



9-11 Tribute

— Inside today's Valley Courier



High school football preview — Week 3



Today's Issue Sponsored By:



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— Page 6

Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS September 11, 2024 \$1

SLV Today

Fall Faculty Lecture Series begins Sept. 12

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture Series "Celebrating 100 Years of Galaxies," by Matt Nehring, P.D., professor of physics, begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public. 2024 marks 100 years since galaxies were discovered. This lecture includes a historical account of steps leading to their discovery, important milestones from the past 100 years, discussion of galactic evolution, and, of course, lots of beautiful and thought-provoking pictures.

For more information on the Faculty Lecture Series, contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or jgagliardi@adams.edu.

Airport Advisory Board to meet Thursday

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Airport Advisory Board will meet on Thursday at 8:15 a.m. for a regular meeting. It is open to the public and will be held in the Airport Operations Office at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. It can be accessed via the exterior stairs above Centric Aviation.

On the agenda is an update from airport manager Will Hickman and updates on general aviation, marketing, car rentals, Denver Air Connection, and Homeland Security.

Tandberg speaking at Rotary on Sept. 16

ALAMOSA — Adams State University President David Tandberg will be the speaker at the Alamosa Rotary Club's regular meeting at noon on Monday, Sept. 16. It will be held at Juanito's Mexican Kitchen, 2069 First St., Alamosa.

All are welcome to join ■ See **TANDBERG** page 3

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Afternoon Showers, Light Breeze 76/40

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy, Gusty Afternoon Winds 78/42

Fri: Sunny, Breezy, Gusty Afternoon Winds 77/38

INSIDE

- Record Page 2
- Valley News Page 3
- Opinion Page 4
- Lifestyle Pages 5, 7, and 12
- Sports Page 6
- Public Notice Page 8
- Classifieds Pages 9 and 10
- Comics Page 11

Preliminary hearing scheduled in Chavez case

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Alamosa resident Larry Chavez, 33, was in court on Tuesday morning, where a preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 30. In the preliminary, the presiding judge will determine if there is enough evidence to order Chavez to stand trial for allegedly killing

Enrique Parra. According to documents obtained from the Alamosa County Combined Court, Chavez has been charged with eighteen different counts in the case, including one count of murder in the second degree (F2), second degree assault with a deadly weapon (F4), kidnapping (F2), two counts of motor vehicle theft (F4), four counts

of felony menacing (F5), theft \$5,000 to \$10,000 (F6), third degree assault (M1), criminal mischief (misdemeanor) plus six counts of habitual criminal.

Due to his previous criminal history, if the court judges Chavez to be a habitual criminal in connection with any of the felonies he's been charged with committing, sentencing will

be four times the maximum range of sentencing for each felony.

Even if Chavez is convicted of only some of the felonies and is deemed to be a habitual criminal, it's possible he could be sentenced to life in prison.

As was reported in the Valley Courier, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, the Alamosa Po- ■ See **CHAVEZ** page 3



Larry Chavez

Upgrades to county railroad crossings



Through a joint effort of the Alamosa County Road and Bridge Department and the Colorado Pacific Railroad, four railroad crossings will be repaired and upgraded this fall and beginning the week of Sept. 9. The railroad crossings at South Highway 285 and 17th Street; South Highway 285 and 21st Street, pictured; South Highway 285 and County Road 9; and West Highway 160 and County Road 106 will undergo much-needed upgrades. The crossings will be replaced with concrete panels that will make for a much smoother crossing, will require less maintenance, and will last longer. The Alamosa County Road and Bridge Department will assist in traffic control, any material removal, and concrete installation on the crossing approaches. Colorado Pacific Railroad will install the concrete panels and any track repair or replacement. Each crossing will require a road closure for approximately 7-8 days. The construction schedule is as follows, but subject to change – 21st Street will be closed the week of Sept. 16; County Road 9 South will be closed the week of Sept. 23 and County Road 106 will be closed the week of Sept. 30. For more information, call Alamosa County Road and Bridge Department at 719-589-6262.

Courier photo by John Waters

Lost Alamosa hunter found safe

By **CONEJOS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

CONEJOS COUNTY — On Saturday, Sept. 7, at approximately 5 p.m., the Conejos County Sheriff's Office was notified of a lost hunter in the Osier Mountain area. Sheriff Garth Crowther responded to the area and met up with family members of the lost party who were camped in the area where the individual became lost.

Crowther was told that Luis Pacheco, 64, of Alamosa, was hunting in the area and was last seen around 9 a.m. on Sept. 7.

His hunting party had attempted to find him, but they were unsuccessful. Sheriff

Crowther and deputies covered the area by road well into the night. Due to the late notification and darkness, arrangements were made to gather a search and rescue team and resume at daybreak on the morning of Sept. 8.

Early Sunday morning, Sheriff Crowther, his deputies, and a multitude of civilian volunteers, along with volunteers from local fire departments, a Flight for Life helicopter, an airplane from Colorado State Fire, a tracking dog from Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, and search and rescue teams from Mineral and Saguache counties with drone capabilities, all responded to the area. A command post was estab-

lished, and personnel were organized into search lines to cover the area where Pacheco was last seen. After a full day of searching, the operation was temporarily halted, with plans to resume early Monday morning.

Late Sunday night, a tip was phoned in by an individual who had been hunting in the same area on Saturday when Pacheco went missing. The hunter was made aware of the search from a media post and immediately called in to report the sighting. Monday morning, deputie attained a GPS location of the sighting from the hunter, and a team from Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado was dropped ■ See **HUNTER** page 3



Photo courtesy of Conejos County Sheriff Luis Pacheco, 64, of Alamosa, was found safe after becoming lost while hunting on Sept. 7.

ASU undergraduate enrollment growth trend continues

By **ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY**

ALAMOSA — Adams State University announced the institution continued to see an upward swing in undergraduate enrollment this fall, building on last year's success. The University undergraduate enrollment is up nearly 5 percent from 2023. "This was, quite frankly, rather remarkable given the challenges we faced this year,"

■ See **ASU** page 3



Pictured, the Adams State University Class of 2029. Fall enrollment is up for the second year in a row. Courtesy photo

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Record

Area celebrates harvest at SLV Potato Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — On Saturday morning, Chapman Park was already filling up with people, for the annual San Luis Valley Potato Festival, that marks the harvest of the Valley's signature crop — potatoes.

By 7:30 a.m., just before the Tater Trot 5K was about to start on Sept. 7, hundreds of people, including farmers, vendors, and businesses with booths were gearing up for the celebration.

The event was as exciting as it has been in past years with the fun-filled Tater Trot race and the first of two of the ever-popular agricultural tours bound for the CSU Research Center, and then on to two Valley farms. The ag tours allow people to gain insight and receive information about what goes into the planting, growing, and harvesting of the Valley's potato crop.

Many festivities were held at the Potato Festival this year, including corn hole, and many vendors were set up selling their wares — paintings, jewelry, tumblers and T-shirts, baked goods and more. There were also multiple food and drink trucks at the park and many businesses had booths and were giving out information.

Larry Brown of the



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Chapman Park in Monte Vista was filled with people for the annual San Luis Valley Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7. The festival is organized by the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee.

CSU Extension Office in Monte Vista handed out information about the office.

The San Luis Valley Antique Car Club brought their colorful kids train ride to the festival. The children were laughing and smiling on the popular train ride. There were large bouncy houses at the park for kids, including a giant green bounce house. There was a giant monster truck bouncy house, and children could be seen going up and down the truck, bouncing and laughing as they slid down the main part of the truck. There was a zipline at the festival this year that both children and adults slid down.

The Colorado Potato Administrative Commit-



tee (CPAC) organizes the event. There was a free baked potato lunch with the Monte Vista High School boys varsity basketball team collecting donations for the lunch. The

team members served the loaded potatoes. The San Luis Valley Community Band played many lively tunes for the crowd. The Professional Chef Cooking Competition was held. The Swoop of the Cranes live auction also took place.

The Potato Festival brought hundreds of people to Chapman Park this year, and was a huge suc-

cess, according to Jessica Bradshaw of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee. "It was great. We had a great turn out. It was a great festival. We want to thank our sponsors; without them we couldn't do this, and we want to thank the community for coming out," she said.

Creede resident Katey



Bouncy houses are lined up for the San Luis Valley Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

Kuhnel said that her family came for the day and enjoyed the Potato Festival.

"This is our first year living here. It's so cool that all the things are free for the kids. We are really enjoying this, and we will definitely come next year," Kuhnel said. For more information on CPAC, visit their website at coloradopotato.org.

OBITUARIES

Brenda Lynette Sanchez

Brenda Lynette Sanchez, 38, affectionately known as Didi, passed away on Sept. 6, 2024, in Blanca, Colo. Born on June 11, 1986, in Steamboat, Colo., to Juan and Alicia "Lisa" Sanchez, Didi's vibrant spirit and infectious energy were evident from the start.

Didi's formative years were spent in the Colorado mountains, where she cultivated a love for life's simple pleasures. She graduated from high school with a determined spirit and went on to further her education, earning a Cosmetology Degree that would pave the way for her entrepreneurial journey. Didi's passion for beauty and self-expression led her to own a successful trucking business, where she applied her trademark dedication and warmth.

A loving mother, Didi's world revolved around her children, Elyciana Sanchez and Damiyan Ray Suazo. Her love knew no bounds, and her guidance was both gentle and unwavering.

She is survived by her father Juan Sanchez of San



Luis, Colo.; her siblings Brittney Sanchez of Blanca, Colo., Juan Sanchez, Jr. of San Luis, Colo., and Angelique Sanchez of Costilla, N.M.; her grandma Alicia Sanchez of Blanca, Colo.; her grandpa Jose A. Sanchez of Blanca, Colo.; her aunts and uncles Rosaline Esquivel of Blanca, Colo.; Joey (Renee) Sanchez of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Louise (Felix) Medina of Chama, Colo.; Bobby Sanchez of Chama, Colo.; Amelia (Leroy) Sanchez of Chama, Colo.; Anthony (Bernadine) Sanchez of San Luis, Colo.; as well as numerous great aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends.

Eric Jay Valdez

Eric J. Valdez, born Nov. 24, 1970, was called home on July 19, 2024. Eric, the son of Maria (Ida) and the late Elmer J. Valdez, passed away peacefully at home.

He is the brother of Earl J., Lori L. and the late Tina Maria Valdez. Eric was the proud father of Joshua (Najondine), Nazaray, Angelica, Brooklyn and grandfather to Josh and Avdiana.

He was co-owner of Rio Culebra Ranch, a Cen-

tenial Ranch, and J & J Storage. If anyone wishes to donate in memory of Eric, please donate to the Stations of the Cross on behalf of the Sangre De Cristo Parish, San Luis, Colo. A private intimate family service will be held at a later date.

Rest in Peace Eric, we love and miss you.

To Leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted

to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.



PENDING OBITUARIES

Michael Phillip Lopez

Ft. Garland resident Michael Phillip Lopez, 61, departed this life on Sept. 9, 2024. His arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Yumiko Benson

Canon City resident Yumiko Benson passed away on Sept. 8, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Frank Muniz

Beloved Alamosa resident Frank Muniz passed away Sept. 9, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.



Photo NPS

Join Shirley Atencio to learn about the history of the Trujillo Homestead. She will make a presentation on the homestead on Sept. 14, at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve at 4 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Great Sand Dunes

CONTRIBUTED
GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK and PRESERVE — On Saturday, Sept. 14, kick off Hispanic Heritage Month by learning about and celebrating the San Luis Valley's Hispanic heritage. All events are free, but regular park entrance fees are in effect.

At the park visitor center:

• 4 p.m. - Trujillo Homesteads Lecture

Learn about the Trujillo family homestead and the volatile history of early ranching in the San Luis Valley. Presented by Trujillo family descendants.

• 5 p.m. - Los Vecinos Borders

This dance group from the San Luis Valley performs traditional Spanish dances and then asks the audience to join them for a closing dance.

• 6 p.m. - Las Semi-

llas de La Tierra

This local folklorico dance group performs a variety of traditional dances in full costumes from various regions of Mexico.

• 7 p.m. - Borderline

Borderline is a family band with father-son members Travis, Brandon, and Ryan Gonzales. Travis taught his sons to play bass and drums when they were 13 and 11 years old, and they have since played at local venues and for local festivals around the southern portion of the San Luis Valley. Borderline plays Spanish music from southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, as well as country, rock, and oldies.

At the campground amphitheater:

• 8:30 p.m. - Evening Ranger Program

After dark, stay for a ranger-led presentation on unique aspects of the

night sky and nocturnal animals. 30-minute presentation with images and video clips on the large screen, followed by a constellation tour using a laser pointer.

School Menu
Wednesday
September 11, 2024

BREAKFAST Turkey Sausage On A Roll Fruit & Milk
ELEMENTARY Teriyaki Chicken & Rice Stir Fry Vegetable/Egg Roll Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL Teriyaki Chicken & Rice Stir Fry Vegetable/Egg Roll Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL Teriyaki Chicken & Rice Stir Fry Vegetable/Egg Roll Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students Alamosa School District To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Director's cut — 'The Milagro Beanfield War'

By MILLIE DURAN

SAN LUIS VALLEY— "The Milagro Beanfield War," the novel, was written by John Nichols and published in 1974. As the story goes, most of the west side of Milagro was deserted except for the land of Amarante Cordova and the land Jose Mondragon inherited from his father. A wealthy developer, Ladd Devine now owned the other farmers' land.

The beanfields were barren because over 35 years ago there were complicated legal and political maneuverings known as the 1935 Interstate Water Compact, and much of Milagro's Indian Creek water had been reallocated to big-time farmers in the southeast portion of the state or in Texas.

This caused a deep, long-smoldering, and relatively universal resentment by the folks in Milagro. Still, nobody had ever figured out how to bring water back to that deserted westside land. But Ladd Devine and his assortment of vultures planned to make the westside green again. The project

they were pushing was called the Indian Creek Dam.

Tired like most of his neighbors, Jose suddenly decided to irrigate his dad's little beanfield on the west side and grow himself some beans. This was certain to cause a war.

Director Millie Duran, with Casa Milagro Youth Solutions (CMYS), and John Nichols began talking over three years ago. CMYS was focused on Theater of the Oppressed. Nichols clearly understood the correlation between his fictional novel and the oppressive prominence of land grants and water rights that the San Luis Valley had been fighting for over 300 years and that continues today.

Duran asked Nichols if he was willing to allow permission for Casa Milagro Youth Solutions to write a play from his novel, "The Milagro Beanfield War." After about a month of talking at great lengths and sending him our brochure and information about CMYS's work, Nichols agreed.

Unfortunately, Nichols passed away on Nov.



27, 2023, and did not get to read the script in progress or see a performance. However, we pay trib-

ute to and honor John Nichols for his dedicated work in social justice. "The Milagro Beanfield War" is loved

by many worldwide and holds deep, engrained connections to the generations who endured these struggles. Many of our youth actors are heirs to the land grants in the Valley, and they are here to share this story with Nichols's humor in every direction. Gracias, John Nichols.

For our youth, this was a challenge they never imagined they would take on. Each actor, despite having no prior experience, plays several characters between four and eleven and has worked tirelessly for hundreds of hours, demonstrating unwavering commitment and integrity to this valuable production. Their dedication is truly inspiring.

The parents, too, have been invaluable, adjusting their schedules to accommodate the

constant changes. We acknowledge them with tremendous gratitude.

Our communities have been instrumental in this undertaking, assisting us in numerous tasks. Whenever we needed help, they were always there, ready and willing to pitch in. Their support has been invaluable, and we are proud to be part of such a supportive community. We are indebted to every one of them.

The play has been performed in the Valley in San Luis, Alamosa, and Saguache and will have a final show in Conejos on Thursday.

"The Milagro Beanfield War" will be performed at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall in Conejos on Thursday, Sept. 12. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., and admission is free.

Adams State hosts Thomas Valles on Sept. 16

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The McFarland High School cross country team became a legend in 1987 after winning the California State Meet. Coached by Jim White, the team championship was chronicled in the 2015 Disney movie "McFarland USA."

Adams State University is hosting a lecture by Thomas Valles, the top runner of the 1987 McFarland team, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16, in Richardson Hall Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

According to mcfarlandusa.biz, Valles shares the message of perseverance, dedication and success to thousands of students, business owners and crowds across the nation. He inspires and connects with many sharing the message, "champions can come from anywhere;" and the vision that anything is

possible as it is "all in the attitude."

Adams State will host a free screening of the movie, "McFarland USA," at dusk on Sunday, Sept. 15, on the lawn outside the Adams State Theatre Building. According to Disney.movies.com, the movie, "McFarland USA," was inspired by a true story about novice runners from McFarland, an economically challenged town in California's farm-rich Central Valley, as the team give their all to build a cross country team under the direction of Coach Jim White, a newcomer to their predominantly Latino high school.

Valles received a college degree and served in the US Coast Guard and started a career with the California Department of Corrections before returning to McFarland to raise a family and help coach the McFarland girls cross country team.



Courtesy photo
Thomas Valles, top runner for the 1987 McFarland High School cross country team, will present a free lecture on the Adams State campus on Sept. 16.

ASU

Continued from Page 1

President David Tandberg, Ph.D., said. "But we did it and we should all be proud. This is very much a cause for celebration."

Much of the increase came from part-time and non-degree students. The post-graduate enrollment in

teacher education, MBA, and music education increased as well. Overall, graduate enrollment was down slightly, however students did enroll in more classes than last year.

Adams State is projecting an increase in both undergraduate and graduate students for the upcoming spring semester as well. Applications are currently

being accepted and registration for the spring semester begins October 30, 2024. Visit adams.edu for information or to apply.

Adams State is the most affordable residential university in Colorado when factoring in the total cost of attendance, which includes tuition and fees and room and board.

Newly appointed As-

sistant Vice President of Enrollment Management Mark Buck said, "Understanding the entire financial process and how to approach funding one's education can be confusing for students and parents. Simplifying and assisting students in navigating through the financial aid process will continue to be a priority for us here at Adams State."

Chavez

Continued from Page 1

lice Department (APD) was dispatched to the 1700 block of State Avenue on the report of a shooting. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found a male victim, lat-

er identified as Enrique Parra, who had been shot. Life saving measures were immediately instigated and Parra was transferred to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

Chavez, identified as a suspect in the shooting,

fled the scene, initiating a manhunt with numerous law enforcement agencies in the San Luis Valley assisting along with a drone from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

On the morning of Aug. 2, APD requested assistance from the US Marshals in locating

Chavez. Within hours, the US Marshals, with assistance from local law enforcement, took Chavez into custody in Santa Fe, N.M.

Since his arrest, Chavez has been held in the Alamosa County Detention Center on a \$10 million bond.

Tandberg

Continued from Page 1

this informal discussion, and a question-and-answer period. Tandberg earned a bachelor's in history/social studies education from Admas State in 2002. While

a student, he was elected president of Adams State's student government and competed as a member of the cross-country and track teams. Tandberg earned a master's in political science and a Ph.D. in higher education from Penn State University. In the spring of

2023, Tandberg was selected as the twelfth Adams State president after guiding the university through 10 months as interim president.

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding,

goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. For more information about Rotary International, see www.rotary.org/en.

For more information about the Alamosa Rotary Club, call 719-588-2557.

Hunter

Continued from Page 1

into the area. At approximately 11:30 Monday morning, while all the teams were out looking, the command post received a call from personnel at the Osier Station. The caller stated that an individual matching Pacheco had walked up and told them he had been lost. Rescue personnel responded immediately

and confirmed that it was Pacheco. An ambulance crew responded to the scene and gave aid to Pacheco who was cold, hungry and tired, but otherwise in relatively good shape. He was then reunited with his family and friends.

The Conejos County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all those who helped in the search. The response for help was overwhelming and reflects the great community we live in.

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Opinion

Gender and intensity gaps

By STEVEN ROBERTS

Kamala Harris' chances of winning the election continue to increase because she is improving her performance on two critical and related metrics -- the gender gap and the intensity gap.

A key issue driving these trends is abortion, which is having two effects at the same time: It is energizing the Democratic base, especially younger women, and it is discouraging some of Donald Trump's most ardent anti-abortion rights supporters, who fear he's wobbling in order to woo moderate voters.

This collision has been building since the Dobbs case in June 2022, when the Supreme Court -- with the support of three Trump-appointed justices -- overturned the constitutional right to obtain an abortion. Ever since Republicans flopped in the midterm elections five months later, reports The New York Times, "Mr. Trump has been privately emphatic with advisers that in his view the abortion issue alone could kill their chances of victory in November." Anthony Scaramucci, briefly Trump's communications director, told The Hill that on the abortion issue, "He's in trouble. He knows it."

In both of Trump's national races, he received between 46% and 47%, and today, in an average of national polls compiled by the website Real Clear Politics, he attracts 46.3% of the vote. That means he has a high floor of devoted followers, but a low ceiling of possible support, and almost no room to expand his base.

Sure, there are a few genuinely uncommitted voters out there, but the real battle is about mobilization, not conversion. If your base is enthusiastic, then they are more likely to give money, volunteer time, talk to their friends and, most importantly, actually vote.

In 2020, about two-thirds of all eligible voters cast ballots, the highest turnout since 1900. But that means 1 of 3 did NOT vote. Who stays home -- or votes for a third-party candidate -- is just as important as who goes to the polls. And for a generation, Democrats have depended heavily on their ability to maximize the female vote.

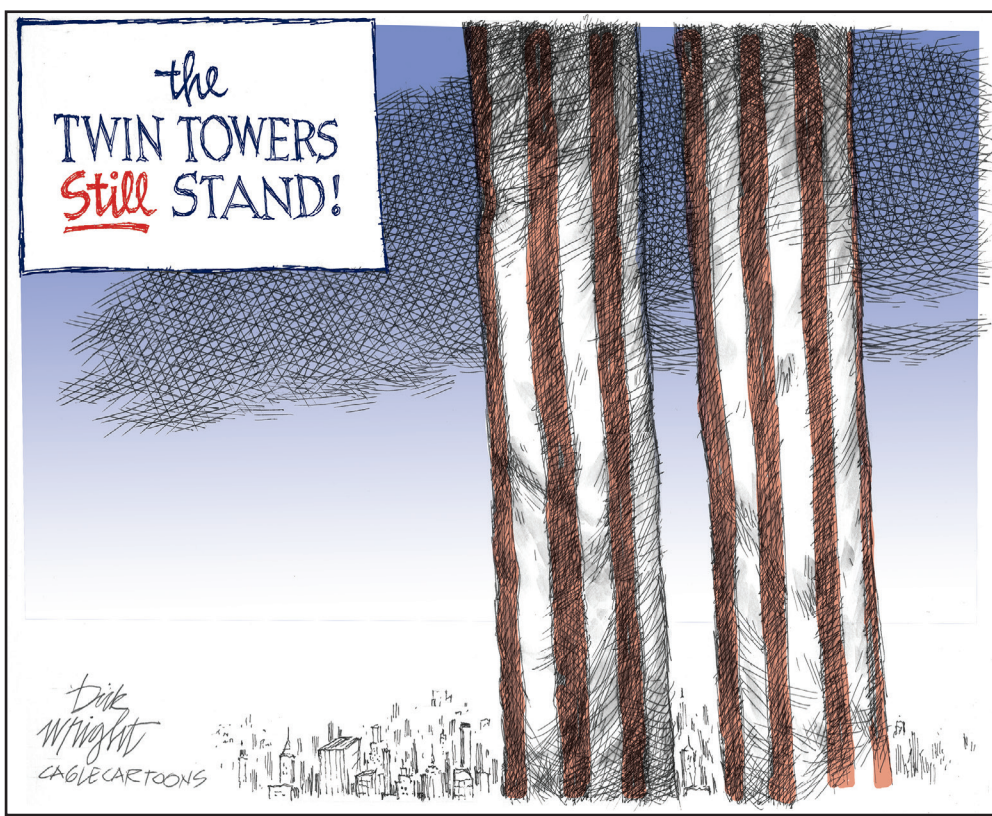
In 1996, for example, Republican Bob Dole narrowly won the male vote, but Bill Clinton clobbered him by 16 points with women. In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the women's vote with 54% but lost to Trump; Joe Biden increased his share to 57% of women four years later and squeaked to victory.

In the latest ABC/Ipsos poll, Harris leads Trump by 4 points nationally, and since the Democratic convention, her advantage with women voters has grown from 6 to 13 points. When Biden was the party's nominee, Trump enjoyed a large advantage on intensity, but that has now been reversed. Nine of 10 Democrats view Harris favorably, but only 7 in 10 Republicans like Trump. Abortion is critical to that shift. The Roe decision in 1973 that legalized abortion energized opponents of the ruling, but the Dobbs decision profoundly altered that dynamic. About 3 in 5 voters consistently tell pollsters they oppose Dobbs. However, Biden, an 81-year-old Roman Catholic man, was never comfortable promoting abortion rights and could not maximize its potential as a wedge issue. Enter Harris, a 59-year-old woman who so revels in the issue that she's planning a 50-stop bus tour focused on reproductive rights. Moreover, she has shrewdly expanded the abortion question in two ways: She has included a defense of IVF and other fertility treatments that are even more widely popular than abortion rights -- but opposed by the staunchest anti-abortion rights factions. And she has cast abortion as a symbolic example of a larger battle for women's rights and personal freedom. The Times reports, "For women younger than 45, abortion has overtaken the economy as the single most important issue to their vote." By 20 points, voters prefer Harris over Trump to handle the abortion issue -- double the advantage Biden enjoyed.

This trend has driven Trump into conceptions and contortions. Recently, he implied that he would support a Florida referendum overturning a ban on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. When his anti-abortion rights supporters howled in protest, he reversed course again, but he continues to strain relations with religious conservatives by embracing IVF treatments and opposing a national ban on abortion.

It's hard to imagine any True Trumpers voting for Harris -- but that's not the point. Trump has little ability to expand his base and has never tried to. His whole strategy depends on maximizing their fervor -- and their turnout. So, if Harris can continue to expand the gender gap and the intensity gap, the odds swing clearly in her favor.

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.



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."

40 years of living with wolves

Biologist Diane K. Boyd has had a front-row seat to 40 years of wolf recovery in the West, but her new memoir reveals that entanglements with humans in Montana were often tougher than dealing with the four-legged predators.

There's a proud literary canon of women telling their stories of studying wildlife in remote places -- Mardy Murie in Alaska, Jane Goodall in Tanzania, Dian Fossey in Rwanda. Now, Boyd's memoir, *A Woman Among Wolves -- My Journey Through Forty Years of Wolf Recovery*, runs in that pack on the strength of her personality and the drama she documents in both the natural and human worlds.

Boyd was raised in Minneapolis, where her suburban upbringing included regular escapes to local swamps and a zoo. At the zoo, alarmingly, one of the caged wolves bit her dog. Nonetheless, Boyd emerged enamored with both wolves and the wildness they represent.

After becoming a biologist, Boyd found a mentor in the famed wolf researcher David Mech, working with him in the upper Midwest. A woman of statuesque frame and Nordic features, Boyd stood out in a field dominated by burly alpha males, all studying wolves that were then an endangered species.

Her career gained momentum when she moved to Montana in the 1980s, just as wolves were trickling into Glacier National Park from Canada. These wolves would reset the ecology of the American West and, along with it, set a course for her life.

The main setting of Boyd's book is Montana's North Fork of the Flathead River, which remains a remote valley flanked by fir forest and glacier-sculpted mountains. This is one of the only places south of Canada that still has all the native predators it had before settlers arrived--grizzlies, mountain lions, wolverines, lynx and more. It's so spectacularly scenic that Hollywood Westerns have been filmed there, yet so remote it still lacks electric power, pavement and phone lines.

In the 1980s and '90s, the North Fork of the Flathead was also a unique natural laboratory. A decade before the Clinton administration and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt began relocating wolves into Yellowstone National Park, in 1995, the animals recolonized the North Fork



Photo courtesy of Diane K. Boyd

Boyd with a tranquilized wolf in northwestern Montana in the early 1990s.

on their own. Boyd and her cohorts were there to document their dispersal, compiling data while force-feeding wood stoves to heat drafty cabins in subzero winters.

Boyd's memoir vividly paints that place and time, spiced by tales of derring-do -- trapping wolves for radio-collar research, surviving close calls with grizzly bears, crossing icy rivers and flying small planes low over dangerous terrain. It also paints colorful portraits of fellow scientists along with neighboring hermits and poachers, outfitters and loggers.

In those early days, scientists weren't sure that wolves would regain a toehold in the American West. By the end of Boyd's career in 2019, the population of wolves had grown from a rumored few to thousands of animals.

The wolves proved resilient, reproducing faster than the rigors of the wild and the hand of man could limit them. From a conservationist's perspective, recovery of the animals has been a remarkable success of the Endangered Species Act.

Yet Boyd also illustrates the dark side of that story. Some of it is personal -- a man who grabbed her leg and tried to assault her in the backwoods of Minnesota; two pursuing men she scared off with a

hunting rifle at a remote cabin.

Nearly as unsettling is her more recent tale of representing the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks at contentious public meetings in rural Montana. Elk and deer numbers go up and down like the stock market, but when numbers of game animals seem low, wolves are the favorite scapegoat.

At times, Boyd and her colleagues had to stand before a crowd of armed and angry men, fueled both by alcohol and politically driven disinformation. Such can be the reality of being a public servant in today's West.

"Wolf management is people management. Period," Boyd concludes. "My hope is for a more tolerant world, with wolves living out their lives as a valued wildlife species. We can live without wolves, but the world is a much richer place with wolves in it."

Reading Boyd's memoir, it seems we've come a long way, though wolves still have a lot of enemies who wish they'd disappear.

Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit that aims to spur lively conversation about the West. He is the author of "Hunter and Angler: Field Guide to Raising Hell" and can be found at www.conservationforthewin.org.

Writers On The Range



Ben Long

Write them

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

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

Lifestyles

Hunting seasons start in Colorado

How hunters and outdoor recreationists can prepare

CONTRIBUTED COLORADO

The 2024 hunting seasons have begun, and hunters are gearing up for exciting adventures. However, hunters aren't the only ones rushing to the outdoors this fall to enjoy everything Colorado has to offer.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wants to remind hunters, hikers, bikers, leaf peepers, wildlife viewers, and OHV users that most of Colorado's outdoors is multi-use and intended to be shared. Hunters and nonhunters should show respect and courtesy to all users engaged in outdoor recreation.

• Plan your hunt

Read the "What's New" page in the Big Game Hunting Brochure or watch the "What's New" 2024 Colorado Big Game video to get a complete list of game management unit-specific changes for 2024.

Find locations to hunt using the Colorado Hunting Atlas. This resource allows you to find public land, save topographic maps, view big game migration corridors and concentration areas, and view OHV trails.

Additional licenses are still available. Licenses Leftover from the draw are available for deer, elk, pronghorn, and bear, and you can purchase over-the-counter licenses for bear, elk, pronghorn, and white-tail deer. Licenses returned by other hunters (reissue licenses) are available ev-

ery Wednesday morning. Check the CPW website every Tuesday for a preview list of reissue licenses before they go on sale at cpwshop.com.

If you have questions about setting up your accounts, planning your hunts, or purchasing licenses, customer service representatives and hunt planners are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MT at 303-297-1192. Hunting resources are available at cpw.state.co.us/hunting.

CPW also encourages hunters and outdoor recreationists to download the free Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) mobile app to check active fire alerts before heading out on trails.

• Hunters' role in wildlife conservation

Colorado manages its wildlife using the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the cornerstone of modern wildlife conservation across the United States. This revolutionary model uses hunting and fishing fees to fund conservation efforts and protects wildlife from exploitation, habitat destruction, or extinction.

For almost two centuries, this model has been a large part of the reason why Colorado's wildlife is so healthy and abundant. This model is still the most successful wildlife management model in the world.

Hunters also play an essential role in CPW's chronic wasting disease (CWD) management. Their participation in mandatory CWD testing initiatives is vital to wildlife managers' ability to assess the disease's prevalence and make data-driven manage-

ment decisions.

"One of the only CWD management tools we currently have at our disposal is the hunting community itself," said CPW Big Game Manager Andy Holland. "Hunters play a vital role in controlling CWD by harvesting select deer and other cervids more likely to carry the disease and submitting samples for analysis. This helps CPW understand the disease's prevalence and distribution in the state and evaluate if management strategies are working."

• Gray wolves and coyotes: how to spot the differences

Coyotes and gray wolves can look similar from a distance. CPW created a Coyote or Gray Wolf - How to Spot the Differences Handout to help you spot the differences.

The federal Endangered Species Act and state law protect gray wolves in Colorado. Penalties for illegally killing a gray wolf can vary and can include fines up to \$100,000, jail time, and loss of hunting privileges. Find more wolf educational resources at cpw.state.co.us/living-wolves.

How can nonhunters prepare for hunting season?

The majority of public lands in Colorado are open to multiple types of recreational use. There is no need to limit your outdoor activities in the fall; however, nonhunters should recognize that hunters are on the landscape and take additional precautions.

A general knowledge of hunting season dates and safety tips can help keep you safe.

Big game season dates

- Rifle bear season - Sept. 2-30
- Archery season - Sept. 2-30
- Muzzleloader season - Sept. 14-22
- Rifle seasons
 - 1st season - Oct. 12-16
 - 2nd season - Oct. 26 to Nov. 3
 - 3rd season - Nov. 9-15
 - 4th season - Nov. 20-24

For safety reasons, big game hunters using a firearm must wear fluorescent orange or pink when in the field (camouflage orange or pink is not allowed). While not required, it is recommended that other recreation users wear bright colors as well, especially



Courtesy photo from CPW

The 2024 hunting seasons have started in Colorado. during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons.

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with hunters, including causing animals to flee, denying access to public areas, or injecting yourself into the line of fire. Learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado at cpw.state.co.us.

EPA lets Colorado off the hook again in air pollution open records, environmentalists say

By **MICHAEL BOOTH**
Colorado Sun

The Environmental Protection Agency is letting Colorado air pollution officials off the hook for making records available to members of the public who might want to help police corporate rule breaking, two state environmental groups say.

The federal agency had previously held up approval of a key "state implementation plan" detailing how Colorado will stop northern Front Range violations of EPA ozone caps. The EPA in delaying approval had agreed with environmental groups that Colorado should more frequently demand records from polluters and make them easily accessible.

But Colorado pushed back hard, arguing that its proposed system provided "effective and reasonable" access to anyone who wanted it, and that the EPA's initial demands went above and beyond what the agency was requiring of other states. Attorney General Phil Weiser's office sued the EPA in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, as required by the Clean Air Act, to stop the demands for expanded open records.

Now it's likely the environmental groups will have to file their own lawsuit with the 10th Circuit, demanding the EPA's tougher open-access rule be put back in place.

Coloradans wanting to check up on actual air pollution emissions from oil and gas or other sites will be "getting just the tip of the iceberg," said Ryan Maher of the Center for Biological Diversity, which along with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has been challenging Colorado's open records rules. "And the EPA and Colorado are saying, well, that's all the public needs."

Adding insult to Coloradans, Maher said, is that the EPA reversed its position on the open records rules without consulting any public groups or individuals.

The gap of information available to the public comes frequently in flaring operations at oil and gas production sites, with rules requiring that the producer have burning devices that remove 95% of methane and volatile organic compound emissions created as an extraction byproduct, Maher said.

The oil and gas company may only need to report once a year that it has the minimum required equipment in place, Maher said. But those reports don't say how often the flaring equipment is offline due to malfunction or maintenance, or whether it's truly burning up 95% of pollution. Unless state inspectors demand those records and put it online in a way the public can access, enforcement lags, Maher said.

"There's 14,000 permitted entities out there, and the state is not requesting records on a regular basis," Maher said.

"We know that we're not going to get access to a lot of this unless it's required by the EPA," he said. "That's why this situation is especially disheartening, where the EPA initially came out with such strong language in favor of public enforcement, and then just kind of accepted what I view as pretense ... superficial explanations."

The Denver regional office of the EPA said Monday it was still evaluating comments on its proposal to accept new State Implementation Plan details from Colorado, and would respond to groups like Center for Biological Diversity before taking final action. The EPA said that after it had initially rejected parts of Colorado's state imple-

mentation plan for lack of records access, the state "submitted a letter committing to undertake additional steps to improve public access to regulatory compliance information and clarify existing SIP reporting requirements."

Colorado air pollution control officials said they would not have any comment about the open records dispute.

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2023 Delinquent Property Tax Information

Real Estate Property

- **September 27, 2024** – Advertising costs will be added
- **October 4, 11, and 18, 2024** – Property will be advertised in the Valley Courier
- **November 19 and 20, 2024** - Tax lien will be sold on the property at the 2024 Tax Lien Internet Auction

Alamosa County Treasurer's Office is currently undergoing a software conversion and our office will be closed from 9/9 to 9/13/2024. During this conversion it is possible we will lose the ability to print previous years tax statements, so please use our website (in October) to pull a previous year tax notice or call in October and we can email those previous years to you.

www.alamosacounty.org or 719-589-3626

Sports

High school football preview – Week 3

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The third week of the high school football season is this week with all but two local teams in action.

Here are thumbnail sketches of this week's games.

#5 (2A) ALAMOSA (2-0) AT #2 (3A) PUEBLO CENTRAL (0-2)
This week: It will be a Top 5 battle as the Alamosa Mean Moose, ranked fifth in 2A, travel to the Pueblo Central Wildcats, ranked second in 3A. It will be played Thursday at historic Dutch Clark Stadium at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Mean Moose defeated Banning Lewis Academy 51-0 last Friday at home. The Wildcats scored a 32-7 win at Eaton last Saturday.

Next week: Alamosa will play at defending state champion Delta next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Pueblo Central will host Moorpark (Calif.) next Friday at 7 p.m.

ANTONITO (0-2), IDLE
This week: The Antonito Trojans were originally scheduled to travel to Mountain Valley this week. However, their Wolves canceled the program, therefore, it will be an open week for the Trojans.

Last week: The Trojans lost at Bethune 55-7 last Saturday.

Next week: Antonito will host Sierra Grande next Friday at 3 p.m.

CEDAREGGE (1-1) AT CENTER (0-2)
This week: The Center Vikings will host the Cedaredge Bruins Friday at 1 p.m.

Last week: The Vikings lost to Olathe 41-16 last Friday at home. The Bruins lost to Coal Ridge 47-28 at home last Friday.

Next week: Center will travel to Ellicott next

Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Cedaredge will host Del Norte next Friday at 3:30 p.m.

#2 CENTAURI (2-0) AT #8 BUENA VISTA (2-0)

This week: It will be a Top 10 battle in Class 1A as the second-ranked Centauri Falcons will travel to play the eighth-ranked Buena Vista Demons Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Falcons defeated Class 2A Pagosa Springs 21-20 at home last Friday. The Demons defeated Platte Valley 39-35 at home also last Friday.

Next week: Centauri will host another 2A team in Bayfield next Friday at 7 p.m. Buena Vista will have an open week.

DEL NORTE (0-1) AT ROARING FORK (1-1)

This week: The Del Norte Tigers will travel to Carbondale to face the Roaring Fork Rams Saturday at 1 p.m.

Last week: The Tigers

had an open date. The Rams lost to Yuma 50-7 at home last Friday.

Next week: Del Norte will travel to Cedaredge for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff. Roaring Fork will play Prospect Ridge Academy in Broomfield next Saturday at noon.

HAXTUN (1-1) AT SANFORD (1-1)

This week: The Sanford Mustangs will play at home for the first time this season as it will host the Haxtun Fightin' Bulldogs Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Mustangs defeated Swink 52-6 on the road last Saturday. The Fightin' Bulldogs defeated Wichita County (Kan.) 22-12 at home last Friday.

Next week: Sanford will host Fowler next Friday at 7 p.m. Haxtun will host Crowley County next Saturday at 1 p.m.

NORTH FORK (1-1) AT MONTE VISTA (1-1)

This week: The Monte

Vista Pirates will play their first home game of the season as the North Fork Miners Friday at 6 p.m.

Last week: The Pirates defeated Rye 43-7 on the road last Friday. The Miners had an open date.

Next week: Monte Vista will travel to Class 2A Pagosa Springs next Friday with kickoff slated for 7 p.m. North Fork will host Banning Lewis Academy next Saturday at 11 a.m.

SANGRE DE CRISTO (1-1), IDLE

This week: The Sangre de Cristo Thunderbirds will have an open date.

Last week: The Thunderbirds defeated Soroco 50-14 last Saturday in Buena Vista.

Next week: Sangre de Cristo will travel to Dove Creek next Saturday with game time scheduled for 1 p.m.

SARGENT (1-1) AT HOEHNE (0-1)

This week: The Sargent

Farmers will travel to the Hoehne Farmers this Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Last week: Sargent lost to Hayden 58-22 last Friday at home. Hoehne had an open date.

Next week: Sargent will host Custer County beginning at 7 p.m. next Friday. Hoehne will travel to Julesburg to play Sedgwick County next Friday at 4 p.m.

#5 SIERRA GRANDE (2-0) AT KIOWA (1-1)

This week: The fifth-ranked Sierra Grande Panthers will be on the road to face the Kiowa Indians Friday at 7 p.m.

Last week: The Panthers defeated Deer Trail 59-7 last Saturday at home. The Indians defeated La Veta at home last Friday at home.

Next week: Sierra Grande will travel to Antonito next Friday for a 3 p.m. kickoff. Kiowa will travel to Bethune next Saturday with the game slated to begin at 2:30 p.m.



Tuesday's article about the Joel Vigvil Invitational inadvertently omitted one runner in the high school girls competition.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Alamosa High School's Josh Gonzalez (52) pressures Banning Lewis Academy quarterback into a bad throw in last Friday's game at the AHS stadium. The Mean Moose, ranked fifth in Class 2A, will travel to Pueblo to take on Pueblo Central, ranked second in Class 3A, Thursday at historic Dutch Clark Stadium. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Pirate golfers win another tournament

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Monte Vista High School boys golf team won its second straight tournament Monday as it came out on top at the Gunnison Invitational at Dos Rios Golf Course.

The Pirates had a score of 229 and were led by Kaden Mellott who finished second with a 74. Connor Mellott was third with a 75, Liam Ellithorpe

was ninth with an 80, and Jakoby Ross was 16th with an 85.

Alamosa finished 10th with 288. Leading the Mean Moose were Brady Van Iwarden who was 23rd with a 90, Gibson Gillespie who was 41st with a 98, Clayton Treinen who was 44th with a 100, and Jaidyn Burciaga who was 47th with a 101.

Del Norte was 14th with 308. Tytus Atencio and Landan Velasquez led

the Tigers as they tied for 42nd with a 99. Trenton Wolf was 57th with a 110, and Noah Bailey was 61st with a 119.

Alamosa will next compete at the Rocky Ford Invitational on Thursday. This was the final regular season action for Monte Vista and Del Norte as they will next compete at the Class 2A Region 1 Tournament on Sept. 30 at Hollydot Golf Course in Colorado City.

High school football standings

CLASS 2A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Alamosa	0-0	2-0
Bayfield	0-0	1-0
Montezuma-Cortez	0-0	2-1
Pagosa Springs	0-0	1-1
Gunnison	0-0	0-2
Salida	0-0	0-2

Last week's scores
Friday
Alamosa 51, Banning Lewis Academy 0
Bayfield 41, Aztec (N.M.) 7
Centauri 21, Pagosa Springs 20
Delta 51, Gunnison 12
Woodland Park 31, Salida 7

Saturday
Strasburg 47, Montezuma-Cortez 13
This week's schedule
Thursday
Alamosa at Pueblo Central, 7 p.m.
Friday
Meeker at Gunnison, 6 p.m.
Florence at Salida, 7 p.m.
Gallup (N.M.) at Bayfield, 7 p.m.
Monte Vista at Pagosa Springs, 7 p.m.
Open date: Montezuma-Cortez

CLASS 1A SOUTH CENTRAL LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Centauri	0-0	2-0
Monte Vista	0-0	1-1
Del Norte	0-0	0-1
Center	0-0	0-2
Ignacio	0-0	0-2
Trinidad	0-0	0-2

Last week's scores
Friday
Centauri 21, Pagosa Springs 20
Monte Vista 43, Rye 7
Olathe 41, Center 16
Raton (N.M.) 47, Trinidad 28
Open date: Del Norte, Ignacio

This week's schedule
Friday
Cedaredge at Center, 1 p.m.
North Fork at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.
Centauri at Buena Vista, 7 p.m.
Ignacio at Olathe, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Del Norte at Roaring Fork, 1 p.m.
Open date: Trinidad

8-MAN MOUNTAIN LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Dove Creek	0-0	2-0
Dolores	0-0	1-1
Mancos	0-0	1-1
Norwood	0-0	1-1
Sanford	0-0	1-1
Sargent	0-0	1-1

Last week's scores
Friday
Dove Creek 22, Rangely 20
Hayden 58, Sargent 22
Mancos 26, Sedgwick County 8

6-MAN NORTHWEST LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Primero	0-0	2-0
Sierra Grande	0-0	2-0
Branson/Kim	0-0	1-1
Antonito	0-0	0-2
Cotopaxi	0-0	0-2
La Veta	0-0	0-2

This week's schedule
Thursday
Walsh 66, Cotopaxi 6
Friday
Kiowa 51, La Veta 24
Primero 68, Manzanola 7
Saturday
Bethune 55, Antonito 7
Granada 32, Branson/Kim 0
Sierra Grande 59, Deer Trail 7
This week's schedule
Friday
Primero at La Veta, 7 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Kiowa, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Branson/Kim at Cotopaxi, 1 p.m.
Open date: Antonito

8-MAN SIX COUNTY LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Fowler	0-0	1-1
Sangre de Cristo	0-0	1-1
Walsenburg	0-0	1-1
Crowley County	0-0	0-1
Hoehne	0-0	0-1
Custer County	0-0	0-2

Last week's scores
Friday
Las Animas 51, Walsenburg 14
Plateau Valley 42, Custer County 6
Simla 38, Fowler 7
Saturday
Sangre de Cristo 50, Soroco 14
Open date: Crowley County, Hoehne

This week's schedule
Friday
Calhan at Crowley County, 7 p.m.
Custer County at Holly, 7 p.m.
Sargent at Hoehne, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Akron at Fowler, 1 p.m.
Walsenburg at Questa (N.M.), 7 p.m.
Open date: Sangre de Cristo

6-MAN SOUTHWEST LEAGUE		
Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Monticello (Utah)	44	Dolores 12
Sanford 52, Swink 6		
Vail Christian 30, Norwood 28		

This week's schedule
Friday
Haxtun at Sanford, 7 p.m.
Rangely at Dolores, 7 p.m.
Sargent at Hoehne, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Dove Creek at Escalante (N.M.), 1 p.m.
Merino at Mancos, 1 p.m.
Norwood at Plateau Valley, 1 p.m.

CORRECTIONS

Centauri High School's McKenzie Torres finished in 23rd place in 20:40.72. She placed the highest of any of the Lady Falcon

competitors. The Valley Courier apologizes for the error. **ASU-WNMU game** Also, the final score in

the Adams State-Western New Mexico game on Saturday was 46-36 in Western New Mexico's favor, not 39-30.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCHEDULE TUESDAY
Prep boys soccer
Alamosa at Taos (N.M.) – late
Prep girls softball
Alamosa at Rocky Ford – late
Prep girls volleyball
Sangre de Cristo at Antonito – late


SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
College women's volleyball
Texas A&M-Kingsville at Adams State, 6 p.m.


THURSDAY
Prep football
Alamosa at Pueblo Central (at Dutch Clark Stadium), 7 p.m.
Prep boys golf
Alamosa at Rocky Ford Invitational, 9 a.m.
Prep girls softball
Southeast Colorado at Alamosa, 4 p.m.
Prep girls volleyball
Center at Buena Vista, 4 p.m.
Bayfield at Alamosa, 4:30 p.m.
Del Norte at Pagosa Springs, 4:30 p.m.
Cotopaxi at Sangre de Cristo, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY
Prep football
Cedaredge at Center, 1 p.m.
North Fork at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.
Centauri at Buena Vista, 7 p.m.
Del Norte at Roaring Fork, 7 p.m.
Haxtun at Sanford, 7 p.m.
Sargent at Hoehne, 7 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Kiowa, 7 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 3 p.m.
Prep girls volleyball
Center at Cotopaxi, 2 p.m.
North Fork at Monte Vista, 2 p.m.
Sanford at Swink, 4 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Kiowa, 4:30 p.m.
College women's soccer
West Texas A&M at Adams State, 3 p.m.
College women's volleyball
Adams State vs. Angelo State (Texas) (At Colorado Mesa Fall Classic), 9:30 a.m.
Adams State vs. California State-Dominguez Hills (Colorado Mesa Fall Classic), 2:30 p.m.


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Con respeto a sus programas, servicios, actividades y prácticas de empleo, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority no discrimina en base a raza, color de piel, religión, género, edad, origen nacional, discapacidad ni en base a ninguna otra clasificación proyectada bajo ley federal, estatal o local.

colorado housing and finance authority

Lifestyle

Coloradans miss out on millions in unclaimed tax benefits each year

A new law aims to change that

By **TATIANA FLOWERS**
Colorado Sun

Department of Revenue, and then submit the forms to the Department of Revenue or the Internal Revenue Service.

The pilot initiative will launch while Colorado has increasingly lagged behind most other U.S. states for its number of residents who are eligible to receive the federal earned income tax credit but don't participate in the program, a problem always, but especially amidst the housing and affordability crisis, said several people interviewed for this story.

Legislators and other advocates who helped create House Bill 1288 said the intention of the law is to help lift Coloradans out of poverty and help them see that they can receive sizable refund checks from filing their taxes and by applying to receive money from tax credit programs.

The funds are so substantial that many families with low incomes plan their year around their refund checks to help themselves pay for food, rent, health care, child care, car payments, utilities and other important expenses. As a result, tax credits can help improve health, generational wealth and educational attainment for adults who receive them and their children.

Tax credits also have a "multiplier effect." Each dollar a family receives from an earned income tax credit can equal up to \$2 in economic activity where they live, which can help stimulate local economies, said Kathy White, executive director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute.

Coloradans who receive notices in the mail informing them about the pilot initiative will be curious about the program, Rutinel said. "So, it's important to boost awareness about this issue to increase the effectiveness of the program."

"This is personal for me," he said. "For a lot of folks, tax season isn't the happiest time of year, but growing up, I saw firsthand what the power was when my single mom was able to access these important entitlements and how much that helped us stay afloat."

State leaders appropriated \$167,585 from the general fund to the Department of Revenue for fiscal year 2024-25 to implement the requirements of House Bill 1288, which passed May 14.

Each year, Coloradans lose out on hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed federal tax benefits meant to stem poverty and help families make ends meet.

Now, a new state law aims to put more of that unclaimed money into people's pockets — by directing the Colorado Department of Revenue to persuade more residents to file their tax returns.

The goal of the pilot program, which the law says must launch by Aug. 15, 2025, is to help thousands of Colorado households receive funds they're owed, but that they don't know they are eligible for.

"I think it's so clear that poverty is a policy choice and it's a tragedy that in the wealthiest nation in the world, we still have folks that struggle to make ends meet," said state Rep. Manny Rutinel, a Commerce City Democrat and sponsor of House Bill 1288, which passed this year and created the pilot program. "Hopefully, this takes us in a better direction."

House Bill 1288 requires the Colorado Department of Revenue to help up to 100,000 Colorado households file or amend a federal or state income tax return, or both, and claim the federal or state earned income tax credit, or the federal or state child tax credit, or even all four of those, for up to two previous tax years.

The move will help Coloradans who participate access some of the largest tax credit programs available.

Program participants, especially those with children and very low incomes, could receive more than \$10,000 through the program in some cases, the largest lump sum of money many Coloradans receive all year.

The Colorado Department of Revenue must also select and work with a "third-party entity" that will help it identify eligible Colorado households and persuade them to opt into the program.

The third-party agency would then prepopulate federal and state tax forms for each participant, using wage data and other information already kept by the

8 healthy snack ideas kids will love

(METRO) — Parents know that growing children need a lot of food. According to pediatric dietitian Hanna Leikin, MS, RD, CSP, LD, kids need a higher calorie demand per body weight compared to adults to support bone development, muscle growth and other bodily functions. Perhaps that's why it seems like a stocked refrigerator or pantry can become barren in just a few days when kids are in the house.

Children are frequently looking for snacks between meals, which means that parents need to have a variety of snack foods at the ready for their youngsters. But it can be a struggle to find healthy snacks children will eat. With that in mind, parents can consider these eight healthy alternatives to less nutritional fare like chips or sugary treats.

1. Fruit on a stick: It seems any food enjoyed on a stick is fun to eat. This is certainly an item for older kids, as parents won't want to worry about younger children getting injured with the pointy wooden skewers. Simply slide a variety of chopped or sliced fruit onto the skewers and make a healthy, colorful snack. For an added bonus, include a small cup of low-fat vanilla yogurt for a fruit dip.

2. Baby carrots and hummus: Who can resist baby carrots? After all, they seem tailor-made for kids' small fingers. Pair

with a homemade or store-bought hummus, which is full of protein and fiber. You can even find dessert hummus, which may prove particularly appealing to children's palates.

3. Crackers and cheese: Choose whole-grain crackers and a low-fat cheese. This provides the crunch of chips without the fat and calories. In addition, cheese adds protein and the benefits of calcium and other nutrients found in dairy.

4. Nut butters and pretzels: Kids need unsaturated fats to spur brain growth and overall development. Nuts and nut butters offer these good fats. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases says peanut butter can be given to kids as young as four months old, and that early exposure may prevent peanut allergies. Additional nut butters include almond and cashew. Let kids dip pretzels into the nut butter for a filling snack.

5. Overnight oats creations: Let kids take part in building jars or containers of overnight oats with their favorite ingredients. When old fashioned rolled oats are mixed with low-fat milk (or dairy alternatives), raisins, granola, fresh fruit, chia seeds, and even low-fat yogurt and left to sit overnight, the result is a spoonable treat that's ideal for meals and snacks. Plus the fiber in oatmeal will help keep children feeling fuller longer.



METRO photo

Healthy snacks for children are easier to dream up than one may think. It can take children several times of seeing a new food on his or her plate before being inclined to try it, so parents should stay the course with healthy snacks even if kids are initially reluctant to try them.

6. Frozen smoothie bowl: This is a great alternative to ice cream. Simply blend your child's favorite frozen fruits (and toss in a few veggies) with low-fat Greek yogurt. Serve in a bowl with toppings like granola, finely chopped nuts or coconut flakes.

7. Energy balls or bars: Mix dates, nuts, seeds, and rolled oats and press

into bar shapes or roll into bite-sized balls when kids need a sweet and energizing snack.

8. Turkey and cheese roll-ups: Ensure that kids are getting enough protein by offering a lean protein source like sliced turkey. Roll up a slice of turkey or sliced chicken breast around a cheese stick for a portable and fun snack.

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

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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)

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1 is accepting applications for HS ASST. 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. (9/14/24)

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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)

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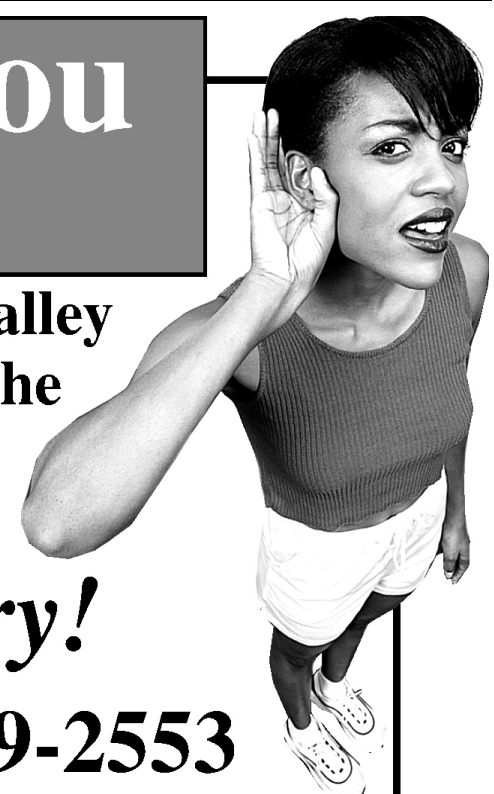
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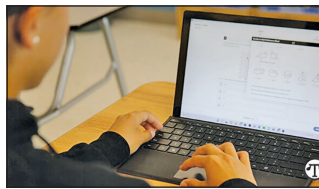
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Lifestyle

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Courtesy photo

Taking the SAT is a way for all students to aim higher, consider new options, and look hopefully to their path beyond high school.

The SAT is valuable because it's a strong predictor of college success, and colleges are increasingly asking students to submit test scores at the point of enrollment. In fact, after experimenting with test-optional policies during the COVID pandemic, many schools, including Dartmouth, MIT, Caltech, and Purdue, are reinstating testing requirements for admissions. And those remaining test-optional continue to use scores for critical decisions about admissions, student support, and class placement.

- **Content:** The reading passages on the SAT are short, with one question each; the ACT passages are longer, with 10 questions each. The math section on the SAT has a built-in graphing calculator and all necessary formulas are provided, which is not the case on the traditional ACT. Science reasoning is built into the reading passages and math problems on the SAT; the ACT has a separate science section.

A wealth of recent research found that amid all the components of a college application — grades, essays, extracurricular activities — test scores are among the most useful in identifying students ready to succeed. When viewed within the context of where a student lives and learns, test scores can help confirm students' grades or can even show their strengths beyond what their high school grades show.

- **Practice Options:** For the SAT, students have access to free practice resources including full-length digital practice tests and Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy®. ACT offers one free practice test, but also offers paid resources that can cost students and families several hundred dollars.

In addition, the SAT is now digital for everyone, creating a simple and straightforward option for students. ACT recently announced upcoming changes to the test that will require students to choose between 12 different versions after the full implementation is complete by fall 2025 (a paper or online version of the test, with the option to include a writing and/or science section).

Students are taking the SAT more than any other admissions exam, including the ACT. The new digital SAT meets the needs of today's students by providing a shorter test, with more time per question, and an overall streamlined testing experience as compared to the ACT:

- **Length:** The SAT is 2 hours and 14 minutes. That's 41 minutes shorter than the traditional ACT, with 67% more time per question on the SAT.
- **Technology:** The SAT is digital everywhere, and students take it on their own laptop, tablet or school-issued Chromebook. The ACT is mostly still paper and pencil, but with the digital version, students are assigned a device.

Registration is open for the 2024-25 digital SAT. Students are encouraged to register soon to join the millions who take the SAT every year as they plan for college and career.

Learn more at [SAT.org/](https://sat.org/) digital.

Colorado AG warns voters to watch for election-related AI 'deepfakes'

By LINDSEY TOOMER
Colorado Newswire

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser on Monday warned Colorado voters to be wary of election misinformation and disinformation created by artificial intelligence.

The Colorado Legislature passed a law this year that requires political candidates to clearly label advertisements that feature content generated by AI. That includes fake voices, videos and images created by a computer to look or sound like an individual, which are known as deepfakes. The law is focused on identifying AI-generated political content, rather than controlling its distribution.

Weiser, a Democrat, issued a public advisory with information to help voters distinguish content made with AI from real content and to educate Coloradans on the requirements of the new law. The advisory encourages consumers to check if a political communication includes disclosure of a deepfake and verify through a trusted source whether any communication includes a deepfake. It also warns that "bad actors" will attempt to influence public opinion through methods not covered by the law.

"Because images, videos, and audio created with artificial intelligence are becoming difficult to distinguish from the real thing, you should be cautious when forming opinions based on what you see and hear online, on TV, and receive in the mail," Weiser said in a statement. "The sad reality is that even AI-powered tools designed to detect these deepfakes have difficulty catching them. I encourage voters to do your research, get your news and information from trusted sources, and be mindful that the sophistication of AI means you can't always believe what you see and hear anymore."

The law's requirements apply to political communication within 60 days of a primary election or 90 days of a general election. Both state and federal candidates are subject to the new law.

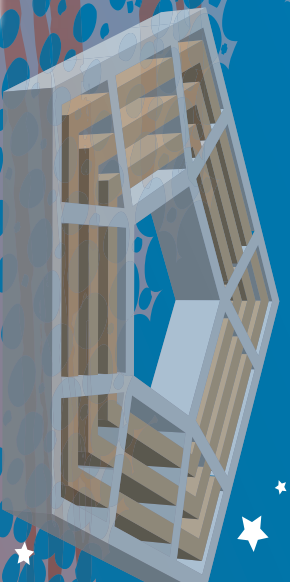
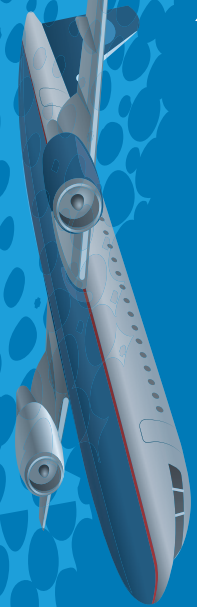
Voters have to file a complaint reporting an improperly disclosed deepfake to the secretary of state's office, and it would then go to an administrative hearing similar to those held for campaign finance complaints.

Weiser's office has not yet received any complaints related to the new law's requirements, nor has the secretary of state's office.

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 - Lucky Luke's Llc
 - Milne Sales Inc
 - Monte Vista Co-Op
 - Monte Vista Machine Tool
 - Monte Vista Potato Growers
 - Cooperative Assn
 - Moonlight Customs @ The Merc
 - Parts Plus Of La Jara
 - Peak Motorsports, Llc
 - Pepper Equipment Co
 - Purple Pig Pizzeria & Pub
 - Rg Bank
 - Rogers Auto Specialist
 - Romero Funeral Home
 - Sand Dunes Recreations, Llc
 - San Luis Valley Brewing Company
 - San Luis Valley Federal Bank
 - Schulz Realty
 - Slv Builders
 - Slv Electric/Ciello
 - Splashland
 - The Finery Boutique
 - The Ruby Slipper
 - The Zach Horning Agency
 - Town And Country Auto Mall
 - Trinidad State Junior College
 - Troy Plane Insurance Agency, Inc
 - Ulibarri Enterprises, Inc
- U.s. Tractor & Harvest, Inc.**
- Valley Collision
 - Valley Lock & Security, Inc.
 - Van Gieson & Company
 - Vemco Electric, Inc
 - Vendola Plumbing And Heating Inc.
 - Ziegler Farm & Ranch
 - Proximity Malt, Llc
- Car Sponsors**
- Alamosa Knights Of Columbus
 - Alan Mapque
 - Bambi Coffman
 - Carlos Playa
 - 4th Street Grille
 - A Better Cut Barber Shop
 - Adeline Salazar
 - Alamosa Car Care Center
 - Alamosa Elks #1297
 - Alamosa Paint And Body
 - All Star Car Wash & Detail
 - Altitude Ag
 - Altitude Appliances
 - Anna Walker & Ron Cortright
 - Anne M Robinson
 - Arby's
 - Ardee & Amanda Reyes
 - Ardee & Amanda Reyes
 - Avalanche Plumbing & Heating
 - Avon - Daisy Ortega
 - Bank Shot Sports Bar
 - Bill & Tami Fassett
 - Bobby & Shari Branch
 - Braeden Valdez
 - Braiden & Tinlee Hopper
 - Brenda Felmlee
 - Brian Flores
 - B & W Body Shop
 - Charley & Cat Johnson
 - Chris Mora
 - Chuck Owsley
 - Class Of '64
 - C & L Container Co
 - Constance Medina
 - Cortez Family
 - Craig Mcknight
 - C. Waters Gallery
 - David & Ann Young
 - David & Yvonne Arellano
 - Davis Tucker
 - Deagan Depriest
 - Del Mar Carpet One
 - Del Monte Gun Club
 - Dempsey Gibbs
 - Denise Thompson
 - Desiree Sierra
 - Domestic Irrigation, Inc.
 - Dos Rios
 - Dunes Inn
 - Dwayne Catalano
 - Dwight Catalano
 - Ed & Linda Teem
 - El Hefe's Vape
 - Eliana Salazar
 - Emma Turner & Chase Howard
 - Ernie & Berline Wooten
 - Evelyn Espinola
 - Express Carpentry
 - Floyd & Judy Oaks
 - Frontier Bank
 - Garth & Kimberly Mathes
 - Gary Bruder
 - George & Carmel Vigil
 - George & Stephanie Dingfelder
 - Gj "Red" Heiman
 - Glen & Berta Marquez
 - Good Speed Automotive Llc
 - Gordon Bosa
 - Greco's Lounge
 - Greg Brumley
 - Gunbarrel Station
 - Hair Experience
 - Harlow Gibbs
 - Harvey & Zina Horton
 - Hobby Town
 - Hunan Chinese Restaurant
 - Husmann Plumbing, Inc.
 - Ihop
 - In Memory Of Fran Strnad
 - In Memory Of Jr. Van Gieson
 - In Memory Of Mike Kline-Kline's
 - Kustom Colors
 - Ione Koenig
 - Jay Meyer Insurance Agency, Inc.
 - Jeff & Kay Harmon
 - Jeff Kline.
 - Jerry & Glenna Archuleta
 - Jim Campbell
 - Jim & Cynthia Clare
 - Jim's Tire Store
 - Johnnie's Auto Sales
 - John & Teri Brownell
 - Juanitos Restaurant
 - Judy Wiescamp
 - Kati, Ethan & Lucas Vigil
 - Kati, Ethan & Lucas Vigil
 - Keith & Roberta Layton
 - Ken Kolkman & Lori Sharp
 - Kenny & Kim Rodman
- Kensley Bowman-Burris
 - Kent's Exhaust Shop
 - Kent & Sharon Turpin
 - Kentucky Fried Chicken
 - Knee Knockers Bar & Grill
 - Kristi Mountain Sports
 - Law Office Of Karl Kuenhold Llc
 - Leon Friesell
 - Limb Walker Tree Service
 - Lori Laske
 - Louie & Peggy Luster
 - Lucas & Stephanie Riggenbach
 - Lucky Bamboo Chinese
 - Lu's Main Street Cafe
 - Maestas Construction
 - Maestas Welding
 - Main Copy Source.
 - Mammoth Fudge
 - Michael H. Trujillo
 - Michael Ward
 - Mike & April Gonzales
 - Mike & Janet Yohn
 - Mike Perea
 - Mike Prentice
 - Mike The Handyman, Llc
 - Mondello & Glenna Walstrom
 - Monty Smith
 - Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation
 - Mosca Pit Stop
 - Motz Law Firm, Llc
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 - Myrrl & Kathy Smith
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 - Nicole Valdez
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 - O&V Printing, Inc.
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 - Rocky Mountain Memorabilia.
 - Rocky Mountain Plumbing Supplies
 - Rocky Mt Home Health Supplies
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 - Rogers Family Mortuary
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 - Ruth & Larry Brown Enterprises, Inc.
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 - Sandra Hostetter
 - San Luis Valley Auto Repair
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 - Scott & Rose Clayton
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 - Scott's Paint & Body
 - Shawn & Jennifer Marques
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 - Valley Gun Service
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 - Van Iwaarden Builders, Inc
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 - Widowmaker Apparel
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Those Who Lost Their Lives

And the Loved Ones They Left Behind

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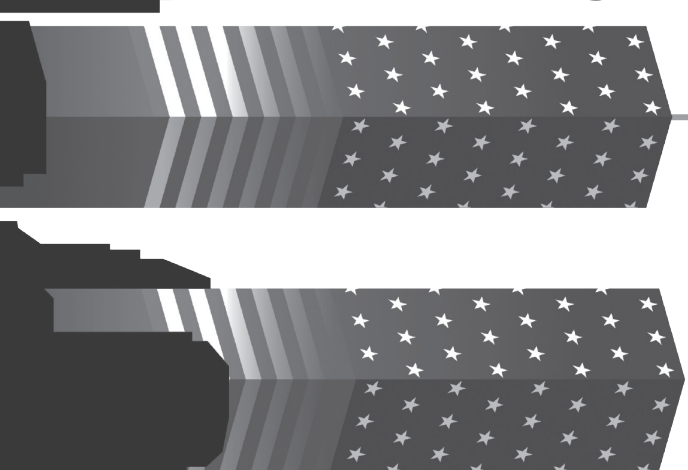
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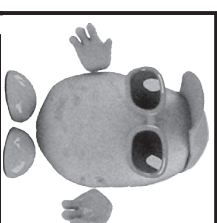
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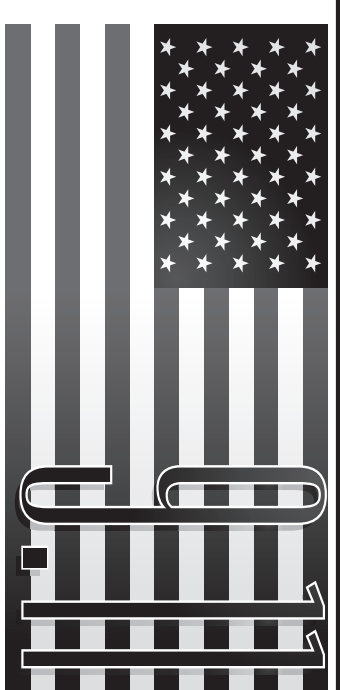
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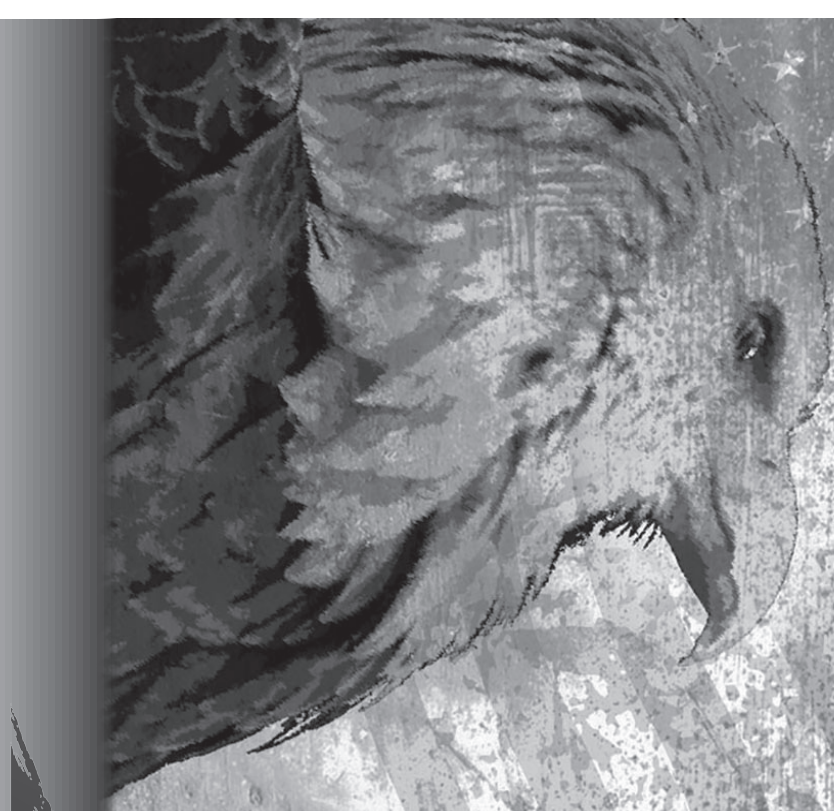


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