safe learning environments. Our district’s commitment to these values has been instrumental in driving the positive progress we’ve seen across our schools.

Our Board of Directors has embraced a vision for Alamosa that sets a high bar for excellence. Their vision articulated as “Our greatest hopes for the Alamosa School District is to continue improving academic achievement for all students, expanding positive and relevant learning opportunities, and improving each school climate so Alamosa Schools can become the district of choice in the San Luis Valley, resulting in teachers wanting to teach here, and families and children wanting to attend school here, while leading to Alamosa being recognized as the standard of excellence in rural Colorado” is both ambitious and

inspiring.

The Board of Education has put forth a \$28 million bond measure for the upcoming November ballot to support this vision and ensure continued progress. This bond represents a critical opportunity to invest in our educational facilities, advance cutting-edge systems, and elevate the quality of our learning environment. The decision to move forward with this bond reflects a deep commitment to our entire school community’s long-term success and well-being.

If approved, this bond will primarily focus on key improvements at Alamosa High School and Ortega Middle School, with additional projects at our elementary schools and transportation and maintenance facilities. Let’s dive into what these enhancements will mean for our students and staff:

Alamosa High School will receive vital updates, including a secure entrance to enhance safety, modernized classrooms and restrooms, and essential maintenance work. These upgrades will help create a more secure and conducive learning environment for our high school students.

Ortega Middle School will benefit from improving the learning environment by adding classrooms, increasing natural lighting, updating restrooms, and other necessary improvements. These changes are designed to support a more effective and engaging middle school experience.

Our elementary schools will see safety and security upgrades, alongside crucial mechanical, electrical, and plumbing updates. These improvements are essential for maintaining a comfortable and safe environment for our youngest

learners.

Transportation and Maintenance Facilities will also receive attention, with plans to provide a secure location for storing and maintaining our district’s buses. This ensures that our transportation infrastructure remains reliable and efficient.

An exciting aspect of this bond proposal is its potential to position the district for a State of Colorado Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant. This grant would provide additional funding for critical repairs and updates without requiring repayment from taxpayers. It’s a strategic move that could significantly enhance our ability to make essential improvements with state support.

The bond proposal comes with a financial commitment: it would result in a tax increase of about \$200 annually for the average-value home in the district, and approximately \$26 per month per \$100,000 in actual value for commercial properties. While any increase in taxes is a serious consideration, it’s important to weigh this against the long-term benefits of investing in our schools and community.

Additionally, it’s important to note that this bond proposal does not include the district’s planned purchase of the vacant Friday Health building on Main Street. This property, which the district is working to acquire separately for \$2.3 million, is intended to serve as the new administrative headquarters and a space for alternative and online high school classes.

Our school district is the cornerstone of our community. The quality of education our children receive directly im-

pacts their future and, by extension, the prosperity of our community. By supporting this bond measure, we’re investing not just in our schools but in the future of Alamosa.

This is our opportunity to ensure that our schools remain vibrant, safe, and equipped to provide the best possible education. Let’s seize this chance to continue building on the progress we’ve made and to create a legacy of excellence for future generations.

As November approaches, I encourage you to consider the profound impact this bond could have. Our collective effort to support this measure is a testament to our commitment to the success of our students and the strength of our community. Let’s come together to make this vision a reality and reaffirm our dedication to excellence in education.

Diana Jones is superintendent of the Alamosa School District. Luis Murillo is the assistant superintendent of ASD.

Write them

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Phinel Garcia speaks to someone about his car that received Best of Show at the Poor Boy Car Club Car Show on Aug. 17 at Chapman Park in Monte Vista. The car show is part of the SoCo Suds and Sounds event.

SoCo Suds and Sounds draws large crowd

Poor Boy Car Club Car Show has 130 entries

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista has seen its share of rain over the past few weeks, but on Saturday, Aug. 17, SoCo Suds and Sounds featuring the Poor Boy Car Club Car Show, and Valley Veterans ReCreation are the ones who brought the Thunder to Chapman Park, with over 3,000 attendees at the event this year, and 130 car show entries.

Since the event's inception four years ago, it continues to outdo itself each year with larger attendance numbers and more and more classic cars.

People from all over the Valley, the state, and from New Mexico, all came to support the various festivities, live demonstrations, and the beautiful collection of cars, bikes, and motorcycles.

OptiMystics Citizens Action Network President Adam Lock was excited about the continued growth of the event, but also announced this would be the last year the OptiMystics would participate in the event.

"Another exciting and fun-filled event in the books," said Lock. "This was our biggest event so far, drawing an estimated 3000 people to Chapman Park. Yet, for me it was also bittersweet, as this is the last time our group will be co-hosting SoCo Suds and Sounds."

Lock said that Valley Veterans ReCreation and the Poor Boy Car Club would be taking it over.

"This event should only get even bigger and better though," said Lock with a smile, adding that his favorite part of the festivities was seeing the community involvement. "Watching the performances of the groups such as MS. Kais and the different youth Cheerleaders, is not only heartwarming, but it aligns directly with our slogan of 'Connecting people, Creating Community.'"

The festivities also drew the crowds in, with a multitude of vendors, multiple food and drink trucks, a cornhole tournament, and live demonstrations, including performances from Monte Vista's mini-cheerleading squad, the Del Norte mini-Spirit Squad, and MS. Kais academy of performing arts club. Gabe Duran was the DJ for the day, and live bands also performed at the event.

Poor Boy Car Club President Richard Garcia was excited about the entries for the car show. For the past few years, Garcia has been wanting to break their record for the show and have more than 100 participants. This year they went way beyond that drawing 130 entries.

"I couldn't believe it, I have really wanted to break this one hundred, and what a blessing to break it by

so much more this year," Garcia said. "We are truly blessed by all the entries, and participants, by the people, who have traveled near and far, that came together to bring about this car show. The reason we do this is for the people."

Garcia, whose four daughters help him with the car show, said that his daughter Denise said it best when she said, "We are on such a high, from our car show with over 130 entries. Our car club wishes to thank all the drivers for coming out for such a good cause. We love to give back to our SLV community, a place we all love."

The Poor Boy Car Club donates the proceeds from their car shows to people who are sick or terminally ill and need help with expenses. This year's donations will take place after the final tallies are in from the car show.

DJ Salazar of Valley Veterans ReCreation spoke about his group's involvement in the event and how excited he is about making it even bigger next year.

"Talk about a great weekend. Next year, we want to make this a two-day event, if we can. It was amazing to see the community out and enjoying such an event. We look forward to working with the Poor Boy Car Club and continuing to make this the premier car show and festival of the San Luis Valley," he said.

Valley Veterans ReCreation is all about engaging Veterans and first-responders in outdoor recreation. The group has been hosting events in Monte Vista and the San Luis Valley for Veterans. The group had a big booth at the car show and spoke to many people about their group and wants to incorporate as many Veterans and first-responders as possible in next year's car show.

This year the car show also gave out more awards than ever with the top 15 entries being recognized. The following individuals were chosen for top 15 in this order, Lori Sharp, Phyllis Pacheco, Art Garcia, Jasmine Vigil, James Randall, Michael Rue, the duo Monica and Luciano, Tommy Vigil, Kathi Wright, Keith Pepper, Kent Pepper, Larry Hoover, Emilio and Shannon Lujan, Floyd Vigil, and Ron and Bee Marx.

Best of Show went to Monte Vista's Phinel Garcia. People and Kids Choice was Brad Atencio, and Ladies Choice was Joe Lopez.

Phinel Garcia was appreciative of the Best of Show award and said, "A special thanks to the Poor Boys Car Show and to all those who make this event possible. I am truly blessed and so honored to have won Best of Show with my Olds 442-W30, with more than 130 cars at this year's show, the judges had some incredibly tough decisions. Again, I am truly honored and blessed and want to send my upmost gratitude to the Poor Boys Car Club and their continued success."



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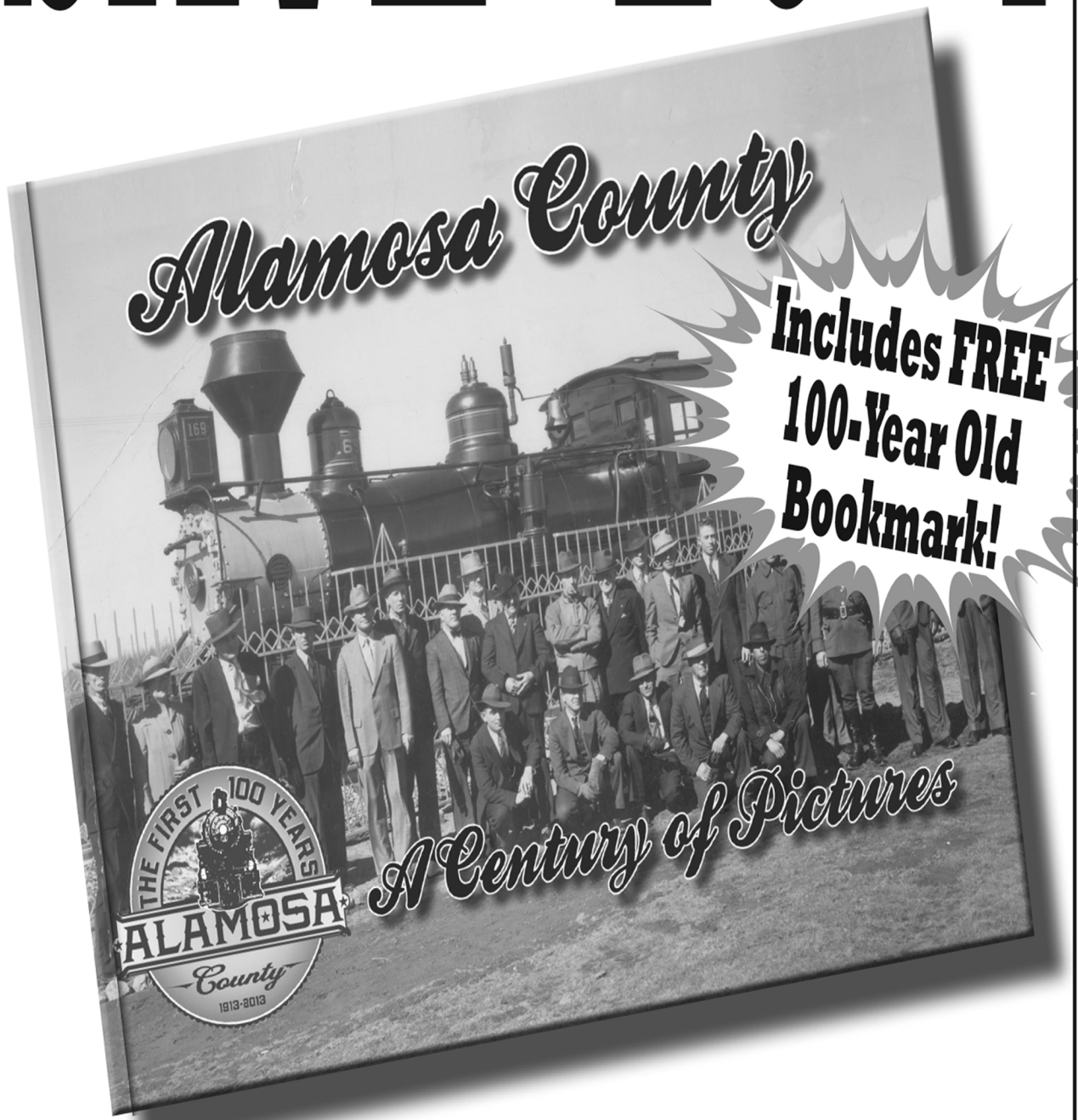
Dr. Elise Ambrose believes that every individual should have the choice and be offered the same type of care, regardless of ethnicity, societal status, and income. Her goal is to provide great dental care to everyone and provide opportunities for those who may have been misrepresented in the past, and advocate for their dental care. Dr. Ambrose's areas of expertise include esthetics and restorative care. She also has special interest in surgery and endodontics. Dr. Ambrose is originally from rural Kingman, Arizona. She moved to Florida when she was 18 and spent an additional 7 years in the rural community before she moved to Denver in 2011. Outside of the clinic Dr. Ambrose enjoys spending time with her animals, video games in Nintendo and A.I, weightlifting, running, and drawing. She also enjoys traveling and volunteering at animal-related facilities.

To schedule and appointment with
Dr. Ambrose, please call,
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Lifestyles

Colorado Legislature debates further property tax cuts as special session convenes

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newsline

The Colorado General Assembly gavelled in on Monday to consider a property tax proposal that backers say is a compromise deal to get rid of a pair of ballot initiatives that would severely cut local funding.

The House ended its committee hearings on Monday evening after a long day of witness testimony. They ushered through the main compromise bill and three other bills.

The Senate adjourned in the early afternoon after killing two bills in committee.

The session will last until at least Thursday.

The Legislature's regular 2024 session ended in May, but Democratic Gov. Jared Polis called it back to work to enact a deal that would persuade a duo of conservative groups to pull two initiatives from November's ballot and commit to not bring similar property tax proposals to future ballots. Those initiatives, Democratic legislative leadership warned, would deeply cut property tax revenue and be disastrous to state finances.

"What we are doing here today, at the governor's call, is governing with great responsibility. This is a moment for us to diminish the threats of two ballot initiatives that would upend the state, that would deliver catastrophic blows to the investments we have made over these past few years — particularly to public education, to the services that are provided locally within our state, and to special districts," House Speaker Julie McCluskie, a Dillon Democrat, said ahead of the start of session on Monday morning.

Democrats hold strong majorities in both chambers of the Legislature.

Property taxes are collected by local governments and fund services like schools and fire response. Though Colorado has some of the lowest rates in the country, property tax bills have spiked in Colorado in recent years largely due to rising home values.

"I'm looking forward to providing a little bit more property tax relief to those who need it the most, but most importantly, to getting the existential threat of (Initiatives 50 and 108) off the ballot and out of the equation for the future of our communities," said Senate President Steve Fenberg, a Boulder Democrat.

Hope for sustainability and certainty

In recent years, legislators have worked to incrementally reduce property taxes in the state, including during a special session last November and through a bipartisan bill in May that reduced rates and provided over \$1 billion in cuts but fell short of swaying initiative backers to take the measures off the ballot.

The deal on the table would reduce residential and many non-residential property assessment rates beginning with the 2025 property tax year. It would also modify the local growth property tax revenue limit and establish a limit for school district revenue growth.

In total, the bill would provide about \$248 million in savings in tax year 2025 and about \$271 million in savings for tax year 2026, according to a nonpartisan state analysis. It includes a mechanism to reimburse \$81 million the first year

and \$92 million the second year to schools and local taxing districts.

Bill sponsors say it builds on the property tax relief bill from earlier this year.

The savings for individual homeowners will vary with location, but it would likely be less than an additional \$100 per year. Sponsors hope it will offer some sustainability and certainty to local government budgets.

In a letter Monday, the conservative organizations — Advance Colorado and Colorado Concern — behind Initiatives 50 and 108 said they would not bring any ballot initiatives that reduce property tax revenue for at least six years, as long as the Legislature, executive branch or courts don't "go back on the provisions of the agreement."

Initiative 50 would amend the state Constitution and limit property tax revenue growth to 4% statewide, while Initiative 108 would cut property taxes by an estimated \$2.4 billion.

The bill made it through committee with an 8-3 vote. The votes against were from Republican Rep. Scott Bottoms of Colorado Springs, Democratic Rep. Emily Sirota of Denver and Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Velasco of Glenwood Springs.

Proposed constitutional amendment

Lawmakers introduced 12 bills for the special session aside from the primary compromise property tax bill. Committees killed the majority but left a few intact.

That includes approving a bill brought by Democratic Rep. Mike Weissman of Aurora that would refer a constitutional amendment to voters this year requiring local jurisdictions to also ap-

prove, through an election, any successful statewide ballot initiative that affects property tax revenue.

Republicans have already criticized the bill as a move to block Coloradans from using the citizen ballot initiative process, but proponents say it would be a way to pass property tax control back to local governments.

"What I'm very interested to see is which of the usual proponents of local control

will oppose giving voters the chance to decide if they want more of it. Because that's really what we're talking about," Kevin Bommer, the executive director of the Colorado Municipal League, said in support of the Weissman bill.

Another bill that made it through from Democratic Rep. David Ortiz of Littleton would reduce assessment rates for newly constructed accessible housing.

Bills that died in committee included one that would base property taxes on land value instead of home value, one that would have adjusted value exemptions based on home value to give more relief to lower-income homeowners, and one to reinstate the Gallagher Amendment, a 1982 constitutional measure that kept residential assessment rates low while raising rates accordingly for non-residential property.

Xcel Energy Alamosa to Antonito Transmission Line Rebuild Project

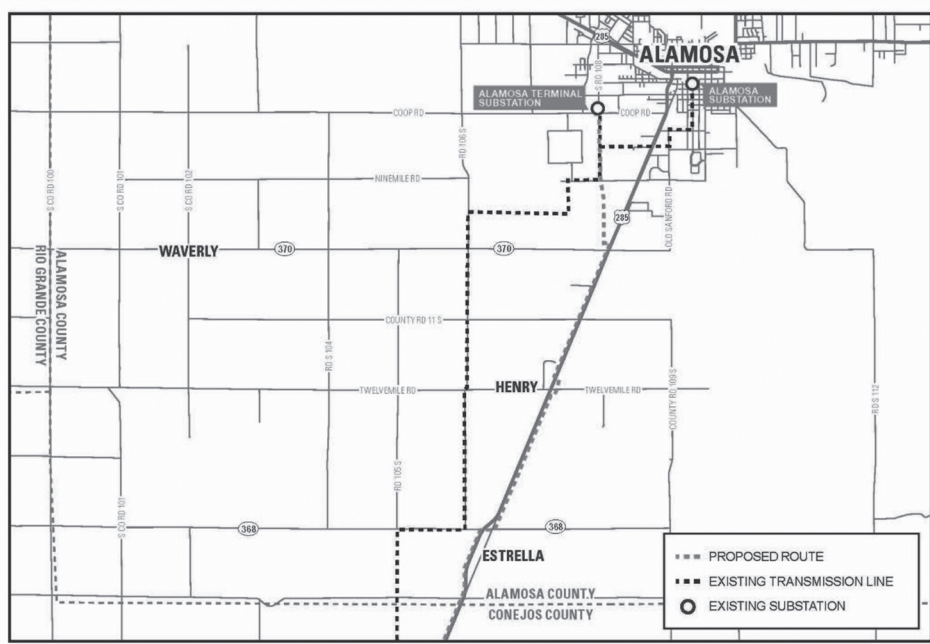
Alamosa County construction starting soon

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



Judge invalidates Pueblo ordinance that blocked needle exchange programs

By QUENTIN YOUNG
Colorado Newsline

A judge last week invalidated a Pueblo ordinance that prohibited syringe exchange programs, allowing two such programs in the city to continue operating.

The city enacted the ordinance earlier this year to prevent discarded needles in public, which were said to create a health hazard and lead to the congregation of drug users in public places.

But Pueblo District Court Judge Tayler Marie Thomas ruled that the ordinance conflicted with state law, which as of 2020 allows nonprofit organizations with relevant experience to operate clean syringe exchange programs.

"The language of the Ordinance is overbroad and is incongruent with (state law)," Thomas wrote in a ruling Thursday. "The Ordinance's language is an outright ban on the exchange of needles by Plaintiffs within Pueblo. The Ordinance and (state law) conflict in such a way that the two cannot coexist."

The court said that though regulation of syringe exchange programs is a matter of both state and local concern, state law preempts local law when the two are irreconcilable, as in this case.

The Pueblo City Council in May voted 5-2 to ban syringe exchange programs. The nonprofits Colorado Health Network and the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association, which were running such programs at the time, sued the city over the ordinance, and Thomas granted a temporary restraining order against the ordinance — essentially blocking enforcement of the ban — while the case proceeded.

At syringe exchange sites, people who use drugs can obtain sterile needles and get connected to resources and support services. The programs exemplify a "harm reduction" approach to public health, which has been

shown to reduce disease transmission and prevent overdose deaths.

Thomas' order noted that testimony in the case indicated that syringe exchange programs save lives and do not increase substance abuse or crime. Testimony showed that "individuals who engage in and use syringe exchange programs and their services are five times more likely to enter drug treatment than those individuals (who) do not engage with syringe exchange programs," Thomas wrote.

The city had argued that the ordinance narrowly prohibited one component — syringe distribution — of the nonprofits' programs, and permitted other aspects of their work, such as education and counseling.

But Thomas found that "providing an injection

drug user access to sterile injection equipment is a minimum requirement that all syringe exchange programs must have to operate pursuant to state statute," meaning that allowing the ordinance to remain in effect "would materially impede or destroy the state's clear interest" in allowing syringe programs to continue.

"The Mayor and City Council remain concerned and committed to making a safer and cleaner city. The risk to the public with discarded used needles is and will remain a high priority," the city said in a statement provided to Newsline by Geoffrey Klingsporn, the city's attorney in the case. "These programs hand out over a million needles a year and only collect a fraction in return. The city will continue to work with counsel to regulate and address this issue."

UPCOMING
GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Saturday, August 31

Women's Soccer vs Colorado State University Pueblo at Alamosa, Colo

1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 5

Men's & Women's Soccer at Eastern New Mexico University at Portales, N.M.

5:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball at Midwestern State University Texas at Wichita Falls, TX

1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 6

Women's Volleyball at Midwestern State University Texas at Wichita Falls, TX

10:00 a.m.

Women's Volleyball vs Northwestern Oklahoma State University at Wichita Falls, TX

2:00 a.m.

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Sports

High school football previews – week 1

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The 2024 high school football season begins this week with every school in the San Luis Valley in action.

Here are thumbnail sketches of all of this week's games:

#7 CENTAURI (0-0) AT #6 MEEKER (0-0)
This week: The Centauri Falcons will make a trip to Meeker on Friday with game time scheduled for 7 p.m.

Last year: The Falcons went 7-3. They won the league championship and advanced to the Class 1A state playoffs. The Cowboys were 7-4 and they also went to the state playoffs and advanced to the semifinals.

Next week: Centauri will host Pagosa Springs next Friday beginning at 7 p.m. Meeker will host Wiggins next Friday at 6 p.m.

CENTER (0-0) AT NORTH FORK (0-0)
This week: The Center Vikings will travel to Hotchkiss to face the North Fork Miners Friday with kickoff slated for 1 p.m.

Last year: The Vikings had a 1-8 record. The Miners went 5-4.

Next week: Center will host Olathe next Friday at 1 p.m. North Fork will have an open date.

LAS ANIMAS (0-0) AT SANGRE DE CRISTO (0-0)

This week: The Sangre de Cristo Thunderbirds move from 6-man to 8-man this season and will open the season by hosting the Las Animas Trojans. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Last year: The Thunderbirds went 3-7 and the Trojans had a 1-8 record.

Next week: Sangre de Cristo will play Soroco next Saturday. The game will be played in Buena Vista and will begin at 1 p.m. Las Animas will host Walsenburg next Friday at 7 p.m.

MANZANOLA (0-0) AT ANTONITO (0-0)
This week: The Antonito Trojans will host



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Dyson Woodward looks for an open receiver in a game against Woodland Park last season. The Mean Moose open the 2024 season Friday against Monte Vista at Adams State University's Rex Field. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

the Manzanola Bobcats Friday beginning at 1 p.m.

Last year: The Trojans played a limited schedule after reviving their program. They went 0-4. The Bobcats went 2-7.

Next week: Antonito will travel to Bethune next Saturday for an 11 a.m. kickoff. Manzanola will play at Primero next Friday at 7 p.m.

#10 MONTE VISTA (0-0) AT ALAMOSA (0-0)

This week: The Alamosa Mean Moose will host the Monte Vista Pirates on Friday. The game will be played at Adams State University's Rex Field and will begin at 7 p.m.

Last year: The Mean Moose won four games and lost six. They finished in a three-way tie for the Tri-Peaks League title,

but they return to the Intermountain League this year. They advanced to the Class 2A state playoffs.

The Pirates went 6-3 in 2024, but just missed going to the playoffs.

Next week: Alamosa will host Banning Lewis Academy and Monte Vista will travel to Rye. Both games will be played next Friday and will kick off at 7 p.m.

OLATHE (0-0) AT DEL NORTE (0-0)

This week: The Del Norte Tigers will host the Olathe Pirates Friday beginning at 7 p.m.

Last year: The Tigers went 3-6. The Pirates did not play football last year.

Next week: Del Norte will have an open week. Olathe will travel to Center for a 1 p.m. kickoff.

Mean Moose play to scoreless draw in opener

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School boys soccer team opened the 2024 season on Monday as it hosted Salida at the AHS stadium.

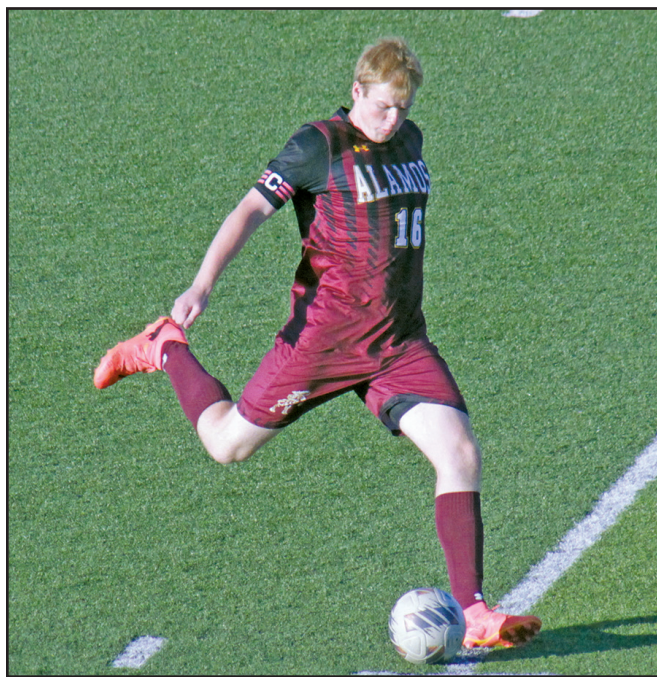
The Mean Moose were unable to score a goal after 80 minutes of play. But the Alamosa defense was stingy as it also did not allow any goals either in a 0-0 draw.

"I think our boys worked hard," said Alamosa coach Hector Ramos Garcia. "We've been here together all summer long. We spent the entire off-season working and plotting and planning. I think it came to fruition today. Salida's a tough opponent and we're happy to have played them as close as we did."

The Spartans were the more aggressive team as they had 11 shots on goal compared to four for the Mean Moose. Salida also had nine corner kicks with Alamosa having none.

AHS goalkeeper Todd Broyles stopped all 11 shots he faced.

Alamosa (0-0-1) will host Lamar on Saturday. "We played Lamar tough the last couple of years I've been here," Garcia said. "They're always a fun



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Ben Tibbitts kicks the ball downfield in Monday's game against Salida. The game ended in a 0-0 draw.

team to play and I look forward to seeing them again and putting some of our work we've done all week long into motion and into fruition."

Game time at the AHS stadium is at 1 p.m.
 Alamosa 0, Salida 0

Salida	0	0-0
Alamosa	0	0-0
Scoring		
None		
Shots on goal – Salida 6-5-11, Alamosa 3-1-4.		
Corner kicks – Salida 1-8-9, Alamosa 0-0-0		
Goalkeepers – S: Salazar (saves 3-1-4); A: Broyles (saves 6-5-11).		

Moose, Pirates compete at Cortez meet

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Alamosa and Monte Vista high school boys golf teams competed at the Montezuma-Cortez Invitational Tuesday at Conquistador Golf Course.

The Pirates took third place with 241. They were led by Kaden Mellott who took eighth place with a 79, Connor Mellott who was ninth with an 80, Jakob Ross who was 13th with an 82, Liam Ellithorpe who was 17th with an 84, and Logan Futrell who was 30th with a 95.

The Mean Moose placed eighth with 272. Leading Alamosa was Serjio Najera who was 23rd with an 87, followed by Kobe Mizokami who was 25th with an 88, Josh Cline who was 32nd with a 97 and Clayton Treinen who was 34th with



a 102.
 Durango won the tournament with 223, followed by Montezuma-Cortez with 227. Cortez's Vince Lopez was the medalist with a two-under-par 70, followed by Pagosa Springs' Johnathon Smith with a one-under-par 71.

Alamosa and Monte Vista, along with Del Norte, will be at the Pagosa Springs Invitational on Wednesday.

SANFORD (0-0) AT #10 WEST GRAND (0-0)

This week: The Sanford Mustangs will travel to Kremmling to take on the West Grand Mustangs. Kickoff on Saturday is at 5 p.m.

Last year: Sanford went 6-4 and advanced to the eight-man state playoffs. West Grand had an 8-2 record and also advanced to state.

Next week: Sanford will travel to Swink next Saturday for a 2 p.m. kickoff. West Grand will travel to Calhan next

Friday with game time slated for 7 p.m.

SARGENT (0-0) AT LAKE COUNTY (0-0)

This week: The Sargent Farmers will travel to Leadville to take on the Lake County Panthers. Game time is at 6 p.m.

Last year: The Farmers went 4-5. The Panthers revived their program this season.

Next week: Sargent will host Hayden next Friday at 7 p.m. Lake County will play Clear Creek in Idaho Falls next Thursday at 7 p.m.

#10 SIERRA GRANDE

(0-0) AT CHERAW (0-0)

This week: The Sierra Grande Panthers will travel to the Arkansas Valley to play the Cheraw Wolverines. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Last year: The Panthers were 7-4 and advanced to the 6-man state playoff quarterfinals. The Wolverines had a 2-8 record.

Next week: Sierra Grande will host Deer Trail next Friday at 4 p.m. Cheraw will host Flagler next Friday at 7 p.m.

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Lifestyle

City water building brought to life by local artist

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — On Highway 285, nestled near the new O'Reilly's Auto Parts building, a water building that belongs to the City of Monte Vista has come to life.

Multiple adorable farm animals have been added to the building, appearing to peek out from behind the bricks and smiling at everyone who passes by it.

Artist Cheryl Morris is the magician behind the playful mural. Morris is excited about her creation and smiling next to the water building as she spoke about the inspiration for the project.

"Well, I wanted to put a smile on people's faces, not just have them look and go aww. When I saw these bricks on this building, you're not going to believe this, but I also saw a car that had these pets on the window. It looked like the pets were breaking through the glass. I thought to myself, this building is just calling for animals to peek through it. I decided I wanted it to be more fun than aww, when people saw it, and that's why I went with these characters," she said with

a smile.

Morris said the drawings are called caricatures, as they are cartoon animals. The water building now has a peeking cow, lamb, goat, at least three horses, a burro, a lama, and the building also has a bull, with a pink pig standing nearby, and in the corner of the pig is a tiny web with a spider in it, reminiscent of "Charlotte's Web."

Morris said the idea for the tiny spider came from Monte Vista's own City Manager Gigi Dennis.

"Gigi saw the pig and she said oh you just have to just put Charlotte in there," Morris said with a chuckle. "So, I drew Charlotte, and I was surprised because my 13-year-old granddaughter, who I thought would know nothing about Charlotte's web, also noticed that Charlotte was in there."

Morris began painting in kindergarten. She said her kindergarten teacher told her and her mother that she would be an artist someday.

"She told us that I was going to be an artist because I drew a little house, but added curtains, and a windowsill, and put side-

walks and flowers, lots of details, not just a tiny house. With the influence of that, I started drawing. I drew horses first, and I have been drawing ever since," she said.

Morris also created the "Running Thunder" mural for the City of Monte Vista. It depicts horses in flight and is on the side of the Stars and Strikes bowling alley. She enjoys painting these scenes for the city and hopes to do more.

"I had all this paint left from the mural of the horses, that I painted at the bowling alley, and I approached the city about adding these animals to this water building and they thought it was a great idea, so we went with it. If there is a chance for me to paint more of these murals, I would just love to, I really enjoy painting," she said.

Morris said that her latest mural took her about a week to paint, close to 40 hours, and she thoroughly enjoyed painting the animals. She grew up with an agricultural background and believes that pictures of agriculture just add to the picturesque views of agriculture in town.



Photo by Marie McColm

Cheryl Morris painted the playful mural on the City of Monte Vista's water building on Highway 285 near the new O'Reilly's Auto Parts building in Monte Vista.

Voting basics: How to vote in Colorado

By LINDSEY TOOMER
Colorado Newsline

Colorado voters have several options for voting in an election, given the state's automatic mail ballot system and early in-person voting.

All active registered voters in Colorado will receive a ballot in the mail ahead of the Nov. 5 election. County clerks will begin mailing ballots to voters on Oct. 11, though voters can request a mail ballot from the clerk's office in person starting on Oct. 4.

Mail ballots can either be stamped and mailed back through the post office or returned to a ballot drop box, so long as the ballot gets to the local county clerk's office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. County elections offices can provide ballot drop box and voting center locations.

A person must register

to vote by Oct. 28 to receive a ballot in the mail. After that date, voters can register and vote in person at voter service and polling centers through Election Day. Coloradans can track their ballot to see when it is mailed and when it is counted through BallotTrax.

Voters can vote in person if they don't want to use or didn't receive a mail ballot. Voter service and polling centers open 15 days before Election Day, on Oct. 21. County ballot drop boxes open starting Oct. 21.

Voters don't need to vote in every race or on every ballot measure included on their ballot. Whichever items they vote on will be counted.

A voter who is in line at a voting center after 7 p.m. on Election Day will still be able to vote so long as they were in line by that time.

If voting in person, a voter needs to present a valid form of identification. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- A valid Colorado driver's license or ID card
- A valid U.S. passport
- A valid government issued employee identification card with a photograph
- A valid pilot's license issued by an authorized U.S. agency
- A valid military identification card with a photograph
- A copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows name and address dated within the prior 60 days
- A certificate of degree of Indian or Alaskan Native blood
- A valid Medicare or Medicaid card
- A certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate

"I was blessed with a little bit of talent, and this is something I enjoy. I enjoy contributing to my community. The city is going to pay for the sealant, and I was happy to donate my time, and paint these animals. It worked out nicely, and I hope to make everyone smile," she said.

- Certified documentation of naturalization
- A valid student identification card with a photograph from a Colorado institution of higher education
- A valid veteran identification card with a photograph
- A valid identification card issued by a federally recognized tribal government

Colorado voters can verify their registration status on the secretary of state's website using their name, birthday and ZIP code.

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221 - HELP WANTED

THE BOE OF CENTER SCHOOLS is now accepting applications for the Position of **BUSINESS OFFICE ASSISTANT** for the remaining 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: High school diploma, post-secondary education preferred, with experience in office management, use of computers, word processing, and bookkeeping or, such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Must be able to pass a background check. For information and application materials please visit the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/28/24)

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PERSON, or team, wanted for a 12 unit apartment complex in DEL NORTE, CO. Duties include but not limited to: office paperwork, cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@landmarkmanagement.com. Equal Employment Opportunity. (9/4/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

THE TOWN OF LA JARA is accepting applications for **POLICE CHIEF**. The successful candidate shall plan and administer the law enforcement program and activities of the town and do related work as required. Minimum qualifications include a degree in law enforcement, Colorado POST Certification, and extensive and increasingly responsible experience in law enforcement work including supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of the principles, problems and techniques of municipal police administration; thorough knowledge of the technical and operating practices and methods of law enforcement and crime prevention. Must have ability to handle firearms and maintain certification and firearms proficiency in accordance with Colorado POST regulations. Applicants must complete a background check, drug screening and have a current psychological evaluation. The Town of La Jara offers a competitive compensation package that includes health, dental and vision insurance; retirement through FPPA; and paid time off. Salary range from \$55,000 to \$65,000. Applications may be picked up at La Jara Town Hall, 221 Broadway. Applications accepted until filled. (9/4/24)

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 \$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

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 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)

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)

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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 or at each branch location. Equal opportunity Employer, including considering individuals with Disabilities and Veterans/Affirmative Action Employer. (8/30/24)

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 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)

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

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

JR/SR HIGH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online. (9/13/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 (8/28/24)

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WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is accepting applications for ALL DEPARTMENTS: lifts, ski school, base operations, food & beverage/bakers & baristas, rental, retail, ticket office, snow reporting/guest services, ski patrol, grooming, snow removal, custodial building maintenance, and a freelance photographer. To download an application and see job descriptions please visit the employment page of WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@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)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED AT UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (9/6/24)

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 (9/11/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring an ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT. Those with Bookkeeping, Accounting, Clerical or Human Resources experience are encouraged to apply. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the winter months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$24 per hour depending on experience. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com (9/11/24)

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

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

FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is searching for a highly motivated FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Required to have a Bachelor's degree, certificate or credential in social work, human services, family services, or counseling related field at hire or within 18 months of hire. This position works closely with our families to help them reach their goals and create community partnerships. Highly preferable if bilingual (English/Spanish). Applications can be picked up 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)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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-a959c74f16ae2c01> . (8/28/24)

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

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

TROY - BUILT CHIPPER SHREDDER CS4265, \$450. Max 719-379-3123. (10/19/24)

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

307 - APPLIANCES

EMERIL RICE COOKER. \$25 obo. Call 719-852-8879. (9/4/24)

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)

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

341 - GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE: 13998 County Road P, 1 mile west of ROMEO. Exercise equipment, furniture, Temporpedic bed. Friday 8/30, Saturday 8/31, 8am-5pm. (8/31/24)

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)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

NUBIAN BUCKS; IMPROVE your genetics in udder attachment, quality. Born 2023, Tricolored, dehorned, gentle. 719-588-6621, text. (9/25/24)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

MINIA - TURE SCHNAUZER PUPPIES. READY. Vaccinations, wormed, groomed. M/F, Liver/tan(chocolate). Sweet/Playful/Smart. \$500-\$1000, CKC registration available. 719-256-4598, pattisuppys@gmail.com, Patti Shelabarger, <http://ritoalto-kennels.com>, 719-256-4598. (9/17/24)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FREE GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES to Forever Homes, due to relocating: 1 Male, 1 Female. Excellent temperament! House trained with very good trainable natures & perfect for families with children and other pets! I will not re-home to just anyone. Preferably email me first at: stephaniechristensen59@yahoo.com before Text (980) 353-7582. (9/4/24)

GREAT PYRENEES/BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG mix, available 9/9/24. \$750/obo. Call 719-859-4245. (9/14/24)

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
 For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

Apartment
 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. Available.
Casita del Sol
 1405 West 11th St. Alamosa, Colo.
589-8663

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)

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

NICE FURNISHED ROOM in ALAMOSA. 720-436-5550. (9/4/24)

737 - RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

LIGHTLY USED 26' 2018 FOREST RIVER TOY HAULER, power surge protector, power jack. \$18,600 Call 719-850-1352. (9/4/24)



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SAVE ON FUEL SHOP LOCALLY



Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Cap with a pompon
- 4 Old wound
- 8 Covered
- 12 Lyricist — Gershwin
- 13 Beyonce ballad
- 14 Jackrabbit
- 15 Chemin de —
- 16 Be compliant
- 17 Dye-yielding plant
- 18 Prefer
- 20 “— in the Wind”
- 22 Newt
- 23 Nest item
- 24 Joins the service
- 28 Strange
- 32 Plunder
- 33 Apple tablet
- 35 Noteworthy time
- 36 Actor — Diamond Phillips

37 Cry

- 38 “Begone!”
- 39 Occur as a result
- 41 Dedicates
- 43 Bar bill
- 45 Actress — Thurman
- 46 On to dry land
- 49 Slow, in music
- 52 Hoof-on-pavement sound
- 53 Bell
- 56 Deity
- 57 Mata —
- 58 “— Karenina”
- 59 Pot part
- 60 Lab burner
- 61 —-do-well
- 62 Overhead railways

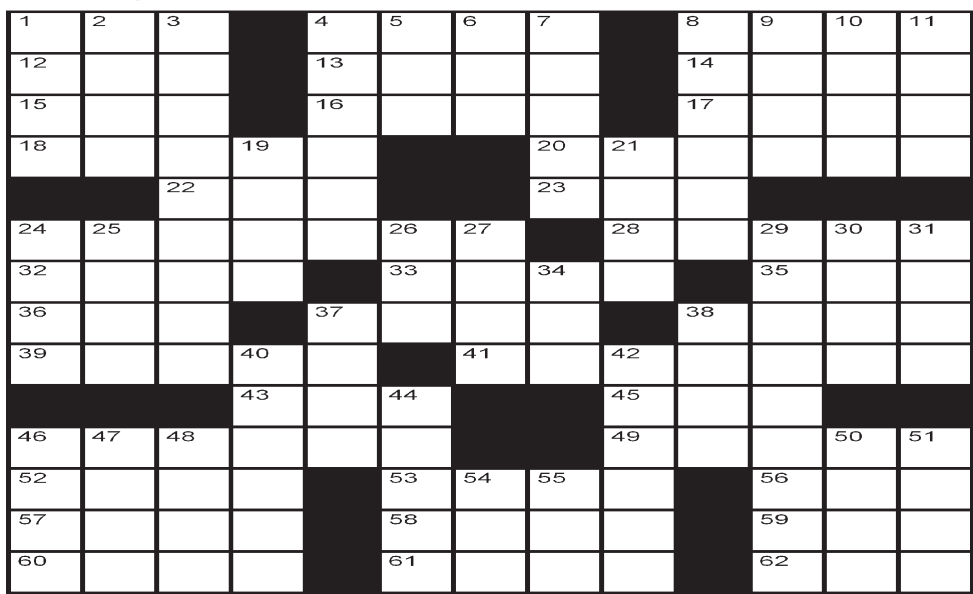
DOWN

- 1 Quarrel
- 2 Domain
- 3 Simply wonderful
- 4 Summer wear

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 5 Car for hire
- 6 Cakes and —
- 7 Rolls- —
- 8 Modify
- 9 “One if by — ...”
- 10 Seed cover
- 11 Remove
- 19 “Think nothing —!”
- 21 Old
- 24 Fashion magazine
- 25 Middy
- 26 Draw
- 27 Drove too fast
- 29 Quadrilateral
- 30 “Dies —”
- 31 Diner sign
- 34 Mimic
- 37 Have on
- 38 Indefinite amount
- 40 Ideal place
- 42 Indecent
- 44 Com-menced
- 46 Dull pain
- 47 Blind part
- 48 Trumpet
- 50 Drudgery
- 51 Likelihood
- 54 United
- 55 Dir. letters



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

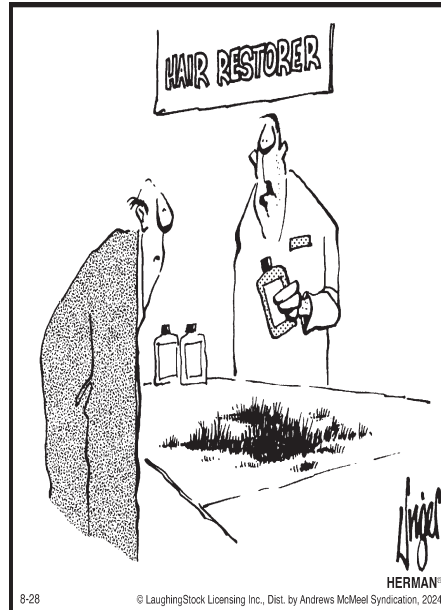
1	8	5	7	3	6
9			8	6	
	6	3	2		8
	5				8
			1		
2					7
4	9		5	2	6
		6	7		3
6	3	9	2	8	1

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



“Someone spilled a bottle this morning.”

Family members don't support transgender relative

DEAR ABBY: My young adult child came out to us as transgender several months ago. My husband and I, along with her sibling, are supportive and love her unconditionally.

She recently decided to share the news with her grandparents, sending a heartfelt email along with a couple of resources specifically for grandparents. One grandparent has been completely supportive, immediately started using the correct name and pronouns, began doing some research and continues to treat her as the amazing young adult she is.

The other grandparents sent a text that pretty much said, “We love you because you're family, but we don't really support you.” They have had no contact since. My child is extremely disappointed, and my heart breaks for her. She (and we) knows she may lose friends and family over this, but I guess we always hoped grandparents' love was unconditional. What advice do you have for her and for us to continue to support her? -- UNCONDITIONALLY IN OREGON

DEAR UNCONDITIONALLY: Your daughter is fortunate to have loving, supportive par-

ents, siblings and ONE grandparent who is willing (and able) to accept her as her true self. She needs to be prepared for the fact that not everyone will do that.

This other set of grandparents appear to be less open to learning and less flexible in what they are able to accept. Your daughter should continue on her own path and not permit their judgments to define her. If she can do that, she'll be happier.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my husband and I relocated to my hometown, which I left 40 years ago. We are happy with our choice to return. Our problem is my friend “Shirley,” who I have known since grade school. Shirley has always been a high achiever, but lately she has been taking credit for our positive life decisions.

At the dinner party we threw to thank neighbors and childhood friends for supporting us through our move, Shirley dominated the conversation about her role. When I reconnect with former classmates, if she is around, she inserts herself and makes the conversation about her, or puts me down by making passive-aggressive comments.

Shirley's had a rough life, so I have chalked it up to her needing a win.

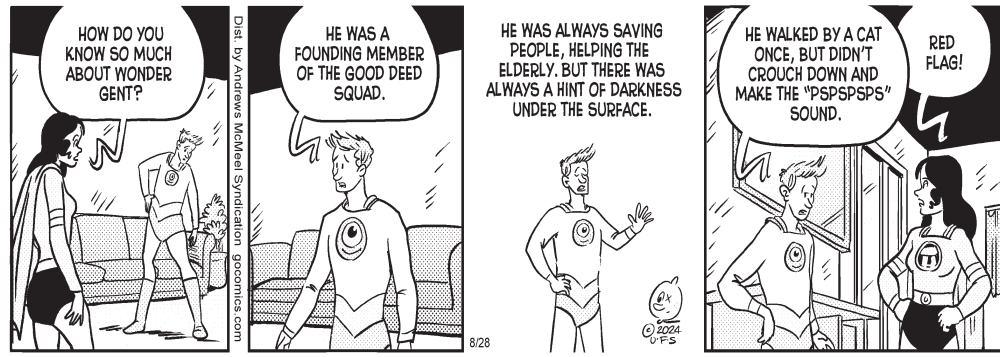


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

But now she's doing this with my husband, and it has crossed the line. She didn't do this when we lived out of state. What can I do to put our friendship back to a more equal footing? -- REACHING THE LIMIT IN OHIO

DEAR REACHING: Please reread your letter. The person you have described is not a “friend” -- she's an insecure, jealous individual you happen to have known for a long time. She needs to be the center of attention regardless of how it makes you appear. Do NOT fool yourself into thinking you can make someone like this into a friend. The less you see of Shirley, the better off you and your husband will be.

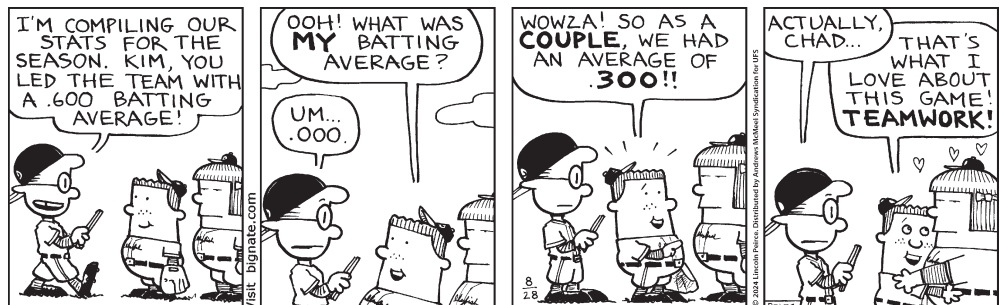
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



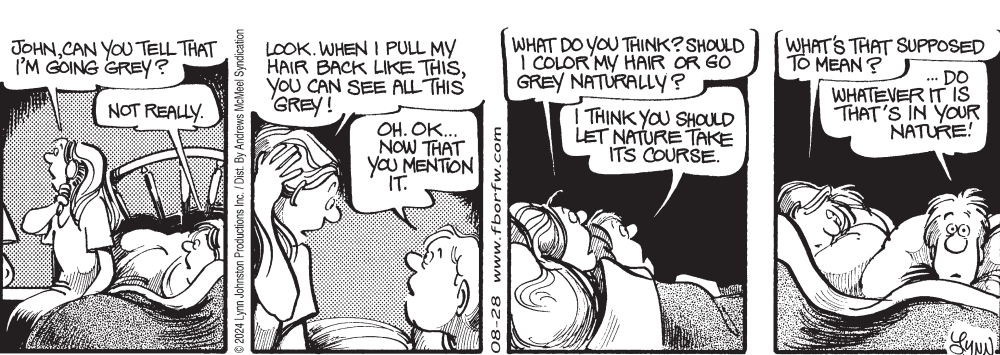
BIG NATE



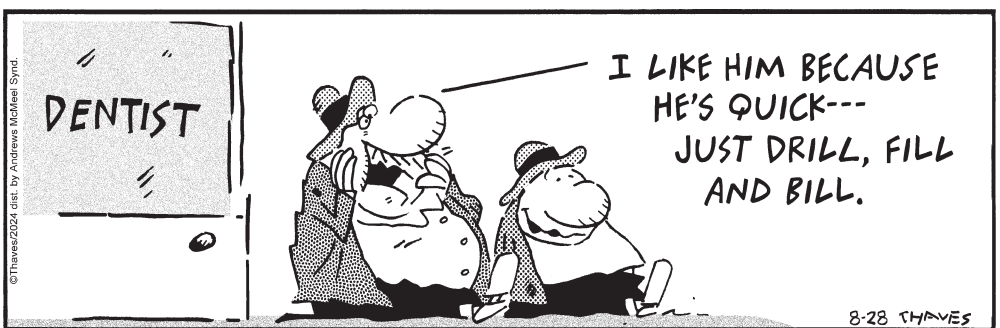
THE BORN LOSER



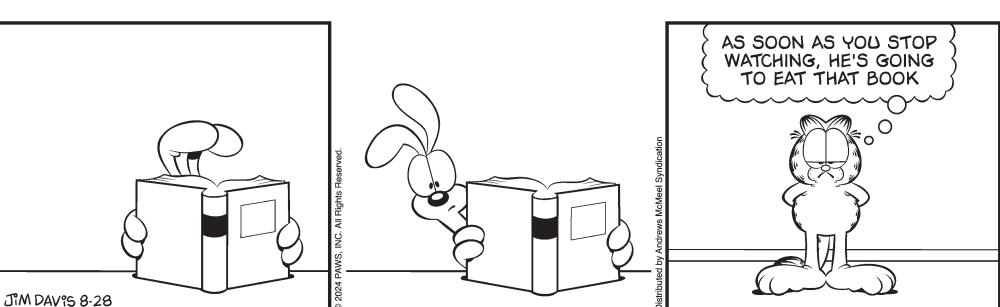
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



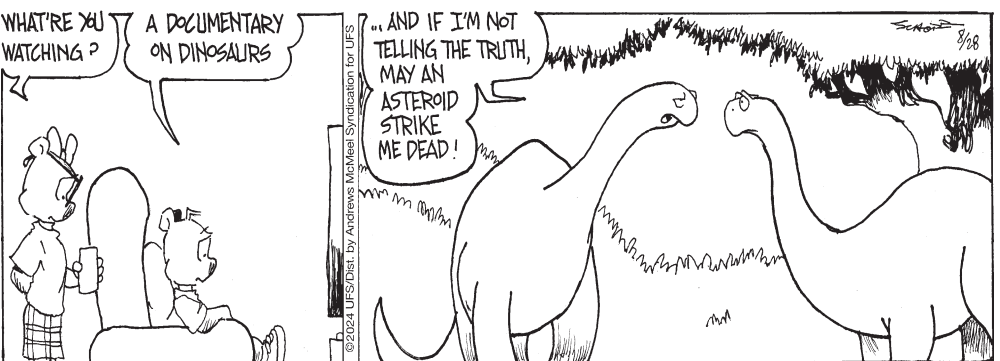
FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

