



San Luis Valley
Early Iron Festival

— Inside today's Valley Courier



Lady Mean Moose
slow the Mustangs down

— Page 6



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 30, 2024

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SLV Today

Navajo dancers at Great Sand Dunes

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE — On Saturday, Aug. 31, Great Sand Dunes is hosting Navajo historian Shawn Price and the Dineh Tah' Navajo Dancers for two special presentations:

- At 3 p.m. in the Visitor Center Auditorium, join Price for a 45-minute talk about the profound significance of tribal treaties.

- At 6:30 p.m. at the park's outdoor Amphitheater, the Dineh Tah' Navajo Dancers will present traditional dances, weather permitting.

SHC Bake Sale is Aug. 31

ALAMOSA — The annual Sacred Heart Church Fall Bake Sale begins at 7 a.m. on Aug. 31 at Cole Park via the 2nd Street entrance. It will be stocked with all the favorites — cookies, breads, muffins, brownies, candies, pies and tortillas. A Baker's Delight, an assortment plate, will be available to purchase. All proceeds go toward repairs of Faistl Hall.

4-H Foundation yard sale continues

MONTE VISTA — The 4-H Foundation yard sale has been continued to Sunday, Sept. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 247 Bronk St., Monte Vista.

The yard sale raised nearly \$4,000 the previous weekend and organizers have extended it because they still have "lots of good stuff."

Prices will be reduced 24-50 percent on all the remaining items, except for the large furniture pieces. Proceeds from the event will go toward the foundation's efforts to support 4-H in the San Luis Valley.

SLV WEATHER

Showers Likely 80/51

Wed: Sun/Clouds 85/ 48

Thurs: Cloudy 84 / 46

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Keith Cerny announces retirement

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Longtime San Luis Valley newspaper publisher Keith R. Cerny has announced his retirement after 32 years here.

"When we purchased the company a year ago, Keith informed us he planned to retire in six months," said John Elchert, chief operating officer for San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC. "We are grateful that he agreed to stay on for a full year."

"We thank him for his good

work with us in the transition, and for his many years of commitment to the community and our industry."

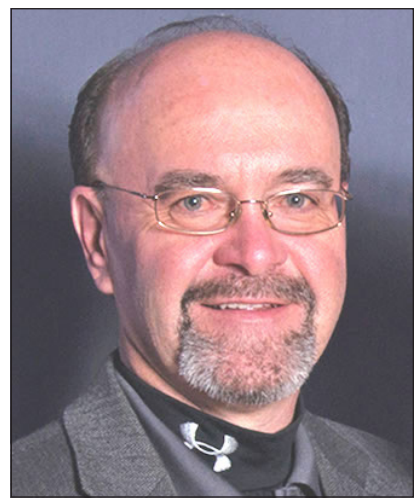
Cerny, 68, has overseen newspaper and digital media operations for the daily Valley Courier and the six weekly newspapers and Lifestyles shopper during his SLV tenure. He previously managed newspapers in Wyoming and Nebraska and served as a division manager for News Media Corporation over papers in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona and

Oregon.

"I plan to stay involved in the SLV community and continue to volunteer my time for various groups I'm already serving," Cerny said. "And hopefully spend more time in our second home in Creede."

Keith's wife Debra Sowards-Cerny will continue in her role as advertising manager at the Courier assisting customers with their print and digital advertising needs.

Keith R. Cerny



Alamosa Riverfront Project reels in public input



Courier photo by John Waters

The Alamosa Riverfront Project held a public outreach meeting on Aug. 27. Seated in the foreground from left to right are Diana Jones, Alamosa School District Superintendent, Luis Murillo, ASD Assistant Superintendent, Ty Coleman, Mayor of Alamosa, Charlie Griego, former Alamosa City Council Member, and Erin Minks with Senator Michael Bennet's office.

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — About 40 people attended the second public meeting regarding the Alamosa Riverfront Project held by the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project on Aug. 27.

The meeting was a casual affair, with dinner served and presentations made regarding the plan. The project proposes to increase recreational opportunities along the Rio Grande at Cole Park and restore and maintain river habitat.

Cassandra McCuen told the Valley Courier, "At our first meeting we had about 55 people attend and tonight we have about 35 and I'm impressed with that. We also have people filling out online surveys. We

■ See PROJECT page 3

El Pomar awards \$114,000 to 15 organizations in the SLV

STAFF REPORT

COLORADO SPRINGS — Fifteen non-profits and government agencies in the San Luis Valley have been awarded grants from the El Pomar Foundation, totaling \$114,000.

Thirteen of the grants were awarded based on recommendations from El Pomar's San Luis Valley Regional Council, which recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, non-profit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information

about current needs in their own communities.

The remaining two grants were awarded due to a competitive process.

The 13 grant recipients recommended by the SLV Regional Council include Alpine Achievers Initiative in Alamosa, which received \$10,000 for Supporting Health Initiatives for Next-Generation Educators program and \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley in Alamosa was awarded \$1,000 for general

■ See EL POMAR page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center in Alamosa is one of fifteen recipients of grant funds in the San Luis Valley from the El Pomar Foundation of Colorado Springs.

Semi-truck accident causes power outage in Center

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — An accident involving a semi-truck into a power pole on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 28, caused parts of Center to be without power and internet, according to Facebook posts by the Center Consolidated School District and the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.

The accident was at the corner of 4th and Broadway streets near CCSD's preschool at approximately 3 p.m. CCSD reported that no students or staff were injured, but that preschool students

of the district were being released at the kindergarten for pickup rather than the usual designated area.

SLV REC announced they were providing "mutual aid" to the town and working to get power restored and that Ciello was working on the internet.

Power and internet

■ See POWER page 3

San Luis Valle Rural Electric provided 'mutual aid' to Center on Wednesday, Aug. 28, after a semi-accident caused a power outage.

SLV REC Facebook photo



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Record

Town of Antonito Labor Day Festival

CONTRIBUTED
ANTONITO—Antonito will celebrate Labor Day on Saturday, Aug. 31, with a full day of fun activities. Starting at 8 a.m.,

there will be a free community pancake breakfast followed by a parade at 11 a.m.

The live band, Old School will play from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Local

musician Fabian Montoya takes the stage at 4 p.m. Sol Boys will play from 6 to 9:00 p.m. The annual fireworks display follows the Sol Boys.

Costilla County offices closed due to threat

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS — Costilla County offices were closed for the day on Thursday, Aug. 29, after an email threatening physical violence against the Planning and Zoning Office was received.

Costilla County Sheriff Danny Sanchez told the Valley Courier the threat was received at about 10 a.m. and that his office was investigating the matter. Sanchez said there is a person of interest in the case, and

he was unable to provide specifics.

The offices are scheduled to reopen today. Anyone with information regarding this matter should call the Sheriff's Department at 719-672-3302.

OBITUARIES

Alan Wade Peterson



LA JARA — Alan Wade Peterson, a cherished father, devoted farmer, and a man known for his wisdom, creativity, and thoughtfulness, passed away peacefully on Aug. 27, 2024, in La Jara, Colo. Born on April 27, 1956, in Denver, Colo., Alan's life was one rooted in the principles of hard work, family, and the simple joys of life.

Alan grew up in the scenic surroundings of La Jara, where he was born to Robert Wade and Mildred Eleanor Peterson. Though he was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Roberta Weis, Alan's legacy continues through his sons, Michael Willis and Aaron Wade Peterson, who remain in La Jara, embodying the values he instilled in them.

A lifelong farmer, Alan had an innate connection to the land and a profound respect for the rhythms of nature. His work on the farm was not just a job but a way of life that he deeply loved. Alan's relationship with the earth was a testament to his character — steady, nurturing, and always looking forward to the next harvest.

Beyond the fields, Al-

an's passions were as diverse as they were engaging. He was an avid motorcyclist, feeling most free with the wind against his face on the open roads of Colorado. His hands, so accustomed to the soil, also found joy in the delicate craft of model radio-controlled airplanes, a hobby that showcased his creative spirit and meticulous attention to detail.

Alan's love for the outdoors extended to the greens of the golf course and the tranquility of camping in nature's embrace. These activities were not just pastimes but also moments where he connected with friends, family, and the world around him in profound ways.

As a father, Alan was full of wisdom and guidance. He was actively involved in his sons' lives, teaching them with a gentle hand and a generous heart. His pride in their achievements was as boundless as the Colorado sky, and he was known to share stories of their successes with a warm, beaming smile.

Alan's life was a tapestry woven with the love of his family, the respect for his work, and the pursuit of his passions. As the sun sets on his final chapter, we are reminded of the enduring impact of a life well-lived. Alan's memory will be treasured in the hearts of those he leaves behind, and his spirit will continue to inspire us as we look to the fields he cherished and the skies he navigated with his planes.

A graveside service to honor Alan's life will be held on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Sanford Cemetery.

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

Leola Roberts



Longtime Monte Vista resident Leola Roberts, 95, died May 24, 2024, at her home in Monte Vista.

Leola's life began in Monte Vista, Colo., on Sept. 5, 1928, the daughter of Delbert Stillings and Blanche M. Jones Stillings. She married James Roberts on Nov. 6, 1949, at the Christian Church in Monte Vista. They enjoyed over 63 years until his death in 2012.

She was as member of the Order of Easter Star for over 59 years, and a part of Beta Sigma Phi for over 72 years, and a member of the Daughter's of the American Revolution.

Leola is survived by her son Edward Roberts of Monte Vista; her sister Lorraine Holland of Dallas, Texas; her granddaughter-in-law Kelly

Roberts of Arvada, Colo.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Nancy Roberts, her grandson Michael Roberts, her siblings: Charles Stillings, Maurice Stillings, Lois Barton, and Cynthia Fischer.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held Friday,

Sept. 6, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St. in Monte Vista. Interment will take place in the Monte Vista Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Shriners Children's Hospital at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org>, or to Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado at <https://scottishritefoundation.org/donations/>

If you would like to participate electronically in the Celebration of Life for Leola on Friday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m., please use the following link information to join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 858 5971 9233

Passcode: 610486

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

APD seeking public's help in identifying suspect

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Police Department has released an enhanced photo of a person-of-interest in an armed robbery from March of 2023.

On March 31, 2023, at approximately 9 p.m., APD officers were notified of an armed robbery that occurred at the Alta Station at 3213 Main St. in Alamosa. The suspect, who is described as Hispanic, 5-foot-8 to 6-foot, and light skinned, presented a knife and took an undisclosed amount of cash.

At the time of the robbery, detectives obtained video evidence, but the video's quality was not discernable enough to provide details on the suspect. Detectives sent the video to an outside agency that enhanced it with advanced technology and provided this photograph.

If you have information on this robbery or can identify the suspect in the photograph, contact APD Detective Brandon Bertsch at 719-589-2548.



Courtesy photo
The Alamosa Police Department released this enhanced photo of a person-of-interest in an armed robbery from March of 2023.

Colorado lawmakers wrap up special session on property taxes, pass compromise bill

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire
The Colorado Legislature gave final approval on Thursday morning to a property tax deal bill that will give some relief to homeowners and prevent a pair of consequential initiatives from heading to voters in November.

The state Senate voted 30-4 in favor of the bill. It cleared the House on Wednesday morning with a 45-18 vote. Both votes were largely bipartisan.

Sen. Mark Baisley, a Woodland Park Republican, and Democratic Sens. Nick Hinrichsen of Pueblo, Sonya Jaquez Lewis of Longmont and Lisa Cutter of Littleton voted against it.

Shortly after the Senate vote, both chambers adjourned the four-day special session. The bill now heads to Gov. Jared Polis' desk to be signed into law, but he has pledged not to do so until Initiatives 108 and 50 are withdrawn from the ballot.

Advance Colorado and Colorado Concern promised they would pull the initiatives if the Legislature passed the deal. Those initiatives, if passed by voters, would sharply reduce residential assessment rates and put a 4% annual growth cap on property tax revenue. The resulting cuts would have provided savings to homeowners, but also would have jeopardized funding for public schools, fire districts and other local taxing bodies.

Polis called the special session to pass legislation that would satisfy initiative supporters and provide additional property tax relief to the state's homeowners, who are facing spiking tax bills as home values rise. Initiatives 108 and 50 would result in a \$2.4 billion tax cut, compared to the \$255 million cuts the deal bill provides.

"Let's get what I believe to be the best deal

that we can do right now for homeowners, seniors, small businesses, for all property owners and local governments," Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer, a Weld County Republican who sponsored the bill, said ahead of the final Senate vote. "I am not willing to roll the dice and still not willing to gamble people's future."

The bill builds off a \$1.3 billion tax cut that lawmakers approved during their regular session earlier this year. It trims residential assessment rates, extends rate cuts to some non-residential properties and puts two-year revenue growth caps on local governments and school districts.

The state sets assessment rates for property taxes, but city and county governments, school districts and special jurisdictions like fire or sewer districts determine local rates by setting mill levies. The effect of the bill will vary on where a homeowner lives and how much their property is worth.

An analysis from the left-leaning Bell Policy Center predicts that an average Denver County homeowner will save an additional \$72 annually because of the special session bill, on top of \$343 in savings from the regular session bill. An average Pueblo County homeowner will see another \$39 reduction and a Weld County homeowner will get \$47 off.

"Today's vote marks a huge win for Colorado taxpayers who have been hit with 30 percent average property tax increases," Advance Colorado President Michael Fields said in a statement. "For two years, we have said the solution taxpayers need is to cut taxes significantly and then put a cap in place so Colorado can avoid this crisis in the future. This bill gets that job done."

Representatives from Advance Colorado and

Colorado Concern helped negotiate the deal ahead of the special session, but no one from either organization publicly testified during committee hearings for the bill this week.

Initiative proponents say they are coordinating with the governor's office for the timing of a bill signing and initiative withdrawal. They have until Sept. 6 to do so.

Opposition to the bill was primarily over the circumstance of the session — to appease those conservative groups over their desire for further property tax relief — and a lack of legislative focus for owners of low-value homes, renters and people with lower incomes. Lawmakers who voted against it were also concerned with how further property tax cuts would impact special districts, especially fire districts.

Lawmakers also approved a bill that would make a property tax exemption for agricultural equipment permanent.

The Legislature will reconvene for its 2025 regular session in January. It's makeup will be determined by November elections, but Democrats are favored to hold on to the majority in both chambers.

School Menu
Friday
August 30, 2024

No
School

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

PENDING OBITUARIES

Dale Jaramillo

Antonito resident Dale Jaramillo passed away peacefully on Aug. 28, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Julia Garcia

Alamosa resident Julia Garcia was called home on Aug. 28, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Valley News

Eli Bremer, Dave Williams both assert themselves as Colorado GOP chair

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

Eli Bremer and a group of newly selected leaders in the Colorado Republican Party are moving forward with plans to rectify the “damage” done by the previous members of the executive board, even as those same people reject the results of the party central committee vote that sought to oust them, Bremer said.

“I don’t believe they will go quickly or peacefully. We’re expecting them to exhaust all of their legal resources,” Bremer told Colorado Newswire.

Bremer was elected chair by a group of Colorado Republican Party central committee members on Aug. 24 right after that group voted to remove former state Rep. Dave Williams as head of the party. It was the culmination of a months-long effort by a pair of disenfranchised Republicans to get rid of Williams and his executive committee. The group also voted to remove and replace the party’s vice chair and secretary during the meeting.

The result is that Bremer and Williams are simultaneously calling themselves the duly elected chair of the state GOP.

Williams, who was elected to the chairmanship in March 2023, has called the Aug. 24 meeting illegitimate, leaning on an opinion from a parliamentarian who has worked with the national Republican party. An Aug. 31 meeting in Castle Rock, William says, is the only valid venue for a vote on

his removal to take place.

“Your State Party Leadership will respect the results of August 31st no matter how you choose to move forward. You’re the boss,” Williams wrote in an email to Republicans on Wednesday.

An emailed agenda lists an item for “Consideration of Removal of Elected Officers” at the Aug. 31 meeting.

But Bremer’s camp claims their meeting and subsequent election are legally sound and follow party bylaws. El Paso County Republican Party Vice Chair Todd Watkins and Jefferson County Republican Party Chair Nancy Pallozzi gathered enough signatures to force a meeting to consider Williams’ leadership, they say. At that meeting, an overwhelming majority of the credentialed members present — about 180 people of the 400-plus central committee membership — decided to remove Williams. They also voted to cancel the Aug. 31 meeting.

Bremer, former chair of the El Paso County Republican Party, does not have access to the state party’s bank account, Greenwood Village headquarters or official email. That is not preventing him, however, from reaching out to Republican candidates and campaigns and acting as chair.

“There will be a fight in court at every step of the way. They will have to be evicted. They’re basically squatters at this point,” he said of Williams and the ousted executive com-

mittee.

“We don’t need to get the email account. I have the email list of all the chairs in the state and we’re already communicating. So whether it comes from my personal email or the one that says ‘Chairman of GOP,’ they know I’m the chairman,” he said.

He has set up what he calls a “satellite” office in Colorado Springs and is working with county chairs to order yard signs and handouts for former President Donald Trump’s campaign. He sees his role as working with and supporting candidates so Republicans are elected this November, and he has met with the National Republican Congressional Committee to begin coordinated efforts.

The NRCC has its eyes on Colorado’s 8th Congressional District, where Republican state Rep. Gabe Evans is running against Democratic incumbent U.S. Rep. Yadira Caraveo. Under Williams, the Colorado GOP endorsed and financially supported primary candidates, including Evans’ opponent, for the first time.

The NRCC recognizes the results of the Aug. 24 meeting and Bremer as chair.

“(Candidates) feel like they’re always looking behind them to see if they’re going to get stabbed in the back, and they’re waiting for that email to come from the state party that is going to derail them for the day and cost them donors,” Bremer said.

The state party has sent a series of emails under

Williams’ leadership that target LGBTQ people, including a message in June that railed against Pride Month and encouraged people to burn Pride flags. Many elected officials and other Republicans encouraged Williams to step down in the wake of that email. Then, this month, the party sent another email misgendering and deadnaming a Democratic state Senate candidate without approval from the Republican in the race.

“It’s as if they were trying to cause problems for our

candidates,” Bremer said.

The Republican National Committee could become the arbitrators of the issue, as they did in Michigan earlier this year when a former state party chair did not accept the results of a vote to remove her from office. In that case, the RNC formally recognized former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra as state party chair about one month after members voted out Kristina Karamo. A court then affirmed Hoekstra as chair. Karamo is appealing the

decision.

The RNC still listed Williams as state chair as of 3 p.m. Wednesday.

In an email to party members Wednesday, Williams wrote that he plans to file criminal charges against Bremer and his allies over a “false social media post of (his) account that attempted to mislead our members and the public.”

It is unclear what the social media post consisted of. Williams did not immediately return a request for comment.

Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program still accepting participants



The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program is still accepting participants through Tuesday, Sept. 3, for the fall 2024 session. All cancer survivors ages 18 years or older are welcome regardless of gender, type, or stage of cancer. There is no cost to the participant, but completing the entire twelve weeks of the study is crucial to ensure accurate research data is obtained. The study consists of one week of pre-testing by appointment Sept. 3-6, followed by 10 weeks of exercise programming, with post-testing starting the week of Nov. 18. For more information, or to register for the fall program, contact the Adams State Kinesiology Department program coordinator Ally Miles at 303-519-9932, milesaj@adams.edu, or Abby Adiong at adiongara@adams.edu.

Photo courtesy of Adams State University

El Pomar

Continued from Page 1
operating support.

The Center for Restorative Programs in Alamosa was awarded \$3,000 for mental health resilience initiatives in the Alamosa School District and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley plus \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Colorado Nonprofit Development Center in Denver was awarded \$10,000 for Antonito Together youth mental health programs and \$1,000 for Antonito Together general operating support.

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley in Alamosa was awarded \$5,000 for the Cozy Corners Program and \$1,000 for general operating support.

HadaNou Collective

in Denver was awarded \$10,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, Five Star Riders Car Club and \$1,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center operating support.

High Valley Community Center, Inc in Del Norte was awarded \$2,000 for pilot walking club for youth in afterschool programs and \$1,000 for operating support.

La Puente Home, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$10,000 for PALS Children’s program and \$1,000 for operating support.

Monte Vista Community Fund, Inc. was awarded \$7,500 for Monte Vista Kids Connection afterschool programs and \$1,000 for Monte Vista Kids Connection general operating support.

Northerners Senior Citizens Association, Inc.

in La Jara was awarded \$4,000 for furniture and equipment.

San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$10,000 for Home Instruction for Parents with Preschool Youngsters program supplies and \$1,000 for general operating support.

San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Alamosa was awarded \$2,500 for San Luis Valley Foundations Academy play equipment plus \$1,000 for San Luis Valley Foundations Academy general operating support.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$3,000 for expansion of behavioral health services for youth and families and \$1,000 for general operating support.

The recipients of competitive grants include

Tomorrow’s Bread of Monte Vista, which received \$5,000 for general operating support and Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care, Inc. in Del Norte, which was awarded \$20,000 for Wellness Center Complex equipment.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, the El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation’s primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding.

To increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation’s 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities.

Project

Continued from Page 1
have received great feedback, and our engineers are already incorporating that with all the constructive feedback. We will incorporate the feedback from tonight.”

Quinn Donnelly is a river engineer with RiverRestoration and is working on the project. His expertise includes open channel hydraulics and fish passage design. As part of the strategy to help fish in the river, he and others are working on in-stream habitat improvements.

Donnelly said, “In the river, certain native fish have preferences for certain types of habitat, including slow-moving areas that are shallow and warmer. With the levee system, a lot of that habitat is gone. We want to put more of that back. Downstream on the east side of the river (river left) and upstream, on the west side of the river, we will put that back, too.”

JUB Engineering is a sub-consultant of River Restoration and has been working on civil and agriculture engineering and landscape architectural work.

“The current estimated project cost is \$3.5 million-\$4.5 million, which includes a healthy contingency to account for infla-

tion of construction costs over the years. The cost estimate may change as we modify design elements based on the public’s feedback, though I don’t foresee it changing significantly,” according to McCuen.

Lisa Lucero said, “SLV AHEC’s (San Luis Valley Area Health Education) Mi Salud y Mi Familia promotora program helped amplify voices of Latino residents during the 2022 City of Alamosa Outdoor Recreation Survey, thereby providing valuable insights for the riverfront project.”

“To date, SLV AHEC has informed 2022 survey participants about the river project and community meeting and reached out to other under-represented residents.

“Surveys and community meetings in the SLV often feel extractive. This initiative has shown the community their voices are powerful and can bring about meaningful change — changes we have already seen in action.”

McCuen summed up the evening with, “I’m really proud to be part of a community that shows up for these meetings and takes ownership in this.”

There will be a final public outreach meeting in January.

For more information on the Alamosa Riverfront Project, visit www.riograndeheadwaters.org/alamosa-riverfront.

Power

Continued from Page 1
services were restored around 6 p.m. according to SLV REC and Cielo, but they also warned residents that they may still experience service interruptions while they made permanent repairs.

Center resident Barbara Ulibarri spoke about the outages and how it was worrisome to be without power.

“I was at work when we heard what happened,” she said. “We were without power for a couple of minutes before our generator kicked on, so we had some power to our building. I left work and went home and had no power at home. A neighbor told me that she heard that we might be without power for up



SLV REC Facebook photo

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative works on downed power poles in Center on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 28.

to 24 hours. I decided to go to town to purchase something for dinner that wouldn’t have to be cooked, and when I got home, the power had

been fully restored.”

Ulibarri said that power was restored around 5:20 p.m. Ulibarri said she was worried that Center would be without

power overnight.

“Thank goodness that didn’t happen,” she said.

Information about why the accident occurred has not been released.



ELEVATED RECREATIONS

SINCE 2021

(719) 580-9436

Romeo, Colorado

Opinion

Cooper the wonder dog

It is with tremendous sadness that I must tell you that my dearest friend and companion, Mr. Cooper, has passed to the great beyond. He was my constant companion and a friend like no other, so my missing him is the greatest understatement of the century.

Trout Republic



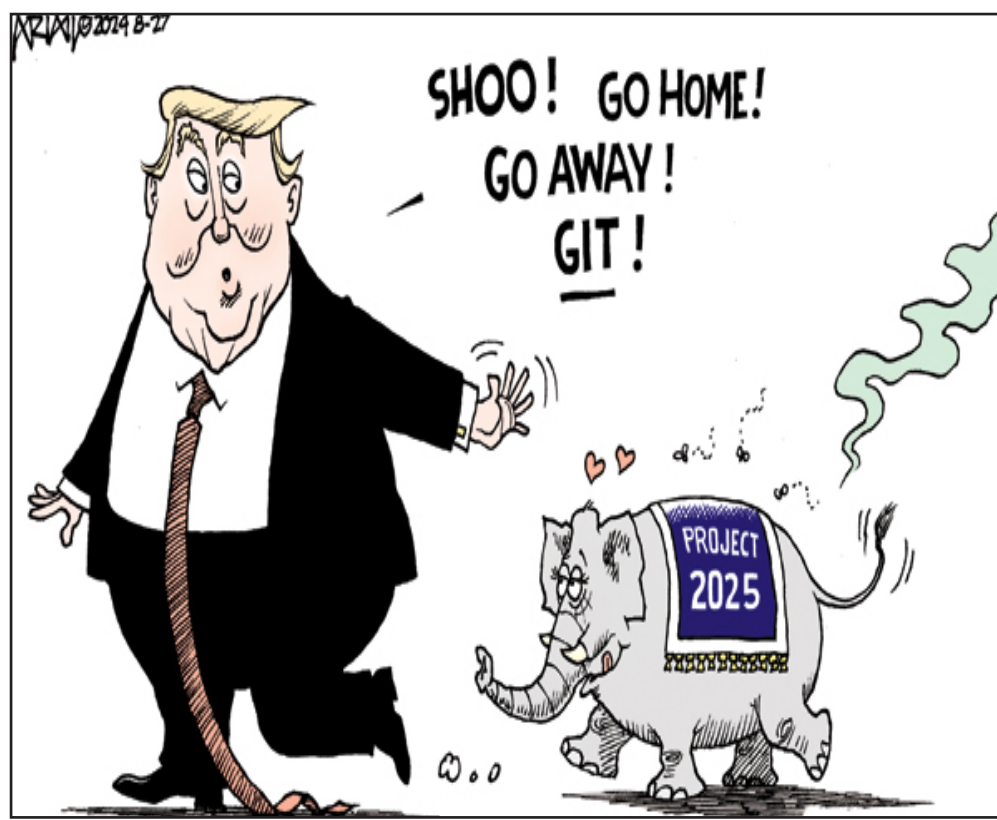
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Some 14 plus years ago my wife of 30 years decided to leave our marriage. It was the hardest thing I have ever gone through in my life, and I was buried in the depths of a depression that can only be described as a deep, dark hole from hell. One thing about Ol' Dutch is that when he loves someone or something, it's the deepest form of the expression and so my loss was seemingly more than I could stand.

My daughter Cricket, seeing how distraught I had become, hatched a plan to give me some purpose for living. For you see I had recently been hurt very badly at work ending my career, so I had nothing to do and nothing to look forward to each day.

She had a small Yorkie female, and that dog had miraculously given birth to seven of the smallest puppies you ever saw, each one smaller than a tiny mouse. Cricket and her husband took infinite care of the wee little creatures. Since I lived close, Ol' Dutch got to see them almost daily.

There was one little puppy that stood out from the rest as he was always in trouble. He would get in the self-waterer and dig until it covered the floors. In the midst of being ornery, though, he also



had dignity and courage. Cricket named him "Cooper" for Gary Cooper because he reminded her of a Western hero. She fell in love with him and didn't want him to go to a stranger's home, and that's how Cooper ended up with me.

She was right in her observation that it did give me a purpose every day to take care of him, and he of me. From that time on there was not a moment when Cooper was not with me. He went everywhere including church, stores, restaurants, ball games, vacations and anything in between. I soon loved him more than even myself and my policy became "if Cooper was not welcome, well then I didn't go."

Because of that constant care and companionship, he became well-adjusted to being in crowds and with people. It was easy to take him places and people accepted him being around. He was always on his best behavior, never caus-

ing a scene. He learned to perch on my shoulder like a parrot as I went into stores or fished or hunted for hours on end. Of course, that brought Ol' Dutch a lot of conversation from passersby in a time when I was so lonely.

We moved to Colorado shortly after he came to live with me and the house we lived in was up high on a mountain surrounded by forests and wild animals. Not your typical Yorkie, even by this time he loved to chase the bear that visited nightly and so began the fearless life of a little dog.

Nothing was off limits to him outdoors and he loved to go fishing and fetch any fish I happened to land. Grouse hunting also was a favorite of his and he would fetch them if given half a chance after Ol' Dutch had brought them to the ground.

Everywhere we went Cooper was loved and people wanted to pet him. In Las Vegas once, I walked the Strip with

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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."

him sitting on my shoulder and by the time we got to the opposite sidewalk, strangers were already chanting, "Cooper!" and wanting photos with him. He put up with all of that like a King taking admiration from loyal followers.

Many tears have flowed over the loss of my friend, and I do not believe I can ever again own a dog as he was simply the best friend I have ever had and cannot be replaced. Now that he is gone, I realize how much pain he carried for me all these 14 years and it was a huge job and burden for such a little guy, but he never complained.

Godspeed, my dearest friend. See you on the other side.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

Harris's media gambit is working

By BYRON YORK

Vice President Kamala Harris has done an impressive job lowering the bar on the question of how she will communicate her views to the American people. As you know, Harris has not done an interview since a group of backroom Democratic Party insiders muscled President Joe Biden out of the race on July 21, leading to Harris' instant elevation to Democratic nominee the next day. Yes, she has taken a few softball questions from her traveling press corps, but nothing of any consequence. Needless to say, Harris has not done a news conference to take questions from reporters over an extended period of time.

There are two reasons behind Harris' strategy. One, she's not a good extemporaneous speaker. Why showcase her weakness? And two, staying away from the traditional venue for communication and scrutiny -- that is, interactions with the press -- has allowed Harris aides to float the idea that she has changed positions and moved to the center from her failed run for the Democratic nomination in 2019, when she was solidly in the progressive lane of the party. By using aides to float her new positions, she can put out word without putting her own face on it, leaving the impression that she has changed views without actually saying so.

On Aug. 8, Harris was asked when she would do an interview. "I want us to get an interview scheduled before the end of the month," she answered. Her answer had an odd feeling to it, as if she had deemed to take a few questions, but not anytime soon. The campaign has not given any further information about the interview, although there aren't that many days left in the

month.

You would think the press would be up in arms about this. Instead, many journalists have accepted Harris' gambit at face value. News programs are filled with speculation about The Interview -- When will it be? Who will Harris choose to do it? What will she say? On some news outlets, the conversation is more about a single, unannounced interview than it is about news conferences, multiple interviews and daily access -- what should be happening in a normal campaign.

On the other part of Harris' strategy, the obfuscation of policy, Harris has succeeded spectacularly. There is now a media consensus that Harris has moderated some of her most left-leaning positions of the past, even though Harris herself has not announced any specific change. It has all been done by anonymous aides. Does that carry the weight of a statement from the candidate herself? Of course it doesn't. If Harris has really changed her views, rather than send up a trial balloon via a campaign aide, she should tell the voters herself.

An example of how this works took place on ABC's "This Week." Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas told the moderator, ABC's Jonathan Karl, that in the coming campaign, former President Donald Trump is "going to draw a sharp contrast with Kamala Harris, who has supported things like decriminalizing illegal immigration or giving taxpayer-funded health insurance to illegal aliens or taking away health insurance on the job for 170 million Americans, banning gas cars, confiscating firearms. These are all --"

Karl interrupted. "What do you mean taking away health insurance? What are you talking about?" Cotton responded that Harris "said when she

ran for president that she wants to eliminate private health insurance on the job of 170 million Americans." Karl said, "I mean, that is not her position now."

"How do you know that's not her position?" Cotton asked. "How do you know that's not her position?" Karl answered that Harris has "said she no longer supports 'Medicare for All.'"

"She has not said that," Cotton responded. "She has not said that. She has not said that. Maybe anonymous aides on a Friday night have said that ..." Indeed, an article from Politico last week noted: "Harris co-sponsored Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All legislation when she was a California senator and offered a modified plan as the centerpiece of her short-lived 2020 presidential bid. But a campaign official told Politico it is no longer part of Harris' agenda."

That's how it works. Harris purportedly backs down, by proxy, from her old position, and the press accepts it. When Cotton noted that Harris had not said herself that she no longer supports Medicare for All, Karl responded that Harris is "clearly making an effort to move to the middle." Karl appeared to credit Harris with moving toward the middle when Harris herself had said nothing to indicate that she was, in fact, moving toward the middle.

Two weeks ago, in an appearance with Fox News's Bret Baier, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley had some advice for Republicans. "Quit complaining that [Harris] is not giving an interview," Haley said. "You don't need an interview from Kamala Harris. I take her at her word." Indeed, there is an extensive record, much of it on video, of Harris making her views clear on issues like taxes, health care,

immigration, energy and others. Since she has never renounced or changed those statements, don't they remain her views, at least until she says otherwise?

As far as many of the nation's top journalists are concerned, though, there's no need to hear it from the candidate herself. For Harris and her admirers in the media, saying nothing is enough.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

STATE HOUSE

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

STATE SENATE

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

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Lauren Boebert (R)
Pueblo Office: 503 N. Main, Suite 426, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 696-6970;
Washington Office: 1609 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4761
Fax: (202) 226-9669;
Contact: <https://boebert.house.gov/>

U.S. SENATE

Michael Bennet (D)
SLV Regional Office: 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098;

Washington office: 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852;

Contact: bennet.senate.gov
John Hickenlooper (D)
Washington office: B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-5941

Contact: www.hickenlooper.senate.gov

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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Summer travel season ending with a busy holiday weekend

CONTRIBUTED DENVER — The Colorado Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to expect additional traffic in many areas of the state due to the numerous events and recreational activities taking place over the Labor Day weekend.

Beginning at noon on Friday, CDOT is suspending all construction projects to reduce potential traffic delays. The only exception is for emergency operations. Projects can resume their regular schedule on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Motorists are urged to drive with caution through construction zones, heed the signs, slow down and leave plenty of space behind the vehicle ahead. Speeding is one of the leading causes of crashes statewide.

Heavier than normal traffic should be anticipated over the holiday weekend along the Front Range and on Interstate 70 west of Denver. Traffic on I-70 is at its peak primarily from mid-morning until early evening on Friday, and from early morning to mid-afternoon on Saturday. Eastbound I-70 traffic will be at its highest on Labor Day from mid-morning to late afternoon, especially from Eagle and Summit counties to the Denver area.

This is the final weekend for motorized travel on CO 5 to the top of Mount Blue Sky. CO 5 to the summit is scheduled to close Sept. 3 through all of 2025 for both motorized and non-motorized travel due to construction. For more information, visit Mount Blue

Sky Recreation Area web page. Regarding construction information, go to the Federal Highway Administration Mount Blue Sky webpage.

Other seasonal roadways – CO 82 over Independence Pass between Twin Lakes and Aspen and Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park – remain open through the fall until adverse weather requires a full closure for the winter.

Drivers can get the latest information on the status of the state's roadways by checking www.cotrip.org or by calling 511. Specific information regarding Interstate 70 is available at: www.GoI70.com.

Bustang, Bustang Outrider and Pegasus, CDOT's transit system, provides an alternative

for those who would rather not drive. It offers service to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, and the cities and towns between Denver and Grand Junction and between Fort Collins and Trinidad. Outrider is an option for travel to other rural areas of the state. And

Pegasus shuttle vans serve the I-70 west corridor between Denver and Avon. Please visit: www.ridebustang.com. CDOT Safety Patrol vehicles are available to assist motorists in need and keep traffic flowing over Labor Day weekend. The coverage area includes major highways in the Denver area and

I-25 north of Denver to Fort Collins and south of Denver to Colorado Springs. Peak patrol times are 6 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 7 p.m., Off-Peak patrol times are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Weekend Patrol is 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. More information can be found on CDOT's website and SafetyPatrolinfo.com.

Xcel Energy Alamosa to Antonito Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Alamosa County construction starting soon

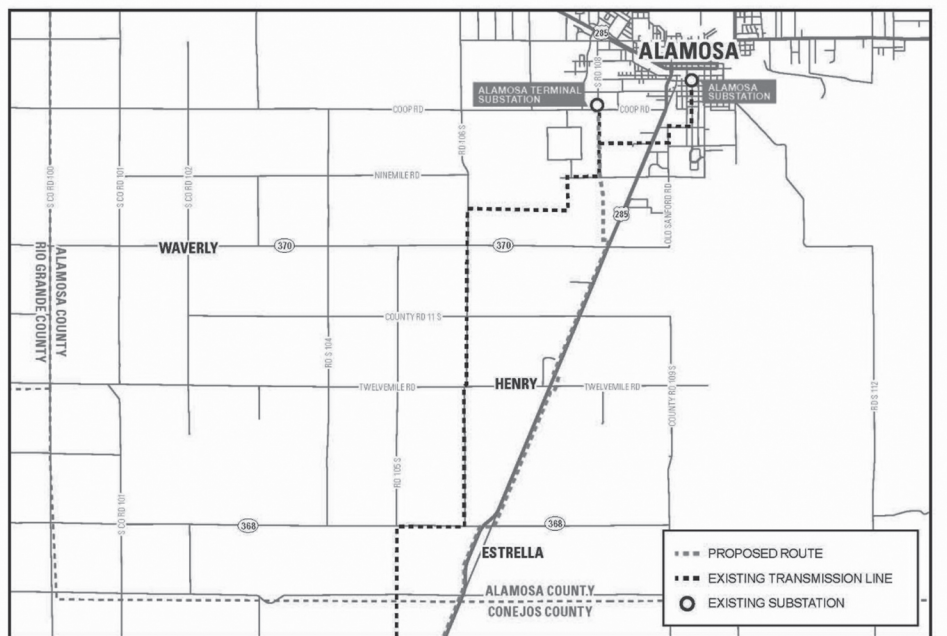
Following approval by Alamosa County in July, Xcel Energy plans to begin work in Alamosa County in October to rebuild nearly eight miles of the existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line south of Alamosa Substation to the southern Alamosa County line. All work to rebuild the 69-kV transmission line 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



METRO photo

Labor Day weekend marks the perfect time to send summer off with a bang. Some pre-weekend planning can ensure everyone has a memorable final few days of summer.

Tips for a memorable Labor Day weekend

(METRO) – Labor Day weekend is widely considered the unofficial swan song of summer. Though millions of children return to school prior to Labor Day weekend, the final holiday of summer still marks an ending to the season of relaxation and a return to the hustle and bustle of life when the temperatures dip and schedules fill up.

Perhaps because Labor Day has become synonymous with the end of summer, many people look to make the weekend preceding the holiday as fun as possible. People with such intentions can keep these tips in mind as they seek to plan a memorable Labor Day weekend this year.

• Wake up early if you intend to travel. Labor Day weekend should be memorable for all the right reasons and traffic is not one of them. A recent survey from the vacation planning experts at The Vacationer found that roughly 148 million people planned to travel over Labor Day weekend in 2023, which makes the three-day period a particularly busy time to be on the road or

in the air. If you intend to fly this Labor Day weekend, try to book an early morning flight to reduce the risk of delays. If you're driving, hitting the road before sunrise, particularly if you're traveling a long distance, can help you avoid traffic jams.

• Plan the weekend. It can be tempting to fly by the seat of your pants come Labor Day weekend, but it's still best to book excursions and even dinner reservations in advance. The popularity of Labor Day weekend and its status as the unofficial end of summer compels many people to get up and go over the three-day period, so theme parks, water parks, restaurants, and other attractions may be all booked in advance. Purchase tickets and make reservations months in advance to ensure you aren't left with little to do and/or nothing to eat come Labor Day weekend.

• Create a backup plan. Ideally the weather will cooperate and Labor Day celebrants will be able to spend the entire weekend outdoors if they so desire. But weather is unpre-

dictable, so it pays to create a backup plan in advance. If you're traveling for the weekend, look around for indoor entertainment spaces to spend the weekend if the weather is uncooperative. If you're planning a backyard barbecue at home, arrange for some indoor activities or pick a rain date and let guests know. If the party is scheduled for the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, a Sunday rain date might work.

• Go with a summer theme. Even if the kids are already back in school and your summer family vacation is a distant memory, that's all the more reason to revive the spirit of summer one last time. If hosting at home, a Hawaiian luau theme complete with a pig roast or a final summer pool party is a great way to send summer off before welcoming fall into the fold. Encourage guests to don summer attire and revive your summer playlist to get guests in the mood. If you're traveling for the weekend, pick a sunny, sandy destination so you can squeeze every last drop out of summer.



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Sports

Lady Mean Moose slow the Mustangs down

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released its preseason volleyball rankings on Aug. 15 and the Alamosa High School volleyball team found itself in the No. 3 position.

The Lady Mean Moose's season began Tuesday at the AHS gym and they were looking to prove their high ranking against traditional power Manitou Springs.

Alamosa made quick work of the Lady Mustangs as it scored a sweep by scores of 25-7, 25-8 and 25-10. "I think our preparation has paid off," said Alamosa coach Annie Mortensen. "We've been active this summer and the girls have been working hard."

Aubrey Rothermich gave the Lady Moose the early 1-0 lead, but Manitou tied the score. Alamosa then ran off five straight points with Morgan Ortega recording two service aces for a 6-1 advantage.

The Lady Mustangs scored two of the next three points, but the Lady Moose scored seven straight points with Kadie Hawkins recording two aces. After a brief Manitou side out, Alamosa scored four straight to push the lead to 19-4.

The Lady Mustangs were able to cut their deficit to 21-7, but the Lady Moose scored the final four points for a 25-7 win.

Addison Rice scored two aces to give Alamosa an early 2-0 lead in the second set. Manitou went on a 4-1 run to take a 4-3 lead, but the Lady Moose regained the lead at 5-4.

The Lady Mustangs tied the score, but Alamosa scored seven unanswered points for a 12-5 lead. Manitou cut the lead to 13-7, but the Lady Moose scored eight in a row with Taybor Wiedeman recording four aces for a 21-7 advantage.

Manitou had a brief side out before the Alamosa scored the final four points to take a 25-8 victory.

Garcia began the third set with two kills and two aces for a 4-0 lead. Manitou reduced the lead to 7-5, but Alamosa went on a 10-1 run to increase its advantage to 17-6. The Lady Mustangs got as close as 23-10, but Rothermich and Lily Heersink both had kills to wrap up the win.

Ortega led the Alamosa offense with 24 assists. Rothermich led in kills with eight, followed by Garcia with seven, Heersink with six, and Ortega and Wiedeman both with five.

The Lady Moose had 19 aces and were led by Wiedeman with five. Garcia had four, Rice and Rothermich both had three, and Ortega and Hawkins both had two.

"We've worked so hard on serving and serving aggressively," Mortensen said.

Alamosa (1-0) will travel to the Greeley area to participate in the Eaton Invitational. The Lady Moose will play Mountain View and Longmont of Friday and the host team on Saturday.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Alamosa High School's Aubrey Rothermich serves the ball in Tuesday's match against Manitou Springs at the AHS gym. The Lady Mean Moose defeated the Lady Mustangs in three sets.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD MONDAY

Prep boys soccer
Alamosa 0, Salida 0, tie

TUESDAY

Prep girls softball
Pueblo Centennial 9, Alamosa 7
Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa def. Manitou Springs 25-7, 25-8, 25-10

THURSDAY

Prep girls softball
Alamosa at Sierra – late
Prep girls volleyball

Crested Butte at Center – late
Del Norte at Ignacio – late
Sanford at Monte Vista – late

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep football

Center at North Fork, 1 p.m.
Manzanola at Antonito, 1 p.m.
Hayden at Sargent, 6 p.m.
Sargent at Lake County, 6 p.m.
Centauri at Meeker, 7 p.m.
Las Animas at Sangre de Cristo, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Alamosa (at Rex Field), 7 p.m.

Olathe at Del Norte, 7 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Cheraw, 7 p.m.

Prep cross country

Centauri, Monte Vista

at Rocky Ford Invitational, 10 a.m.

Alamosa at Arapahoe Invitational (at DeKoevend Park), 4 p.m.

Antonito, Centennial, Center, Monte Vista at Antonito Night Invitational, 6:30 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball

Centauri at Delta, 11 a.m.
Manzanola at Antonito, 11 a.m.
Las Animas at Sangre de Cristo, 3:30 p.m.
Alamosa vs. Mount5ain View (at Eaton Invitational), 5 p.m.
Alamosa vs. Longmont (Eaton Invitational), 6 p.m.

SATURDAY

Prep football

Sanford at West Grand, 5 p.m.

Prep cross country

Del Norte at Durango Invitational, 8:45 a.m.

Prep girls gymnastics

Canon City, Pueblo Central at Alamosa (at Ortega Middle School), 10 a.m.

Prep boys soccer

Lamar at Alamosa, 1 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball

Alamosa at Eaton (at Eaton Invitational), 9 a.m.
Sangre de Cristo at Walsenburg Invitational, 9 a.m.
Cotopaxi at Creede, 1 p.m.
Centennial, Center, Mountain Valley at Primero Invitational, TBA
Sanford at West Grande Invitational, TBA
College women's soccer Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 1 p.m.



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Lifestyle

Colorado's first reintroduced wolf pack to be relocated

By CHASE WOODRUFF
Colorado Newsline

Following months of attacks on livestock in and around Grand County, state wildlife officials said Wednesday that they "have begun an operation" to relocate the first wolf pack to be established as part of efforts that began last winter to reintroduce gray wolves to Colorado.

The animals being relocated include two mated adults and the three pups they had this spring. By reproducing in the wild, the wolves, which were captured in Oregon and released by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials late last year, became the first established wolf pack to result from the state's reintroduction program, and were named the Copper Creek pack.

"The decision to capture and relocate the Copper Creek pack was made with the careful consideration of multiple factors and feedback from many different stakeholders," CPW Director Jeff Davis said in a press release. "Our options in this unique case were very limited, and this action is by no means a precedent for how CPW will resolve wolf-livestock conflict moving forward."

The state's wolf reintroduction program fulfills a voter-approved 2020 ballot initiative to reintroduce the animals in Colorado in the name of restoring ecological balance. The measure, Proposition 114, was passed by a narrow 51% to 49% margin, and though it includes provisions to compensate livestock producers for depredations, it has been bitterly opposed by Colorado's ranching industry.

At least 15 cattle and nine sheep are confirmed to have been killed by wolves in Grand and Routt counties following last year's reintroductions, according to CPW data. The agency and local livestock producers say that many of the depredations were caused by the Copper Creek pack. Last month, CPW denied a request submitted in May by the Middle Park Stockgrowers Association for a permit to kill wolves deemed to be chronic predators.

In an Aug. 14 letter to CPW and Gov. Jared Polis, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and local livestock organizations criticized that decision and wrote of their "deep concerns regarding the current direction and implementation of Colorado's wolf reintroduction and management program."

"Since the inception of the wolf reintroduction program, we have actively engaged and cooperated in good faith while also expressing our concerns throughout the process," the letter read. "However, our concerns have been consistently overlooked. If the current trajectory of wolf management persists, it will become increasingly difficult for us to continue our cooperation."

The advocacy group Defenders of Wildlife sharply criticized the state's decision to relocate the pack, calling

it a "risky, short-term solution" and accusing livestock producers and CPW officials of not pursuing more effective means of nonlethal control and deterrence.

"This decision is being driven by politics, is not rooted in science-

based management and stands to significantly delay the progress of the reintroduction program," Mike Senatore, Defenders of Wildlife's senior vice president of conservation programs. "All parties involved in the events that led to

this deeply flawed decision should be held accountable for failure to effectively utilize proven coexistence tools."

A total of 10 reintroduced wolves were released in Grand and Summit counties in December 2023, and have

ranged widely in the mountains north of the Interstate 70 corridor since then. CPW said it would not disclose additional details of the Copper Creek pack's relocation "for the safety of these animals and staff."

"The ultimate goal of the operation is to relocate the pack to another location while we assess our best options for them to continue to contribute to the successful restoration of wolves in Colorado," Davis said.



Labor Day



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11 a.m.: Parade (Main Street)

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Live Band- Old School
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Local musician/ artist- Fabian Montoya
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-----------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

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7884

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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 Email resume to:
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 3003 Adcock Circle
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221 - HELP WANTED

HUMAN RESOURCES AND EQUITY COORDINATOR. SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks a Human Resources and Equity Coordinator. Related college degree and/or 4 years experience with HR, preferably in a non-profit. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close August 31st, 2024. (8/31/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1 is accepting applications for HS ASST. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COACH. Applications can be submitted through online app https://www.applitrack.com/centennialsschool/onlineapp/ or www.centennial.k12.co.us. Open until filled. For questions, please contact District Administrative Office at 719-672-3322. (9/11/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the middle school and or high school level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co , 719-657-4020. (9/24/24)

OUTREACH ASSISTANT. SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an LFLP Outreach Coordinator. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close September 9th, 2024. (9/7/24)

VALLEY ROOTS FOOD HUB GENERAL MANAGER. San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks a Valley Roots Food Hub General Manager. As the General Manager, you will learn, understand, and oversee the jobs of Driver, Aggregator, Markets Manager, Warehouse Manager, Operations Manager, Bookkeeper, Kitchen Manager, Sales Manager, and Fleet Manager. Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close September 15th, 2024. (9/11/24)

KINDERGARTEN PARAPROFESSIONAL NEEDED: SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a dedicated Kindergarten Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about working with young learners, we'd love to hear from you! For more information and to apply, visit www.sargent.k12.co.us or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 9/4/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (9/4/24)

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)

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1 is accepting applications for HS ASST. VOLLEYBALL COACH. Applications can be submitted through online app https://www.applitrack.com/centennialsschool/onlineapp/ or www.centennial.k12.co.us. Open until filled. For questions, please contact District Administrative Office at 719-672-3322. (9/14/24)

NOW HIRING A full-time FRONT DESK SECRETARY. Hours are Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. Please call CENTURY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT and SALES at 719-589-5744. (9/10/24)

LEAD TEACHER FOR INFANT CARE CENTER NEEDED at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (9/24/24)

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)

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Classifieds

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)

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)

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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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_1888. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (9/4/24)

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring a **Full-Time STAFF ACCOUNTANT**. Those with Bookkeeping, Payroll, Accounts Payable or public accounting experience are encouraged to apply. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is preferred. Attention to detail, and organizational skills are required. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the year. This is a year-round position, with longer hours during the winter operating months, and a shorter work week in the summer months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$34 per hour depending on experience. Full slate of insurance benefits and PTO available after a probationary period. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com (9/11/24)

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

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 the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is searching for a highly motivated **FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER**. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Required to have a Bachelor's degree, certificate or credential in social work, human services, family services, or counseling related field at hire or within 18 months of hire. This position works closely with our families to help them reach their goals and create community partnerships. Highly preferable if bilingual (English/Spanish). Applications can be picked up 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 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 the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

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)

341 - GARAGE SALE

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

341 - GARAGE SALE

8-31-24, 9-1-24, 8AM-2. Sale 702 Craft Drive, ALAMOSA. Lots of stuff. (8/31/24)

MOVING SALE: FRIDAY 8/30, Saturday 8/31, 8am-2pm. 43 Cascade, ALAMOSA. (8/31/24)

AUGUST 30TH: ANTIQUES, furniture, lawn décor, collectibles, massage table and equipment. 97 Sierra Ave.; one block from ASU @ 1st & Sierra. (8/30/24)

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

FOR SALE: 2 gelded HORSES. Experienced trail/ pleasure riding. **BOMB PROOF**. Just in time for hunting season. Call for details, 719-580-8291. (9/18/24)

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER PUPPIES. READY. Vaccinations, wormed, groomed. M/F, Liver/tan(chocolate). Sweet/Playful/Smart. \$500-\$1000, CKC registration available. 719-256-4598, pattispuppies@gmail.com, Patti Shel-labarger, <http://rittoaltokennels.com>, 719-256-4598. (9/17/24)

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

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426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, downtown ALAMOSA. \$700/ month, includes basic utilities. Interested? Email slvcbrental@yahoo.com. Available October 1st. (9/7/24)

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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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Make faces for the camera
 - 4 Composition
 - 9 Actor — Linden
 - 12 Green prefix
 - 13 Tranquility
 - 14 Boxing great
 - 15 "I'm — ears!"
 - 16 Seasons
 - 17 Actor — Stiller
 - 18 Pollywog
 - 20 Pine Tree State
 - 22 Saying nothing
 - 23 Tie
 - 24 Do pirouettes
 - 26 Drizzles
 - 28 Liquor
 - 29 Right angle
 - 30 Surf and —
 - 34 Abound
 - 36 Thickness measure
 - 37 Cravat
 - 38 Friendship
 - 40 Yield by treaty

- 41 Spacecraft
 - 44 "Under the Tuscan —"
 - 45 Yellow pigment
 - 46 Smooth moves
 - 50 Dined
 - 51 Crystal-filled stone
 - 53 "— Believer"
 - 54 Moisture
 - 55 Actor — Hirsch
 - 56 "— Miserables"
 - 57 Farm enclosure
 - 58 Measuring stick
 - 59 Harden
- DOWN**
- 1 Potatoes partner
 - 2 Bruins' sch.
 - 3 Profitable venture (2 wds.)
 - 4 Derby town
 - 5 Close tightly
 - 6 Auction

- 7 Play division
- 8 Sycophant (hyph.)
- 9 Custom
- 10 Coeur d'—, Wash.
- 11 Of flax
- 19 Joke of a kind
- 21 Aide (abbr.)
- 23 Young equine
- 24 Mil. rank
- 25 Tart
- 26 Send, as payment
- 27 Dismounted
- 31 Kitchen items
- 32 Clear
- 33 Price to be paid
- 35 Fashion
- 39 Corporate event
- 40 Hint
- 41 Highways
- 42 Group of eight
- 43 Like caramels
- 44 Show scorn
- 46 Thwart
- 47 Baseless
- 48 Pirate in "Peter Pan"
- 49 "— of Eden"
- 52 Down Under bird

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

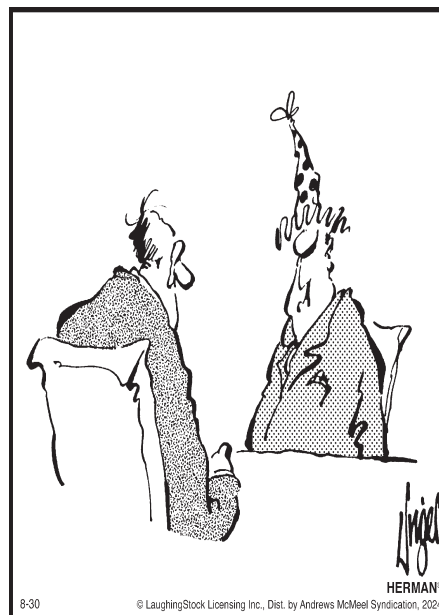
			4	2	7			8
		2			6			
	4		5		2			
5			6		8			3
3			1				2	
4	9		7				1	
	5		4			9		
		7				5		
8		5	9	3				

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"I always wear my lucky hat for job interviews."

Couple have divergent views about punctuality

DEAR ABBY: A friend retired, moved and gave me her well-paying, once-a-week job doing industrial cleaning. It pays a sizable chunk of our bills. My husband, who agreed to work with me doing this, gives me a hard time every week by being late.

We need to be there after business hours at 5:30 p.m. so we don't interrupt anyone while they're working. I have to remind my husband EVERY Wednesday that we need to be AT THE JOB. It causes fights. He makes his own hours at his other job. He can work whenever he wants and leave when it's done. I was raised to believe, "If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, then you're late." His attitude is, "Why worry about when we show up?"

I'm angry that he doesn't respect how important this job is to me. I'm his boss when it comes to this jobsite. How can I handle this? I'm so done. I can't lose this job, and I can't do it by myself! It's HIPAA-protected, so not just anyone can do this with me. -- **TIMED OUT IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR TIMED OUT: How important is it that you start promptly at 5:30? Could all the work get done if you started at 6? I know you are a

stickler for promptness, but who set the hours? You and your husband might fight less often if you become more flexible.

However, if the problem persists, remind him that the extra income helps to pay important bills. If that doesn't motivate him, stop fighting, contact the friend who gave you the job and ask if she has any suggestions about someone who could do what your husband has been doing. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: We've lived in our working-class urban neighborhood for decades. We have always made friends with our neighbors, including a young couple with a toddler two doors away. We don't socialize with them other than to chat when we see them on the street, and we gave their daughter a onesie on her birthday last year.

Just before the pandemic, they acquired a rescue dog, which they often leave in their backyard. The animal barks nonstop for hours, which makes it difficult to enjoy being outside in our yard. We're home most of the time, and my partner is a gardener, so he spends long hours out there.

What's the best way to handle this? Friends who know more about

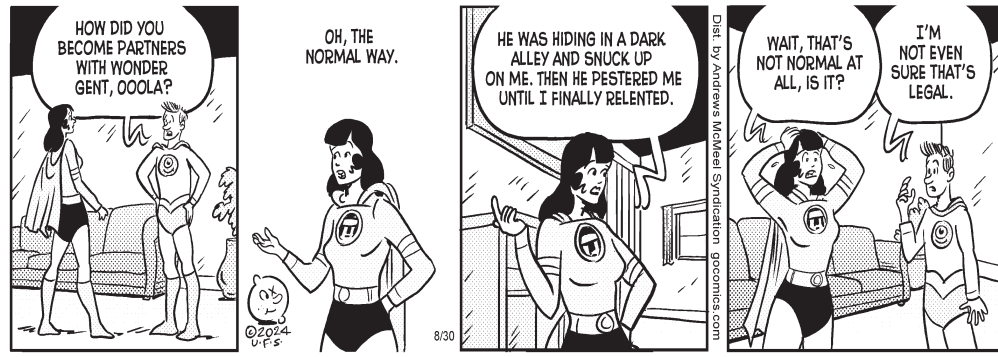


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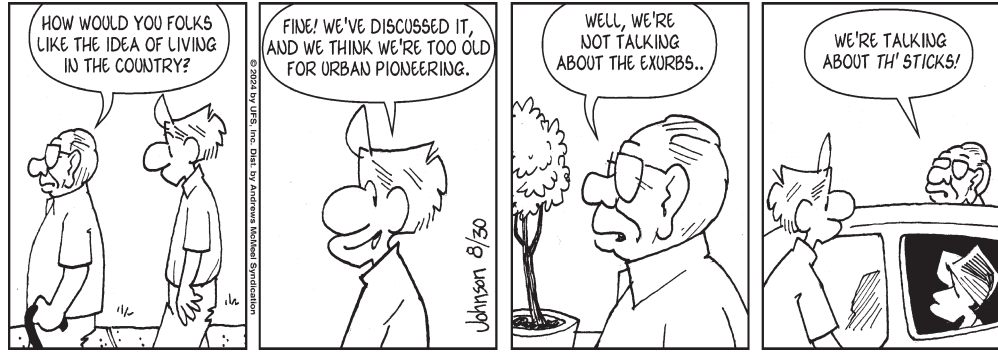
dogs than we do tell us it's impossible to break dogs of this habit. Do you think that because we haven't complained they think we're OK with it? We want to be good neighbors. -- **NOT OK WITH IT IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR NOT OK: Dogs have been known to bark because of separation anxiety. If your neighbors are away when their dog is creating a problem, and you have expressed nothing about it, you or your partner must let them know. The conversation doesn't have to be confrontational, but nothing will change unless YOU step up and bark about it. Do it now, before you lose your minds.

ALLEY OOP



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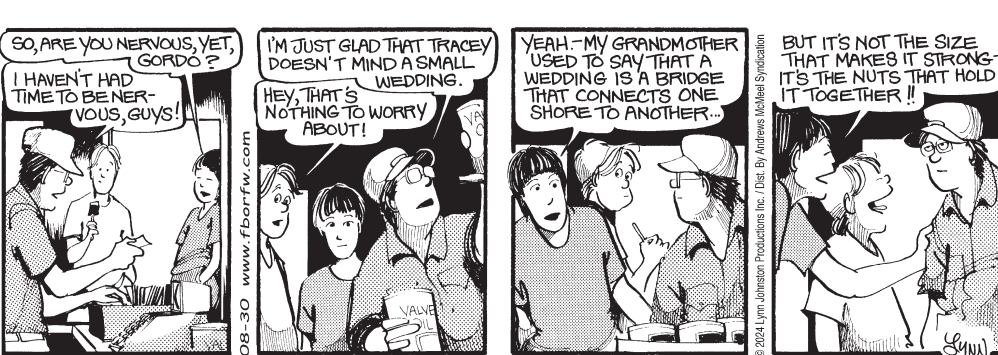
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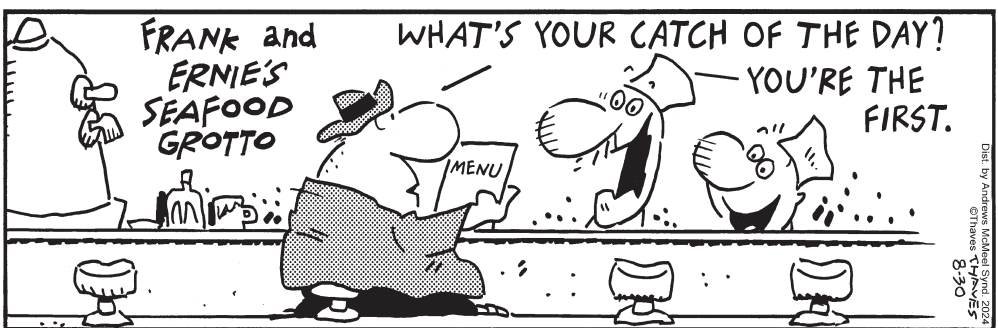
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



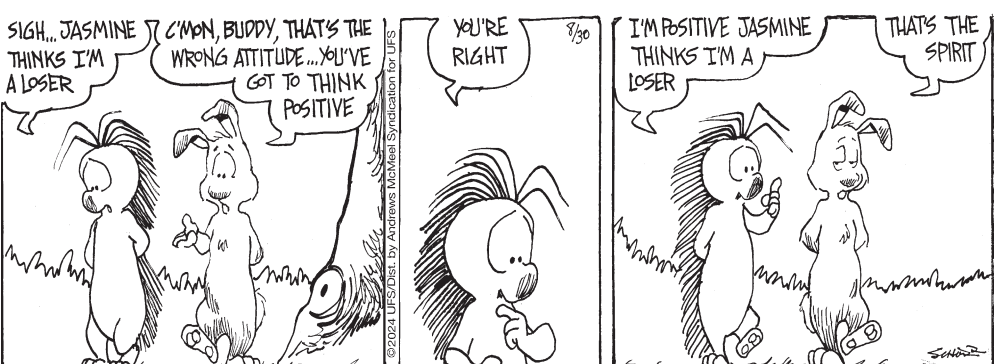
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Lifestyle

Mardi Gras celebration takes Center by storm

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER — From an electronic bull, to thrilling children's rides, facepainting, water gun fights, vendors, and food trucks, Center's first-ever Mardi Gras all began in the morning with a colorful parade on Aug. 24.

The event saw about 150 people for the parade in the morning, and over 500 people throughout the day.

The theme for the event was chosen by Mayor Archie Gallegos. Gallegos said that it sounded like a fun theme, so they went with it. The parade was headed up by a Center Police Department patrol car glistening in the early morning sun, as they went down the main highway in Center, adjacent to Casa Blanca Park.

The main streets were lined with smiling adults and eager children, waiting with colorful sacks, for the different floats and people who would be tossing candy during the parade. The parade's Grand Marshall, Judy Crawley, soon came down the road, smiling

and waving from a classic white car.

Mayor Gallegos was also smiling and waving, while driving a black city truck in the parade. The Kiwanis Club of Center had an extremely impressive float, decked out in purple with a large golden, traditional Mardi Gras mask adorning the front of the float.

As the floats came down, lots of candy was thrown from the floats, and the children smiled happily, running into the streets, picking up the candy and loading it into their colored bags.

Each float and car in the parade was decked out with some form of Mardi Gras signage, and many of the people in the vehicles also gave out traditional Mardi Gras necklaces. Richard Garcia of the Poor Boy Car Club was seen in the parade, giving out necklaces to many attendees.

Casa Blanca Park was decked out with Mardi Gras balloons, and adults and children could be seen walking in the park and outside in the streets where the vendors were selling their wares, and

many people could also be seen dancing in the streets to the live Spanish music band that was performing.

In the park's corner, the electronic bull was bucking and spinning around, with children and adults riding on it. Eight-year-old Jesus Vargas was on the bull, and after riding it for a bit stepped down with a laugh.

"I want to do that again, but my mom says I have to wait a minute," he said with a smile. "She said I could get dizzy, but it's so fun."

Resident Diane Martinez said the event was nice and hoped they would consider putting it on every year.

"Monte Vista has Stampedo, and I know Del Norte has a big celebration too, we have events, but nothing really like this. I hope we can convince the Town of Center to put this on next year, everyone was so excited about the parade. My grandkids loved getting candy and checking out the floats. The kids' rides are just so cool. Yes, if Center keeps doing this, it would be a good thing



Photos by Marie McColm

The Kiwanis Club of Center float makes its way down the Mardi Gras parade route on Aug. 24 in Center.

for the town," she said.

Valerie Atencio, a jewelry vendor at the event, said that she had a lot of interested people and it seemed like a good crowd.

"There's been a few people out today, and I have done pretty good. This is a really nice event that the community put on," she said.



Children pick up candy that is thrown from Mardi Gras parade floats on Aug. 24 in Center.

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LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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Early Iron Festival to bring hundreds of cool cars to Alamosa

Celebrating 43 years of great cars and good friends

By **JOHN WATERS**
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Alamosa residents will hear the rumble of hot rods and classic cars this weekend as the 43rd annual Early Iron Festival rides into town.

The Early Iron Club and numerous local sponsors put on the festival. It is one of Alamosa's biggest events and is held at Cole Park and the Alamosa Family Recreation Center at 2222 Old Stanford Rd. on Labor Day Weekend.

Roni Wisdom with the club said, "The SLV Early Iron club members are looking forward to a great show again this year. We want to thank all of our major sponsors, car sponsors, volunteers, and, of course, the rodders who join us every year. This show is special, and we love being able to bring it to Alamosa."

The festival raises funds for a local non-profit; this year, Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue is the beneficiary. The group works under the supervision of the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. In a recent comment to the Valley

Courier, Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson said this about the search and rescue group, "They are well-trained and totally committed to the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. I can't say enough about them, and how well-trained and dedicated they are. Fundraisers like this event are very important, it helps them stay in business."

The car show attracts people from throughout the San Luis Valley, the state, and other states, including New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Utah, and Kansas.

The festival has a positive economic impact on the Valley said Wisdom. "If you take just an average of two people per car, you've got a thousand people just coming into your community - not to mention everybody from the surrounding areas that come in all day Saturday or come in for Saturday night and just to see what's going on and

■ See **FESTIVAL** page 3



Courier file photo by John Waters

The 43rd Early Iron Car Show rolls into Alamosa on Friday, August 30, for a weekend filled with vintage cars. Funds raised at the event will be donated to Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue. This vintage Chevrolet was part of the 2023 show.



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Festival

Continued from Page 2 go out."

Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. Friday, August 30 in Cole Park. At 4:30 the Sponsor and Rodder private party is scheduled. The Nitro Car Burn is at 9:00 p.m.

On Saturday, the park opens at 7:00 a.m. The Alamosa Senior Citizens Center, located adjacent to the park, will be serving a breakfast of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, and hash browns for \$8 beginning at 7:00 a.m. The Flag Raising Ceremony is at 9:00 a.m.

The Show n Shine runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Other events on Saturday include a Pinstrippers Auction, a Ladies Tea and Vintage Fashion Show, both at 1:00 p.m. Rodders Banquet at the Alamosa Recreation Center starts at 5:30 p.m., and is located at 2222 Old Sanford Rd. The Slow Cruise through Downtown Alamosa is at 8:00 p.m.

Festivities conclude with a 8:30 a.m. church service and a Poker Run at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, both in Cole Park.

"It's a small club, but we have amazing volunteers that help us out," Wisdom said. "Our club members work solidly year-round to get this all ready to go.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit earlyironclub.com.

This 1949 Dodge was part of the 42nd annual Early Iron Festival held last year in Alamosa.

Courier file photo by John Waters



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