



2024 Hunting in the San Luis Valley

— Inside today's Valley Courier



Mean Moose open season with 28-8 win over Pirates

— Page 8



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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 31, 2024

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## SLV Today

### Holy Name of Mary Church is reopening Sept. 1

**DEL NORTE** — Holy Name of Mary Church is reopening on Sept. 1 for the regular 8 a.m. Mass.

This much-awaited opening is after some 20 months of closure for investigating and mitigating major safety issues, completing much-needed repairs to the church and rectory buildings and fundraising by the DNCA.

### Conejos County Courthouse fire

**CONEJOS** — A fire on the evening of August 29 consumed the auditor's office in the Conejos County Courthouse, according to Connie Ricci, public information officer with the county. Ricci said there were no injuries and thanked the firefighters from the South Conejos Fire and Protection and Romeo. For more information, visit [online.www.conejoscounty.colorado.gov](http://online.www.conejoscounty.colorado.gov).

### City of Alamosa holiday trash schedule

**ALAMOSA** — In observance of the upcoming holiday, the City of Alamosa trash schedule will be as follows:

• Commercial Routes: Monday, Sept. 2, collections will be conducted on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

• Residential Routes: will remain the same.

• Yard Waste Route: Monday route will be conducted Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The recycling center will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, and will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3.

City facilities will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, and will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3.

### SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Light Breeze 78/42

Sun: Mostly Sunny, Breezy 76/39

Mon: Sunny 77/42

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## 'Milagro Beanfield War' to play in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — "The Milagro Beanfield War" will be performed on Sept. 5 at the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theater at Adams State University in Alamosa. Millie Duran will direct the play, originally a novel written by John Nichols in 1974. The novel became a movie in 1988.

The cast in for this local performance is comprised almost entirely of high school students, many of whom are from Centennial High School in San Luis. Shirley Romero Otero with the Move Mountains youth group has assisted

in the production and is the founder of Move Mountains, an entrepreneurship and art community-education program focused on building a platform for the youth leaders of San Luis.

The story takes place in the fictional town of Milagro, N.M., where water is scarce. Resort

■ See MILAGRO page 3

**The student cast of the 'Milagro Beanfield War' in rehearsal. The play is at the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theater at Adams State University in Alamosa on Thursday, Sept. 5. Doors open at 5:15. Admission is free.**

Courtesy photo



## Early Iron rolls into Alamosa



**Rich Kocher from Prescott, Ariz., with his 1956 Chevy Nomad that he bought about two months ago. Kocher said he has been to the Early Iron several times. Kocher said he was happy to be back, 'in God's country'. The show brings hundreds of car enthusiasts to Alamosa and runs through the weekend in Cole Park.**

Courier photo by John Waters

## Little Library filled with children's titles

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

**ALAMOSA** — The new Little Free Library in Alamosa at the Colorado Welcome Center, 610 State Street, is jam-packed with books.

This Little Free Library is a partnership between the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library and the GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club. Since it will be located at the Depot, it was beautifully painted to represent our local railroad history.

Currently, this library is filled with children's booklets with titles including "It's Raining, It's Pouring," "Hop, Skip, and Jump," and "Pigs All Around."

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the worldwide movement to offer free books housed in small containers to members of the local community. Little Free Libraries are also referred to as community book exchanges, neighborhood book exchanges, book trading posts, pop-up libraries, and micro-libraries, and have been likened to human bird feeders.

There is another Little Free Library located at the Food Bank in Alamosa which is also supported by the members of the GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club.



Courier photo by John Waters

**The newest Little Free Library supported by the Friends of the Library and Woman's Citizenship Club.**



## SLV Potato Festival set for Sept. 7 in Monte

CONTRIBUTED

**MONTE VISTA** — The San Luis Valley Potato Festival is set to return for its 17th edition on Saturday, Sept. 7. There will be plenty of opportunities for a day filled with fun at Chapman Park.

The day will begin with the Tater Trot 5K. Proceeds from the race will support pediatric diabetes patients throughout the Valley. The cost to participate is \$25 and early registrants get a free T-shirt.

There will also be an opportunity to join CPAC Executive Director Jim Ehrlich on a free Agricultural Tour. Those who would like to at-

■ See FESTIVAL page 3



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# Record

## New arrivals at the Alamosa Public Library

### From the Librarian's Desk

By MARIE KRAMER

New books are always coming in at the Alamosa Public Library! Here are 10 of our most intriguing arrivals. For more information, or to have a book reserved for you, check [alamosalibrary.org](http://alamosalibrary.org) or call 719-589-6592.

#### Fiction

• **The Volcano Daughters** by Gina Maria Balibrera

Two sisters escape genocide in El Salvador, each believing the other died. As they try to find their place in a world of hardship and prejudice, the sisters are watched over by the ghosts of their friends who did not survive.

• **Headshot** by Rita

Bullwinkel

It is the Daughters of America boxing tournament in Reno. Eight teenage girls have trained and sacrificed with one goal - to be named the best boxer in the country.

• **Facts Are Stubborn Things** by Richard A. Danzig

Chance Cormac is a lapsed Catholic and a suspended lawyer. When he agrees to handle a divorce case, against his better judgment, he gradually becomes entangled with layers of corporate scheming, money laundering, and corruption.

• **Local Author**

**Minimum Safe Distance** by X. Ho Yen

With the Earth in recovery from humanity's 21st century mistakes, two highly advanced aliens observing from

the Moon are suddenly on opposite sides of an ethical battle over a dire cosmic threat.

#### Nonfiction

• **Turning to Stone** by Marcia Bjornerud

As one of few women in geology, Marcia Bjornerud witnessed the shift in our understanding of the Earth, from solid object to an entity in a constant state of transformation. In the most tumultuous times of her own life, a deep understanding of our rocky planet imbued her experiences with meaning.

• **The Devil Behind the Badge** by Rick Jervis

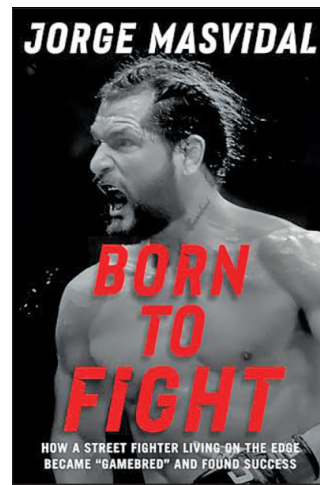
Prize-winning journalist Rick Jervis tells the gripping story of four murders that shook the small border town of Laredo, and the quest to unmask a cold, calculated killer who was hiding in plain sight.

• **Grow Your Own Mushrooms** by Tavis Lynch

Growing a mushroom is really no more difficult than growing a tomato. You just need a slightly different set of skills. Mushrooms are healthy, packed with vitamins and antioxidants, rich with flavor, and can be used medicinally. By growing your own, you can enjoy these benefits while enriching your soil, speeding up your composting, and even suppressing weeds.

• **Born to Fight** by Jorge Masvidal

Jorge Masvidal grew up in a tough Miami neighborhood, raised by a single mom while his father was in and out of jail. Over the years, he channeled rage into discipline and used his fists to go from feared street scrapper to one of the

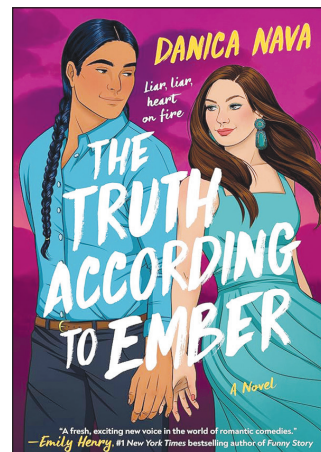


world's greatest professional fighters.

• **Red Dead's History** by Tore C. Olsson

Red Dead Redemption and Red Dead Redemption II are the most-played American history video games since The Oregon Trail. Beloved by millions, they've been widely acclaimed for their realism and attention to detail. But how do they fare as recreations of history?

#### Romance



• **The Truth According to Ember** by Danica Nava

After her thirty-seventh rejection, Ember decides to embellish her resume with a degree she doesn't have - and omit her Indigenous heritage. While her lie seems to work in her favor, landing her a steady job as an accountant - it may put her budding relationship in jeopardy.

## Lawsuit seeks clarity on Colorado Republican Party leadership dispute

By LINDSEY TOOMER  
*Colorado Newsline*

Eli Bremer filed a lawsuit against the original Colorado Republican Party executive board members who continue to reject the results of a vote that organizers say ousted them and installed Bremer as the new state party chair.

Dave Williams, Hope Schepelman and Anna Ferguson — the executive board members all elected in 2023 — are named as defendants, and El Paso County Republican Party Vice Chair Todd Watkins and Jefferson County Republican Party Chair Nancy Palozzi are named as plaintiffs alongside Bremer and the party. Watkins and

Palozzi led the effort to oust Williams as chair and gathered enough signatures to hold a meeting and vote on Aug. 24.

“Defendants — the officers removed — refuse to acknowledge their removal and continue to exercise control over party property including bank accounts, office space, and web domains,” the lawsuit says. “This lawsuit seeks to vindicate the party’s control over its own affairs and leadership.”

Bremer told Newsline the lawsuit was filed against Williams personally on behalf of the party, so Williams cannot use any party legal resources in his response. Williams did not im-

mediately respond to a request for comment.

At an Aug. 24 meeting with central committee members, an overwhelming majority of the credentialed members present — about 180 people of the 400-plus central committee membership — voted to remove Williams and elected Bremer chair. Williams claims that meeting and vote were “fraudulent” and invalid, and he plans to hold a meeting with the same purpose Saturday in Castle Rock, despite members at the Aug. 24 meeting voting to cancel it.

If a meeting is held Saturday, Bremer said it won’t be considered a legal meeting of the central committee.

“They can pretend that they’re the United States Congress, the government of Venezuela, or the Colorado Republican Party — it has absolutely no legal bearing,” Bremer said.

The group first attempted to meet over the issue at the end of July, but Williams sued and an Arapahoe County judge issued a temporary restraining order to block the meeting. The judge ultimately concluded that the courts do not have jurisdiction over the internal party matter.

“Under Colorado law, the courts have no jurisdiction to interfere in internal party disputes, but once a party has made a final determination, the

courts have the right to enforce that action,” Bremer said.

Bremer’s lawsuit, filed in El Paso County district court, asks the court to declare the Aug. 24 meeting and its results valid, and all party actions from defendants that occurred after that meeting invalid. Bremer, former chair of the El Paso County Republicans, has already taken action asserting himself as party chair, setting up a “satellite” office and working with county GOP chairs to order yard signs and handouts for former President Donald Trump’s campaign. He said he’s confident the courts will back him and the newly elected party leadership.

“We’ve made sure every step along the way we followed the right procedures,” Bremer said. “The actions of the former officers are nothing short of bizarre ... We followed the law and they’re just making stuff up.”

Bremer said the situation with Williams parallels what happened with the Michigan Republican Party earlier this year, and their new chair has been “very helpful” to him throughout this process. Members of the party voted to remove former chair Kristina Karamo, and she refused to step down claiming the vote was illegitimate. A legal battle between Karamo and new chair Pete Hoekstra is still ongoing.

### OBITUARIES

#### Julia Garcia



Julia was born on Jan. 31, 1925. She died on Aug. 28, 2024, at the age of 99. Julia was a long-time resident of Antonito. She was born in Alamosa, Colo. Her parents were Julian and Rosita Aragon.

She married Fidel A. Garcia. They had one daughter Eleanor Garcia West.

She was known for her beautiful crochet projects.

She was preceded in death by her parents Julian and Rosita, her husband Fidel A. Garcia, her brothers Frank Aragon, Fred Aragon,

Rudy Salazar, Ruben Lee Mondragon, and John C. Mondragon (Wimpy) and her in-laws Fidel and Beatrice Garcia.

She is survived by her daughter Eleanor, her

sisters Helen (Jim) Bohr, Luisa Rose, and sister-in-law Theresa (James) Zoller.

Services will be on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, with the Rosary at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Conejos, Colo. Mass of the Resurrection will follow at 11 a.m. also at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Interment to follow at the Ortiz Cemetery.

To Leave online condolences, please visit [romerofuneralhomes.com](http://romerofuneralhomes.com). The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

#### Joe Dale Jaramillo

Lifelong Antonito resident Joe Dale Jaramillo departed this life on Aug. 28, 2024. He passed away peacefully at his home under Hospice care with his loving family at his side. Dale was welcomed into this world on Sept. 13, 1964, the beloved and only son of Joe and Mary Jaramillo.

Dale enjoyed being and working outdoors and his creativity kept him busy. Dale had a great sense of humor and had a friend wherever he would go. He would go out of his way to help anyone he saw who needed a hand. He took after his mom in that way. Dale enjoyed fishing the creeks for brookies the way his dad taught him how. He was happy when he was camping with his family and when riding his Harley with his friends.

He cherished the time he spent with his grandson James Malouff and will leave anyone who knew and loved him with wonderful and happy memories.

He is survived by his loving wife Casilda Jaramillo of Antonito, Colorado, daughter Stephanie (Aaron) Malouff of Alamosa, Colorado; Grandchild James Malouff; Uncle LeRoy (Mary Ann) Jaramillo of Pueblo, Colorado; Uncle David Jaramillo of Elko, Nevada; Father-in-law Max A. Ruybal of Las Mesitas, Colorado; numerous cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents Joe and Mary Jaramillo.

Viewing and visitation will be held on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024, from 12-4 p.m. at Romero’s Chapel in Antonito, Colo. Recita-



tion of the Holy Rosary will be held on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Conejos, Colo. Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, at 11 a.m. also at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Conejos, Colo. Interment will follow at the Las Mesitas Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements in care of Romero Funeral Home.

## Top Colorado GOP leader reports death threats to law enforcement

By QUENTIN YOUNG  
*Colorado Newsline*

Hope Schepelman, who was elected vice chair of the Colorado Republican Party in August 2023, has received death threats and other forms of harassment by phone starting in late July, Schepelman reported to the La Plata County Sheriff’s Office.

The harassing calls began July 22 and continued periodically until at least until Aug. 10, according to what Schepelman told a sheriff’s deputy on Aug. 12. The deputy documented information from Schepelman in an incident report obtained by Newsline.

“Threats have been made against Hope’s life and her husband’s life,” the report says. “Initially, the harassing phone calls were name calling and telling Hope to jump off a bridge.”

A caller at one point “began to identify things on Hope’s property.” Schepelman, a Bayfield resident, told the deputy she tracked the phone number of one of the calls to Miami.

Schepelman said that the calls came from two different people named Betsy and that one was named Betsy Freedom, according to the report.

The La Plata deputy reported that an at-

tempt to tie the source of the harassment to a Durango resident, who has a name that’s similar to the other Betsy who Schepelman identified, did not lead to a suspect.

Schepelman told Newsline on Friday that “there is an investigation going on” related to Betsy Freedom.

“My life has been threatened and my family’s life has been threatened by this individual,” Schepelman said. She declined to speak further about the matter, citing the investigation.

Schepelman is embroiled in a leadership dispute with some members of the Colorado Republican Party. A vote by the party’s central committee Saturday ousted her from leadership — along with the chair, former state Rep. Dave Williams, and secretary, Anna Ferguson — and installed new leaders. The two factions both say they’re the legitimate leaders of the party, and the results of a lawsuit over the opposing claims, as well as guidance from the Republican National Committee, is expected to settle the matter.

The actual identity of Betsy Freedom has been a recent topic of speculation among Schepelman opponents. A Betsy Freedom from Pueblo

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# Valley News

## Governments often struggle with massive new IT projects

By PAIGE GROSS  
Colorado Newswire

Idaho's state government was facing a problem.

In 2018, its 86 state agencies were operating with a mix of outdated, mismatched business systems that ran internal processes like payroll and human resources. Some of the programs dated back to the 1980s, and many were written in programming languages they don't teach in engineering schools anymore.

The state made a clear choice — one many other state and city governments have made in recent years — they overhauled their entire IT suite with one cloud-based software.

But since the \$121 million project, called Luma, rolled out in July 2023, things have not gone as planned.

Luma has created procedural and data errors and caused "disruptions in day-to-day processes and [is] impacting overall productivity," said an audit that was provided to legislators in June.

Five months into its launch last year, the Luma project was still receiving criticism from employees, organizations that work with the state's government agencies and from top state legislators.

Speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives Mike Moyle said in a November 2023 Legislative Council

meeting that the state might want to come up with an exit plan for the platform — "No offense, this thing is a joke and it's not working," he told legislators.

Idaho's Luma project is just one of many government IT overhauls that hasn't gone as smoothly as city and state officials may have aimed for.

As few as 13% of large government IT projects succeed, a field guide by the U.S. General Services Administration's 18F team said. The group of designers, software engineers, strategists and product managers work within the GSA to help government agencies buy and build tech products.

State projects, the org's report says, can face the most challenges because state departments often don't have sufficient knowledge about modern software development and their procurement procedures can be outdated for what's needed to properly vet huge software solutions.

"Every year, the federal government matches billions of dollars in funding to state and local governments to maintain and modernize IT systems used to implement federal programs such as Medicaid, child welfare benefits, housing, and unemployment insurance," 18F's State Software Budgeting Handbook said. "Efforts to modernize those

legacy systems fail at an alarmingly high rate and at great cost to the federal budget."

**Why are governments overhauling long-standing IT systems?**

Most of the time, as in the case of Idaho, a state is seeking to overhaul a series of aging, inflexible and ineffective systems with one more modernized approach.

Each year, governments need to budget and allocate resources to maintain existing systems and to get them to work with other business operation systems. In 2019, 80% of the \$90 billion federal IT spending budget went toward maintenance of legacy software.

Giant projects, like Washington state's proposed \$465 million replacement program of its legacy systems, may likely be replacing the millions spent every year to keep up old systems.

Aging software systems aren't just awkward or inefficient to use, but they can also pose cybersecurity risks. Departments that use systems built with older programming languages that are going out of style will struggle to find employees who can maintain them, experts say. Departments might also struggle to get newer business systems to integrate with older ones, which causes the potential for hiccups in operation.

**A closer look at Luma**

Idaho's State Controller's Office found itself in that position six years ago when it sought to overhaul all its business operation systems. Scott Smith, the chief deputy controller, and project manager of Luma, said they were trying to maintain systems that they were losing technical support for.

Each agency had built their own homegrown system, or had procured their own up until that point. There was a desire to modernize operations statewide and do an audit on return on investment for taxpayers. The project got the name Luma, an attempt for the state to "enlighten, or shine a light on" its existing systems and update them, Smith said.

After a procurement process, the state chose enterprise resource planning software company Infor, and replaced a collection of separate systems that ran payroll, budgets, financial management and human resources with one cloud-based solution. Many of these legacy systems dated back to 1987 and 1988, and were becoming vulnerable to security threats, Smith said.

Reports by the Idaho Capital Sun found that since its rollout last summer, the new system didn't correctly distribute \$100 million in interest payments to

state agencies, it double paid more than \$32 million in Idaho Department of Health and Welfare payments, and it created payroll issues or delays for state employees. A nonprofit that works with the state said it wasn't paid for months, and only received payments when they sought attention from state legislators and local media, and upon launch day in July 2023, only about 50% of employees had completed basic training on the system.

In February, Moyle and a bipartisan group of eight legislators asked an independent, non-partisan state watchdog agency called the Office of Performance Evaluations to look into Luma's software. And in June, a Legislative Services Audit found system lacked a range of information technology controls for data validation and security.

The performance evaluation report isn't due until October, but Ryan Langrill, interim director of the OPE, said in August that they were told to make the Luma study its priority.

"Our goal is to identify what went well and what didn't and to offer recommendations for future large scale IT projects," Langrill said.

Smith told States Newsroom that with any large-scale IT project, there's always going to be difficulties during the first year of implementation. Idaho is the first to do a rollout of this kind, where all business processes went live at once in a multi-cloud environment, he said.

They developed requirements for the system for several years before its rollout last year and spent time in system integration testing

with experts from Infor. "Once you put it into the real world, right? There's still a lot for you to understand," Smith said. "And while the system itself can provide you the functionality, there's still a lot of inherent business processes that need to be adapted to the new system."

Each agency had to evaluate their own internal processes, Smith said. Large-scale departments like military, transportation and health and human services are going to operate differently than smaller ones like libraries and the historical society. Trying to provide a singular system to support each facet of government is going to come with its challenges, he said.

Human error has also likely played a role in the rollout, Smith said. As employees have to learn the new system and make changes to years-long processes, they'll have to take time to change, adjust, refine and improve.

Smith said he hopes the Office of Performance Evaluations looks at the Luma project with a "holistic" approach, going back to source selections and analyzing what could have been done better with everything from implementation to the development of requirements for the technology.

"We'll obviously look at those results and see where we can make improvements, but it can also be used, I hope, as a source document for others..." Smith said. "Every state's going through a system modernization effort, that they can use to help improve their potential for success in their projects."

## Milagro

Continued from Page 1

developer Ladd Devine plans to build a resort that will consume water from the nearby fields. Farmer Jose Mondragon accidentally breaks a water pipe used by a business. He accidentally sets off a water-rights war between the agricultural users and developers.

In the novel, Nichols writes this about the Beanfield War, "It was a soft, early spring morning with the mist still clinging to the mountain and the blackbirds just starting to swoop low over the alfalfa fields when Jo Mondragon - thirty-six with not much to show for it, a feisty hustler with a talent for trouble - slammed his battered pick-up to a stop, tugged on his gumboots, and marched into the arid patch of

ground his father had once cultivated. Carefully, impulsively (and also illegally), he tapped into the main irrigation channel." "And so began - though few knew it at the time (least of all Joe) - the great Milagro Beanfield War."

The director of the play, Duran, is CEO of Denver-based Casa Milagro Youth Solutions. The group presents theater performances for youth centered on teen dating violence, gang intervention, males disrespecting females and bullying. The performances deal with real-life issues that stimulate problem-solving and critical thinking issues.

Duran said, "Milagro Beanfield War' is a study in conflict resolution. Many parallels are as common today as they were years ago when Nichols wrote this."

Duran finds parallels from the play to the issue in the San Luis Valley regarding the Cielo Vista Ranch, where the absent owner has built an 8-foot-tall fence around the 83,000-acre property. The Colorado Sun called the issue "a 150-year-old San Luis Valley land war." Duran said the comparisons between protagonist Jose Mondragon and residents resonate well.

Most of the actors are students at Centennial High School in Sal Luis, and Superintendent Joe Garcia said this, "We are all about providing opportunities to Centennial students and experiences that last a lifetime of learning. These students have such a privilege to engage in history of Southern Colorado, particularly something close to home here in the San Luis area. Rich in traditions, culture,

and history, I see these students as leaders. Engaging in the play is a particularly important opportunity for them to be a teachable moment." Garcia thanked Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Foundation.

**The Cast:**  
From Centennial High School are actors, Diego Franco - 4 characters - Laila Garcia - 6 characters -Sophitia Petrick - 6 characters - Roarik Petrick - 5 characters - Anai Medina - 7 characters  
Lanessa Lobato - 11 characters Temo de la Torre - 4 characters William Kirk - 4 characters Amaya Garcia - Props and costume manager - 2 characters, Lillyana Sanchez, Chanell Vigil  
Sierra Grande High School Jacob Portillo - 7 characters  
Casa Milagro Youth Solutions Youth - Denver - Colorado Early College - Lorenzo Ortiz

## Festival

Continued from Page 1

tend can sign up to ride a bus from the festival site to visit the SLV-Research Center and see a field being harvested. The tour is free and provides the chance to learn about the breeding, seeding, growing and harvesting of Colorado's finest potatoes, right here in the San Luis Valley.

Festivities will continue throughout the day and will include free kid's games, the famous

mashed potato dunk tank, and a professional chef competition between Chef Jason Morse of 5280 Culinary, Chefs RJ Harvey and Aurora Hollenbeck of Potatoes USA and Chef Tim Alfrey of the Windsor Hotel.

There will also be bounce houses, and a trampoline quad jumper along with food and craft vendors, live animals and much more.

For more information or to sign up for any of these events, visit coloradopotato.org/potatofestival or call 719-852-3322.

<p>ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY COLORADO Great Stories Begin Here</p>						
<h2>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</h2>						
<h2>September</h2>						
<p><b>SUNDAY • 1</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.adams.edu">www.adams.edu</a></p>	<p><b>MONDAY • 2</b></p> <p>Labor Day - No Classes University Closed</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY • 3</b></p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY • 4</b></p> <p>Census Date: Last Day to add/drop)</p> <p>Wellness Wednesdays: Paws &amp; Relax 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Student Health &amp; Wellness Resource Center, located in the SUB</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY • 5</b></p> <p>The Milagro Beanfield War: The Play The Theatre Department hosts Denver's Casa Milagro Youth Solutions production of John Nichols' <i>The Milagro Beanfield War: The Play</i>. Featuring the Move Mountains Youth Free No Tickets Required Doors Open @ 5:15 p.m. Theatre Building SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY • 6</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY • 7</b></p> <p>M &amp; W Cross Country Joe I. Vigil Open: 8:35 a.m. Cattails Golf Course</p> <p>Tailgate Party: 4 p.m. Nielsen Library Parking Lot</p> <p>Football vs Western New Mexico University 6 p.m. Rex Stadium</p>
<p>Through September 20, 2024</p> <p>Cloyde Snook Gallery: <i>Floor Saga: Photographic documentation of a 350-hour performance</i> The Church Project Community Art Center</p> <p>Hatfield Gallery: New Works by Matt Capell and Nora McBride</p> <p>Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday</p>						



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# Opinion

## LETTER

### We need to support each other and stand against intolerance

Editor,

For those that think the LGBTQIA+ community doesn't affect you, doesn't ripple out to where you live and how you live, think again.

This community is alive and well in the San Luis Valley. They consist of your neighbors, your business owners, your fellow churchgoers and, in more instances than not, your friends and your relatives.

For those in this community who are watching recent events with a wary eye, wondering about what the future holds for them as they live and work in the San Luis Valley, I would call to them. I would wave them over and offer them a place to sit and something to drink. I would let them take a breath and feel safe, because in my presence they are safe.

I would let them tell their stories, if they wished. Then I would tell them mine – that over the years, person by person, kind heart by kind heart, I was shown a group that stood behind a veil that was slowly becoming more and more transparent. I understood that this one facet of their lives had absolutely nothing to do with me and didn't affect the way I lived my life in any way.

But there are others in this community that feel threatened by the mere existence of people who live their lives differently. We all know this, because their words and actions scream their views. There are angry words and not-so-subtle threats and as of this past Pride weekend, there was illegal action. I will say it again for those in the back – there was illegal action.

I don't understand why some cheered that action, even praised it. The vitriol that sprang from behind keyboards onto social media pages was disappointing.

What gives me hope for Alamosa is the equal, if not greater, number of people who stepped forward to speak against each negative comment as it appeared. Like a quiet tide, they trickled in, and then amassed to drown out the negative voices and keep buoyant the idea that this community is more than anger. It is more than negativity. And it is more than what the action of stealing flags was trying to show.

Alamosa is a community that is a sum total of all the people who live here. There is strength in diversity, and the opportunity to grow stronger together. Let's take the opportunity to support each other and continue to stand against intolerance. Together, we can truly call Alamosa and the San Luis Valley home.

Dawn and Will Krebs  
Alamosa



To submit news, email:  
[news@alamosanews.com](mailto:news@alamosanews.com)

To submit sports, email:  
[khamrick@alamosanews.com](mailto:khamrick@alamosanews.com)

### Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to [news@alamosanews.com](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

## Don't poke the pit bull

By GENE LYONS

Anybody who writes a newspaper column gets used to angry emails. It comes with the territory, as people say. And why not? If you write provocatively, you shouldn't object when people are provoked. Often enough, you learn things about the mindset of certain kinds of readers.

Every time this column lampoons Donald Trump, for example, I get a deluge of personal attacks questioning my motives, my intelligence and/or my patriotism. What I don't get, not from Trumpers, not ever (not never one time, as my friend George, the county cow-whisperer, liked to say), is anybody questioning my factual accuracy.

You'd think there might be somebody, somewhere, who believes Trump's story about the helicopter crash with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown supposedly bad-mouthing Kamala Harris. But there doesn't appear to be anybody willing to say so.

They get furious that anybody's allowed to mock Trump in the newspaper, even when they know perfectly well that he's either made up -- or worse, imagined -- a hurtful story about his opponent.

But Trumpers, in my experience, have nothing on the pit bull cult, devotees of a dangerous breed of dog that is too often in the news -- usually because of unprovoked attacks on people and their pets that are often fatal. Pick a city, any city, if you doubt me. Google the city's name and "pit bull attacks" or some such phrase.

Two recent Chicago headlines, for example: "Woman attacked, killed by family dog, police say" and "71-year-old man mauled to death by 7 dogs while walking to store." Just this week, a man breeding pits in a Chicago apartment was killed by

his own dogs.

Nevertheless, even the mildest criticism of the breed brings bitter responses. Recently, this column briefly described an attack on my dog Aspen at a dog park in Little Rock. "Don't get me started about pit bulls," I wrote. "They're actually illegal in the city dog park, and they should be."

This observation provoked a torrent of personal abuse. One fellow accused me of being a "dog racist," a phrase that appeared in several messages. Like a fool, I engaged, pointing out that dog breeds are not races; indeed, the terms are near opposites. A breed is something artificially created by human intervention.

Pit bulls were deliberately bred to fight, and alas, too many of them do. There's a columnist in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette who chronicled an unprovoked attack upon his wife and her toy dog, Benji. She got badly injured saving her little pet's life. Challenged by pit aficionados, he asked readers to tell their own stories. He's gotten several vivid columns out of it.

There's a reason why the breed is banished from the city dog park -- not that pit owners are particularly observant of the law. And honestly, most of the animals behave decently most of the time. But there are enough exceptions to make the statute very handy as needed.

Police can make them leave.

It's also good to have capable individuals like my friend Patrick around. Patrick made a pit let go of his Labrador, Hurley, by inserting two fingers into the dog's rectum and squeezing hard -- a trick he'd read about online. Even so, Hurley needed surgery. I know that dog well. He'd never been in a fight before or since.

Neither had my dog Aspen, half Great

Pyrenees, half husky, a playful fellow and a friend to all. But Hurley and Aspen had spent many happy hours play-fighting, which gave him the know-how when the pit -- a stray dumped at the park -- attacked him out of nowhere.

Patrick helped pull them apart. The pit was taken to a vet for stitches, and then to the city shelter.

Truthfully, it's not just the breed, but the people who own them. Some are simply oblivious to the animals' nature, like indulgent parents and their children. It's always the other dog's fault. One of my angry emailers confided that she doesn't take her "pitties" to the park because when there's a fight, people always blame them.

She blames other dogs' "body language."

In five years of daily dog park visits, every serious fight I've seen has involved pits. Partly that's because too many pit owners are simply jerks. It's the aggression they like. Makes them feel tough.

Get a load of this guy, for example: "I understand you are old, crusty and have over one and three quarters of your feet in the grave, but that is no excuse to be mean and just be a dog racist."

Dead or alive, I've come to the view that keeping pit bulls at all is mildly antisocial and potentially criminal if proper precautions aren't observed. You can't take proper precautions if you're in denial about the animals' true nature.

I know oddballs who keep venomous snakes as pets, but they don't kid themselves about what they are.

*Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner. You can email Lyons at [eugenelyons2@yahoo.com](mailto:eugenelyons2@yahoo.com).*

## Media: Let's blame the border crisis on Trump!

By ANN COULTER

The biggest problem Democrats have this year is the mess they've made of the border. No matter how many cartwheels the media do for Kamala Harris, immigration remains a top issue for voters -- and they blame the Democrats. (I have a theory as to why: Probably because Democrats intentionally flung open the border and let in 10 million illegal immigrants.)

The media-Democratic Party complex has tried all manner of lies to hide the crime, but those deceptions crumbled on the slightest examination. (Kamala was NOT the "border czar!")

Apparently, the lie they decided to stick with is the one about Trump ordering Republicans to oppose AN INCREDIBLY TOUGH BORDER BILL! Why, it's draconian! The harshest immigration bill this century! But Trump opposed it only so that he could keep the border as a campaign issue. What a cynical, heartless bastard.

As Harris put it in her acceptance speech: "Last year, Joe and I brought together Democrats and conservative Republicans to write the strongest border bill in decades. ... But Donald Trump believes a border deal would hurt his campaign, so he ordered his allies in Congress to kill the deal. Well, I refuse to play politics with our security. And here is my pledge to you: As president, I will bring back the bipartisan border security bill that he killed, and I will sign it into law."

In fact, the "strongest border bill in decades" was nothing of the kind: It was a mandate for open borders. Future presidents wouldn't have to violate federal law to fling open the border, as the Biden administration has done -- they would be required by federal law to fling open the border, as the Biden administration has done. That's pretty much the only thing the bill did: codify the Biden administration's disastrous immigration policies.

The left claims this bill is tough because it massively increases the amount of money spent on border patrol -- which is how they purchased the BP union's support for the bill. The agents still wouldn't be allowed to do their jobs, but they'd get paid more.

Needless to say, every conservative group, publication and member of Congress had trashed the bill before Trump even mentioned it.

On Jan. 3, Speaker Mike Johnson said that if Biden wanted more Ukraine money

for national security, "it better begin with defending America's national security," meaning a "closed and secured" border.

On Jan. 9, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said on Fox News that the border deal was "a sellout. ... It's saying, 'Oh, we'll let 5,000 people come illegally a day, and then after that, we might try to stop the next 5,000 that day.'"

Discussing the bill the very same day, Democrat negotiator Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut said the Democrats would refuse to stop Biden from unilaterally releasing millions of illegal immigrants into the country. (Which, by the way, he's doing in violation of existing federal law.)

In response, the Washington Examiner's Conn Carroll tweeted: "ok then well that's ballgame. guess Dems don't want to end the border crisis after all."

On Jan. 12, Breitbart published all the gruesome details under the headline: "Senate GOP Border Deal Leaked: Migrants to Get Work Permits, Lawyers, Green Cards." And, as Sen. Murphy had promised, Democrats had rejected all proposals to secure the border -- no fencing, no end to "catch and release," and no return to Trump's "Remain in Mexico" program.

Shouldn't someone tell them that most immigration bills are designed to discourage illegal immigration?

On Jan. 13, Gov. Ron DeSantis said the border bill would be "dead on arrival" if he were in the White House.

On Jan. 15, liberal Democrat (who doesn't hate his country) Mickey Kaus tweeted: "I mean, what is [Sen. Mitch McConnell] thinking? ... He really thought the House would buy this sh\*t sandwich? ... Has he lost it? ... McConnell really should step down." (In response, McConnell's chief of staff assured reporters that the senator was "sharp as a tack" and that they could "barely keep up with him.")

The bill was scorched on Fox News, in The Washington Times, in the House and Senate and all over Twitter. Congressional switchboards lit up like a Christmas tree. Before the bill was even officially released, at least six senators came out against it -- Marsha Blackburn (Tennessee), Mike Braun (Indiana), Tim Scott (South Carolina), Josh Hawley (Missouri), Mike Lee (Utah) and Ted Cruz (Texas).

But according to the media's telling -- that is, the lie -- this bill was sailing through Congress until Trump bigfooted it. After all, why would it bother any Republican that it required Americans to accept at least 1.8 million illegal aliens every year, would grant asylum to anyone who asked for it, provided even more free benefits to illegals and funneled billions of dollars to the NGOs helping

illegals into our country, while doing absolutely nothing to strengthen our border? Forget a wall -- this bill did nothing.

That's the Democrats' idea of the "strongest border bill in decades."

Trump's very first comment on the bill was on Jan. 17 -- following two weeks of the conservative media tearing it to shreds. He posted on Truth Social: "I do not think we should do a Border Deal, at all, unless we get EVERYTHING needed to shut down the INVASION of Millions & Millions of people, many from parts unknown, into our once great, but soon to be great again, Country!"

Whereupon Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., claimed Republicans were blocking the bill "on orders from Trump."

By now, this politically motivated lie has been repeated thousands of times, with the same assurance -- and by the same people -- as their claims that Trump colluded with Russia, called neo-Nazis "very fine people," and told Americans to drink bleach.

They know it for a fact, as surely as they knew Hunter Biden's laptop was "Russian disinformation" and Biden was sharp as a tack.

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



# Valley Courier

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**Brian Williams**  
Managing Editor

Your FIRST Source for Local News

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

# Religion

## Professor says time to care about smartphones has passed

Preaching to teenagers has always been a challenge.

But in the smartphone age, clergy need to realize that the odds of making a spiritual connection have changed -- radically. Young people who spend as many as 10 or more hours a day focusing on digital screens will find it all but impossible to listen to an adult talk about anything, especially in a religious sanctuary.

"As long as children have a phone-based childhood, there is very little hope for their spiritual education," said Jonathan Haidt, author of a bestseller -- "The Anxious Generation" -- that has raised the heat in public debates about controlling or banning smartphones in schools.

"An essential precondition is to delay the phone-based life until the age of 18, I would say. Don't let them fall off into cyberspace, because once they do, it's going to be so spiritually degrading for the rest of their lives," he said in a Zoom interview. "There's not much you can do in church if they are spending 10 hours a

day outside of church on their phones."

It would be hard for the cultural stakes to be higher, argued Haidt, the Thomas Cooley Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University. Thus, his book's weighty subtitle: "How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness."

While Haidt's work has ignited debates among politicians, academics and high-tech entrepreneurs, reactions have been muted among religious leaders who are usually quick to spot threats to children. Then again, clergy may not be used to a self-avowed atheist issuing warnings about the "spiritual degradation" of young people.

It would be a big step forward, he said, if "the leaders of various denominations could make a clear statement about how the phone-based childhood is a threat, not only to their mental health, but to their spiritual health. ... We can only save our kids from this if we have the churches, families and schools all working to-

gether." Local religious congregations are "natural settings for the kind of collective action Haidt proposes," noted Keith Plummer, dean of the School of Divinity at Cairn University in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. But there is a problem.

"Far too many Christians ignore the relationship between technology, media theory and spiritual formation for every believer," he noted on The Gospel Coalition website. "We have been prone to assess digital technologies primarily, if not exclusively, on the basis of the content they provide access to. ... But simply avoiding sexually explicit content is not enough, we have to question the formative power of our technologies."

Meanwhile, parents often insist that smartphones can promote safety, especially during emergencies, noted Haidt. At the same time, many parents fear allowing their children to play in parks and neighbors' yards, activities that were perfectly normal in the recent past.

Truth is, modern "sexual predators are not going to find kids in the front yard or on the playground. The sexual predators have moved on to In-

stagram and Snapchat," said Haidt. Thus, "The Anxious Generation" thesis: "We over-protect our children in the real world and under-protect them online."

Believers also need to know that researchers have found evidence that religious communities and families play a crucial role in raising healthy children.

"The kids who made it through are especially those who are locked into binding communities and religious communities," said Haidt. Meanwhile, it is the "secular kids and the kids in progressive families" who tend to be

"the ones who got washed out to sea."

This doesn't mean that children in religious families are not affected if their parents plug them into what many activists call "screen culture." Haidt stressed that lives built on smartphones, tablets and computers will change their minds and hearts.

"Half of American teenagers say that they are online 'almost all the time.' That means that they are never fully present -- never, ever," he said. "They are always partly living in terms of what is happening with their posts, what's hap-

pening online. ...

"There is a degradation effect that is overwhelming, but most people haven't noticed. ... I am hoping that religious communities will both notice it and be able to counteract it. But you can't counteract it if the kid still has the phone in a pocket. The phone is that powerful."

*Terry Mattingly is Senior Fellow on Communications and Culture at Saint Constantine College in Houston. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a Substack newsletter on faith and mass media.*

### On Religion



Terry Mattingly

## Bible Digest

**Saturday, August 31, 2024**

"The day is yours, the night also is yours: you have prepared the light and the sun." (Psalms 74:16 AKJV)

This is God's world and we are His guests.

**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

"And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him." (Luke 9:35 AKJV)

We should all be listening to Jesus. He is the giver of abundant and eternal life.

**Monday, September 2, 2024**

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all your works." (Psalms 73:28 AKJV)

Take time to draw near

to God. You will be glad you did.

**Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathers not with me scatters."

(Luke 11:23 AKJV)

There is no middle ground with the Lord. Are you on the Lord's side?

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

"There is that speaks like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health." (Proverbs 12:18 AKJV)

What kind of words do you speak?

**Thursday, September 5, 2024**

"But the word is very

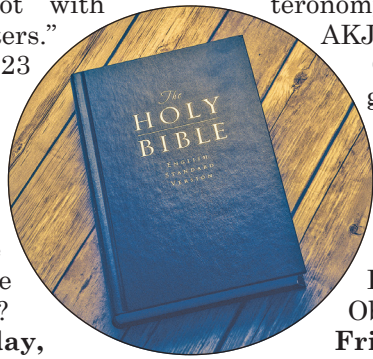
near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that you may do it. See, I have set before you this day life and good, and that death and evil;" (Deuteronomy 30:14-15 AKJV)

God has given us His Word to guide us in the way we should go. Read it. Believe it. Obey it.

**Friday, September 6, 2024**

"But I will forewarn you whom you shall fear: Fear him, which after he has killed has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, Fear him." (Luke 12:5 AKJV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. He has the final say on all of us.



## Give Yourself a Push

Do you know that you're stronger than you think? Do you know God has placed a holy determination inside of you...an ability to handle things that come your way and never give up?

We all have dreams, and we all experience times in life when we feel like throwing in the towel. Or we say a quick prayer and hope everything will just magically change. However, just wishing for things or situations in life to get better or to be different does not bring change or results.

What makes a difference is setting aside all distractions, opposition from the enemy, reasons why "it can't work," and whatever else holds us back. We also have to decide that when God says something can happen--when He's given us a dream or vision for our lives--it's our job to agree with Him and allow Him to empower us to see it happen.

We've all been frustrated by outcomes in life. We've all been hurt. We've all gone through pain, stress, trials, and adversity. We all have had moments when it felt like life was pressing against us. And the truth is--whether things are good in your life right now or they're difficult--there will be seasons when life seems to be pressing in on you. That's not going to change.

On this side of heaven, none of us get to choose whether or not we'll be free from pain. But that doesn't mean we're helpless. You don't have to sit back and let life happen to you.

No, God's given you something incredibly powerful: He's given you His strength and power, which can help you overcome and press

through any issue in your life! Wishes don't have any power to change your life. But God's power and your determination to stay the course (no matter what) does.

When life has pressed against you, backed you into a corner, stolen your joy, or kept you from God's best, you have to press back! God is calling you to press against the pressure that's pressing against you. No one else can press in for you, and there's no getting to the other side of the storm without making this choice.

So, what's pressing against you? What's the source of your greatest stress?

Maybe you need to get out of debt. Maybe there's a relationship that needs healing. Maybe you need to change your lifestyle habits, exercise more and take better care of yourself.

You can do it--it's not impossible. But it's not going to just happen by itself.

You've got to decide that you're more desperate for change, more desperate to have what God says you can have--than your desire to stay comfortable or satisfied with where you are.

The apostle Paul says it this way (and he was in prison because of his faith when he wrote it): "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me" (Philippians 3:12 NKJV).

Paul was determined to press in and press on. He wasn't going to let anything stop him from laying hold of everything that Jesus had prepared for him.

That's the exact same attitude



I want you to have. I want you to come to the place where you say, "God, I'm tired of being stuck in this same place and feeling defeated. I'm going deeper into Your purposes and plans for my life, and I'm going to press in. I want to have to have everything You have promised me!"

So, whatever obstacles you are facing--whether they are financial, relational, emotional, or anything else--I encourage you to press in and press on toward the dreams God has placed in your heart. Because when you refuse to give up, God will surely reward you.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *Don't Settle for Less Than the Best*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (Faith Words)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p><b>All-Denominational</b> Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church 0432 Hwy 149, South Fork 719-873-5411 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-378-2080 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>San Luis Valley Christian Center 305 S. Broadway (3rd &amp; Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>Prayer House Church 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-298-0007 Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm</p> <p><b>Sargent Community Church</b> 6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School) Pastor Stephen Burns - 719-852-2980 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Back Row Church - Church Community</b> In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building Alamosa <a href="http://www.backrowchurch.com">www.backrowchurch.com</a> Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342 Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm</p> <p><b>Apostolic</b> Alamosa Apostolic Church 510 5th St., Alamosa Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m. 2-3 p.m. - Lunch 3-5 p.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Antonio Apostolic Church 710 Main St., Antonio Meets Sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service</p> <p><b>Apostolic Pentecostal</b> Church of Champions, Acts 2:38 9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351 Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307 Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Assembly of God</b> River of Life Church 2802 Clark Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Center Assembly of God</b> 7th &amp; Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125 Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Assembly of God</b> Sons and Daughters of God Ministry 677 Madison Street, Monte Vista Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212 Sunday 10:00 a.m Service Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer</p> <p><b>New Life Fellowship</b> 520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132 719-657-3360 Adult Sunday School - 9:00 Services - 10:00</p> <p><b>Baha'i Faith</b> meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m on Zoom. Email: <a href="mailto:harline@gojode.org">harline@gojode.org</a> for a Zoom invite</p> <p><b>Baptist</b> <b>Grace Community Baptist Church</b> 431 Lincoln Ave, Monte Vista Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451 Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Living Water Bible Fellowship</b> 2910 Clark Street, Alamosa 719-589-6351 Sunday, 9:00 &amp; 10:45 am Worship Services** Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade) Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade) Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-6th grade) Wednesday 8:30 pm Reign Youth Group (6th-12th grade) Wednesday 5:00 pm Adult Bible Study** Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service** **Nursery is available (twice-perk)</p> <p><b>College Heights Baptist Church</b> 2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa 719-589-6814 Pastor Jesse Ciccone Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>San Luis Valley Baptist Church</b> 930 State Avenue, Alamosa 719-589-5938 Pastor R.L. McDonald Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020</p> <p><b>Calvary Bible Chapel</b> 7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word Small group studies meet during the week.</p> <p><b>Calvary Blanca</b> Pastor Matthew Leonard - 719-379-3317 Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study Sunday, 11:00 am - Service Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You</p> <p><b>Calvary Baptist Church</b> 2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study</p> <p><b>South Fork Baptist Church</b> 0130 Four Seasons Dr.(Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork (East side near laundromat &amp; car wash) Sunday School, 9:30am Sunday, 10:30am - Worship For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702</p>	<p><b>United Presbyterian Church of Antonito</b> P.O. Box 665, Antonito Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am -12:00 Sunday 9:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Service</p> <p><b>Catholic</b> Sacred Heart Church 715 4th Street, Alamosa Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass</p> <p><b>Hooper Church</b> 3rd and Adams, Hooper Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p><b>Meditation, Kriya</b> Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)758-5876</p> <p><b>United Church of La Jara</b> 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-5250 Terry Buckman, Pastor Cell Phone: 339-8444 Office Hours: Mon, 9:00 am - 12:00 Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am</p> <p><b>Christian Science Services</b> 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The Second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado</b> A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians 630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160) Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday</p> <p><b>Church of the South Fork</b> 0116 Landen Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154 Sunday are at 9 am - Services School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday</p> <p><b>Christian Bethel Christian Church</b> Pastor Erik Lira Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Services Monday Free Music Classes Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Voice &amp; Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Word of Faith Christian Center</b> 401 Sante Fe, Alamosa Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night</p> <p><b>The Peak Community Church</b> 510 San Juan, Alamosa Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship &amp; More</p> <p><b>Pentecostal</b> Alamosa Pentacostal Church 184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475 Pastor Carl Sutter Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45 Worship 2:00-3:00</p> <p><b>Christian Fellowship Church</b> The Door 1300 West 12th St., Alamosa Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197 Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival</p> <p><b>Christian Independent</b> Alamosa Christian Church 410 McQuerry, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night &amp; Youth</p> <p><b>Christian Reformed</b> Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493 1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa Pastor Philip VanderWindt Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship</p> <p><b>Churches of Christ</b> <b>Alamosa Church of Christ</b> 408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>South Fork Church of Christ</b> 205 Birch St., South Fork, 719-873-1259 Nathan Wheeler Pastor Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Central Church of Christ</b> 200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811 David L. Baker Preacher Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Bible Class Sunday, 10:30 a.m. &amp; 6 p.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p><b>San Luis Valley Church of Christ</b> 704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114 Sunday Bible Study, Monte Vista - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship 10 am Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm</p> <p><b>Cornestone Community Church</b> Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic Pastor Mark 719-657-9107 Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast Sunday 10:20 am. Contemporary Worship &amp; Children Sunday School Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings</p> <p><b>Episcopal</b> Saint Thomas Episcopal Church 607 4th Street, Alamosa Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Saint Stephen the Martyr</b> 729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista Sunday, 10 am Service <b>First Christian Church</b> 518 First St. (First &amp; State) Alamosa 589-6805 Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p>	<p><b>Valley Fellowship</b> 240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Prayer and Bible Study *Bible Studies during the week, call for information.</p> <p><b>First United Methodist</b> <b>First United Methodist Church</b> 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243 *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors* Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Christian Churches</b> United for Christ Community Church (SBC) *Community Centered Around Love* 7th &amp; Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am</p> <p><b>Bible Believer's Community Church</b> 11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, CO 81101 719) 206-3239 Sunday worship 10:30 Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm <a href="http://www.bbchurch.com">www.bbchurch.com</a></p> <p><b>Presbyterian</b> Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p><b>Hispanic Pentecostal</b> Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A. 907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546 Guadalupe Salazar Pastor Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship</p> <p><b>New Hope Church</b> *The Church on the Hill* 25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154 Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202 <a href="http://www.newhopesf.com">www.newhopesf.com</a> Morning Worship -10:00 am Sunday School for all ages -9:00 -9:45</p> <p><b>Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa</b> 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 <a href="mailto:alamosafellowship@gmail.com">alamosafellowship@gmail.com</a> Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church</p> <p><b>DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES</b> <b>Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</b> Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Alamosa Y S A Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa Second Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Third Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Fourth Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language) 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lutheran</b> St. Peters Lutheran Church &amp; School Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services School: K-8, Monday-Thursday</p> <p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church &amp; School</b> 52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship *Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week* -Pre-School through 5th grade Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271</p> <p><b>Conjoes Canyon Community Chapel</b> 20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20) Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p><b>Mountain Valley Church</b> 408 State St. 17, Alamosa Pastor: Richard Pinkerton 589-2899 or 588-7622 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p><b>Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista</b> 702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista (719) 852-2555 Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship</p> <p><b>Seventh-day Adventist</b> <b>Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> 315 Craft Drive, Alamosa Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship</p> <p><b>United Methodist</b> <b>Mosca United Methodist Church</b> 538 Barker Street, Mosca 970-270-3078 Pastor Steve Dunkel Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Unitarian Universalist</b> <b>Unitarian Universalist Fellowship</b> 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa *North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church 719-587-5529 Service &amp; Youth Programs at 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Valley Church of the Nazarene</b> Pastor: Chris Yocum 228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858 <a href="mailto:churchoffice@valleynaz.com">churchoffice@valleynaz.com</a> Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes 9 a.m. Wednesday Dinner at 6 p.m. Small Group Classes at 7 p.m. Thursday Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.) *Nursery is available during all services Visit website at <a href="http://www.valleynaz.com">www.valleynaz.com</a> for online bulletins and service information or call the number above.</p> <p><b>Church of Scientology</b> 511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa 719-587-5554 Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services</p> <p><b>Grace Assurance Ministry</b> Church without Religion 9851 CR 4 S, Alamosa, CO Sunday Mornings - 10:30 Randy Brown - 719-588-7004 Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977</p>
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# Lifestyles

## Budget-friendly family fun ideas

Raising a family is an expensive endeavor. A recent report from the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that the cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 is \$233,610. Though parents know that's a small price to pay for all the joy their children bring into their lives, those same moms and dads also wouldn't mind a little financial relief from time to time.

Family outings can be great bonding experiences, and parents may be happy to learn that there's a host of budget-friendly activities that are fun and affordable.

• **Movie night under the stars:** For the relatively low cost of a mini projector and accompanying screen, parents can host routine outdoor movie nights in the backyard. Though parents might expect some sticker shock when they begin looking for an outdoor mini

projector, it's worth noting that seven of the 10 projectors that make up Amazon's best sellers list are less than \$100. Some of those products even come with their own screens at no extra cost.

• **Picnic in the park:** Some families may be experiencing some sticker shock as they begin dining out again after eating their meals at home throughout the pandemic. Soaring food and supply costs and labor shortages have forced restaurant owners to raise prices. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the average American household was already spending \$3,000 a year dining out. Families can cut those costs considerably by having homemade meals, or even take-out, away from home. A picnic in the park can make for a wonderful family outing and won't cost nearly as

much as dining in person at a favorite restaurant.

• **Find "yourselves":** Families are finding that digging into their own histories is a great way to learn more about who they are. A 2020 report from Transparency Market Research estimated that the market for global DNA test kits, which help people learn more about their ancestry, is expected to expand by nearly 25 percent between 2019 and 2027. Test kits typically cost around \$100, and families can then use the information they glean from test results to conduct their own free research on the history and culture of the countries their ancestors called home.

• **Exercise:** Exercising together is a great way for families to get healthy and feel good. Traditional workouts with weights and time on a treadmill may not be everyone's idea of a fun

time, but families can go for a hike, kayak in a nearby lake, take up jogging, or even play a favorite sport together.

Parents know raising a family can be expensive. Thankfully, there are many ways families can have fun together without breaking the bank.



## Families can make the most of summer's end

It seems like just yesterday people were heralding the arrival of summer. After many months of fickle weather, summer's warm temperatures and ample sunshine can be that hug from Mother Nature people need. But soon summer will be coming to an end, making room for apples, corn and pumpkin spice.

Even though summer will soon be singing its swan song, there is still plenty of time for families to enjoy the waning days of surf and sunshine. Here are some family-friendly options to consider.

### Catch a concert

Summer is a time of year when many artists go on tour and sell out everything from arenas to amphitheaters to more intimate venues. Find a singer the entire family enjoys and grab some tickets.

### Pick fruit

Peach season varies depending on where you live, but May through September is a prime time for pick-your-own farms to open their orchards to the peach-picking public. Turn those peaches into pies for Labor Day festivities.

### Watch some fireworks

Those who didn't have an opportunity to catch a fireworks display already this summer, or who enjoyed it so much that they want more, can find out when the next big display will take place. Some beachside towns and even amusement parks regularly host fireworks shows on the weekends.

### Climb a lighthouse

National Lighthouse Day occurs on August 7. Locate a lighthouse within driving distance and visit one of the beautiful and historic structures that commemorate maritime history. For example, Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey, which was lit for the first time in 1764, is the oldest operating lighthouse in the United States.

### Pick a day to re-do

Ask all members of the family what sticks out in their minds as the best summer day so far. It may have been paddleboarding in a lake or taking a scenic drive. Compile the answers and then pick one activity to enjoy all over again.

### Head to a state fair

State fairs fill calendars this time of year. They're perfect ways to enjoy carnival

rides, fair foods, live entertainment, and even livestock.

### Watch balloons rise

Check to see if there is a hot-air balloon festival taking place nearby. Watch these huge items become lighter than air and get lifted off the ground.

### Enjoy an outdoor movie

Purchase or borrow a movie projector and set up a screen outdoors. That screen can be an actual outdoor screen or a white sheet stretched between two poles. Invite the neighborhood to come over, set up picnic blankets and enjoy a family flick.

### Camp out

Pitch a tent at a campground or even in your own backyard and spend an evening sleeping under the stars.

### Visit a garden or arboretum

Plan a day trip to a botanical garden or arboretum to view the various trees, flowers and shrubs in bloom. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day in nature.

Families can wind down from summer by engaging in various enjoyable activities before a new school year begins

## 5 fun facts about the month of September

September marks a return to the norm for millions of households. School is back in session, summer vacation season has ended and fall begins. Routines take shape and life once again becomes more structured in September. As that transition takes place, individuals can consider these fun facts about the month of September.

1. Though Latin is no longer widely spoken or taught, plenty of words, including September, trace their origins to the language of ancient Rome and its empire. "Septem" is the Latin word for "seven," and September was originally the seventh month of the Roman calendar.

2. Though the autumnal equinox, which marks the official beginning of fall, does not occur until later in the month, the unofficial end to summer occurs in the first weekend of September. Americans celebrate Labor Day and Canadians celebrate Labour Day on the first Monday in September, and millions of people in both countries consider that

weekend the last hurrah for summer relaxation and revelry.

3. Labor Day is not the only holiday to be celebrated in September. In fact, Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish holiday that is often referred to as the "Jewish New Year," also is celebrated in September in many years (the holiday occurs 163 days after the first day of Passover, so in certain years it is celebrated in early October). The Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur also can be celebrated in September or October, and Constitution Day, which commemorates the adoption of the United States constitution in 1787, is celebrated on September 17. Patriot Day also occurs annually on September 11 and is a day to remember the people killed in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

4. Though its name might suggest otherwise, Oktoberfest actually begins in late September. Modern Oktoberfest celebrations, particularly those outside the Bavaria region of Germany, may

have little to do with a marriage, but the festival traces its origins to the marriage of Kronprinz Ludwig to Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen on October 12, 1810. Citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities, and more than two centuries later that jovial atmosphere dominates the city, and countless others across the globe, during Oktoberfest.

5. Football fans circle the month of September on their calendars, as the month marks the return of the National Football League regular season. The reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs will host the Detroit Lions in the NFL Kickoff Game on September 7, and the rest of the league will take to the gridiron on September 10 and 11. That's a big deal for millions of fans across the country, as the NFL remains wildly popular. In fact, an analysis by the Sports Business Journal found that per-game attendance averaged 69,442 fans in 2022, which marked the second-largest figure in 19 years.

## Xcel Energy Alamosa to Antonito Transmission Line Rebuild Project

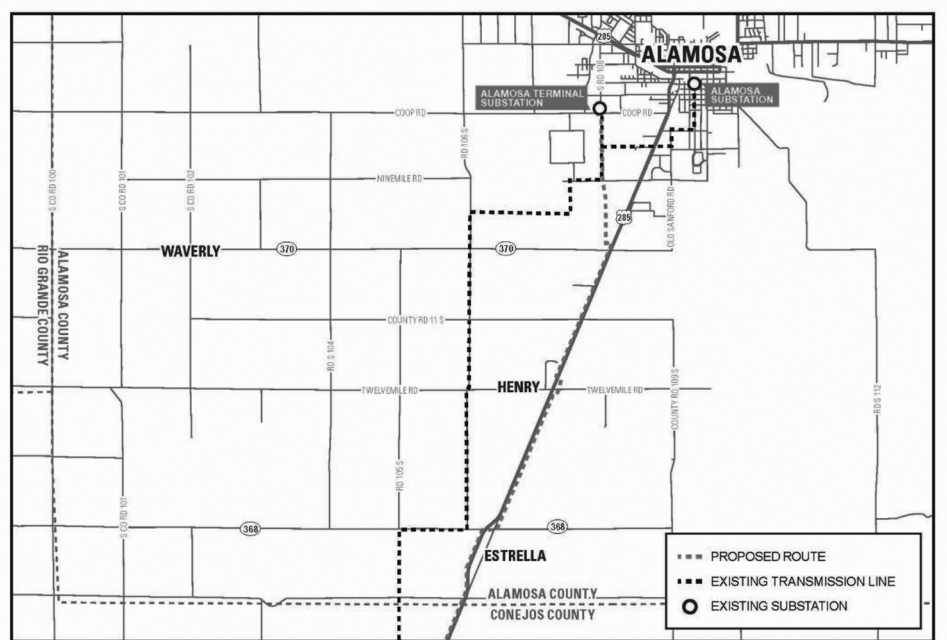
### Alamosa County construction starting soon

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](mailto:AlamosaToAntonito@xcelenergy.com).

### ALAMOSA TO ANTONITO TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT ALAMOSA COUNTY



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# Lifestyle

## Unique ways to celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day (or Labour Day in Canada) was created by the labor movement to shine light on the achievements and contributions of workers. Without hardworking men and women, the economy would not thrive and the prosperity of a nation would be unlikely.

Like many other holidays, Labor Day's message may play second fiddle to the more widespread celebrations that take place. It's easy to think that Labor Day commemorates the unofficial end of summer rather than the North American worker, but those who want to celebrate more mindfully can consider these ideas.

- Research local industry and schedule a tour of a factory, farm or another place of business that ties

into this industry.

- While many people are off on Labor Day, essential workers may not be. Bring lunch to a police station or firehouse, or simply thank workers you come across, such as grocery store employees, for doing their jobs.

- Active military who are deployed may be missing home, especially during national holidays. Send a care package to them that they can enjoy overseas.

- Purchase items made domestically to support national industry.

- Bosses can reach out to employees with words of praise and encouragement. Too often employees are told what they need to improve rather than what they are doing right. A few words of gratitude can buoy spirits.

- Employers can start the three-day weekend early by enabling workers to leave a few hours early on the Friday preceding the holiday weekend.

- Organize a company-based competition, like a chili cook-off, pie-eating contest or video game competition. This can boost morale and strengthen connections among staff.

Labor Day is often dominated by backyard barbecues and trips to the beach. Those who want to be more in touch with the meaning behind the holiday can look for additional ways to celebrate it.



Departing To	Scheduled	Airline	Flight	Class	Status
Anchorage	10:40 PM	Alaska	143	C2	ON TIME
Atlanta	10:59 PM	DELTA	503	D3	AT 11:45P
Bellingham	9:55 PM	Alaska	2362	A2	ON TIME
Boise	8:45 PM	Alaska	2401	A8	ON TIME
Charlotte	10:20 PM	American Airlines	1930	C17	ON TIME
	11:19 PM	UNITED	745	E1	ON TIME
			3388	A10	

### Labor Day weekend travel tips

Labor Day is celebrated on the same day in the United States and Canada each year. An annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers, Labor Day (known as Labour Day in Canada), occurs on the first Monday of September each year.

Though its status as the end of summer is not technically accurate, Labor Day marks the unofficial end to the season of fun in the sun for millions of people across both the U.S. and Canada. That makes the weekend preceding Labor Day one of the most popular times to travel. Indeed, data from the Transportation Security Administration indicates that the Friday before Labor Day 2022 was the second busiest travel day at U.S. airports that summer. Travel was equally popular on Labour Day weekend 2022 in Canada, where the online booking platform Kayak reports searches for international flights had increased by 104 percent compared to the year prior.

Labor Day weekend travel figures to be just as popular this year, so travelers can keep these tips in mind as they plan one last summer getaway.

- Book as early as possible. With so many people interested in traveling on Labor Day weekend, it behooves all travelers to plan ahead. Competition for hotel rooms and other lodging might be steep, and individuals who plan to fly might have trouble finding seats on flights that leave during peak travel hours the longer they delay.

- Consider traveling by car. Air travel aficionados had some good news and bad news as the summer travel season began in 2023. Data from FlightAware indicated that flight cancellations were down in

2023 compared to 2022. However, FlightAware data also indicated there were an average of 7,000 to 9,000 flight delays per day in the U.S. in the first half of 2023. No one wants to send off the last weekend of summer with a lengthy flight delay, so travelers who want to spend as much time as possible celebrating may want to drive rather than fly to their destinations.

- Drive during off-peak hours. Air travelers must cede some control over when to depart, but drivers can pick their own time to hit the road. Starting a trip during off-peak hours, such as early in the morning or even after rush hour on Thursday night, may enable drivers to avoid traffic.

- Travel light. Warm weather tends to linger into Labor Day weekend, so there's no need to pack heavy. That's especially noteworthy for air travelers. The lighter travelers can pack for a flight, the less likely they will need to check a bag. That decreases the likelihood bags will be lost if a flight is delayed or canceled, and it also allows travelers to deplane and leave the airport without having to wait around to claim their bags.

- Extend the trip. An extra day at the end of the trip can help travelers avoid the crowds on the way home. Parents may need to travel on Labor Day if school is already in session or starting on Tuesday. But travelers who have no reason to rush home can get an extra day of fun in the sun and travel home on a day that tends to be less hectic.

Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer. Travelers can keep various strategies in mind to get the most out of summer's swan song.



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# Sports

## Mean Moose open season with 28-8 win over Pirates

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The 2024 high school football season got started on Friday with a San Luis Valley contest between Alamosa and Monte Vista at Adams State University's Rex Field.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Mean Moose kicked it into gear as they scored a 28-8 win over the Pirates. "It was a good night," said Alamosa coach Drew Sandlin. "We played well in all three phases of the game."

"Our kids competed," said Monte Vista coach Manny Wasinger. "We knew Alamosa was going to be prepared and they're very well-coached. Dyson Woodward was special tonight. He beat us with his feet a lot. (Zane) Zook ran hard. We're going to get better and I can live with the effort."

The Pirates got the first turnover of the game as Jacob Pacheco intercepted Woodward. However, they went three-and-out and punted.

The Mean Moose finally got on the scoreboard midway through the second quarter as Zook ran into the end zone from six yards out. Ryan Higareda converted the point-after for a 7-0 lead.

Alamosa got one more touchdown before halftime. Woodward put the Mean Moose into scoring position with a 44-yard screen pass to Zook, and then Woodward tossed a 7-yard scoring strike to Brennen Maez. Maez also scored the two-point conversion and the Moose led 15-0 at halftime.

Alamosa scored late in the third quarter with Woodward going to the end zone on a 19-yard run. Higareda again booted the extra point and the Mean Moose led 22-0.

The Pirates went on a potential scoring drive early in the fourth as they advanced to the Alamosa 6. But Kaden Madrid was pressured and was eventually picked off by Landon Garcia who returned the play 49 yards.

The Mean Moose came up empty but got another turnover later in the period as they recovered a fumble.

This time, Alamosa turned the turnover into points as Woodward scored his second touchdown, this time on an 8-yard run.

The Pirates finally got into the scoring column late in the game as Madrid threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Alex Marquez. The two also hooked up for the



**Left: Alamosa High School's Dyson Woodward (6) throws a pass to Zane Zook (22). Right: Monte Vista's Kaden Madrid (3) looks to get away from Josh Gonzales. The Mean Moose defeated the Pirates 28-8.**

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

two-point conversion to end the scoring.

Alamosa had 354 yards of total offense with 215 coming on the ground. Woodward led the way with 124 yards on 18 carries, followed by Zook with 85 yards on 16 carries.

Woodward also completed 10 of 14 passes for 139 yards. He threw to eight different receivers with Zook leading the way with two receptions for 58 yards. Kevin Gonzales also had two catches for 19 yards.

Monte Vista accumulated 212 total yards – 107 rushing and 105 passing.

Madrid completed eight of 15 passes for 105 yards. Marquez was the leading receiver with five catches for 79 yards, followed by Azariah Hurtado with two for 18 yards.

Pacheco was the Pirates' leader in rushing with 72 yards on 15 carries.

Alamosa (1-0) will play at its home field for the first time this season this coming Friday as it will host Banning Lewis Academy.

"They've moved up to Class 2A," Sandlin said. "They were a powerhouse in 1A last year. They were a quarterfinal football team, so we'll have our hands as well."

Monte Vista (0-1) will be on the road again this coming Friday as it will travel to Rye.

"Rye is a perennial playoff team," Wasinger said. "We'll get some film on them this week and get back to work on Monday."

Both games begin at 7 p.m.

Alamosa 28, Monte Vista 8				
Monte Vista	0	0	0	8-8
Alamosa	0	15	7	6-28
Scoring				

**Second quarter**  
A – Zook 6 run (Higareda kick), 7:34  
A – Maez 7 pass from Woodward (Maez run), 0:05  
**Third quarter**  
A – Woodward 19 run (Higareda kick), 2:58  
**Fourth quarter**  
A – Woodward 8 run (kick failed), 3:14  
MV – Marquez 49 pass from Madrid (Marquez pass from Madrid), 0:38

## Sanford volleyball picks up first win of season

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**MONTE VISTA** – The Sanford and Monte Vista high school volleyball teams began Southern Peaks League play Thursday at the MVHS gym with the Lady Mustangs defeating the Lady Pirates in three sets.

Monte Vista didn't make it easy, but Sanford prevailed 26-24, 25-13 and 25-15.

The Lady Pirates took a 3-0 lead to begin the first set, but the Lady Mustangs tied the score at 3-3. Monte Vista regained the lead at 6-4, however, Sanford and off five straight points for a 9-6 edge.

The Lady Pirates closed to within 10-9, but the Lady Mustangs had another five-point run to extend their advantage to 14-9.

Monte Vista then went on an 8-1 run to regain the lead at 17-15. It led 18-16 before Sanford came back to retake the lead at 19-18.

The Lady Pirates had a 5-2 rally for a 23-21 edge. The Lady Mustangs scored three unanswered points for a 24-23 lead, but Monte Vista tied the score at 24-24. Sanford scored the final two points for a 26-24 win.

The Lady Pirates scored the first point of the second set, but the Lady Mustangs went on a 10-1 run for a 10-2 advantage. Monte Vista closed to within a 13-6 deficit, however, Sanford scored six consecutive points for a 19-6 lead.

The Lady Pirates rallied to close the gap to 22-13, but the Lady Mustangs scored the final three points for a 25-13 win.

Sanford took a 3-1 lead to open the thirds set, but Monte Vista scored three in a row for a 4-3 edge. The Lady Mustangs then went on an 8-3 run to take an 11-7 lead.

The Lady Pirates came back to close the gap to 13-11. However, the Lady Mustangs dominated the rest of the way with a 12-4 rally and a 25-15 win.

Brooklynn Reynolds led the Sanford offense with 22



assists. Claire Crowther led in kills with 12, followed by Avery Koenig with seven and Bella Peterson with six. Koenig and Peterson led in service aces with two apiece.

Aiyana Chavez led Monte Vista in kills with 10 and she also had four assists. Abbi Ortega led in assists with seven. Chavez, Destiny Pacheco and Reagan Futrell each had one ace.

Sanford (1-2, 1-0) is competing at the West Grand Invitational in Kremming this weekend. Monte Vista (1-3, 0-1) will host Buena Vista on Tuesday at 6 p.m.



**Left: Sanford High School's Claire Crowther serves the ball in the Lady Mustangs' win over Monte Vista. Right: Monte Vista's Abby Ortega hits the ball after receiving a pass from Aiyana Chavez. Sanford won the match 26-24, 25-13 and 25-15.**

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

### Sports Bulletin

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

#### SCOREBOARD

##### THURSDAY

**Prep girls softball**  
Alamosa 9, Sierra 3  
**Prep girls volleyball**  
Crested Butte at Center – scores not reported  
Del Norte def. Ignacio 25-20, 12-25, 14-25, 25-19, 15-10  
Sanford def. Monte Vista 26-24, 25-13, 25-15

##### FRIDAY

**Prep football**  
Alamosa 28, Monte Vista 8  
Centauri at Meeker - no report  
Las Animas at Sangre de Cristo - no report  
Manzanola 61, Antonito 19

North Fork 46, Center 6  
Olathe at Del Norte - no report  
Sargent 48, Lake County 6  
Sierra Grande at Cheraw - no report  
**Prep girls volleyball**  
Alamosa vs. Longmont - no report  
Alamosa vs. Mountain View - no report  
Centauri at Delta - no report  
Las Animas at Sangre de Cristo - no report  
Manzanola at Antonito - no report

#### SCHEDULE

##### 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.

#### TUESDAY

**Prep boys soccer**  
Manitou Springs at Alamosa, 6 p.m.  
**Prep girls softball**  
Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa (at Adams State) (2), 4 p.m.  
**Prep girls volleyball**  
Alamosa at Pueblo County, 4 p.m.  
Buena Vista at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.

## Pirate golfers win two tournaments

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – All three San Luis Valley high school boys golf teams competed at the Pagosa Springs Invitational Wednesday at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

Monte Vista won the tournament with 236. It was led by Kaden Mellott who finished third with a 74, followed by Connor Mellott who was fourth with a 78, Liam Ellithorpe who was fifth with an 84, and Jakoby Ross who was 22nd with a 104.

Also golfing for the Pirates but not figuring in the final team score were Logan Futrell who was 18th with a 101, Anthony Dupont who was 24th with a 106, Aiden Ford who was 26th with a 107, Landon Sanchez who was 29th with a 111, Jason Gonzales who was 31st with a 112, and Otto Gosar who was 36th with a 117.

Alamosa placed fourth with 276 and was led by Jaidyn Burciaga who was seventh with an 88, followed by Keenan Mackey who was 12th with a 93, Carsten Kirkland who was 13th with a 95, and Clayton Treinen who was 20th with a 103.

Other Mean Moose golfers who did not figure in the team score were Grant Kirkland who was 14th with a 97, Eirk Garcia who was 29th with a 111, and Tate Baker and Perry DiCamillo who



tied for 34th with a 113.

Del Norte was fifth with 294. Leading the Tigers was Tytus Atencio who was ninth with a 91, followed by Trenton Woolf who was 15th with a 99, Landan Valesquez who was 22nd with a 104, and Noah Bailey who was 24th with a 106.

Monte Vista was also at the Canon City Invitational Thursday at the Four-Mile Ranch Golf Course and it won that tournament with 224. Connor Mellott led the Pirates as he tied for third with a 75, followed by Ellithorpe who tied for fifth with a 75, Kaden Mellott who tied for seventh with a 76, and Ross who tied for 25th with an 89.

All three schools will be at the Rye Invitational on Thursday and at the Monte Vista Invitational on Friday.



# Lifestyle

## SLV Rattlers open season with Leadville race

**CONTRIBUTED**  
The San Luis Valley Rattlers Mountain Biking Team kicked off their 2024 race season with nine racers pedaling their way to a respectable season opener on Aug. 24. Hosted by the Colorado Mountain College campus in Leadville, the high school riders all finished their two laps, unlike last year when exciting weather cut several races short.

In order of their Leadville appearance, the individual race results are as follows:

In the Junior Varsity Boys division, senior and team co-captain Summit Mashburn opened the day with a first wave course time of 1:10:00, landing him in a 43rd place finish. Starting near the front of the second wave of JV riders, junior Aiden Mashburn logged a course time only one second slower than his brother propel-

ling him 27 places to finish 44th. Third year racer junior Chevy Kincannon posted a 1:14.36 course time and moved up to a 57th place finish.

In the Sophomore Boys division, Will Walker hit the trail next and posted impressive results logging the team's fastest course time of 1:07:38 landing him in 11th place in the 63-racer field. Fellow sophomore Owen Barr displayed amazing consistency by riding his second lap only one second slower than his first. Barr finished 27th in the field.

Fourth-year racer and team co-captain, senior Sydney Woodke rode with her signature determination and steady pace in the highly competitive Junior Varsity Girls division. Woodke showed grit after a late first lap crash to finish the final lap in 20th place.

After nervously observ-

ing all morning, the Freshman Boys division were next to take the start gun for the team and brought third year Rattlers (first year racers) Kife Mashburn and Cooper Webb to the start chute. Racing in a time trial format, the pair easily overcame their jitters and posted 24th and 35th place finishes, respectively. Time trial riders essentially race alone against the clock and establish start positions for the next race.

Third year Rattler, Jayda Woodke also rode in her first time trial race in the Freshman Girls division. Jayda displayed a great show of tenacity and logged the team's highest place finish, coming in 10th. The three Freshman riders launched a great start to their high school racing careers!

In her first race attendance, and new to mountain biking just months

ago, freshman Savannah Schaefer displayed an honorable badge of courage by completing the pre-ride with the team on Friday afternoon. The team is eager to see this promising young athlete progress throughout the season.

The Rattlers compete in the Crystal division of the Colorado High School Cycling League. For teams in their size division, they placed 8th out of 14 teams – based on the scores of their top 5 riders. There are four regular season

races and a state competition, if riders qualify. All divisions, except Varsity, race two laps around a fast, but challenging 6.2-mile dirt course. The team heads to Eagle, CO on September 8 for the second race of the year.



Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley Rattlers Mountain Biking Team Sophomore Aiden Mashburn (right) edges out an opponent from Taos, N.M., by 1/100th of a second on Aug. 24 in Leadville.

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**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/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/). Applications close September 9th, 2024. (9/7/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/). Applications close September 15th, 2024. (9/11/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

**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](http://urtigers.co) or at the District Office. (9/24/24)

**COME BE A part of the CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM!** We are seeking applications for a FRONT OFFICE CLERK / SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT and a VARIETY of SUBSTITUTES. Positions will remain open until filled. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit applications through <https://www.applitrack.com/centennialschool/onlineapp/> or email [kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us](mailto:kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us). All full-time positions qualify for a competitive benefits package and salary as outlined through our Master Agreement, which is available at [centennial.k12.co.us](http://centennial.k12.co.us). The starting pay range for classified 12-month staff is \$30,915-\$37,919 and substitute pay is \$120/day. We are doing great things in San Luis; it's the perfect time to join our team. (9/14/24)

**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/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/). Applications close August 31st, 2024. (8/31/24)

**KINDERGARTEN PARAPROFESIONAL 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](http://www.sargent.k12.co.us) or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 9/4/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (9/4/24)

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**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)

**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)

**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\_R188. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (9/4/24)

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

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### 324 - SEED & FEED

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### 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)

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

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**376-2025**

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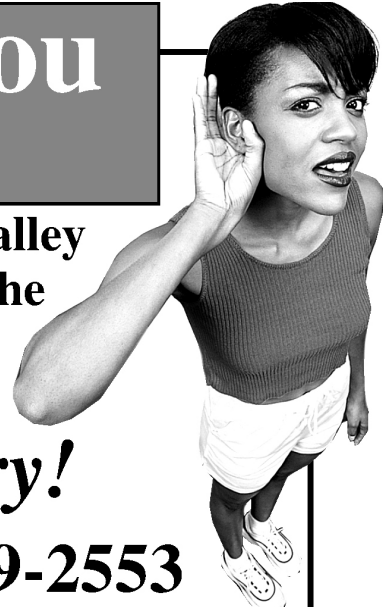
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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "— Indigo"
  - 5 To boot
  - 9 Genus of macaws
  - 12 Stew pot
  - 13 Wall Street animal
  - 14 Seize
  - 15 Spotted
  - 16 Investment choice
  - 17 Zoo denizen
  - 18 Kind of switch
  - 20 Miss Piggy's love
  - 22 Put down
  - 23 Woodwind need
  - 24 Ancient Mexican
  - 27 Luge
  - 29 Ovine cry
  - 30 Followed in secret
  - 34 Ran
  - 37 From — — Z
  - 38 Interpret
  - 39 "Call Me —"
  - 41 Eager
- 43 — Antonio**
- 44 Of the backbone**
- 46 Mixed up**
- 50 Melody**
- 51 Place of eternal rest**
- 53 Sitarist — Shankar**
- 54 Actor — Kilmer**
- 55 Bad**
- 56 Regular**
- 57 Print measures**
- 58 Remove**
- 59 Toad feature**
- DOWN**
- 1 "The — Dangerous Game"
  - 2 Margarine
  - 3 Designer — Cassini
  - 4 Hang loosely
  - 5 Westminster —
  - 6 MGM's lion
  - 7 Went down
  - 8 Commanded

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

9 "What's in —?"

10 Fast

11 Help in a crime

19 Insect secretion

21 Change the decor

24 Tummy muscles

25 Microwave

26 Seaman

27 Storage building

28 Youngster

30 Depot (abbr.)

31 Soft mass

32 Letter after zeta

33 Actor — DeLuise

35 Golf club

36 Nullified

39 Angry

40 Actor — Garfield

41 Of bees

42 "— Just Want to Have Fun"

43 Costly fur

44 Rescue

45 "All You Need Is —"

47 Molten rock

48 Always

49 Force

52 Wire measure

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				47	48	49
50							51		52		53		
54							55				56		
57							58				59		

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

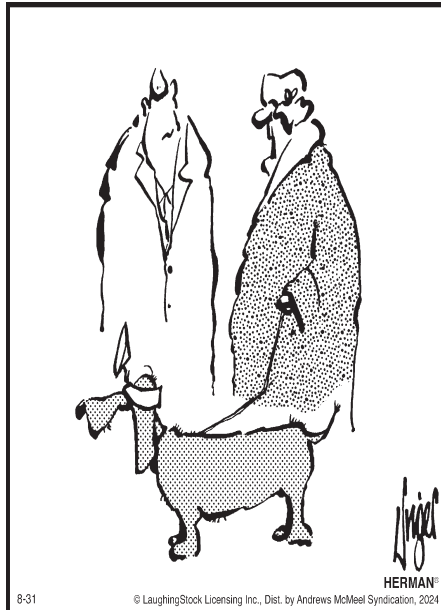
3	1			7				4	
		6		3	2				
				1		3	7		
1								3	
2	6			7				1	4
	3								6
	5	8		2					
			5	8		7			
	2		3					6	8

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



"He wants to be a veterinarian."

## Husband's stuff isn't the only thing building up at home

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I grew up with our father after our parents divorced. He was a hoarder. Years later, when he finally had to move out, it took three moving trucks to empty the two-bedroom house. You can imagine what that was like. I am very triggered by clutter. I appreciate an organized home with space to breathe.

My husband of 10 years understands this, theoretically. For a long time, he was on board with a more austere setup. But recently we've become more comfortable financially, and he has started collecting things. First, it was comic books; then a pile of vinyl records showed up. More recently, a set of art supplies seems to always be spilling over the counters and tables. He says his acquisitions are well within what is normal.

I know my background makes me overly sensitive about cleaning, but it's really hard, and I'm stressed out every time I come home to piles of random objects and must move his stuff before I can make dinner. We don't have space for a "man cave." I am in counseling, which helps, but not enough. How can we reach a reasonable compromise when I know

I might not be reasonable? -- TRIGGERED IN ARKANSAS

DEAR TRIGGERED: An alternative to throwing away your marriage might be to consider hiring a professional organizer to assist your husband in organizing his comic books, vinyl record collection and art supplies so they are less obtrusive. Other couples have done this successfully when blending two households, and it could be the answer for you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm the grandmother of three wonderful kids. I'm very involved in all of their activities and present at all important events. I have been since Day 1. My grandchildren's other grandparents are mostly absent, partly because of distance and also for personal reasons.

When these other grandparents show up to events or offer gifts or support of any kind, it's made out to be a huge deal, whereas my presence is taken for granted. I'm never thanked for driving the kids to and from school and sports, taking them out for day trips or being there for practically everything. My kids fall all over the absent grandparents every time they decide to

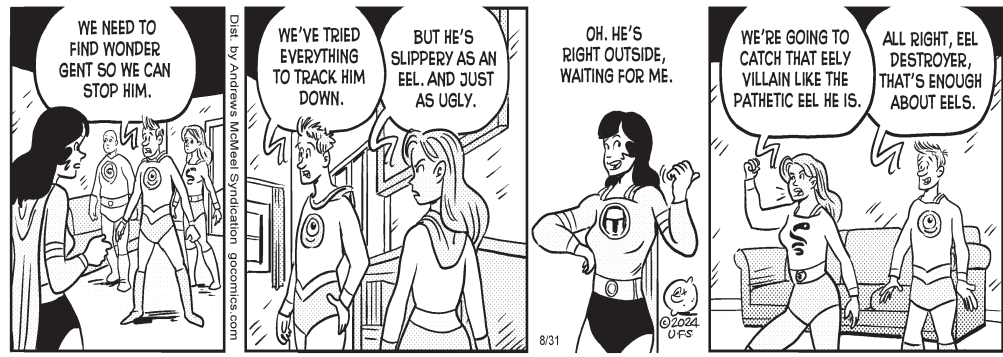


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

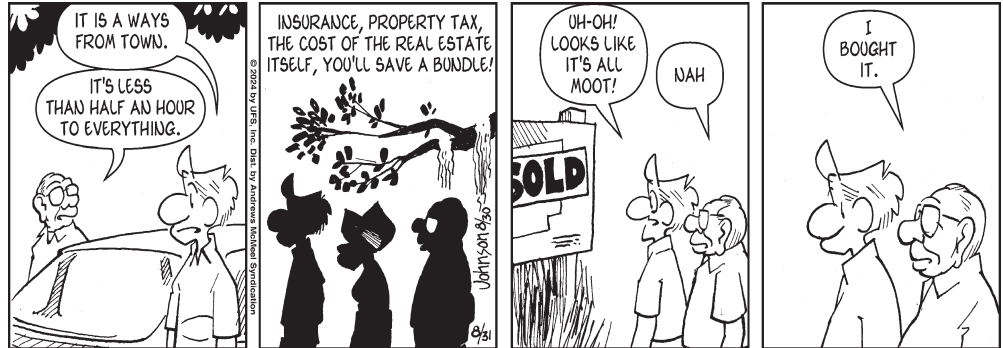
show up for anything. Am I overly sensitive? Will the kids someday appreciate my presence, even though it doesn't seem special now? -- READY TO GIVE UP

DEAR READY: I understand your feelings. However, while I am not sure about your children, I am positive that your grandchildren will remember all the effort you have made and continue to make on their behalf. This includes the countless events you have shared with them. Regardless of how showy the gifts from the other grandparents may be, they can't compare to the close connection your grandchildren share with you.

## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



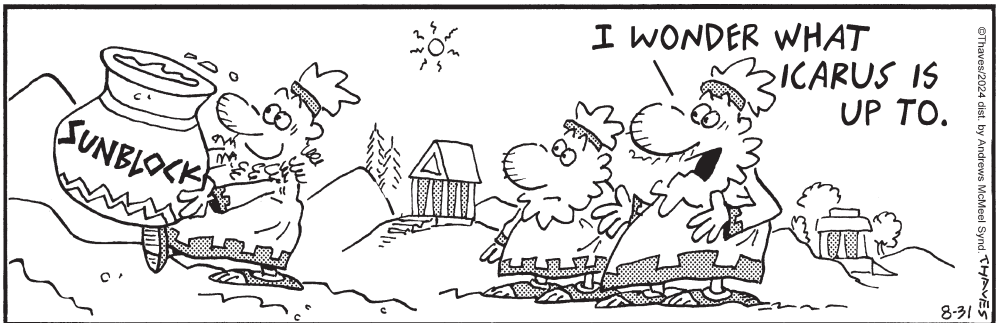
## THE BORN LOSER



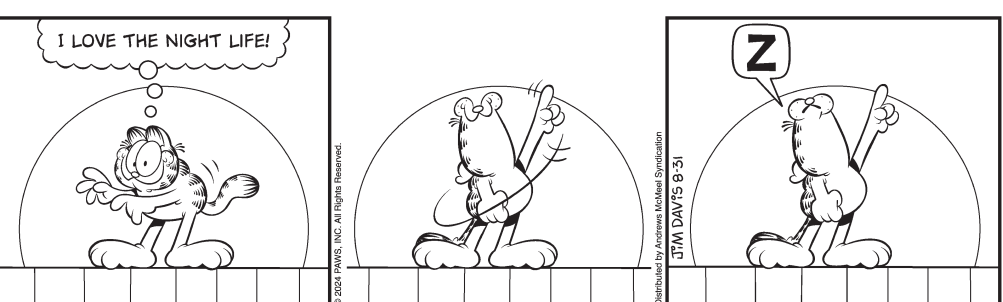
## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



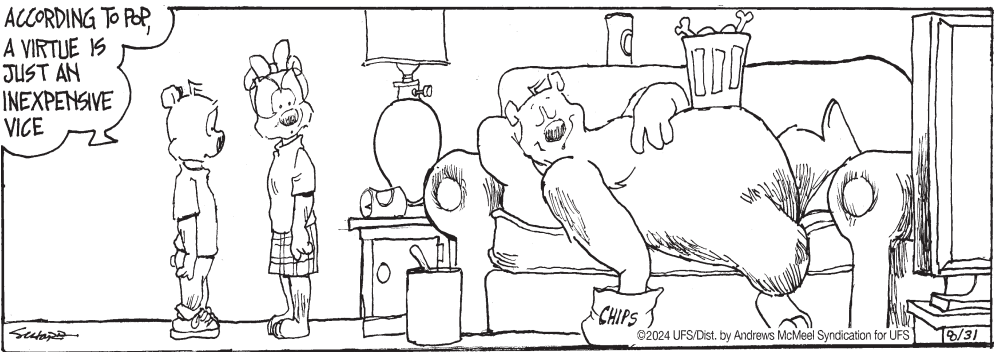
## FRANK & ERNEST



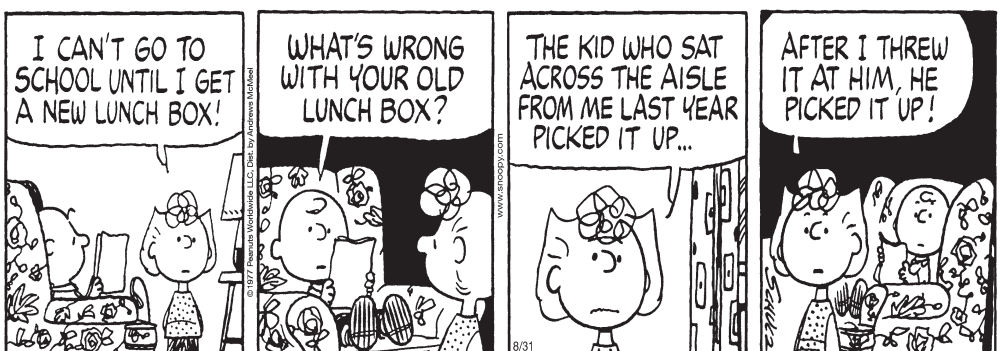
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



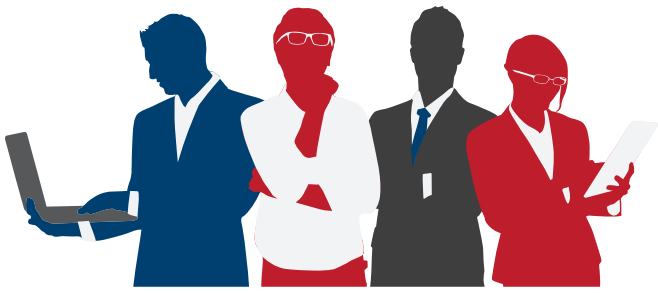
# Salute to LABOR DAY

## HATS Off to AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

Celebrated on the first Monday of September each year, Labor Day honors the social and economic achievements of America's workers. To all of the hardworking folks doing their part to make our country an excellent place to work, live and do business, thank you and Happy Labor Day!



**26.1 MINUTES**  
The Average One-Way Commute



### Largest U.S. Occupations

- Retail salespersons
- Cashiers
- Food prep & service workers
- Office clerks
- Registered nurses

↑↑↑↑↑  
**14.7 MILLION**  
American Workers  
Belong to a Union  
↑↑↑↑↑

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- And more...

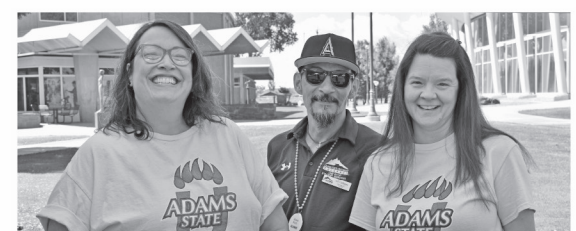


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## Valley Courier

Published **Fall 2024**

# Changes coming to Colorado hunting in 2025

## New Big Game Season Structure approved for 2025-29

By **JOHN LIVINGSTON**  
*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*  
**GUNNISON** — While most hunters are squarely focused on filling the big-game license they drew for the 2024 seasons, it's never too early to think about changes in store for upcoming seasons. At its June meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the new Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) for the 2025-29 seasons.

"There are some big changes to Over-the-Counter (OTC) archery hunting for non-residents as well as some notable changes to our regular rifle seasons that hunters need to be aware of," said Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager Brandon Diamond of Gunnison. Diamond was on CPW's Big Game Season Structure working group.

CPW's five-year BGSS sets the framework for annual big game hunting seasons, as well as the manner in which licenses are distributed. In preparing the 2025-29 BGSS, CPW conducted a two-year public engagement process that involved both residents and

non-residents. Public feedback was crucial in the development of the new BGSS, especially as it pertained to archery OTC elk season.

**OTC Archery Elk Licenses**  
Discussions related to the level of crowding and the overall hunting experience during OTC elk seasons were widespread during this BGSS planning process.

Specific to the September archery elk season, CPW heard from members of the public a strong desire to keep OTC archery elk licenses available for resident hunters while limiting all archery elk licenses for non-resident hunters. After deliberation and final approval by Colorado's Parks and Wildlife Commission, non-resident archery elk hunters will now have to apply for all archery elk licenses in the spring big-game draw in all Game Management Units (GMUs).

This will now include all GMUs that formerly offered OTC archery elk licenses for non-residents, and is a novel approach to license distribution in Colorado. Residents may continue to purchase OTC archery elk licenses in OTC units, however residents will still need to apply in the limited license drawing for units that are currently limited.

Deer licenses will remain fully limited for all seasons for both residents and non-residents.

"Non-resident archery elk hunters should keep an eye out for the 2025 Big Game Brochure and take some time to review these changes," Diamond said. "Non-residents will have to think more about their upcoming hunts and application strategies because all archery elk options will now be limited."

"To be clear, the archery elk licenses that are limited right now, such as GMUs 54, 55, 551, 66 or 67 here in the Gunnison Basin, those units will continue to remain limited for all archers whether resident or non-resident. The big change only applies to units that are already over-the-counter for archery elk. This is a significant change taking effect in 2025."

As it has been previously, archery season will start Sept. 2 each year and run through Sept. 30 for a 29-day season.

### Rifle Seasons

Some changes have also come to rifle seasons.

The upcoming BGSS allows managers the option to prescribe limited deer hunts during the first rifle season, which has traditionally been an elk-only season, based on local management considerations. Some areas may offer antlered deer hunts during the first rifle season, while others may only allow antlerless hunt codes.

"With support from local wildlife advocates, CPW is considering some limited doe hunting in the northern Gunnison Basin during the first rifle season in order to address some of the crowding concerns during the busy second and third rifle seasons," Diamond said. "The second and third seasons are incredibly busy, and we hear a lot about it from hunters. A limited doe season during first rifle likely won't significantly detract from the elk hunting

experience, and will allow us to lessen some of the hunting pressure during our busiest seasons. It gives us flexibility to put some surgical management on the ground based on our ever-evolving conditions."

CPW Senior Wildlife Biologist Jamin Grigg said having the ability to offer a limited number of deer licenses during the first rifle season may also allow the agency to manage Chronic Wasting Disease in areas where there are high densities of resident deer and high CWD prevalence is a concern. Some areas around Montrose and the North Fork of the Gunnison Valley may potentially benefit from an optional first season deer hunt.

"We have a number of units where we are expecting to allow some very limited first rifle deer licenses," Grigg said. "Likely, that's coming for the Gunnison Basin and, potential-

■ See **CHANGES** page 7



## A HUNTER'S CHECKLIST

### Hunting Needs

- License
- Rifle
- Ammunition
- Knife
- Rope
- Deer Bag
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses
- Spotting Scope
- Backpack
- Day Pack
- Flash Light
- Extra Batteries
- Orange Hat
- Orange Jacket
- Gloves
- Gun Cleaning Kit
- Water Bottle
- Maps, Compass and GPS
- Rang Finder
- Two-way Radios
- Hand Warmers
- Gas lamp
- Odor Eliminator

### Bow Hunting Needs

- Bow
- Arrows
- Broadheads
- Field Tips
- Allen Wrenches
- Extra Arrow rest
- Bow String Wax
- Camo Clothes
- Face Paint
- Scent Neutralizer
- Bow Release
- Treestand
- Tree Steps
- Bow Saw
- Practice Target

### ATV Needs

- Fuel
- Extra Spark Plug
- Bungee Cords
- Tire Pump
- Clean Air Filter
- Check Oil
- Tie Downs

### Misc. Items

- Wash Clothes
- Towels
- Dish Soap
- Toilet Paper

- Toothbrush & Paste
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Waterproofing Spray

### General Camping Needs

- Water
- Food
- Toilet Paper
- Stove (extra fuel)
- Matches and Flares
- Lantern
- Tent (Waterproof)
- Sleeping Pad & Bag
- Pillow
- Alarm Clock
- Cook Wear
- Cooler & Ice
- Plastic Garbage Bags
- Shovel
- Fuel
- First Aid Kit
- Camera
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# ‘Keep Colorado Wild Pass’ generates nearly \$40 million

**DENVER** — More than 1.5 million Coloradans opted to buy a Keep Colorado Wild Pass during its first full year of being on sale, which generated \$39.7 million to support Colorado state parks and outdoor first responders.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) set a goal to raise at least \$36 million annually from pass sales. The first \$32.5 million will go toward state park maintenance and development; the next \$2.5 million will go toward search and rescue teams, and \$1 million will go to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC). Any revenue beyond that will go to wildlife projects and outdoor educational programs.

CPW and the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) launched the new \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass in Jan. 2023. The first fiscal year of Keep Colorado Wild Pass sales ended on June 30, 2024, with revenue reaching \$39.7 million.

“We’re excited to report on the Keep Colorado Wild Pass’s success during its first year of operations,” said CPW Chief Financial Officer Justin Rutter. “This is a substantial increase in revenue for our agency compared to previous years, which means our state parks, wildlife, search and rescue volunteers, and avalanche forecasters will get a boost in funding in the coming year too.”

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass offers a 60 percent savings compared to a traditional \$80 annual state park pass and provides car, bike, and foot entry into all Colorado state parks.

Residents can get or opt out of the pass annually when registering a passenger vehicle, light truck, motorcycle, or recreational vehicle with the DMV. When a resident buys a Keep Colorado Wild Pass, the DMV prints a Colorado Parks and Wildlife logo on your vehicle registration card, which serves as the park pass to present at entrance stations to enter a state park.

### State Park Maintenance Projects

CPW has brainstormed ways to use the funding to improve existing parks through new campsites, updating facilities like bathrooms and visitor centers, parking lots and roads, updating signage, building new picnic areas, and more. Funding will also be allocated for park operating budgets and new FTE positions.

### Search and Rescue Funding

On average, Colorado Backcountry Search and Rescue (BSAR) organizations can respond to more than 3,600 search and rescue incidents yearly—more than any other state. The Backcountry Search and Rescue Study released in 2022 showed that BSAR volunteers spend an average of \$1,587 annually out-of-pocket



Courtesy photo

on equipment, fuel, and other expenses to respond to incidents.

Revenue from Keep Colorado Wild Pass sales will allocate \$2.5 million for local backcountry search and rescue teams to help fund rescuer training, mental health programs, and team equipment. CPW also plans to divide \$1.5 million into county allocations, which are grants for eligible counties to be used over a 2-year period to purchase items based on a county-designed project. The intent for this funding is to be a semi-fixed funding source that flexibly accommodates team strategies for priority purchases over time.

### Support the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC)

Funding from the Keep Colorado Wild Pass enables CAIC to provide better avalanche safety information to the public. Some of the specific improvements to the state’s public avalanche safety program that this funding has supported include the new CAIC website – launched for the 2022-23 season – with dynamic forecast zones that provide more detailed avalanche information, a new avalanche-awareness curriculum CAIC developed with AIARE and NWAC last season, and the development of basic avalanche-education materials in Spanish. This funding also allowed CAIC to convert temporary jobs to permanent positions to help

the organization attract and retain the most qualified avalanche forecasters and base them in mountain communities.

“Whether you use the pass to visit state parks or to show support for our outdoor first responders and avalanche forecasters, your contribution


plays an integral role in giving back to the outdoor spaces and programs our local communities treasure,” said CPW Deputy Director Heather Disney Dugan.

For more information on the Keep Colorado Wild Pass, visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/keep-colorado-wild-pass>.



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# Hunters should be aware of bears, lions in the field

By JOHN LIVINGSTON  
*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*  
MONTROSE, Colo. — Each year, hunters in the field encounter black bears and mountain lions and in rare instances must be prepared to defend themselves from an aggressive animal. It is important for everyone recreating in Colorado to know how to react and understand the warning signs a large predator may send their direction.

Every encounter with these charismatic creatures can be different. Here is a closer look at the warning signs and what you should do if you encounter a bear or mountain lion while on a big-game hunt.

CPW asks that anyone who encounters an aggressive bear or mountain lion report it to the nearest CPW office. The Monte Vista office can be reached at 719-587-6900.

## Black bears

Colorado is home to an estimated population of 17,000 to 20,000 black bears. While aggressive behavior is rare, bears may be unpredictable and there have been three documented bear attacks on a human in Colorado in 2023. With that said, experience has shown that the majority of conflict with wild bears is avoidable, and for hunters that starts with keeping a clean campsite.

“Unsecured food and trash remains the leading cause of human-bear conflict,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Brandon Diamond out of Gunnison. “Maintaining a clean camp and securing food away from camp is the best way to keep bears away from your campsite.”

“For successful hunters, meat management at camp is also a good thing to think about. If you can hang your meat out of reach of bears, that really helps. We seem to have instances every fall where a bear drags a quarter out of camp, which leads to problems for the hunters and bears. The last thing we want is for wild bears to associate hunting camps with food rewards.”

When encountered in the wild, black bears are usually wary of humans and will look to turn and go the other way. For those without a valid bear hunting license in their pocket, if you find yourself in close quarters with a bear, or happen across a bear on a food source (think elk or deer carcass), simply back away or give them plenty of room to escape. Wild black bears seldom attack unless they feel threatened, cornered or are provoked. Many hunters carry bear spray these days, which is proven to be an effective, non-lethal tool in many conflict situations.

## If You Surprise a Bear on a Trail

- Stand still, stay calm and let the bear identify you and leave. Talk in a normal tone of voice. Be sure the bear has an escape route.

- Never run or climb a tree.
- If you see cubs, their mother is usually close by. Leave the area immediately.

## If the Bear Doesn't Leave

- A bear standing up is just trying to identify what you are by getting a better look and smell.
- Wave your arms slowly overhead and talk calmly. If the bear huffs, pops its jaws or stomps a paw, it wants you to give it space.
- Step off the trail, keep looking at the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight.

## If the Bear Approaches

- A bear knowingly approaching a person could be a food-conditioned bear looking for a handout or, very rarely, an aggressive bear. Don't concede to this behavior: instead, stand your ground. Yell or throw small rocks in the direction of the bear.
- Get out your bear spray and use it when the bear is about 40 feet away.
- If you're attacked, don't play dead. Fight back with anything available. People have successfully defended themselves with pen knives, trekking poles, and even bare hands.

## Mountain Lions

Colorado is also home to an estimated 3,000 to 7,000 mountain lions, with studies ongoing around the state to get a better understanding of their density. One such study is currently being conducted in Gunnison.

“Mountain lions are rarely seen but are common throughout western Colorado,” said CPW senior wildlife biologist Jamin Grigg. “They prey primarily on deer and elk and are likely to be present anywhere deer and elk are abundant. They are generally shy around humans but are also very curious, similar to house cats.”

Mountain lion attacks are relatively rare. There have been 25 known attacks of a mountain lion on a human in Colorado since 1990. Oftentimes, protective behavior by a mountain lion can be mistaken with predatory behavior.

Grigg said mountain lions are ambush predators, meaning they rely on stealth and secrecy when hunting.

“If a lion allows you to see it, it's likely not acting in a predatory manner,” he said.

What is observed more commonly is protective behavior by mountain lions when they make an effort to direct a human away from a food source or its young kittens. Protective behavior can include bluff-charging — an act in which the lion will behave aggressively by walking toward a person and gesturing with its paws while vocalizing.

“When you see that, a lion likely has a kill or kittens nearby and is simply trying to encourage you to leave the area,” Grigg said. “Bluff-

charging is a protective behavior.”

## If You Encounter a Mountain Lion

- Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.
- Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firm-



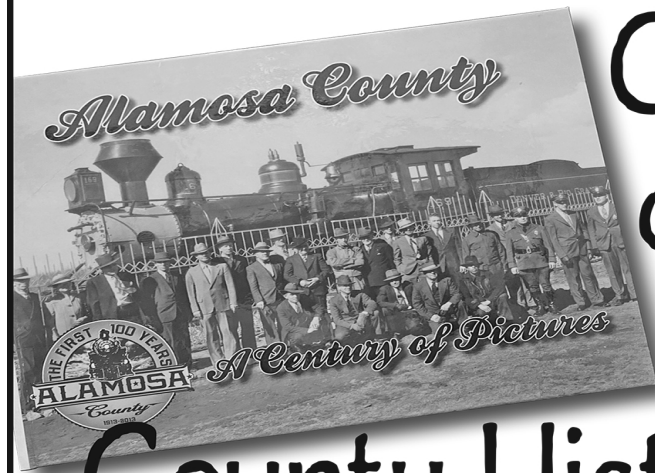
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ly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.

- Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driv-

en away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up!

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# Remain bear aware as activity increases

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

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

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

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

“Research shows that bears prefer natural sources of food. But they will seek out sources of human-provided food if it’s available which can become dangerous to humans,” said CPW Northwest Region Senior Wildlife Biologist Brad Banulis. “Preventing bears from relying on human food sources takes a community effort, and it’s important that we all take proactive steps to limit human food sources in order to avoid any possible

conflicts with bears and bear-proof our homes.”

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

**Become Bear Aware**

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

**Bear-proofing your home:**

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

**Cars, traveling and campsites:**

- Lock your doors when you’re away from home and at night.
- Keep the bottom-floor windows of your house closed when you’re not at home.
- Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
- When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle.
- Keep a clean camp, whether you’re in a campground or in the backcountry.
- When camping in the backcountry, hang food 100 feet or more from the campsite; don’t bring any food into your tent.
- Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

**Protecting your chickens, bees, livestock:**

- Keep chickens, bees and livestock in a fully covered enclosure, especially at night.
- Construct electric fencing when possible.
- Don’t store livestock feed outside.
- Keep enclosures clean to minimize animal odors.
- Hang rags soaked in ammonia and/or Pine-Sol around the enclosure as a scent deterrent.

CPW asks all residents and visitors to help save Colorado’s bears by being actively bear aware throughout the late summer and fall seasons. Bear conflicts and, unfortunately, bear euthanization is most often traced back to human behavior. It is all of our responsibility to help minimize risks to humans and bears alike by being mindful of our impacts.

For more information on bears in Colorado, visit [cpw.state.co.us/living-bears](http://cpw.state.co.us/living-bears). If you have questions or need to report bear problems, call your nearest CPW office.





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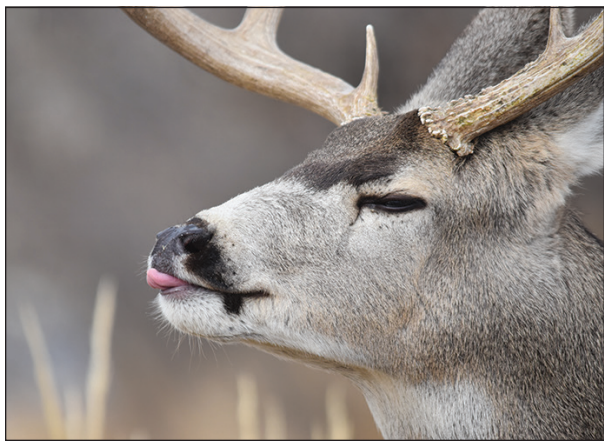
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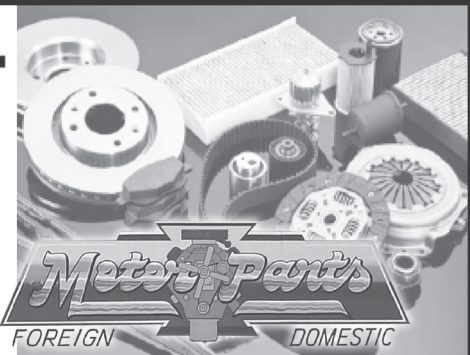
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# Changes

Continued from Page 2

ly, areas around Montrose.

“Those will be initiated for a few reasons. One is to redistribute hunters a little bit and alleviate some hunter crowding occurring during second and third seasons. We are not expecting to issue more licenses or hunt deer harder overall and will still manage to the objectives set in our Herd Management Plans. Really, it’s just redistributing licenses and hunting pressure. Another reason is to target CWD hot spots. That’s an impetus for first season deer licenses in places like Montrose – GMUs 70, 64 and 65 and some of those GMUs starting to see CWD prevalence increase a bit more than we’d like it to. That’s one way of targeting CWD-positive deer is through that first season and having some licenses in there.”

The Parks and Wildlife Commission also approved a few changes to rifle season lengths and dates.

- The first rifle season will start the first Wednesday after Oct. 8 and be a five-day season followed by a five-day break before the second season.
- The second rifle season will be nine days long, followed by a five-day break before the third season. Hunters will have two weekends to hunt the second season.
- The third season will be nine days, followed by a two-day break before the fourth season. Hunters will have two weekends to hunt the third season.
- Fourth season will be a five-day season beginning on the Wednesday following the third season.

“Generally, there will be shorter breaks between seasons than in the previous five-year structure, which results in seasons not going as late into the year and overlapping with Thanksgiving,” Grigg said. “We heard from hunters that seasons were too late in some geographic areas and people had issues with the Thanksgiving overlap. Some folks liked that, but the majority of input was that season dates were too late and there was more interest in season dates not going quite so late. The tradeoff is not having quite as long of breaks between seasons now.”

“The third season is also now longer to help those who can only hunt on weekends get a second weekend to hunt that season.”

### More Changes

A few more changes to BGSS were also approved, such as the addition of an optional “late” season cow moose hunt that would span through the regular rifle seasons rather than the traditional rifle moose season that takes place during the first two weeks of October. To see all of the approved BGSS, go to the CPW website and be sure to closely look at the 2025 Big Game Brochure when it is published in February 2025.

### What is BGSS?

Big game management in

Colorado is built on two main planning processes: Herd Management Plans and BGSS. Herd Management Plans establish population objectives and sex ratios for each of the state’s big game herds. BGSS defines a framework for achieving those objectives through hunting seasons for different species and methods.

These two processes inform big game license recommendations through the annual rule-making process. The BGSS planning process is a critical component of big game management and big game hunting regulation development and determines:

- What, when, and where various types of big game hunting opportunities are available.
- How the timing of these opportunities are divided among hunters.

On the heels of this planning process, CPW will continue striving to maintain healthy wildlife populations by man-

aging to established objectives. While BGSS provides a standardized set of management sideboards, there can also be extenuating circumstances that prompt local managers to evaluate novel approaches in consultation with the CPW Commission.

In those situations, hunting opportunities (seasons and license distribution) can be limited or modified geographically to meet biological or social management objectives.

“I want to thank all of our local partners that participated in the BGSS process,” Diamond said. “Some of your friends and neighbors went well above and beyond to advocate for our community’s big game resources. A lot of serious discussion took place that I anticipate will continue into the coming year. Those discussions included the potential for limiting OTC bull licenses during the second and third rifle seasons in the northern Gunnison Basin, and the



Courtesy photo

potential for Regional season need our local communities to structures. stay engaged and participate

“Things don’t always turn in processes and on issues that out exactly as folks hope for, impact our local wildlife re- but now more than ever, we sources.”

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# Hunters can continue to lead way in conservation

## CPW's non-toxic bullet replacement program

By KRISTIN CANNON  
*Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

On May 10th, 2024, representatives from the North American Non-lead Partnership, The Peregrine Fund, and Sporting Lead-Free gave a compelling pitch to Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff. Hunters themselves made the case for putting a copper round in the rifle when hunting in the field instead of lead. While their logic felt obvious, I hate to say I had not given it much thought before that day.

I was tasked with ensuring that Colorado Parks and Wildlife met its obligations under House Bill 23-1036, the Nontoxic Bullet Replacement Hunting Program. As part of this legislation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is required to provide range days to demonstrate the efficacy of non-lead ammunition. I reserved the ranges, ordered lunch, and arranged with our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners, but I still had not yet made the switch myself.

So, why not? I think my reasons were understandable, maybe even relatable to a lot of hunters: I used what I learned with and what I always use; I thought non-lead ammo wasn't as common or as cheap as lead; and what is the actual harm anyway?

### The Experts Fill Me In

Neil Thagard, with The Peregrine Fund, has heard all of these same barriers many times. He showed me a spreadsheet of local stores he had visited the previous day. It included lead ammo alongside a variety of available non-lead (copper) alternatives. The prices were comparable, there was a similar selection of caliber and weight. Neil started telling me about ballistics and he told me that the bottom line is that for what hunters are trying to accomplish, the efficient and effective killing of the targeted game animal, there was no meaningful difference in price or availability.

Chris Parish, also with The Peregrine Fund and the co-founder of the North American Non-lead Partnership, recounted his time with Arizona Game and Fish studying the California Condor, an endangered species. This species is so endangered almost every individual is tracked and monitored. They could actually look at causes of mortality for the entire population and found lead poisoning was a significant factor. They were able to narrow down where that lead was coming from as largely



Courtesy photo

being from gut piles left in the field by hunters. Arizona Fish and Game then began a program where they encouraged and incentivized hunters in a California Condor Recovery Area to either use non-lead ammo or remove the gut piles from the field. They saw high levels of cooperation and they saw benefits to the condor. While we don't have condors in Colorado, we do have struggling golden eagles and other species susceptible to lead exposure.

Bryan Bedrosian is a raptor biologist and the co-founder and director of Sporting Lead-Free out of Wyoming. Over the years, he has collected some pretty compelling data showing how lead builds up in the bloodstream of raptors and other scavenging birds and how lead levels in these animals spike annually following the fall hunting seasons. Bryan and his organization are also after the hearts and minds of anglers to get them to use non-lead tackle (Did you know a lot of wire for fly tying contains lead? I did not.).

### Seeing is Believing

In the afternoon we went on the range. Chris shot a 6.5 CM Hornady lead round (129 gr) and a 6.5 CM Hornady copper round (120 gr) each into a water barrel and ballistic gel. We recovered the spent rounds and the lead bullet lost 30% of its weight in the form of

an uncountable amount of tiny fragments. The copper round maintained 99% of its starting weight. From the ballistic gel we could see a clear path both bullets took. The lead round split up and fragmented, which is good for causing tissue damage but all those tiny pieces of lead were spread through the gel, well beyond the bullet's path. In an animal these fragments would be in the meat, the organs, the hide. The copper round's path was equally as large and damaging as the lead's but no stray fragments were embedded in the gel. In other words, had this been meat it would have been free of extra pieces of metal, especially pieces of toxic metal. It's not just scavengers that end up eating this lead, and lead is toxic to everyone.

Seeing is absolutely believing, and that is really all it took for me. Leland Brown, also with NANP, observed that of the four firearms safety rules, one is that every

shooter should "know their target and beyond." Most of us consider that to mean knowing what we are shooting at (elk vs moose, doe vs buck) but also what is behind that animal, what is next to it, is there a safe backstop. Leland challenged us to consider that "beyond" our target meant taking responsibility for the bullet from the time we pull the trigger to the time it hits the target... and after. What unintended harm does that bullet cause beyond?

### The Next Evolution in Hunting

Like any hunter, I am also a conservationist. I hunt for many reasons but primarily to experience the natural world and the wildlife within it in a unique and connected way. When I harvest an animal, I do it with intention and I care about the environment from which it came. I want to take care of the habitats I spend time in and harvest food from. So for me,

that will mean making a different decision when I load a round into the chamber of my rifle this fall. It also means helping to spread awareness on this topic and encouraging other hunters to consider what NGOs such as NANP and Sporting Lead-Free have to tell us.

Just to be clear, this isn't about a mandate – no one I spoke with is interested in that – and it isn't about shame, blame, or judgment. It is about information and continuing a long tradition of hunters protecting and conserving wildlife and their habitats. Our tools have evolved over the years, and we have along with them. To me, this is just another step in a long journey of hunters protecting landscapes for everyone to enjoy now and into the future.

*Written by Kristin Cannon. Kristin is the Northeast Region Deputy Regional Manager for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.*



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