



High school football preview — Week 2

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Colorado is having one of its worst grasshopper infestations in recent history

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

September 4, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Story Time returns on Sept. 4

LAJARA — Children's Story Time at the Conejos Library District Maria De Herrera Branch, 17703 Highway 285, will resume on Sept. 4 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and continue every Wednesday thereafter. It will start with a book and include craft time for the children.

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

'Milagro Beanfield War' on the ASU Stage

ALAMOSA — High school students from the Valley will be at the SLV Federal Main Stage Theater on the campus of Adams State University in Alamosa on Thursday for a production of "The Milagro Beanfield War" by John Nichols. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., admission is free. Millie Duran will direct the play, and Shirley Romero Otero from the Move Mountains youth group will assist.

Alamosa City Council meeting

ALAMOSA — Alamosa City Council will be having their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in council chambers at 300 Hunt Ave.

This week's agenda includes three items related to funding projects at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport, using funds provided by the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill. There will also be discussion regarding the wording of questions to appear on the ballot related to allowing the sale of medicinal and recreational marijuana within city limits.

People interested in attending virtually can do so via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744> or by calling 1-719 359 4580 and webinar ID 857 5349 2744.

SLV WEATHER



Sunny, Light Breeze 81/46

Thurs: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 75/43

Fri: Sunny, Breezy 77/44

INSIDE

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U.S. Sen. Bennet meets with SLV leaders on transmission lines

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — U.S. Senator Michael Bennet met with over 25 San Luis Valley leaders on Sept. 3 to discuss electric transmission lines in and out of the Valley.

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori ■ See **LINES** page 3

US Senator Michael Bennet (center) met with Valley civic and community leaders to discuss electric transmission lines.

Courier photo by John Waters



Courier photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Standing in the building where geothermal heating will eventually be installed, Eric Carpio, director of Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center, briefs Senator Michael Bennet and State Representative Matt Martinez on the history of the exhibit 'Uns silenced: Indigenous Enslavement in Southern Colorado.'

Sen. Bennet warms to geothermal heating

Fort Garland Museum received \$164K for expansion of system

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier reporter

FORT GARLAND — Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet visited the San Luis Valley on Tuesday, including a stop at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center where, thanks to his advocacy, the museum received \$164,000 to put toward expansion of the site's existing geothermal heating system.

■ See **MUSEUM** page 3

Eric Carpio, director of Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center, briefs Senator Michael Bennet on the genesis of the fascinating exhibit "buffalo soldiers: reVision."



500 organizations call on Congress to pass 2024 Farm Bill



CCALT throws support behind the call

STAFF REPORT
LAKESWOOD — Along with 500 organizations representing a diverse range of stakeholders in conservation, agriculture, nutrition and other related sectors, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is strongly urging Congress

to pass the 2024 Farm Bill before the end of the year.

In late July, 500 organizations signed a letter sent to both the Senate and House of Representatives not only calling for action on the Farm Bill but also outlining the risks to farmers and ranchers across America in failing to do so. CCALT, a member of the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts (PORT) was a signatory strongly urging Congress

■ See **BILL** page 3

Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is strongly urging Congress to pass the 2024 Farm Bill before the end of the year.

Photo courtesy of Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust



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Record

Salsa Fiesta brings the spice to Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE – Main Street was packed to the brim with people gathered for the annual Creede Mountain Run and Salsa Fiesta on Saturday, Aug. 31. Competitors for the Mountain run hit the road early in the morning as the brisk day bloomed over the high caldera cliffs north of town and set the stage for the coming festivities.

As the morning wore on, runners from the race began to trickle in while ticket holders for the Salsa Fiesta eagerly waited for business owners to set up tables with their variety of salsa to try. Over 20 businesses participated in this event, offering spicy selections that varied from fruit, red, green and free-style salsa for the masses to vote on.

Several businesses throughout town held end-of-summer sales while music filled the air at Basham Park near downtown. The sidewalks filled with people as the day turned warm. The Creede Farmers Market was full of vendors offering everything from fresh produce to canned goods and home-made wares.

Winners for the Creede Mountain Run will be released as they come available, but the race was well attended with runners from all ages and locations. A booth to welcome the runners back was set



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Creede was bustling with activity on Saturday for the Farmers Market, the Mountain Run and the Salsa Fiesta.



The Creede Repertory Theatre serves salsa during the Salsa Fiesta on Saturday in Creede.

up in the Days of 92' Mining arena behind Basham Park and local Nancy Leggett and her team of volunteers were present to award each runner with a small plaque and snacks to help them recover from the race.

Salsa Fiesta winners were announced in the afternoon and are as follows – Best Overall Salsa went to the Blue Yak Salon and Boutique; Best Red went to Wander Off Broadway; Best Green went to the Blue Yak and Boutique;

Best Fruit went to Rincon Real Estate, LLC; and Best Freestyle went to the Blue Yak Salon and Boutique.

Next up for Creede will be the annual Cruisin' the Canyon Car show that is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will also feature the Creede Arts Council's annual Steamroller Print Show that has become a Creede favorite over the past several years.

For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.creede.com.



The annual Salsa Fiesta was on Saturday in Creede. Over 20 businesses participated this year, bringing a huge crowd to Creede.

OBITUARY

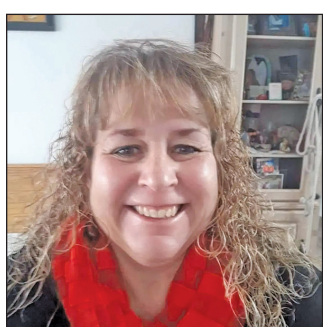
Jessie Leona Archuleta

Jessie Leona Archuleta, born on April 30, 1967, in Denver, Colo., passed away peacefully on Aug. 31, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colo. She was the beloved daughter of Mary (Ricardo) Valdez and the late Jose Frank Archuleta. Jessie was a loving mother and a cherished grandmother.

Having earned her Cosmetology Degree, Jessie dedicated many years to her craft, owning and operating Jasmine Hair Style in Alamosa. Her salon became a haven for many, reflecting her loving and caring personality.

Jessie was always thoughtful and generous, helping anyone in need and giving her heart and soul to those she encountered. Her legacy of kindness touched every life she met, and she was deeply devoted to her faith, truly loving the Lord.

Outside of her profes-



sional life, Jessie cherished her time spent in nature. She had a passion for fishing and camping, where she found joy and peace. An avid lover of dance, playing poker, bowling and, of course, being around friends and family, Jessie never missed an opportunity to have fun and celebrate life.

She was also a beloved companion to her dogs Peppers, Cocoa and Noodle, who provided her with companionship and joy.

Jessie is survived by her mother, Mary JoAnn (Ricardo) Valdez; her daughter, Raychel Lucero; her

grandchildren, Dominic, Camron, Ceasar, Carson, and Camrie; her sister, Tracy Jane (Michael) Vargas; her brother, Dan (Ernestine) Archuleta; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Leona Lucero; her father, Jose Frank Archuleta; and her grandparents, Eppie Archuleta, Francisco Archuleta, Ben Gallegos, and Rose Gallegos.

A viewing will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, followed by a Funeral Service to honor Jessie, beginning at 11 a.m. at the First Christian Church at 518 First St., Alamosa, CO 81101. Jessie's spirit and love will remain forever in the hearts of all who knew her.

To express condolences to the family, view a tribute slideshow, or to stream the service, please visit www.mvmortuary.com.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Carlos Cruz

San Luis resident Carlos Cruz passed away Sept. 3, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Johnny D. Martinez

Alamosa resident Johnny D. Martinez passed away Sept. 2, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.



Courtesy photo

Habitat for Humanity homeowner and volunteers framing walls on a Habitat Home.

RSVP of Alamosa County shares program updates

By NANCY HARRIS

ALAMOSA — Spark the Change Colorado's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Alamosa County has been growing over the past few months and would like to share some updates on its program and opportunities for older adults.

Spark is a volunteer center that inspires, engages, mobilizes, and empowers individuals and organizations to become a driving force for good through the work of talented volunteers. Powered by AmeriCorps Seniors, Alamosa's RSVP matches older adults willing to help with local organizations on the front lines of meeting community needs. Spark the Change Colorado believes that folks aged 55 and up have much to contribute to our community through volunteer engagement.

The focus of the program for the past three years has been to address food insecurity in our county which has resulted in partnerships with organizations in our area such as Care and Share, SLV Foods Coalition, Food Bank Network of the SLV, and the Area Agency on Aging. Volunteers have been helping these nonprofits to deliver meals to homebound seniors, distribute food to those in need, serve congregational meals at the local senior center, and many other re-

lated activities.

Since April of this year, however, RSVP of Alamosa County now also focuses on what we call capacity building. Capacity building is essentially volunteer work that helps local nonprofits to meet the goals of their mission and to deliver their services more effectively. This might involve board service, fundraising, volunteer management, administrative duties, and many other volunteer roles. With the addition of this new impact area, RSVP of Alamosa has been able to establish a number of new local partners as well as to offer many new volunteer opportunities, allowing our program to further serve our neighbors in Alamosa County and to engage older adults in many more ways to stay active and healthy by volunteering in their community.

One of our new partners is Friends of the Alamosa Library. Volunteers with this nonprofit may help with collecting, transporting, sorting, shelving, and disposing of donated books, participating at regular book sales or a number of other activities.

RSVP is also partnered with the SLV Habitat for Humanity. Volunteer opportunities for this local nonprofit organization include helping at the Habitat Store and serving at the Habitat construction

site.

Another local partner is Alamosa Senior Citizens Center. The Senior Center is looking for a few volunteers to assist with the beautification and weeding of their gardens as well as with occasional special events.

Also new to the RSVP program is the Visit Alamosa Welcome Center. The Welcome Center will train new volunteers to be Travel Counselors at The Depot, greeting and welcoming visitors to our area.

Finally, RSVP has joined forces with the SLV Rural Philanthropy Days Conference. This year's San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days event will be held in Alamosa and Monte Vista on Sept. 11-13. Volunteers at this event will have many opportunities to speak with funders from across the state and meet a variety of nonprofit professionals from the San Luis Valley.

Consider staying active and making a difference in your community by serving as an RSVP volunteer today at one of the program's local volunteer stations. Or, if you are a local nonprofit in need of volunteers to help you achieve your mission, contact Nancy Harris at 303-867-0868 or nharris@sparkthechangealamosa.org. Or visit <https://www.sparkthechangealamosa.org/rsvp.html>.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The third annual Alder Ass Race in South Fork was dubbed the largest burro race in Colorado on Saturday as over 130 runners and their burros participated.

Alder Ass Race dubbed largest in the state

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK – For the first time since the Alder Ass Race came to South Fork, the burro race was dubbed the largest in Colorado over the weekend. Over 130 racers and their burros descended on the small mountain town filling Brown Memorial Park.

The park was packed to the brim with food vendors and tents set up for games, activities and more on Saturday, Aug. 31, and though the day began with a touch of autumn chill, it warmed as racers took to County Road 15 and lined up for the start of the race.

The pavement was chalked to mark locations for the annual Dumping for Dollars where people can purchase squares to guess where the first donkey may defecate, making fun out of the inevitable.

Other games that took place throughout the day was the annual Alder Ass Duck Race where participants purchased rubber duckies to send down the soft currents of the Rio Grande. The day was a success and everyone who

attended had a wonderful time, according to organizers.

Team winners for the standard three-mile race were Yukon Pack Burro and Shad came in first, Team Sugar Ray and Bob came in second and Team Jake the Trail Running Burro and Joe came in third.

The top three female winners for the mini race were team Bruno and Alexis in first, team Bella and Shoshana came in second and team Mr. T and Barbara came in third. The Legacy award went to Barbara at 82 years young and the Rising Star award went to Genna who ran at the wonderful age of 7.

For the overall race Shad Mika of Broomfield, who ran with Yukon came in first, Bob Sweeny of Leadville, who ran with Sugar Ray, came in second and Joe Polonsky from Palmer Lake, running with Jake the Trail Running Burro came in third. All the race results can be found online at www.adventuresignup.com/Race/CO/SouthFork/SouthForkAlderAssRace.

The South Fork Friends Foundation created and sponsored the event with plenty of help from the Town of South Fork and the South Fork Visitor Center.

Next up for South Fork will be the annual South Fork Chili Cookoff on Oct. 24. For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.southfork.org.

School Menu
Wednesday
September 4, 2024

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Burrito
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Colorado Burrito/Salsa
Corn
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Colorado Burrito/Salsa
Corn
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Colorado Burrito/Salsa
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Valley News

Two men arrested after shots fired from vehicle

CONTRIBUTED MONTE VISTA — Two men were arrested by Monte Vista Police Department officers on Tuesday morning, Sept. 3, after a report of shots being fired from their vehicle.

At about 9:54 a.m., on Tuesday, MVPD were advised of a situation where shots were being fired from one vehicle at another vehicle. Police were advised that a black 9mm handgun was used in the commission of the reported crime, MVPD reported.

Given the life-threatening nature of the information being provided, all available Monte Vista officers immediately responded to the area of Highway 15, northbound toward Monte Vista's main street, quickly identifying the suspect vehicle, MVPD reported.

The vehicle was followed out of the central business district of Monte Vista to

shield people from any situation that may arise during the anticipated traffic stop and directed to stop in the 1100 block of Highway 285, MVPD reported.

After stopping in the center turn lane, the driver, 43-year-old Joseph Horner, refused to follow loud verbal commands from officers, becoming aggressive, resulting in a taser deployment to safely effect his arrest, MVPD reported. The passenger, 47-year-old Jamie Stephens, was taken into custody without incident.

The incident started in Rio Grande County and any pending investigation was turned over to the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office, MVPD reported.

The Colorado State Patrol assisted MVPD with the situation. Highway 285 was closed after the traffic stop and reopened following the arrests.



Photo courtesy of Monte Vista Police Department

Two men were arrested by Monte Vista Police Department officers on Tuesday morning, Sept. 3, after a report of shots being fired from their vehicle. The traffic stop was in the 1100 block of Highway 285.

Early Iron pumps local economy



Courier photo by John Waters

The Early Iron Festival, held in Alamosa over Labor Day Weekend, brought 481 classic cars to Cole Park. The show had an enormous positive economic impact, filling hotels, campgrounds, and hopping restaurants. Roni Wisdom with the show said the Rodders Choice winners were Steve and Lynnann Sheats from Henderson. Ben Quintana from Colorado Springs is shown here with his 1971 Chevy Chevelle.

Lines

Continued from Page 1

Laske has spearheaded the transmission line issue for several years. Bennet thanked her for her "extraordinary leadership," on the issue. In a comment to Laske, Bennet said, "Whatever support you need from us in terms of help, badgering the agencies, and helping your efforts, we will provide it."

State Senator Cleave Simpson told the Valley Courier, "I've been extremely interested in the potential for further commercial solar development in the Valley, but it is bottlenecked with transmission capacity. I'm glad to see Senator Bennet is actively involved in the issue and thank Commissioner Laske for her work." Simpson added the transmission lines have been discussed for many years and said, "Either come to a conclusion on the viability, or find a path forward, and I continue to be hopeful there is a path forward."

Central to the issue is studying the possibilities of where proposed transmission lines traverse. As the Valley Courier reported in July, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has granted Alamosa County \$1,699,965 to study transmission lines in the Valley.

With the funding, Alamosa County will conduct an analysis and extensive community en-

potential transmission corridors to identify the optimal route to increase electric transmission capacity to the Upper Rio Grande Valley in Southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

According to the DOE, "In a continued effort to expedite the build-out of a resilient and reliable electric grid, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced 20 projects across 16 states selected to receive up to \$371 million to accelerate the permitting of high-voltage, interstate transmission projects.

"These projects will also support community infrastructure projects along major new and upgraded transmission lines, including upgrading public school buildings and emergency response facilities. Administered by DOE's Grid Deployment Office, today's Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) grants will help advance at least 16 high-impact transmission lines across the country, supporting the deployment of reliable and affordable energy for consumers and creating good-paying jobs."

"Every pocket of the country is experiencing the grueling impact of extreme weather, and there's no doubt that we must expand our transmission grid to get more clean, resilient power to more people, in more places," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm.

Under the study, Alamosa County will conduct

an analysis and extensive community engagement around three potential transmission corridors to identify the optimal route to increase electric transmission capacity to the Upper Rio Grande Valley in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

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Museum

Continued from Page 1

The funding, allocated as Congressional Directed Spending, came through the National Park Service.

Museum Director Eric Carpio took Senator Bennet and the Valley's State Representative Matt Martinez on an abbreviated tour of the museum, including the "Commandant's Quarters" where geothermal heating, which is in use in other places in the historic military compound, will eventually be expanded.

"There's no heat in this building, at all," Carpio told Bennet and Martinez, "and it gets pretty cold in the winter months.

People don't spend much time looking at the exhibits. They'll just watch the video for a few minutes and then move on, only because it's uncomfortably cold."

With geothermal heating, water comes out of the ground typically around 40 to 50 degrees. It then gets a "boost" that takes it up to roughly 65 degrees, with the warm air distributed through small radiators placed near the floor. Since the water is perpetually recycled, the heating system is sustainable.

The expanded geothermal heating brings another advantage as a building temperature in the sixties allows for future exhibits at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center to

include artifacts, something not currently possible because of colder temperatures.

As is typical of Senator Bennet anytime he is around a historical site, he was just as intrigued to learn about the history of the museum, itself, and the exhibits on display as he was in hearing about the future installation of geothermal heating system.

After a few gentle reminders from Erin Minks, Bennet's Regional Representative and Senior Advisor on Rural Affairs, the senator was out the door and on to his next stop — but not before making a note to come back at some point and peruse the extensive collection of books in the Fort Garland Gift Shop.

Bill

Continued from Page 1

to the letter.

"Congress must act decisively to pass a new Farm Bill in 2024, ensuring that essential conservation programs continue to be a tool available to farm and ranch families across our nation," said CCALT Executive Director Erik Glenn. "These programs are vital for ensuring we continue to have land available for the production of the food, fiber, and fuel that is needed to support our growing population.

"Farm Bill conservation programs empower landowners to maintain productive use of their land while contributing to the conservation of our natural resources for future generations," added Glenn. "Moreover, these

programs provide significant economic benefits to rural communities, generating substantial economic activity and creating jobs in areas where opportunities are often limited. By investing in these programs, we are not only strengthening the backbone of rural America but also ensuring the continued resilience and productivity of our nation's agricultural sector."

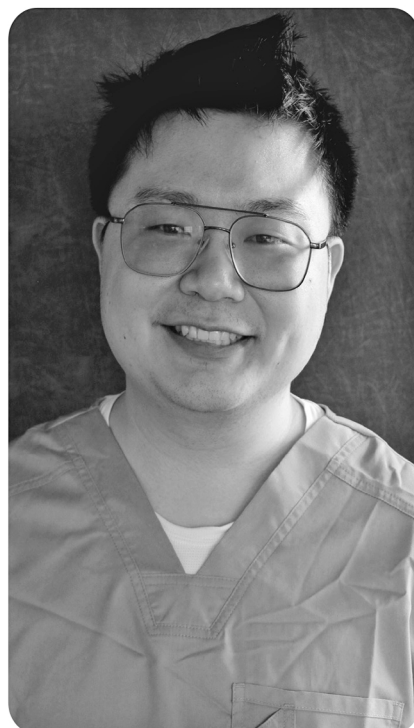
According to a recent report by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the agriculture industry contributes \$47 billion annually to the state's economy and employs more than 195,000 people across 36,000 farm operations.

The letter was sent to House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, House Agriculture Chair GT Thompson, House Ag-

riculture Ranking Member David Scott, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow and Senate Agriculture Ranking Member John Boozman.

CCALT also encourages its landowner-partners to express their support for Farm Bill action by contacting their Colorado federal representatives. The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is a non-profit land conservation organization whose mission is to "...conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations."

CCALT has partnered with more than 400 farm and ranch families in protection of more than 806,000 acres statewide to date.



Valley-Wide Welcomes
Simon Huynh, DDS
to
Alamosa Dental Clinic
128 Market Street, Alamosa, CO
&
Edward M. Kennedy Dental Clinic
925 Second Avenue, Monte Vista, CO

Dr. Simon Huynh focuses on building trust with his patients so together they can work towards informative care to support their family's oral care and overall health. He wants his patients to create good oral habits to fight alongside active disease while preventing new ones. Dr. Huynh has an interest in health counseling and restorative work as well as improving his craft in fixed and removable prosthetics. The lack of accessible dental care he experienced as a child led him to pursue a degree in dentistry. During college, he did volunteer work with refugee populations and underserved Asian-Pacific American populations. Working with these populations solidified his commitment to help the underserved. Outside of the clinic, Dr. Huynh enjoys drawing, baking sweets, and learning about emerging technology.

To schedule and appointment with Dr. Huynh, please call, 1-833-350-1113



valley-widehealth.org

Opinion

Hikers in a wilderness turn into firefighters

More frequent wildfires in the West can turn hiking through beautiful, high-elevation country into a dangerous game for hikers. In July, seven friends from Idaho, Colorado, Washington and Montana took off for a week of backpacking in southwestern Montana. Everything went off without a hitch their first night. A rainstorm passed through but it wasn't a big deal.

But when they woke up, they saw a plume of smoke rising into the sky. Darren Wilson had anticipated something like this, even before their trip began.

"It was in the back of my mind — I hope we don't hike into somewhere and get trapped by a fire," recalled Wilson, a Hamilton, Montana, resident.

They were hiking through the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness and knew it was under strict restrictions: No building campfires, no fire allowed anywhere, no exceptions. The summer had been dry and hot, and wildfires had been erupting throughout Montana.

But as the group continued hiking toward Hidden Lake, they realized the trail of smoke ahead might be the early stage of a wildfire.

The hikers weren't trapped, but 200 yards from Hidden Lake they came upon scorched earth surrounding a tree split down the middle, most likely from a lightning strike. Its bark was blackened and glowing, and beneath the tree the charred ground smoldered. The smoke they'd seen was seeping from beneath hot charcoal and dry wood.

"You could tell the tree torched and burned while it was standing and then cracked and fell on the ground," said Darren's wife, Chelsie, an x-ray technologist with previous experience in wildland firefighting.

"I think everyone had different feelings," she said. "Those who had never



Writers On The Range



Zeke Lloyd

seen forest fires before were panicking."

The group put Chelsie Wilson in charge, and she laid out a two-step process: Some people would run to Hidden Lake to fill every water bottle and hydration pack. Everyone else would use the water to turn the smoldering dirt into mud.

Chelsie Wilson and Brittney Erickson, one of her fellow hikers, poured water on dirt, using the wet earth to put out the fire bit by bit. Chelsie kicked a burning stump into the ground. The team smothered it. She instructed and delegated jobs, describing the team as willing, communicative and diligent.

"It was really scary at first," Chelsie said, "and then it became fun." After two hours, she gave her team the all-clear. They had transformed the patch of smoldering char into a wet pile of dirt and debris.

On a hike later the same day, the group climbed West Pintler Peak only to spot another fire, this one on the horizon some 10 miles away. They called in the sighting from a ridge with cell service and heard a plane fly low overhead the next day. Weeks later, they said they think that was the first alert to the Johnson Fire, a 270-acre blaze southwest of West Pintler Peak.

If there was a theme to the hikers' trip it was definitely fire, because while camping near the bank of Oreamnos Lake, they spotted wispy smoke billowing from the opposite shoreline.

"We start yelling across the lake, top of our lungs," Darren Wilson said. "Is



Photo credit by jkauffeld

Abandoned Ranch buildings above a meadow of Deer Creek south of Anaconda, Mont. Picture taken in late July.

there anybody there? Do you have a fire?" Hearing no response, they initiated a then-familiar course of action. Gathering every container of water they possessed, the group rushed toward the smoke's source.

"Like children of the corn, we come out of the trees," Wilson said, only to find three men huddled around a prohibited campfire. The hikers explained that they'd put out a smoldering wildfire, spotted another and were worried about a third—the campfire they were now looking at.

"The guys were not very impressed with us, though," Chelsie Wilson said,

To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

Housing First won't solve the homeless crisis

By MIKE COFFMAN

More than 650,000 Americans experienced homelessness on any given night in 2023 -- a 12% increase since 2022. Chronic homelessness is also worsening, with over 143,000 people homeless for at least a year in 2023 -- an all-time high.

I've been the mayor of Aurora, Colorado for five years. In my first term, I went undercover and lived among people experiencing homelessness in Aurora and Denver for a week. I wanted to understand why Colorado's homeless community was growing and how my city could best help.

The leading policy approach to homelessness, and the one that attracts the lion's share of government funding, is "Housing First." Essentially, it prioritizes placing individuals into permanent housing as quickly as possible without addressing other issues like untreated mental illness or drug addiction.

No one can doubt the sincerity of "Housing First" advocates. But its proponents have been seduced by an illusory "silver bullet."

After spending time in encampments, it became clear that solving homelessness won't have a one-size-fits-all solution. Many individuals were battling addiction and had little chance of hold-

ing down a job. Others dealt with mental health challenges.

That's why a broader approach is necessary.

In its worst iteration, Housing First is a no-strings-attached approach. Beneficiaries receive housing and don't need to attend job training programs or agree to a sober lifestyle. It's a well-intentioned approach, but it simply isn't working.

Since 2019, California has spent \$24 billion on homelessness programs, even mandating all state-funded programs to adopt the Housing First model. Yet chronic homelessness in the state keeps climbing.

In Utah, Housing First has been the de-facto approach since 2005. Yet from 2017 to 2022, the number of chronically homeless skyrocketed 328%.

Despite these failures, Housing First remains the priority for federal and state funding.

This preferential treatment stunts programs that address underlying causes of homelessness. One study showed that over 60% of chronically homeless individuals reported drug or alcohol abuse.

Yet there is hope.

Step Denver provides free housing, addiction recovery programs and peer

recovery support for hundreds of men each year. The program includes career counseling, twelve-step meetings and life skills classes. After leaving, 84% find a full-time job and 80% report sustained sobriety.

The Chapman Partnership in Miami creates an individualized Housing Stability Plan for each client who seeks housing, providing workforce development programs, social services and long-term housing opportunities. They've achieved an 80% outplacement rate.

In Phoenix, the nonprofit St. Joseph the Worker provides transitional housing and financial literacy resources for clients who work full-time but are at risk of homelessness. Since the program began, around 250 clients have moved on to permanent independent housing.

Aurora is following suit and launching a Navigation Campus as early as next year. The center will provide mental health services, recovery programs, health care and workforce development. Emergency shelter will be available to anyone who needs it, but long-term private housing will be reserved for clients who seek employment and engage with a case manager.

Aurora is taking action to invest in people and establish the infrastructure

needed to have a lasting impact. I hope it can serve as a model for cities nationwide.

Mike Coffman is the mayor of Aurora.

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

STATE HOUSE

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

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Valley Courier

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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Lifestyles

Measures set to appear on Colorado's statewide ballot in 2024

By CHASE WOODRUFF
Colorado Newsline

A total of 14 citizen initiatives and legislatively referred measures are set to appear on Coloradans' 2024 ballots, though at least two of them are expected to be withdrawn within the next few days.

The last of nine pending initiatives were formally certified for the ballot by the secretary of state's office last week after supporters submitted a sufficient number of valid petition signatures before the Aug. 5 deadline. They joined five measures placed on the ballot by Colorado lawmakers earlier this year.

The conservative groups sponsoring two of the measures, Initiatives 50 and 108, have agreed to pull them off the ballot as part of a deal struck with Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and Democratic legislative leaders. The initiatives propose a steep property tax cut and a cap on future tax growth. In exchange for their withdrawal, lawmakers in a special session last week further expanded property tax relief measures they had already passed earlier this year.

Polis has said he won't sign the latest round of tax cuts into law until he receives confirmation of the initiatives' withdrawal, which must happen before a Sept. 6 deadline.

The 12 measures expected to remain on the ballot are slightly above the average total for an even-year election over the last 20 years, but shy of the record 14 statewide measures that appeared on Coloradans' ballots twice, in 2006 and 2008.

Ballot questions can either be statutory measures — which, if approved, become state laws that can be changed by the Legislature — or amendments to the state Constitution, which can only be changed by subsequent amendments passed at the ballot box. Constitutional amendments face a higher bar for approval, requiring 55% of the vote to pass, rather than the simple majority required for statutory measures.

To date, proposed initiatives have been numbered sequentially according to when they were filed with the state's Initiative Title Setting Review Board, commonly known as the Title Board. More than 300 proposed initiatives were filed in the 2024 election cycle, the vast majority of which were denied a title by the board or withdrawn by proponents. Eight were approved for circulation

but failed to submit the required signatures to the secretary of state's office last month.

Once the ballot is finalized on Sept. 6, qualified measures will be re-numbered in sequential order beginning with Amendment 79 for constitutional amendments, and Proposition 127 for statutory initiatives. In early September, detailed information about the measures prepared by nonpartisan state staff will be mailed to registered voters in the 2024 Blue Book, which will also be available online. Ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Oct. 11.

Referred measures

The Colorado General Assembly can refer to the ballot any statutory measure on a simple majority vote, and is required to do so for any bill that raises state tax revenue. Legislative referrals of constitutional amendments require a two-thirds vote.

House Concurrent Resolution 24-1002 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would create an exception to the right to bail for criminal defendants accused of first-degree murder. The amendment would resolve what lawmakers and prosecutors called an "unintended consequence" of the state's 2020 repeal of the death penalty, since courts are currently permitted only to deny bail for "capital offenses," and no such offense exists any longer under Colorado law.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 24-002 proposes amending the Constitution to modify several election-related deadlines, including a requirement that initiative petitions be submitted one week earlier than under current law.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 24-003 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would repeal a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. The ban was narrowly approved by Colorado voters in 2006, but has been inoperative since the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide. Supporters of this year's "Freedom to Marry" amendment say it's necessary to protect LGBTQ rights that have been put at risk by the court's current 6-3 conservative majority.

House Bill 24-1349 referred a statutory measure to the ballot asking voters to approve a new 6.5% excise tax on sales of guns, gun parts and ammunition. The revenue would be used to fund mental health services, gun safety programs and support ser-

VICES for victims of domestic violence.

House Bill 24-1436 referred a statutory measure that seeks voter approval for the state to keep excess revenues collected from its sports betting tax, which have exceeded the projected \$29 million annual cap that voters approved in 2019. The additional revenue, estimated at between \$2.8 and \$7.2 million annually over the next three years, would fund water and conservation projects rather than being refunded to taxpayers.

Initiated measures

Initiative 89 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would protect the right to abortion. It's backed by Colo-

radans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom, a coalition of abortion rights groups and other progressive organizations.

Initiative 91 is a statutory measure that proposes a ban on trophy hunting of mountain lions, bobcats or lynx. It's supported by the group Cats Aren't Trophies, and opposed by hunting and trapping advocates including the Sportsmen's Alliance.

Initiative 112 is a statutory "truth in sentencing" measure that would make people convicted of certain violent crimes ineligible for parole until they have served at least 85% of their sentences. It's sponsored by Advance Colorado, a conservative "dark money"

nonprofit that has spent millions to influence state elections in recent years but which is not required to disclose its donors.

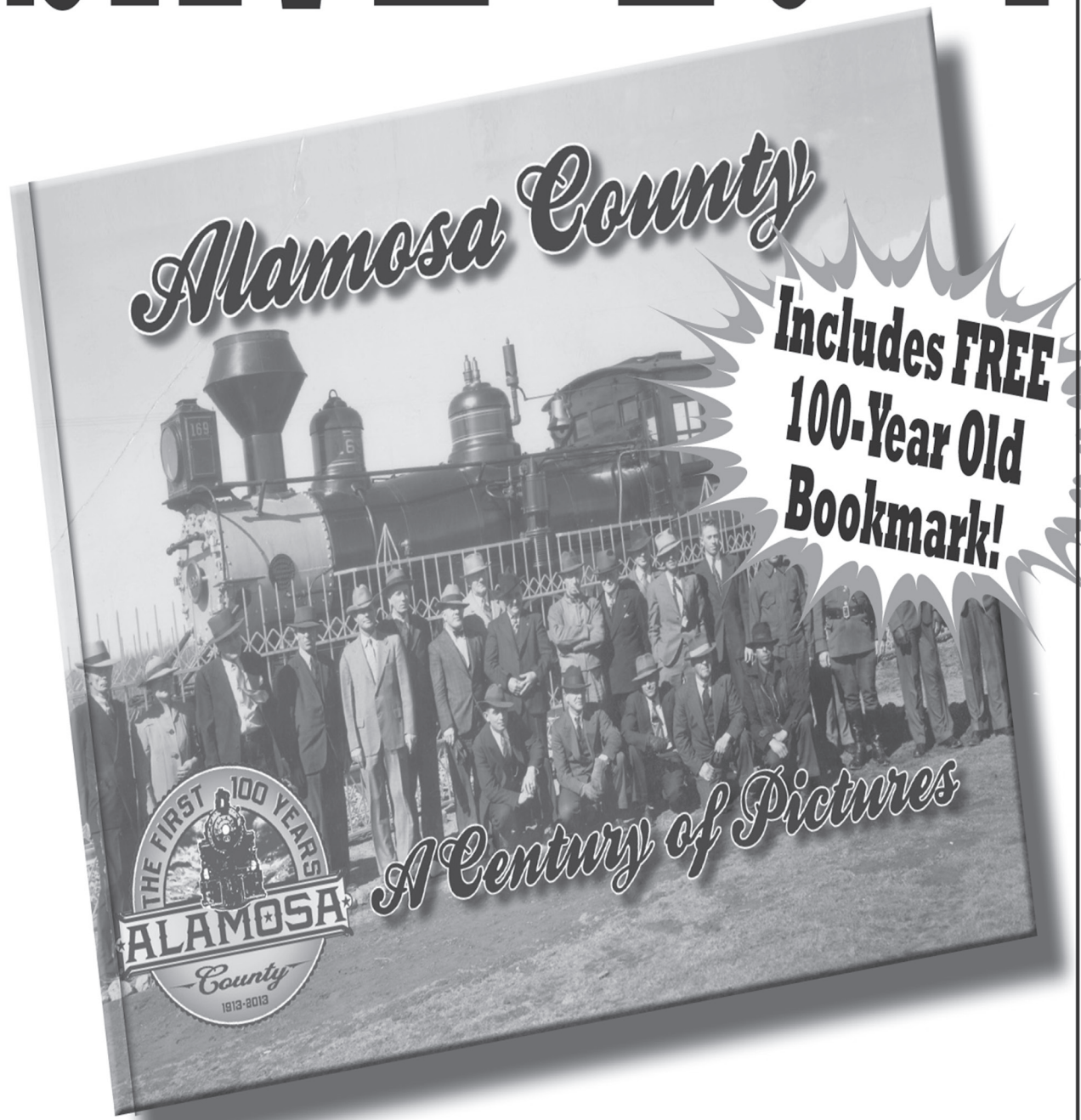
Initiative 138, also backed by Advance Colorado, would enact a statutory "right to school choice," with language that aims to protect "neighborhood, charter, private and home schools, open enrollment options, and future innovations in education."

Initiative 145 is a statutory measure that would allow certain veterinary services to be practiced by associates without a full state-issued veterinarian's license, to address what industry proponents call a severe veterinary workforce shortage.

Initiative 157, another Advance Colorado measure, would make a one-time appropriation of \$350 million to a new police officer training fund under the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Initiative 310 is a sweeping election reform measure that would replace partisan primaries with a single "all-candidate" primary for each state and federal office, and enact a top-four, ranked choice voting system to decide general elections. It's backed by Kent Thiry, an influential Colorado megadonor, and Unite America, a nonprofit that touts its model as a cure for partisan polarization and political dysfunction.

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Alamosa

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Thursday, September 5

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

5:00 p.m.

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

1:00 p.m.

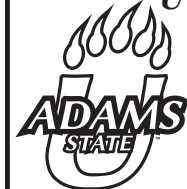
Friday, September 6

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

10:00 a.m.

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

2:00 a.m.



Sports



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Dyson Woodward (6) runs for a big gain as Monte Vista's Judah Howe (40) closes in during last Friday's game at Adams State University's Rex Field. The Mean Moose will host Banning Lewis Academy, while the Pirates will travel to Rye this week. Both games will be Friday beginning at 7 p.m.

High school football preview – Week 2

By **KEN HAMRICK**

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The second week of the 2024 high school football season is this weekend with all but one team in action. Here are thumbnail sketches of each of this week's games.

ANTONITO (0-1) AT BETHUNE (0-0)

This week: The Antonito Trojans will play their first road game of the season as they will play at the Bethune Bobcats. Kickoff is at 11 a.m.

Last week: The Trojans opened the season with a 61-19 loss to Manzanola at home on Friday. This will be the Bobcats' season opener.

Next week: Antonito will be idle. Bethune will travel to Deer Trail for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY (0-1) AT ALAMOSA (1-0)

This week: The Alamosa Mean Moose will play on their home field for the first time this season as they will host the Banning Lewis Academy Stallions. Kickoff is Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Mean Moose defeated Monte Vista 28-8 last Friday at Adams State University's Rex Field. The Stallions lost to University 46-12 last Friday at home.

Next week: Alamosa will go on the road for the first time to face Pueblo Central on Thursday. The game will be played at Dutch Clark Stadium and will kick off at 7 p.m. Banning Lewis will host Sterling next Friday at 7 p.m.

DEER TRAIL (0-1) AT #10 SIERRA GRANDE (1-0)

This week: The Sierra Grande Panthers will play their first home game as they will host the Deer Trail Eagles Saturday at 4 p.m.

Last week: The Panthers defeated Cheraw 46-14 on the road last Friday. The Eagles lost to Otis 58-6 last Friday at home.

Next week: Sierra Grande will travel to Kiowa next Friday with game time slated for 7 p.m. Deer Trail will host Bethune next Friday at 7 p.m.

DEL NORTE (0-1), IDLE

This week: The Del Norte Tigers will have an open date.

Last week: The Tigers began the season with a 47-6 loss to Olathe at home last Friday.

Next week: Del Norte will travel to Roaring Fork next Saturday with a 1 p.m. kickoff.

HAYDEN (0-1) AT SARGENT (1-0)

This week: The Sargent Farmers will play their first home game of the season on Friday as they will host the Hayden Tigers. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Farmers began the season with a 48-6 win over Lake County last Friday in Leadville. The Tigers lost at Norwood 12-8 last Friday.

Next week: Sargent will travel to

Hoehne next Friday with the kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m. Hayden will host Dayspring Christian Academy next Saturday at 1 p.m.

MONTE VISTA (0-1) AT RYE (0-1)

This week: The Monte Vista Pirates will be on the road for the second straight week as they will play at the Rye Thunderbolts. Kickoff on Friday is at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Pirates lost to Alamosa 28-8 last Friday at Adams State University's Rex Field. The Thunderbolts lost at Maniyou Springs 33-0 last Friday at Manitou.

Next week: Monte Vista will play its first home game of the season as it hosts North Fork next Friday at 6 p.m. Rye will have an open date.

OLATHE (1-0) AT CENTER (0-1)

This week: The Center Vikings will play their first home game of the season on Friday as they will host the Olathe Pirates Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Vikings lost to North Fork 46-6 last Friday in Hotchkiss. The Pirates defeated Del Norte 47-6 last Friday on the road.

Next week: Center will host Cedaredge next Friday at 1 p.m. Olathe will play at Ignacio next Friday at 7 p.m.

PAGOSA SPRINGS (1-0) AT #7 CENTAURI (1-0)

This week: The Centauri Falcons will play on their home field for the first time this season as they will host the Pagosa Springs Pirates Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Falcons won 33-6 last Friday at Meeker. The Pirates defeated Kirtland Central 42-27 in New Mexico last Friday.

Next week: Centauri will travel to Buena Vista next Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Pagosa Springs will be idle.

SANFORD (0-1) AT SWINK (0-1)

This week: The Sanford Mustangs will play their second straight road game as they will play at the Swink Lions. The game is Saturday and will begin at 2 p.m.

Last week: The Mustangs lost to West Grand 28-22 last Saturday in Kremmling. The Lions lost to Fowler 33-22 last Friday in Fowler.

Next week: Sanford plays its first home game of the season as it will host Haxtun at 7 p.m. next Friday. Swink will have an open date.

SANGRE DE CRISTO (0-1) VS. SOROCO (0-1)

This week: The Sangre de Cristo Thunderbirds will play the Soroco Rams on Saturday. The game will be played in Buena Vista and will kick off at 1 p.m.

Last week: The Thunderbirds lost to Las Animas 49-24 last Friday. The Rams lost at home to Belleview Christian 42-0 also last Friday.

Next week: Sangre de Cristo will have an open date. Soroco will travel to Las Animas next Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY

Prep boys soccer
Manitou Springs at Alamosa – late

Prep girls softball
Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa – late

Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa at Pueblo County – late
Buena Vista at Monte Vista – late

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Prep boys golf
Alamosa, Del Norte at Rye Invitational (at Hollydot), 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Salida Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep boys soccer

Alamosa at Pueblo Centennial (at Dutch Clark Stadium), 5 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa at Pagosa Springs, 4 p.m.

College men's soccer
Adams State at Eastern New Mexico, 5 p.m.

College women's soccer
Adams State at Eastern New Mexico, 7 p.m.

College women's volleyball
Adams State at Midwestern State (Texas) (Midwestern State Invitational at Wichita Falls, Texas), 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Prep football
Olathe at Center, 1 p.m.
Banning Lewis Academy at Alamosa, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Rye, 7 p.m.
Pagosa Springs at Centauri, 7 p.m.

Prep boys golf
Alamosa, Del Norte, Monte Vista at Monte Vista Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls softball

Alamosa vs. Falcon (Pueblo County Invitational at Runyon Sports Complex), 1:30 p.m.

Alamosa vs. Pueblo East (Pueblo County Invitational at Runyon Sports Complex), 3 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Mountain Valley hosts Mountain Valley Invitational, 9 a.m.

Antonito at Creede, 2 p.m.

Questa (N.M.) at Centennial, 5 p.m.

Center at Sierra Grande, 6 p.m.

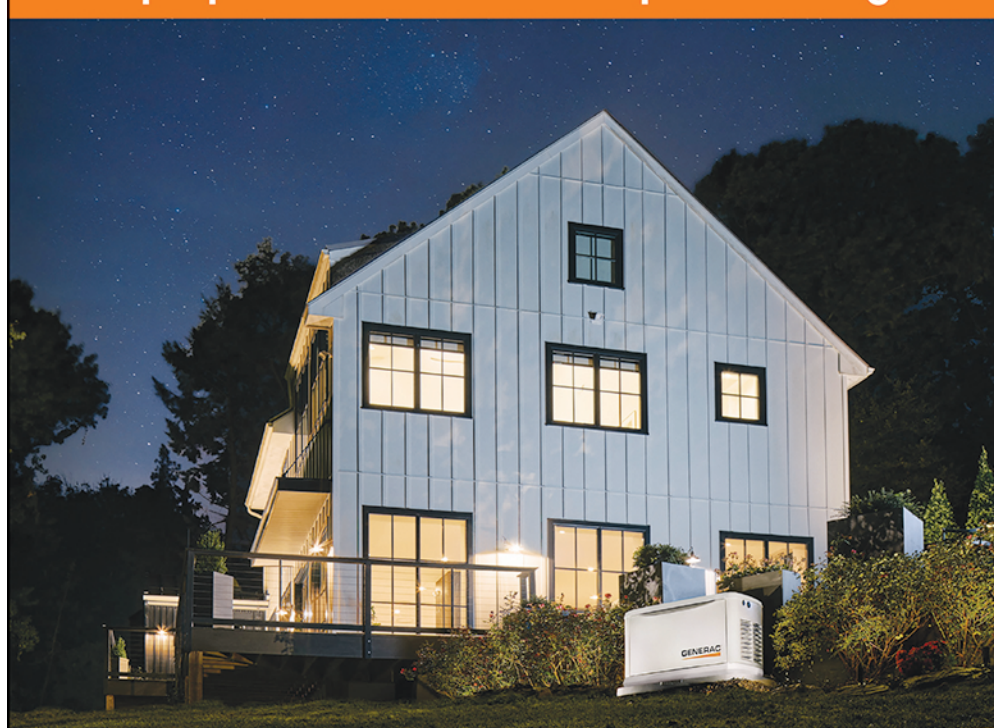
Del Norte at Custer County, TBA

College women's volleyball

Adams State vs. Western New Mexico (Midwestern State Invitational at Wichita Falls, Texas), 10 a.m.

Adams State vs. Northwestern Oklahoma State (Midwestern State Invitational at Wichita Falls, Texas), 2 p.m.

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Lifestyle



Photo by Dana Coffield, The Colorado Sun

Two grasshoppers navigate through insect-damaged leaves of a lilac bush on Aug. 29.

Colorado is having one of its worst grasshopper infestations in recent history

By JENNIFER BROWN
Colorado Sun

It was as if Doug Bay's wish had come true, the day the doves landed.

Bay, who grows alfalfa and a bit of corn and sorghum in Otero County, had been eyeing the 3 acres of fresh green shoots for days, worrying they were about to be destroyed by the swarms of crop-munching grasshoppers that were bouncing all over his farm.

He was holding out hope that he wouldn't have to spray pesticide to save his alfalfa crop from the destructive insects, which are vexing farmers and gardeners from Denver to the plains this summer. Bay almost called the local crop duster, but he put it off.

Then came the doves. About 200 of the tan birds swooped down from the sky and feasted on the grasshoppers, demolishing pretty much the whole lot.

"It was kinda neat," recalled Bay, whose family has been farming in Cheraw since 1950. "A couple hundred of them, eating those grasshoppers. They must have told their friends this was a good place to eat."

For farmers, the best way to deal with grasshoppers is to let birds handle it. But this year, when the grasshopper infestation is one of the worst in recent history, farmers can't rely on just the birds.

The bounty of grasshoppers is on par with last summer's Mormon cricket invasion on the Western Slope.

Bay said he had to hire the crop duster to spray his other, larger field of alfalfa, costing him about \$15 for each of the 120 acres. He's also got 15 chickens that spend their days pecking his yard and keeping the grasshoppers at a more manageable level, at least near his house.

Scientists say the grasshoppers are having a banner year in Colorado because the conditions for hatching eggs and growing big insects were ideal. Grasshoppers lay their eggs in dirt, and the pods or "egg beds" remain un-

derground through the winter. The eggs hatch in the spring, and the tiny "nymphs" crawl out of the ground in search of food, according to Colorado State University's extension services.

If weather conditions are good, and there is plenty to eat, grasshoppers grow for several weeks until they reach adult size — and this summer they are quite large. The insects likely hatched earlier this year because of a mild, warmer spring, and then did not face the kind of cold, wet weather that can kill off newly hatched grasshoppers.

In Denver, gardeners are reporting extra-large grasshoppers and in extra large numbers, popping around yards and chewing holes in the leaves of their lettuce and tomato plants. On the Eastern Plains, their destruction has been spotty — some farms are having to spray pesticides or losing yields to the bugs, while others have had few issues.

For gardeners, experts suggest adding some plants that repel grasshoppers — garlic or chives — or using garlic to make a natural spray. Another idea is to cover the garden with netting to keep the insects from jumping into it. Get some chickens. Or put up a bird feeder.

While grasshopper eggs are more likely to survive the winter in dry soil, undisturbed by tillage or irrigation, the insects often live longer and grow bigger in irrigated land where there is plenty of foliage.

Farmers, including Bay in Otero County, are on their third out of four cuts of alfalfa for the season, and still keeping an eye on the grasshoppers. Alfalfa is most vulnerable to grasshoppers when it's just beginning to grow and "they can mow it right down," Bay said. When the plants are taller, grasshoppers can't destroy it but can decrease its yield, he said.

At Bay's son-in-law's ranch, in the southeastern corner of the state, the grasshoppers hatched early and died off when they were

small because there wasn't enough moisture for them to survive. But Bay has had to deal with two grasshopper hatches, and the second one produced especially big grasshoppers.

He and others were forced to spray, he said, and Bay hired a pilot because the alfalfa was too thick to drive a sprayer through it. "Once you spray them, it pretty well kills them," he said. "You have to watch it real close — you can spray one batch and another batch could hatch."

Farmers also can scatter an insecticide called EcoBran, which grasshoppers will eat and die. Then other grasshoppers, which are cannibals, will eat the dead grasshoppers and die, too. But this is "hit or miss," Bay said, because if the grasshoppers have other things to eat — say, alfalfa or lettuce — they likely won't eat the wheat bran laced with the chemical carbaryl, which is toxic to insects.

Ranchers have little recourse, since their grazing land is so vast. Their cattle just get less to eat when grasshoppers are rampant.

It's just all part of the season for farmers and ranchers, Bay said. "I gamble every day," he said. "You gamble with the weather. You gamble with the bugs. So I don't much like to go to Cripple Creek."

On the bright side for hunters: The doves are thick this year thanks to grasshopper abundance, and dove hunting season starts this month.

Bay is optimistic lately, as he finishes the latest cut of alfalfa and moves on to cutting the sorghum, that the grasshoppers will run out of things to eat and fade out. The Arkansas River, which supplies his irrigation water, is getting low now at the end of summer. And it hasn't rained much lately on the plains.

Bay will also keep hoping for black birds or more doves, the "most awesome" natural control for insects.

"But you can't order a flock of birds to come in," he said. "It's a luck thing."

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September 7 • Monte Vista, CO

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- CRAFTS & FOOD VENDORS- 8 AM- 4 PM
- GUIDED AGRICULTURAL TOURS- 8 AM & 1 PM
- FRESHLY HARVESTED COLORADO POTATOES- 8 AM- 4 PM
- FREE KID'S GAMES- 9 AM- 4 PM
- THE FAMOUS MASHED POTATO DUNK TANK- 10:30 AM
- SLV COMMUNITY BAND PERFORMANCE- 11 AM
- PRO CHEF COMPETITION- 1 PM
- SWOOP OF CRANES AUCTION- 3 PM

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- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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221 - HELP WANTED

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

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 or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 9/4/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (9/4/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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 Email resume to: Sundhomedirect@gmail.com
3003 Adcock Circle Alamosa

THE CITY OF ALAMOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT is seeking a highly motivated and experienced law enforcement professional to join our team as a POLICE SERGEANT. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of leadership, strong communication skills, and a commitment to community policing. To be eligible for the position of Patrol Sergeant, an applicant must be Colorado POST certified in good standing, have served a minimum of five years as a Corporal or equivalent, or of higher rank with a similar-sized agency, and have documented a minimum of 40 hours of leadership/supervision training. A similar-sized agency is defined as an agency having 15 or more officers. Compensation and benefits include a hiring pay range of \$33,31-\$34,98 per hour depending on qualifications, FLSA non-exempt; a 10% employer and employee match to retirement; paid time off includes 80 hours of vacation leave annually, 80 hours of sick leave annually, two personal days per year, and 11.5 paid holidays; medical, dental, and vision benefits with 75% paid by the employer; employer paid short & long-term disability; group life insurance up to \$100,000 in coverage for employee and \$5,000 for dependents; a free recreation membership & discounted golf membership. To apply, complete the Law Enforcement application at cityofalamosa.org, and attach your resume, POST certification, and proof of 40 hours of leadership/supervision training. For questions, contact Jolene Webb, HR & Risk Manager at 719-587-2029 or jwebb@ci.alamosa.co.us. The deadline to apply is September 13, 2024, by 5:00 pm. (9/13/24)

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

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)

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 nniemann@landmarkmanagement.com. Equal Employment Opportunity. (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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

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307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

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

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

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

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362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

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368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

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426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

EAST ALAMOSA: 1 BEDROOM, utilities included, \$635 monthly, \$700 deposit, income qualification. 719-580-3710. (9/24/24)

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

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852-3949
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606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

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Lifestyle

Back to school means recommended vaccines for preteens too

By RUTH STEFANOS, M.D. (NAPSI) — As a pediatrician, I hear many questions from parents. As their children grow from babies to adolescents, so does the number of questions they have about how to continue protecting their kids. This makes sense, since we are all navigating a changing world with social media, peer pressure, and more homework and scheduled activities. Parents are juggling these things every day, and the bottom line is that parents want to know how they can protect their kids.

One of the most important things we know to protect your kids — now and as they grow — is vaccination. While most parents are familiar with getting their babies vaccinated, they might not realize that there are vaccinations specifically for preteens that can protect them against serious diseases like cancer and meningitis.

HPV vaccination is given when kids are about 11–12 years old to protect them from ever getting the HPV virus that can cause cancers later in life. Both preteen boys and girls need this vaccine now, before they are ever exposed to the virus. Stopping that virus in its tracks can protect them from things like cervical cancer

in women, and head and neck cancer in men. While it can be hard for parents to look at their preteens and see the young adult they will become, vaccinating them now means not having to worry about HPV-related cancers as they grow up. We know that this virus is common — about 13 million people in the United States, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. Every year in the United States, HPV causes about 36,000 cases of cancer in both men and women. This is why I strongly recommend that parents vaccinate their kids. I also know that the HPV vaccine

has a reassuring safety record that's backed by over 15 years of monitoring and research. What's amazing is that we are really starting to see the impact of this vaccine. HPV infections and cervical precancers have dropped substantially since 2006, when HPV vaccines were first used in the United States. I feel very confident telling parents that today is the day to get their kids protected with HPV vaccination. It's a good reminder that while you can't stop kids from growing up, you can protect them against cancer later. Back to school healthcare visits are a great time to take this step to protect them. Please call to schedule your kids' appointment today. You can learn more at www.cdc.gov/HPV.



Dr. Stefanos is a medical officer in the Division of Viral Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approves \$6.4 million in motorized trail grants

CONTRIBUTED COLORADO — Colorado Parks and Wildlife's 2024 - 2025 OHV Trail Grant funding award recommendations were approved for \$6.4 million to fund 59 trail projects across Colorado. The grant funding represents over 98,000 trail crew hours and comes from Colorado OHV registrations and the federal Recreational Trails Program.

Track is located in Craig, CO. NWCTC has been awarded equipment and materials necessary to provide weekly maintenance for practices as well as a race-ready track. NWCTC provides youth and their families a location to ride their OHVs outdoors and even hosts a summer Youth Racing Series which just concluded this month.

Grant, McInnis Canyons & Dominguez Escalante National Conservation Areas (NCA) - \$120,000 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office and McInnis Canyons & Dominguez-Escalante NCA staff will continue to provide trail maintenance and signage on approximately 150 miles of open OHV routes located within

the Cactus Park, Rabbit Valley, the Hunting Grounds, Escalante Canyon and Sawmill Mesa Recreation Management Areas. In addition to maintenance, the crew will construct 6 miles of Ponderosa Loop trail that will connect the trail system around a wildlife closure area in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Dolores Good Management Trail Crew, Dolores Ranger District - \$90,000 The San Juan National Forest Dolores Ranger District's Trail Crew is responsible for the maintenance of over 200 miles of motorized Forest Service trails and has provided trail stewardship for nearly two decades as a Good Management grant recipient. The

Trail Crew will continue to provide trail maintenance, manage safety issues, and address resource concerns. The Colorado State Trails Committee is responsible for the review process for the trail grant applications and makes recommendations to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission regarding funding for grants.

"This is literally OHV dollars going right back into the trails," said CPW Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation and Lands Fletcher Jacobs. "This year we funded 33 maintenance trail crews across the state, 26 of which are Good Management crews, which allow our federal partners at the United State Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to get much needed consistent funding for trail crews. We were also excited to fund 20 weeks of youth corps crews that helps us to not only protect resources, but also allow young adult corps members to be exposed to careers in natural resources."

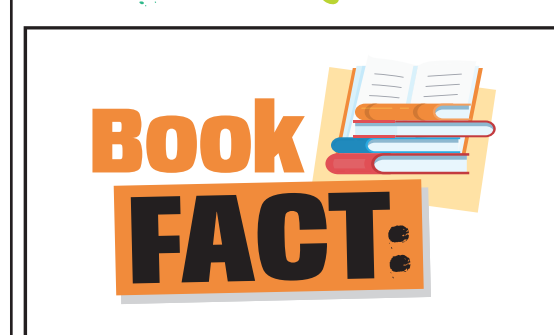
Some of the highlights from this year's grant award winners include:

- Stay The Trail Education & Stewardship Alliance Project - \$235,711
- Funding will be provided to continue and enhance the Stay The Trail Campaign which promotes responsible OHV recreation through educational programs, stewardship projects, direct user contacts, and resource protection/mitigation. The campaign will also work in bordering states in an effort to target and educate the many out-of-state trail users who visit Colorado.
- Sawyer Training 2025, Pikes Peak Ranger District - \$31,648

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) requires all individuals operating a chainsaw to hold either a National Wildland Fire Chainsaws (S-212) or Developing a Thinking Sawyer certification to operate a chainsaw on Federal Lands. Pikes Peak Ranger District employees will provide four training courses to teach and certify sawyers (woodcutters) from partners, clubs, volunteers, state, or federal agencies, so they may operate on federal lands. This will enable these certified individuals to do important trail work and clear trees from Colorado's OHV trails.

• Megawatt Moto Complex Track Maintenance, Northwest Colorado Trails Corp (NWCTC) - \$56,742

The Megawatt Moto



With 38.4 million catalogued books, this is the largest library in the United States.

Answer: Library of Congress

How they say that in...

English: Text
Spanish: Texto
Italian: Testo
French: Texte
German: Wortlaut

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

5		17	22
	9	3	27
7		10	18
27	10	30	

01	1	2
6	6	51
21	0	5

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

RTUN ETH GEP A

Answer: Turn the page

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 4

1882: The Pearl Street Station in NYC becomes the first power plant to supply electricity to paying customers.

1972: Mark Spitz sets a record by winning a seventh medal at a single Olympic Games.

1998: Google is founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

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