



Mustangs bitten by Bulldogs 60-0

— Page 6



Promises were broken on state-funded Rio Grande dam project, river advocates say

— Page 9



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

September 14, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

SLV Veterans plan annual parade

ALAMOSA — American Legion, Post 113, and Veterans' organizations of the San Luis Valley are planning the annual Veteran's Day Parade to be held on Monday, Nov. 11, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

The parade will stop in front of the reviewing stand at State and Main streets, at 11 a.m. to hold a solemn tribute to "our fallen comrades."

Everyone is welcome to participate — groups, schools and organizations. Parade lineup will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Main and La Due Avenue and the vacant lot on 6th and La Due. Those wanting to participate in the patriotic parade or for more information, should contact the parade chairman, Charlie Griego at 719-588-0324, Karilyn Espinosa, Adjutant of the American Legion at 719-379-3540 or Jack Rudder at 719-588-9838.

Retirement party for Lynette Cotton

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Senior Citizens Center Board of Directors cordially invites the public to a retirement party for Lynette Cotton on Friday, Sept. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center, 92 Colorado Ave. Cake, cupcakes, and punch will be served.

Registration open for Miner Walk/Run

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

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

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

People can register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Alamosa/StephanieLMiner5kWalkandRun>.

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

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Light and Variable Wind 79/39

Sun: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 78/44

Mon: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 74/46

INSIDE

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

Retirement salute planned for Cerny



Keith R. Cerny

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Longtime San Luis Valley newspaper publisher Keith Cerny will be honored with a retirement party Friday, Sept. 20 from 4-6 p.m. on the patio of Knee Knockers restaurant at Cattails Golf Course.

Cerny had been publisher of eight publications in the Valley since 1992, retiring in August 2024. He cut his journalistic teeth as a sophomore in high school in 1972, writing sports for his hometown newspaper, the Schuyler (Neb.) Sun.

He later served as a writer, photographer and newspaper manager in Ogallala, Neb.,

Wisner, Neb., Lusk, Wyo., and Evanston, Wyo., winning dozens of awards for his writing and photography in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado, including a first-place national award for coverage of agriculture while in Wisner.

Cerny was also a division manager for News Media Corporation for 30 years, overseeing newspapers in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and Oregon.

Over the years, he also served as a volunteer firefighter in Wisner and Lusk, for a combined 10 years.

After coming to Alamosa in 1992, Keith was named Ala-

mosa Citizen of the Year by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce in 1996, a board he served as chairman of for 1 1/2 years and served on for 13 years. The Alamosa Masonic Lodge also named him "outstanding citizen" in 1993.

He was awarded the prestigious Adams State Billy Adams Award in 2000. A 20-plus-year member of the Adams State Grizzly Club board, he and his wife Debbie were named Grizzly Club Members of the Year in 2011. He was also a member of the Adams State Foundation Board for 20 years.

■ See CERNY page 3

'Budding with Gratitude' goes up for 2024 ARTs Festival

Crews were busy at work on Friday, replacing sculptures that have graced the city streets of Alamosa since the ARTs Festival of 2023 with 15 new works of art, ARTs Festival sculptures of 2024. 'Budding with Gratitude' by artist Jodie Bliss is one of the new installations. "As a river swelling and swirling on the brink of overflowing quenches the mountain side Budding with Gratitude' reads the pedestal upon which the sculpture stands at the corner of Hunt and Main. Just one of many works of art to be seen on Saturday, Sept. 14, in the city of Alamosa.

Courier photos by Priscilla Waggoner



Courtney Hocking is the Adams State 2024 Exceptional New Alumna.

Hocking keeps her goals in sight

She is the 2024 Adams State University Exceptional New Alumna

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — In just two years since earning her B.A. in political science from Adams State, Courtney Hocking '22 is making impressive progress toward her goal of working in international relations. She will receive the Adams State 2024 Exceptional New Alumna Award at the Homecoming Banquet on

■ See HOCKING page 3

Use of 14ers is up locally and down elsewhere

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
COLORADO — The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) has been monitoring hiking use on Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks (14er) using infrared trail counters since 2014. Hiking some or all of Colorado's 58 14,000+ foot peaks is a passion for residents and visitors alike. The exhilarating in-pastime benefits hikers and our economy.

According to the initiative, 14er use in 2023 fell to an all-time low of 260,000 hiker use days, equaling the initial estimate from 2015. This represents a 6.8 percent

decline from 2022's estimate, reflecting a broader trend of decreased hiking activity since the peak in 2020 during the pandemic summer when use reached 415,000 hiker days.

While the number of people hiking 14ers overall fell in Colorado, the number of people hiking the peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in-pastime benefits hikers and our economy.

■ See 14ERS page 3
Lloyd Athearn with the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative installing an infrared trail counter just below the summit of Mount Lindsey.

Courtesy photo



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OBITUARIES

Monica Kim Ketcham



Monica Kim Ketcham (Lee), 64, of Los Lunas, N.M., former long-time resident of Colorado, passed into eternal rest on Sept. 6, 2024, after a courageous battle with long-term medical conditions. Born on the 1st of November 1959, Monica — known to most as Kim — was a steadfast beacon of love in the lives of her devoted family as a Wife, Mother, Daughter, Sister, and Mimi.

Kim is lovingly remembered by her husband, Barry Ketcham, with whom she shared a blessed 44-year union filled with unwavering companionship and support.

She leaves behind her beloved daughters Jessica Ketcham and Brittany Goering, a cherished

granddaughter Ashlynn Goering who were the light of her life. She is also survived by her father, Dick Lee; her sisters, Cathy Simpson (Cleave) and Denise Lee Marquez, and a host of loving relatives and dear friends.

Kim now rejoins in peace with her mother Katie Lou Lee and her brother Steven Lee who preceded her in passage.

A woman of many passions, Kim enjoyed trav-

eling, exploring various food cuisines, reading a wide range of literature, crafting, and gardening, of which many of these were also passed on to her daughters.

The Ketcham family expresses their gratitude for the heartfelt condolences received. Services will be held privately, managed with dignity and care by Noblin Funeral Home, Los Lunas, NM. Interment will be announced at a later date to be held in Alamosa, Colo.

Kim's memory will live on in the many lives she touched with her vivaciousness and her enduring love. May she rest in peace.

Flowers or donations in Kim's name can be made to American Heart Association,

Teresa Dolores Olivas 1938-2024



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Teresa Dolores Olivas, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister, who passed away surrounded by her family at home on Aug. 30, 2024, at the age of 86. Born on Aug. 11, 1938, Teresa lived a life defined by love, creativity, and unwavering faith, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.

Teresa was the devoted wife of Bert Olivas, her steadfast partner of 64 years. Together, they raised three daughters — Debra Ursula Linford, Kathy Maynor, and Annette Garcia — who were their pride and joy. Teresa found immense happiness in her family, including her grandchildren Jessica Henderson (Brian Henderson), Rachel Robbins (Brandon Robbins) Mara Emoto and David Garcia (Kimberly Garcia), as well as her great-grandchildren Josiah Joseph Henderson, Elena Jane Robbins, Liam Alan Robbins, and Teresa Grace Robbins.

Her love for her family was boundless, and she treasured every moment spent with them, finding joy in their accomplishments and offering wisdom and comfort in times of need. She also shared a close bond with her numerous siblings, embracing the role of family matriarch with grace and generosity.

was known for her talent as an avid quilter. Her quilts were more than just blankets; they were intricate works of art, reflecting her extraordinary ability to see and blend colors in ways most people couldn't. Each stitch was a testament to her creativity and passion, and her quilts will forever be cherished by those who were fortunate enough to receive one. She formed deep friendships with fellow quilters in the towns she lived in, Henderson, Nev., and La Jara, Colo., and she took great pride in the artistry she shared with them.

In addition to her quilting, Teresa was a skilled China painter, known for her meticulous attention to detail and the delicate beauty of her creations. She was extremely dedicated to her pursuits and her artistic talents knew no bounds. She elevated her craft to an art form and used them to bring joy and beauty into the world.

Teresa's life was filled with simple joys, which she appreciated deeply.

She loved her afternoon coffee at 3 p.m., cherished her tea parties, and spent many hours sewing, a pursuit that brought her both peace and fulfillment. Her kindness, perceptiveness, and insightfulness touched all who had the privilege of knowing her. She was always thoughtful, and her welcoming spirit made everyone feel at home in her presence.

Her faith was her compass, guiding her through life's challenges with grace and resilience. Teresa's happiness was infectious, and her laughter and love will be remembered by all who were blessed to have known her.

Teresa's arrangements are being handled by the Romero Funeral Home and her services will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, at Calvary Chapel Rio Grande Valley (19381 NM-314, Belen, NM 87002). Viewing at 1:30 p.m. and services will begin at 2 p.m. The services will also be live streamed on YouTube. com - search CCRGV Funeral.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends, and her artistic spirit will continue to inspire all who were touched by her work. May she rest in eternal peace. Please sign Teresa's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com, Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St., Belen, N.M.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Daughter KimAnna Cellura-Shields has opened an art gallery on Grande Avenue in Del Norte dedicated to her mother's life works.

New art gallery graces Grande Avenue in Del Norte

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Hidden among the many businesses lining Grande Avenue, a new gallery of fine art has opened its doors and is welcoming people to experience the colorful, excentric life of Joan "Blake" Higgins-Cellura captured in mixed media with a talented hand.

The gallery, 728 Grande Ave., is a sight to behold with the front room lined with memories and cherished treasures collected throughout Higgins-Cellura's life. Everything she held dear lines the shelves from Shirley Temple porcelain dolls to a wide collection of Robert Raikes Bears, the shop is a welcoming array into the life of a prolific artist.

"My mom was a presence. She turned heads when she walked into a room and loved every minute of it. It was who she was that drew people to her," said daughter KimAnna Cellura-Shields. "She has been an artist her entire life. Everything here was a part of her life."

With the help of several family members and friends, Higgins-Cellura's life was packed up from her home in Tucson, Ariz., and brought to its new home in Del Norte.

"We couldn't have gotten this done without all of our family and friends. My mom was so worried about what was going to happen with her belongings, so we were able to surprise her by opening this gallery. It has been cathartic for all of us to go through this process," said Cellura-Shields.

At the beautiful age of 85, Higgins-Cellura was diagnosed with the early stages of dementia and though she is dealing with some memory loss, she was beyond elated and



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

A new art gallery has opened in Del Norte and showcases a life of passion by artist Joan 'Blake' Higgins-Cellura. The gallery is a snapshot of a lifetime dedicated to art.

excited to find a home away from home once she knew the gallery housed her most precious possessions.

According to Higgins-Cellura's bio, she was born in Long Island, N.Y., and has been painting since she was able to hold a brush in her hand. Higgins-Cellura began showing her artwork at an early age and over the years her pieces won several prestigious awards.

In 1955, Higgins-Cellura married and moved to Rochester, N.Y., where she pursued a career in graphic art and worked for many years as a designer, illustrator, art director and ads manager, for companies like the infamous Lisa Frank.

Walking through the gallery is like stepping through time as patrons wander through the different phases of Higgins-Cellura's life. From becoming a doting parent, to her love of fashion, Higgins-Cellura dabbled in every form of media art

has to offer. Some of her most intricate work was done with marker, watercolor, paint, and pencil.

One thing that is most notable in her artwork is how Higgins-Cellura captures portraits, specifically the eyes. Human emotion is one of the hardest things to recreate, but Higgins-Cellura could create an emotion just by painting a person's eyes.

"My mother said she always started with the eyes when she would do portraits. They were the windows to the soul," Cellura-Shields said.

"Her imagination never stopped. She had a wealth of ideas, and she loved the bazaar, strange and beautiful. She was a fan of horror movies and everything that caught someone's attention," said her daughter Donna Hoefer.

The gallery will be open by appointment for the time being until a regular artist's schedule can be set. Appointments can be made by calling 719-588-1892.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Harmony Hernandez

San Luis resident Harmony Hernandez gained her angel wings Sept. 12, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Maria Darlene Vigil

Romeo resident Maria Darlene Vigil was called home to be with the Lord on Sept. 13, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Benito Tony Quintana

Passed away Aug. 16, 2024. Burial of his ashes will be Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, La Jara Cemetary at 1 p.m. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

Costilla County Community Talk series

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS — Join the Drug Free Communities Program, the SLV Teen Prevention Coalition and other community partners discussing Costilla County's substance use needs and learn about current prevention meth-

ods. Lunch will be provided along with Narcan and other resources. \$20 gift card available to the first 25 youth (ages 10-17) to attend. Flu shots will also be available by Costilla Public Health as long as supplies last.

The event runs from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Centennial School, 14644 state Highway 159 in San Luis. For local information, contact Shirley Romero Otero at 970-640-8014. Questions and or to RSVP prevention@bcgslv.org.

City considering changes to mobile food truck regulations

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Alamosa City Council will be considering changes to mobile food truck regulations on Sept. 18 and Oct. 2. Community members are encouraged to attend the meetings at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave., Alamosa. The changes aim to balance the interests of mobile vendors and brick-and-mortar restaurants while promoting economic development and public safety, according to a press release from the City of Alamosa.

Possible key changes include:

- Reducing the required distance from brick-and-mortar restaurants from 200 to 100 feet (with a majority-approval clause for exceptions)
- Allowing vending on

gravel vacant lots

- The changes would remove the distance requirement for special events and allow mobile food trucks in City-owned lots and public rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis
- Other provisions cover permit requirements, application procedures, operational guidelines, and enforcement

The original ordinance and the proposed changes are available on the City Clerk's website at <https://cityofalamosa.org/city-council-agendas/>.

Those unable to attend can share their thoughts with city council members through the council or contact form at <https://cityofalamosa.org/departments/city-council/>.

The meetings will also be accessible via Zoom.

For more informa-

tion, contact the City of Alamosa Development Services Department at planning@alamosa.gov or 719-589-6631.

School Menu
Monday
September 16, 2024

BREAKFAST
Cereal
Fruit & Milk
ELEMENTARY
Beef Nachos
Refried Beans
Churro/Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Beef Nachos
Refried Beans
Churro/Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL
Beef Nachos
Refried Beans
Churro/Veggie Bar
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To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

ASU celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA – Adams State University has a variety of events planned for Hispanic Heritage Month, including “A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Concert” at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, in Richardson Hall Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Adams State will host 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. A free screening of the movie, “McFarland USA,” begins at dusk on Sunday, Sept. 15, on the lawn outside the Adams State Theatre Building. The events are free and open to the public.

The 4th annual Custom Car and Bike Show, sponsored by the Five Star Riders Car Club, will be held during homecoming from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, on the McDaniel Hall parking lot. Beginning at 2:30 p.m., is the Maestas Slow Cruise Car Parade to Zapata Park followed by a block party with Aztec Dancers and Dynamic Band performance. For more information about the car show, contact Jaimie Dominguez at

719-937-9039. The event is free and open to the public.

Priscilla Falcon, Ph.D., will present “STRIKE: National Florist Workers vs Kitayama,” book talk and signing at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in McDaniel Hall 101. Light refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to the public.

The long-anticipated San Luis Valley’s Got Talent 2024 performance begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, in Richardson Hall Auditorium. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Hispanic Heritage Month is sponsored by the Adams State Equity Board, College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Cultural Awareness and Student Achievement Center (CASA), the Spanish Club, TRIO Upward Bound, TRIO Student Support Services, the Departments of Sociology, Spanish and Music, Alumni Relations, and El Llanado Hispano.

For more information contact Heidi Schneider, Ph.D., Inclusive Excellence Liaison, hlschneider@adams.edu, or Charlie Olson, Inclusive Excellence Liaison Office assistant, at olsonc001@adams.edu.

Continued from Page 1

Sept. 27.

For tickets or more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 719-587-8110 or visit adams.edu/alumni and click on the Homecoming 2024 link.

“It’s really no surprise that Courtney is to receive the Exceptional New Alumna Award. She’s earned that honor many times over,” said Hocking’s mentor, L. Mari Centeno, Ph.D., professor of political science. “There are so many reasons to be proud of her. What I am most proud of, though, is that Courtney continues to accomplish it all while maintaining the best of her humanity: a strong commitment to social justice, overwhelming generosity, and a fierce sense of humor. That is no easy task while working in state politics and completing a graduate degree in global politics. Adams State must be incredibly proud to have contributed another outstanding human to the world. What we should probably be most proud of is that she is proud to be one of ours.”

Hocking is a senior legislative aide for fellow Adams State alumnus, Representative Matthew Martinez ‘13, Colorado Representative for District 62. “Courtney has stepped up and

flourished as my Chief of Staff,” Rep. Martinez said. “She does amazing work. Many of the other aides at the Capital approach her for advice. Courtney is very deserving of the award.”

She is also a year from completing a master’s degree in Global Affairs with an emphasis on global economy and development from University of Oklahoma. She is now working on Martinez’s reelection campaign, as well as on Kamala Harris’ campaign for president.

“I’ve learned so much working with Rep. Martinez. International relations takes a much broader focus, so working with Matt, I have to narrow down to a local level. My passions have taken that lead. I’m really focused on water management and water rights and the Department of Corrections education program.” She was proud to work with Martinez on passage of HB 1037, which gives non-violent offenders reduced sentences for completing a college degree while incarcerated. After she earns her master’s, she hopes to work in the State Department.

“I feel I have an edge in my graduate program because of my education at Adams State. I was a little worried about writing at the graduate level. But my experience as a student of Dr. Centeno more than prepared me for grad school,” she said. “I credit my success to the super-close re-

lationships I developed with my professors.”

Hocking was active in Model United Nations as an undergraduate; her four-woman Adams State team won the Distinguished Delegation second-place award at the 2021 Annual International Collegiate Model United Nations Conference. She remains in touch with Model U.N. advisor Centeno and Michael Mumper, Ph.D., professor of political science and coordinator of the master’s program in public administration.

Hocking served as president of AS&F (student government) during her senior year, following a year as vice president, as well as interim Student Trustee. She completed internships in the City of Pueblo Mayor’s Office and Adams State Office of Alumni Relations and was an academic advisor at Adams State before taking the position with Martinez.

As an undergraduate, Hocking received several scholarships through the Adams State Foundation, including the Bill and Beth Waters, Stuart Hilwig HGP Honors, Henry & Emma Salazar, and Ralph Outcalt scholarships. She received the Vice-President for Student Affairs Outstanding Leadership Award and the Student Life Leadership Award. She is proud to have finished college debt free.

14ers

Continued from Page 1

creased 18 percent or 1,500 to approximately 10,000 annually.

The CFI is a nonprofit that partners with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to preserve and protect the natural integrity of Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks through stewardship such as the monitoring project and education.

A primary factor contributing to the overall decline was the closure of the popular Decalibron Loop near Alma for much of the season due to private landowner liability concerns. This resulted in a 17,500-day drop (-55%) in the Mosquito Range.

Several 14ers in Colorado are privately owned, or the landowner requires permission to access routes to reach them

Nearby, 14,047-foot Culebra Peak on the Cielo Vista Ranch is privately owned and requires a fee of \$150. According to the ranch, it is the highest privately owned peak in the world. Access across the Trinchera Blanca Ranch has been closed

for several years to hike 14,055-foot Mt. Lindsey.

Hiking use also decreased in three of Colorado’s seven ranges containing 14ers, including the popular Front Range closest to the Denver metro area. Meanwhile, peaks such as Mount Bierstadt and Quandary Peak remained the most popular, each with use estimated in the 25,000-30,000 hiker days range.

CFI’s estimate of hiking use suggests a statewide economic impact of \$70.5 million directly attributable to hiking 14ers in 2023, based on past economic expenditure studies performed by Colorado State University economists. This significant contribution underscores the importance of 14ers recreational activities to the local economy.

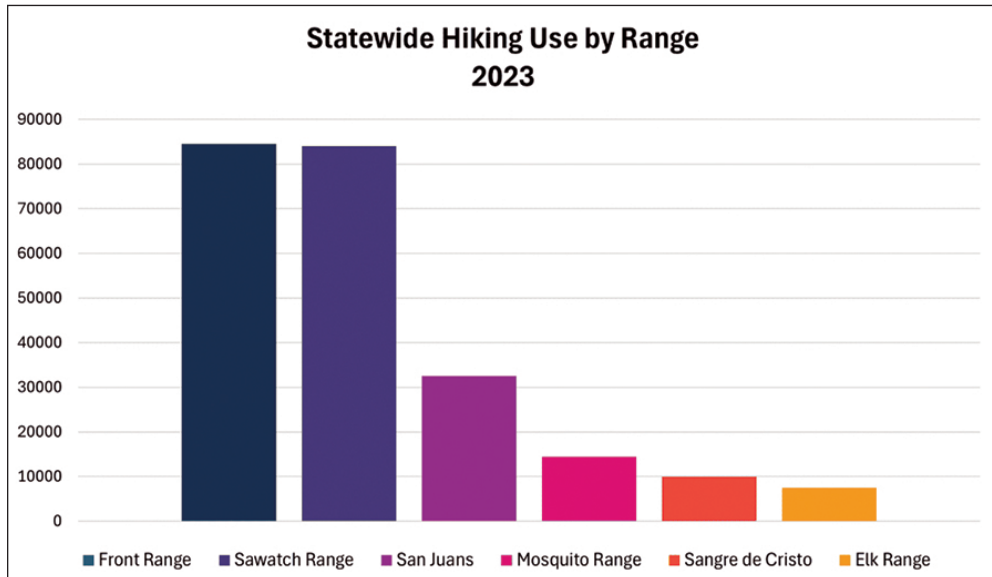
Their study found that climbers of Quandary Peak near Breckenridge spent an average of \$271.17 per day on gasoline, food, lodging, equipment, and other retail purchases.

The CFI estimates that 32,500 people hike the 14ers in the San Juan Mountains and approximately 10,000 hikers in the Sangre de Cristos.

This reporter encounters many hikers in the Sangre de Cristos accessing 14ers and has found the vast majority are from outside the region and are visiting specifically to ascend a 14er. Using the economic estimate of \$271 per day, the recreational users’ financial impact on both sides of the range is \$2.16 million daily.

According to CFI, in 2023, an estimated 57 percent of all statewide hiking use (148,000 hiker days) occurred on the 12 peaks closest to the Denver metro area (Front Range, Tenmile Range, Mosquito Range, and Mount Elbert). The remaining 46 peaks accounted for 112,000 hiker days. Compared to the prior year, hiking use fell in the Mosquito Range (-17,500 days, -55%), San Juan Mountains (-5,500 days, -14%), and Front Range (-3,000 days, -3%). However, hiking use increased in the Tenmile Range (+5,000 days, +23%), Sangre de Cristo Range (+1,500 days, +18%), and the Elk Mountains (+500 days, +7%).

The most recent report from CFI culminates nine years of data collection from up to 23 infrared



Range use.

Courtesy photo

trail counters placed adjacent to summit hiking trails, covering 21 peaks statewide.

The initiative uses “hiker use days” to represent one person hiking one peak on a given day, offering a comprehensive view of hiking activity on Colorado’s 14ers. By understanding hiking use levels, seasonal dispersal, and trends over time, CFI can better assess the impact of hiking on the fragile alpine environments of Colorado’s 14ers, guiding efforts to preserve these unique landscapes.

Colorado’s 14ers are among the most sought-after mountain peaks

in the country. They also possess some of the most fragile alpine landscapes. Plants in the alpine, those above tree line (at about 11,500’), are incredibly delicate. The plants in this wonderland grow in extreme environments of intense solar radiation, high and destructive winds, and low temperatures. Despite these harsh elements, they have adapted to these conditions. Although hearty, they can quickly be damaged by human intrusion.

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative is at the forefront of educating the enthusiasts who hike/climb in the alpine tundra regarding the fragility of this ecosystem and how

they can have less of an impact. Visit www.14ers.org to learn more about this treasured ecosystem and how to protect it.

The hiking and climbing use is confined to a short four-month climbing season when the mountains are primarily snow-free. Natural resource impacts in the fragile alpine tundra environment, stemming from the lack of adequately designed and constructed summit trails on the 14ers, led to CFI’s founding in 1994.

Next week, the Valley Courier will feature the hiking adventure of a longtime Crestone resident detailing a recent experience of summiting his first 14er, 14,087-foot Challenger Point.

Cerny

Continued from Page 1

Cerny has served on the ASU Athletics Hall of Fame board for several years and was master of ceremonies for their annual awards ceremony numerous times.

Cerny was a six-year member of the Colorado Press Association Board of Directors and served

as president of that board in 2015-16.

He also received the Honorary Chapter of Farmer Award by the Alamosa High School FFA chapter twice and was awarded the Sportsman of the Year by the San Luis Valley Chapter of Ducks Unlimited in 2005. In addition, he was awarded the Earl Steers Outstanding Service Award by the Ala-

mosa High School Maroon Pride booster club in 2013.

A longtime supporter of economic development in the SLV, Cerny served as president of the local Alamosa economic board three times. He also served on several other local committees and boards, including as a longtime member of the Rotary Club. He also served as a 17-

year member of the SLV counsel representing the El Pomar Foundation and was a member of the Creede Repertory Theatre board for a total of 12 years.

Cerny is the father of six and has 11 grandchildren. He said he doesn’t have any future plans other than staying involved in the SLV community and spending more time in Creede.

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY COLORADO® <i>Great Stories Begin Here</i>		CALENDAR OF EVENTS				September	
SUNDAY • 15 Outdoor Movie: “McFarland USA,” 7 p.m. Theatre Building Lawn Free	MONDAY • 16 Thomas Valles Presentation: 5:30 p.m. Richardson Hall Auditorium Free	TUESDAY • 17 www.adams.edu	WEDNESDAY • 18 Wellness Wednesdays: AHEC Resources, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Student Health & Wellness Resource Center Kindred Spirits: <i>Community Agreements: A Tool for Promoting Equity in the Classroom and Beyond</i> Colleen Schaffner, Ph.D., 12 p.m. SUB Banquet Rooms Hispanic Heritage Month: Loteria on the Lawn 5 p.m. High Rise Apartment Green Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>Cosmology and Fractal Explorations</i>	THURSDAY • 19 Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>Distant Worlds: Alien Life?</i> Faculty Lecture: <i>What AI Can Never Do</i> Chris Kam, Ph.D., 6 p.m. McDaniel 101 Free	FRIDAY • 20	SATURDAY • 21 M Soccer vs Sul Ross State University 10 a.m. Soccer Field W Soccer vs Sul Ross State University 1 p.m. Soccer Field	
Through September 20, 2024							
Cloyde Snook Gallery: <i>Floor Saga: Photographic documentation of a 350-hour performance</i> The Church Project Community Art Center Hatfield Gallery: New Works by Matt Capell and Nora McBride Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday							

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Opinion

Encountering tornados on screen and off

As I gathered my thoughts for my weekly column, I rewatched "Twister" (1996) and still sat on the edge of the red vegan leather lazy boy. I jumped and screamed just like I did when the original scenes stunned me in the movie theater 28 years ago.

The characters used the CB radio to contact each other; "Did you see that twister? Are you OK?" Then the caravan would ride like a tornado posse to rescue each other.

As I recall that 1994 summer evening in Williston, N.D., neighbors had spread out asking people on the block: "Come take cover"—Those who needed to hide from that reported tornado heading to the neighborhood did follow.

I remember answering the knock at the door and the neighbor asked, "There's a tornado spotted, we have a basement so come on over." Feeling static electricity rush my face, I gathered my Cocker Spaniel and my Cockatiel in my hands and "booked it" behind the neighbor.

Running but clutching the bird with my right hand, I still balanced my dog like a football. A wind caught

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss



me off guard. Immediately, I tumbled to the ground and buckled to my knees. My grip kept my unleashed Cocker and cageless Cockatiel safe. I thought I had to keep them steady because the wind could whip them up and away from me. I also was making sure I didn't squeeze too tight, so I didn't hurt him.

We were ushered downstairs. The basement was a safe haven for us and one or two other dogs but no other birds. Moms and dads began talking to each other. "I'm surprised that a tornado appeared. I think it's unusual here."

The owners asked, "Anybody need anything to drink? Beer. Water, pop?" Not everybody found a seat. I, for

one, just hugged the wall. I manipulated Yellow Feather into a pocket, and he began whistling, and playing peekaboo. I had to place my dog Tiffany on the floor because she had grown heavy; then a neighbor from two houses down offered a leash to keep her close by.

The movie "Twister" ended after the couple played by Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton quickly sought safety from the tornado. Horses galloped on the other side of the fence. Plus, some country homes blew apart. Finally, they found a small building with pipes planted deep in the ground so that they could strap themselves to it. As the little outbuilding disintegrated in the F5 tornado, the couple

To submit news, email:
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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."

— now strapped-in, was lifted parallel to the ground as the storm pulled them in the air. Then the upheaval stopped. In the distance, their tornado posse entered the scene.

After that tornado buzzed the Williston neighborhood, I had extended friends and family who stopped to talk when we checked our mail, headed out on evening walks or borrowed milk for scrambled eggs. It was a village cued up for neighborly kindness—twister or no.

Nelda Curtiss is a retired college educator and long-time local columnist. Reach her at columnsbynellie.com or email her at columnsbynellie@gmail.com.

The debate about the debate

By ANN COULTER

Debate winner: CNN's Candy Crowley. In 2012, she -- the moderator -- interjected herself into a Romney-Obama debate to fact-check Mitt Romney with a lie. But unlike ABC's crack moderators on Tuesday night, at least she only did it once.

I'm exhausted from fact-checking ABC's fact-checkers, so I'm just going to tell you about a brilliant experiment that pretty clearly established who won the Trump-Clinton debates in 2016.

The media say Trump whiffed Tuesday night, but that's what we were told in 2016, too. It also could be that Kamala Harris came across as a smirker -- MSNBC's signature move -- just like Hillary Clinton did. You've probably forgotten this -- if you ever knew it -- but notwithstanding Clinton's allegedly devastating debate performances with Trump, she bombed. There's scientific proof.

Feminists were ecstatic when Trump called Clinton "a nasty woman" at one of the debates, rushing out with "nasty woman" T-shirts, pins, backpacks and other merchandise. With the feminists' usual finger on the pulse of the nation, it never occurred to them that maybe she was nasty.

Trump was responding to Clinton's snotty aside -- while describing her Social Security plans, of all things:

Clinton: "My Social Security payroll contribution will go up, as will

Donald's -- assuming he can't figure out how to get out of it -- but what we want to do is --"

Trump: "Such a nasty woman."

In order to test the feminist theory that Clinton, as a woman, was judged much more harshly than Trump, a couple of professors at New York University and INSEAD designed the perfect experiment. Two months after the election, they re-created the 2016 debates, but with a man playing Clinton and a woman playing Trump.

Professional actors were hired to reenact segments from each of the three debates, using the candidates' exact words, gestures, intonation and stances. During rehearsals, they even had a screen with the actual debate running behind them to ensure a precise replica of the candidates' performances, with only the genders inverted. (For you confused Gen Z'ers, back then there were only two genders.)

The professors and their (sold-out) audiences were stunned by the result. As NYU professor Joe Salvatore put it, instead of confirming their "liberal assumption" that "no one would have accepted Trump's behavior from a woman, and that the male Clinton would seem like the much stronger candidate," audience members found themselves hating the male Clinton and being impressed by the female Trump. This is how Salvatore described the

reactions:

"We heard a lot of 'now I understand how this happened' -- meaning how Trump won the election. People got upset. There was a guy two rows in front of me who was literally holding his head in his hands, and the person with him was rubbing his back. The simplicity of Trump's message became easier for people to hear when it was coming from a woman -- that was a theme. One person said, 'I'm just so struck by how precise Trump's technique is.' Another -- a musical theater composer, actually -- said that Trump created 'hummable lyrics,' while Clinton talked a lot, and everything she said was true and factual, but there was no 'hook' to it." (Sadly, the Trump bump among the musical theater crowd was short-lived.)

One audience member said she found the [male] Clinton "really punchable."

I suspect the Trump-Harris debate will elicit similar reactions. Trump is Trump, a known quantity. His scattershot delivery isn't going to shock anyone. If you already detest the man, your view was confirmed. But if you don't hate him, Trump put a lot of points on the board, while Harris said nothing, and said it smugly.

The debate sure didn't give undecided voters what they wanted from Harris. As has been widely reported, they are waiting breathlessly for

some hint of what she believes and what she would do as president. After the ABC debate, they're still waiting. About all they learned is that Harris comes from a middle-class family. (That regular guy routine worked great for John Kasich!)

But they know that life was better under Trump. And they know that Harris, like Clinton, is a nasty woman.

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

Write them

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STATE SENATE

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cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

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Contact: bennet.senate.gov

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary pur-

pose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliat-

ed with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website: slvaa.org

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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.

Religion

Pope Francis on cats, babies and Indonesia

It was the kind of quote that, when said by the right person under the right conditions, would inspire bold headlines.

"Your country ... has families with three, four or five children," Pope Francis told President Joko Widodo of Indonesia. "Keep it up, you're an example for everyone, for all the countries that maybe ... these families prefer to have a cat or a little dog instead of a child."

The pope's words didn't draw much flak, especially when compared with the media firestorm when critics resurrected a 2021 barb by then-U.S. Senate candidate J.D. Vance, an adult convert to Catholicism.

"We are effectively run in this country ... by a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they've made," Vance told Tucker Carlson on Fox News. Maybe America could do more, he added, to "support more people who actually have kids."

Vance, of course, is now in a hot spotlight as the

GOP choice for vice president. The pro-natalist views of Pope Francis, meanwhile, drew warm praise in Indonesia, the world's largest Islamic nation.

Visiting an often tense land -- with a population that is 87% Muslim, and 3% Catholic -- did everything he could to praise the beliefs and traditions of his hosts. In that context, his pro-family views were welcomed.

The pope also praised Indonesia's more moderate approach to religious life, although the government has strengthened laws against blasphemy and apostasy. Some local officials in this vast and complex archipelago have been stricter than others when enforcing sharia law. Also, there have been occasional terrorism threats, including what officials decided was an attempted ISIS plot against Pope Francis.

In a speech to public officials and diplomats, the pope pressed for renewed interfaith dialogues, stressing that this would be an indispensable way

of "countering extremism and intolerance, which through the distortion of the religion attempt to impose their views by using deception and violence."

In remarks that were both theological and political, Francis added: "The Catholic Church is at the service of the common good and wishes to strengthen cooperation with public institutions and other actors in civil society, but she never proselytizes, and always respects the faith of every person." The hope for peace, he added, is aided by the fact that Indonesia's 1945 Constitution "twice within a few lines" refers to "Almighty God and the need for his blessing to descend upon the nascent state of Indonesia."

In one symbolic moment, Pope Francis offered a papal blessing after a dialogue with 100 young people from Scholas Occurrentes ("Culture of Encounter"), an international network he founded in 2013 to promote interfaith education and understanding.

"Here, we are from diverse religions, but we have only one God," said Francis, in the video posted on the Vatican website. This benediction,

he added, was for "every one of you. ... in your own way, give thanks. The benediction is valid for all religions."

After a moment of silence, he prayed: "May God bless each one of you. May He bless all your desires. May He bless your families. May He bless your present and bless also your future. Amen."

While the pope bowed his head, he did not end with the sign of the cross and did not pray "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

According to media reports, some Indonesian television translators

praised Pope Francis for omitting a reference to the Holy Trinity, a doctrine that Muslims reject as a violation of their faith's strict teachings on monotheism. For example, a prayer carved inside Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock proclaims: "Praise be to God who has not taken a son and who does not have any partner in dominion."

Some Catholic conservatives criticized the benediction, noting that the catechism teaches that Catholic blessings of "persons, meals, objects and places" traditionally end with invocations of the "name of Jesus, usu-

ally while making the holy sign of the cross of Christ."

Thus, Bishop Joseph Strickland -- whom Francis ousted in 2023 as leader of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas -- offered this online comment about the pope's strategic benediction: "Without the Cross of Jesus Christ we are lost."

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

On Religion



Terry Mattingly

Bible Digest

Saturday, September 14, 2024

"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." (Psalms 85:10 AKJV)

Oh how we need this kind of move of God in our day. Lord, help us.

Sunday, September 15, 2024

"And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17 AKJV)

Have you been thankful for all of God's blessings to you? Real joy is ours when we are grateful.

Monday, September 16, 2024

"For as the lightning, that lightens out of the one part under heaven, shines to the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day." (Luke 17:24 AKJV)

Jesus is coming back and it may not be long. Are you ready?

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Psalms 84:11 AKJV)

Amen! God is faithful and God is good.

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

"And when he was at the place, he said to them, Pray that you enter not into temptation." (Luke 22:40 AKJV)

Prayer is a powerful weapon. Use it to get the victory over temptation.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

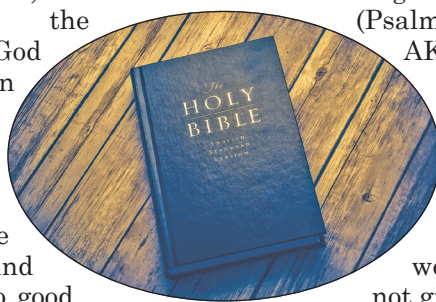
"In the multitude of my thoughts within me your comforts delight my soul." (Psalms 94:19 AKJV)

The Lord can bring peace that the world cannot give.

Friday, September 20, 2024

"And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:10 AKJV)

It is important that we pass the faith along to the next generation. They will need all the help we can give.



It's Time to Shine

Have you ever heard someone say, "There's just something about them"? This usually means they see something they admire in a person; they stand out from the crowd, but they can't quite put their finger on what it is.

I like when I hear it said about someone who's a Christian. Because when we are good to people and God's love flows through us, there is something that just draws people's attention.

The Bible says that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). On the job, in the grocery store, and even among friends and family members who don't have a relationship with Christ, God's people are there to bring seasoning to an unsavory situation.

There is so much turmoil in people's lives today—so much darkness—and they're looking for hope. As Christians, we are the ones who can help them find what they need through a relationship with God.

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus says, "But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything..." (NIV). It seems that somewhere along the way, the lines between godliness and ungodliness have gotten blurred. Things that would have been considered wrong 20 or 30 years ago seem to be "not so bad" today. I wonder what the next 20 years will bring if this continues.

We may need to ask ourselves: What are we showing the world? What is it that keeps us "salty"? How do we, as Christians, keep our lights shining in the darkness around us? What sets us apart?

I believe the answer is holiness. And when I say holiness, I don't mean religion. I'm not talking about a list of dos and don'ts...or going to church on Sunday mornings just to do your Christian duty one day a week. Yes, going to church is a great thing! But living a holy life is about so much

more than attending a service once a week.

When I say holiness, I'm talking about behavior that is borne out of a personal, intimate relationship with God. I'm referring to something that helps us love other people and be good to them.

Holiness is the "something" the world needs to see in us. There are so many people who may never attend a church service or read a Bible, but they are reading us! They are watching our behavior and looking to us to find out what God is like. We are God's ambassadors, and we are meant to be light in the darkness so they can find their way to Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Hebrews 12:14 tells us to pursue holiness. Different Bible versions use words like "work at" "make every effort," "strive," and "be." Holiness is the outcome of a work that God does in each of us through our personal relationship with Him. It begins the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior. When He comes to live in our hearts, we are made holy at that moment. And then little by little, He changes us from the inside out so we become more and more like Him (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Throughout this process, God slowly strips away our pride and selfishness. We become less focused on how we can please ourselves and become more concerned with blessing other people. We go from, "What about me?" to "How can I help you?"

Now, it's important to remember that we can't change ourselves—only God can change us and help us to become more like Him. In John 15:5 (NIV), Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

So, what is our part? Our part is to regularly take some time to develop our relationship with God. We do this

Moving Up Higher
with
Joyce Meyer

by reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Just like a best friend, the Lord desires for us to talk to Him throughout the day about anything and everything.

I like to say that holiness is an "inside job." As we spend time with God and ask Him to change us, He slowly but surely transforms us from the inside out.

Don't worry if you feel like you haven't "arrived." The fact that you desire to be a better person means you are making progress. God doesn't promise us that the process will be fast or easy, but He does assure us that He will make us more like Him as we continue to seek Him.

Wherever we are in our process of growing in holiness, it's important to remember the world is watching. And every day, in every situation, we have the privilege of being salt and light to the people all around us...and showing them what God is really like.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Do Unto Others*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>All-Denominational Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church 0432 Hwy 149, South Fork 719-873-5411 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-378-2080 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>San Luis Valley Christian Center 305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>Prayer House Church 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jaime Flores • 719-298-0007 Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Sargent Community Church 6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School) Pastor Stephen Burns • 719-852-2980 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Back Row Church - Church Community In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building Alamosa www.backrowchurch.com Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342 Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm</p> <p>Apostolic Alamosa Apostolic Church 510 First St., Alamosa Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m. 2-3 p.m. - Lunch 3-5 p.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Antonio Apostolic Church 710 Main St., Antonito Meets sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service</p> <p>Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Champions, Acts 2:38 9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351 Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307 Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service</p> <p>Assembly of God River of Life Church 2802 Clark Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service</p> <p>Center Assembly of God 7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125 Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Assembly of God Sons and Daughters of God Ministry 677 Madison Street, Monte Vista Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212 Sunday 10:00 a.m Service Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer</p> <p>New Life Fellowship 520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132 719-657-3360 Adult Sunday School - 9:00 Services - 10:00</p> <p>Baha'i Faith meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Email: harline@gojode.org for a Zoom invite</p> <p>Baptist Grace Community Baptist Church 431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451 Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm</p> <p>Living Water Bible Fellowship 2910 Clark Street, Alamosa 719-589-6351 Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services** Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade) Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade) Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-6th grade) Wednesday 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (6th-12th grade) Wednesday 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study** Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service** Small Groups meets throughout week, please call for info **Nursery is available (twks-prk)</p> <p>College Heights Baptist Church 2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa 719-589-6814 Pastor Jesse Ciccone Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>San Luis Valley Baptist Church 930 State Avenue, Alamosa 719-589-5938 Pastor R.L. McDonald Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020</p> <p>Calvary Bible Chapel 7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word Small group studies meet during the week.</p> <p>Calvary Blanca Pastor Matthew Leonard - 719-379-3317 Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study Sunday, 11:00 am - Service Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church 2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>South Fork Baptist Church 0130 Four Seasons Dr.(Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork (East side near laundrymat & car wash) Sunday School, 9:30am Sunday, 10:30am - Worship For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702</p>	<p>United Presbyterian Church of Antonito P.O. Box 665, Antonito Office Hrs. Tues. 9:00am-12:00 Sunday 9:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Service</p> <p>Catholic Sacred Heart Church 715 4th Street, Alamosa Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass</p> <p>Hooper Church 3rd and Adams, Hooper Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>Meditation, Kritya Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)758-5876</p> <p>United Church of La Jara 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-5250 Terry Buckman, Pastor Cell Phone: 339-8444 Office Hours: Mon. 9:00 am - 12:00 Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am</p> <p>Christian Science Services 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.</p> <p>Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians 630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160) Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday</p> <p>Church of the South Fork 0116 Landen Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154 Sunday are at 9 am - Services School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday</p> <p>Christian Bethel Christian Church Pastor Erik Lira Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Services Monday Free Music Classes Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Word of Faith Christian Center 401 Sante Fe, Alamosa Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night</p> <p>The Peak Community Church 510 San Juan, Alamosa Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More</p> <p>Pentecostal Alamosa Pentacostal Church 184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475 Pastor Carl Sutter Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45 Worship 2:00-3:00</p> <p>Christian Fellowship Church The Door 1300 West 12th St., Alamosa Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197 Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival</p> <p>Christian Independent Alamosa Christian Church 410 McQuerry, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth</p> <p>Christian Reformed Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493 1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa Pastor Philip VanderWindt Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship</p> <p>Churches of Christ Alamosa Church of Christ 408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.</p> <p>South Fork Church of Christ 205 Birch St., South Fork, 719-873-1259 Nathan Wheeler Pastor Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Central Church of Christ 200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811 David L. Baker Preacher Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Bible Class Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>San Luis Valley Church of Christ 704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114 Sunday Bible Study 9 am Sunday Worship 10 am Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm</p> <p>Cornestone Community Church Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic Pastor Mark 719-657-9107 Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast Sunday 10:20 am. Contemporary Worship & Children Sunday School Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings</p> <p>Episcopal Saint Thomas Episcopal Church 607 4th Street, Alamosa Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service</p> <p>Saint Stephen the Martyr 729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista Sunday, 10 am Service First Christian Church 518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa 589-6805 Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p>	<p>Valley Fellowship 240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Prayer and Bible Study *Bible Studies during the week, call for information.</p> <p>First United Methodist First United Methodist Church 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243 *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors* Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am</p> <p>Community Churches United for Christ Community Church (SBC) *Community Centered Around Love* 7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am</p> <p>Bible Believer's Community Church 11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, Co 81101 719 206-3239 Sunday worship 10:30 Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm www.bbchurch.co</p> <p>Presbyterian Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p>Hispanic Pentecostal Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A. 907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546 Guadalupe Salazar Pastor Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship</p> <p>New Hope Church *The Church on the Hill* 25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154 Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202 www.newhopesf.com Morning Worship -10:00 am Sunday School for all ages -9:00 -9:45</p> <p>Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 alamosafellowship@gmail.com Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church</p> <p>DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES Jesus Church of Latter Day Saints Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Alamosa Y S A Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa Second Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Third Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Fourth Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language) 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>Lutheran St. Peters Lutheran Church & School Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services School: K-8, Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church & School 52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship *Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week* -Pre-School through 5th grade Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271</p> <p>Conjoes Canyon Community Chapel 20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20) Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Mountain Valley Church 408 State St. 17, Alamosa Pastor: Richard Pinkerton 589-2899 or 588-7662 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista 702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista (719) 852-2555 Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship</p> <p>Seventh-day Adventist Seventh-day Adventist Church 315 Craft Drive, Alamosa Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship</p> <p>United Methodist Mosca United Methodist Church 538 Barker Street, Mosca 970-270-3078 Pastor Steve Dunkel Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa *North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church 719-587-5529 Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am</p> <p>Valley Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Chris Yocum 228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858 churchoffice@valleynaz.com Sunday Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes 9 a.m. Wednesday Dinner at 6 p.m. Small Group Classes at 7 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.) *Nursery is available during all services Visit website at www.valleynaz.com for online bulletins and service information or call the number above.</p> <p>Church of Scientology 511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa 719-587-5554 Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services</p> <p>Grace Assurance Ministry Church without Religion 9851 CR 4 S, Alamosa, CO Sunday Mornings - 10:30 Randy Brown - 719-588-7004 Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977</p>
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Sports

Mustangs bitten by Bulldogs 60-0

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

SANFORD – The Sanford High School football team played at home for the first time this season on Friday, but it had a tough task as the Mustangs hosted perennial powerhouse Haxtun at the SHS field.

The Fightin' Bulldogs proved their reputation in a big way as they defeated the Mustangs by a score of 60-0.

Haxtun just had too many weapons on offense.

“There’s a reason they’ve been in the Final 4 and the championship game the last four or five years now,” said Sanford coach Cody Reynolds. “They’re a solid program.”

The Bulldogs scored one all but one of their possessions.

“Coming in, I found only two plays where they actually punted,” Reynolds said. “One of those games they lost. But they have a very potent offense.”

It didn’t take long for the Bulldogs to get on the scoreboard as it took only three plays to get into the end zone. Quarterback Carter Lock ran the ball 40 yards to get into Sanford territory, and Grant Statz scored the first touchdown on a 1-yard run. Statz also scored the two-point conversion and Haxtun led 8-0 just 32 seconds into the ball game.

The Mustangs got just short of midfield on their first possession but punted the ball away. Statz scored his second touchdown of the night, this time on a 17-yard run, and he again scored on the two-point play and Haxtun increased its lead to 16-0.

The Bulldogs then got the first takeaway of the game as Collin Cone intercepted Trason Gartrell. They scored on the next play with Statz running 50 yards for the touchdown. Tate Michael scored on the two-point conversion and Haxtun had a 24-0 advantage.

The Bulldogs scored one more time in the first quarter with Cone running 66 yards for the touchdown. This time the two-point conversion attempt was stopped, but Haxtun led 30-0.

The Bulldogs increased the lead early in the second quarter as Statz scored his fourth touchdown, this time on an 11-yard run. The two-point attempt came up short but Haxtun led 36-0.

A Sanford fumble led to Haxtun’s next touchdown. Ryan Davis went to the end zone on a 23-yard run, and he also scored the two-point conversion. The Bulldogs led 44-0 and the rest of the game was played under a running clock.

Haxtun got one more score before the half with Cone tossing a 63-yard scoring strike to Kanin Koberstein. Cone scored the two-point play and the Bulldogs had a 52-0 lead at the intermission.

Sanford got onto the Haxtun side of the field on its first possession of the second half. However, the Mustangs turned the ball over on downs.

The Bulldogs wrapped up the scoring late in the third quarter with Cone throwing a 34-yard touchdown to Madden Larsen. Cone then threw to Koberstein for the two-point conversion.

Sanford again entered Haxtun territory on its next drive, but once again turned the ball over on downs.



Sanford High School’s Rylan Mortensen (7) carries the ball while J.D. Faucette (11) blocks in the Mustangs’ game against Haxtun Friday at the SHS field. The Mustangs lost to the Bulldogs 60-0.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

The Mustangs got their first stop of the night late in the game, and once again attempted a scoring drive. But they again turned the ball over on downs as the game ended.

Sanford managed only 136 yards of total offense with 111 coming on the ground. Gartrell led the running game with 71 yards on 24 carries. Rylan Mortensen was next with 24 yards on seven carries.

Gartrell completed only one of 10 pass attempts for 25 yards. J.D. Faucette had the only reception.

Haxtun, however, rolled up 464 yards of total offense – 351 rushing and 113 passing.

The Bulldogs had two 100-yard rushers. Statz ran for 107 yards on six carries, and Cone had 100 yards on four carries.

Cone also completed three out of four passes for 96

yards.

Sanford (1-2) will host Fowler this coming Friday at 7 p.m.

“Fowler’s a strong team and they’re always tough,” Reynolds said. “They’re a solid team as well.”

	Haxtun	60,	Sanford	0	
Haxtun	30	22	8	0	60
Sanford	0	0	0	0	0
First quarter					
H – Statz	1 run	(Statz run)	11:28		
H – Statz	17 run	(Statz run)	4:47		
H – Statz	50 run	(Michael run)	3:48		
H – Cone	66 run	(run failed)	1:45		
Second quarter					
H – Statz	11 run	(run failed)	10:47		
H – Davis	23 run	(Davis run)	10:17		
H – Koberstein	63 pass	from Cone (Cone run)	3:56		
Third quarter					
H – Larsen	34 pass	from Cone (Koberstein pass from Cone)	3:04		

Lady Mean Moose sweep Lady Wolverines

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School volleyball team faced a traditionally tough opponent on Thursday as it hosted Bayfield at the AHS gym.

The Lady Mean Moose won the first two sets by wide margins with the scores being 25-8 and 25-9, respectively. But the Lady Wolverines woke up in the third to make a game of it before Alamosa won 25-21 to record the sweep.

“I switched my outside to give a couple young girls a chance to give them some confidence,” said Alamosa coach Annie Mortensen. “My starting line-up is really strong, and it was a good opportunity to let them get stronger mentally for that third set.”

Alamosa started the first set with a 2-0 lead. After a brief Bayfield side out, the Lady Mean Moose went on a 9-3 run to increase their lead to 11-4.

The Lady Wolverines closed the margin to 11-6, but Alamosa ran off seven unanswered points for an 18-6 advantage. After another brief Bayfield side out, the Lady Mean Moose scored seven of the last eight points for a 25-8 win.

Bayfield opened the second set with a 1-0 lead, but Alamosa took a 2-1 edge. The Lady Wolverines tied the score, but the Lady Mean Moose scored eight consecutive points to push the margin to 10-2.

Bayfield closed its deficit to 11-5, but Alamosa answered with three straight points. The Lady Wolverines closed to within 14-7, but the Lady Mean Moose closed out the set by scoring 11 of the last 13 points and took a 25-9 victory.

Alamosa took a 1-0 lead to begin the third set. The teams exchanged side puts before the Lady Mean Moose scored four consecutive points for a 6-2 advantage.

Bayfield narrowed the gap to 7-5, but Alamosa answered with three straight points. The Lady Wolverines came back with a 5-0 run to tie the score at 10-10.

The Lady Mean Moose took a 13-11 lead, but the Lady Wolverines came back to take a 15-14 edge. Alamosa regained the lead at 16-15, but Bayfield scored three in a row for an 18-16 lead.

Once again, the Lady Mean Moose finished a set strong as they scored nine of the final 12 points for a 25-21 win.

Morgan Ortega led the Alamosa offense with 23 assists. Aubrey Rothermich led the attack with 15 kills followed by Ortega with seven and Tabor Wiedeman with six. Ortega and Wiedeman both had three service aces to lead the Lady mean Moose in that category.

Alamosa (7-2, 2-0) will host a tri-meet with Gunnison and Hoehne on Saturday.

“Gunnison seems to be having a good season,” Mortensen said. “We have to focus on quick offense and be aggressive defensively. Passing was key for us.”

The first match begins at 9 a.m. at the AHS gym.



Alamosa High School’s Aubrey Rothermich (11) slams a kill against Bayfield Thursday at the AHS gym. The Lady Mean Moose defeated the Lady Wolverines 25-8, 25-9, 25-21.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick



Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep football

Pueblo Central 43, Alamosa 0

Prep girls softball

Southeast Colorado 18, Alamosa 2, 3 inn.

Prep girls volleyball

Alamosa def. Bayfield 25-8, 25-9, 25-21

Buena Vista def. Center 25-9, 25-14, 20-25, 25-7

Del Norte def. Pagosa Springs 23-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-22, 15-13

Sangre de Cristo def. Cotopaxi 25-11, 25-10, 25-14

FRIDAY

Prep football

Cedaredge 52, Center 12

Centauri 19, Buena Vista 13

Haxtun 60, Sanford 0

Monte Vista 43, North Fork 20

Sargent at Hoehne - no report

Sierra Grande 63, Kiowa 18

Prep girls volleyball

Center at Cotopaxi - no report

Kiowa def. Sierra Grande in three sets - scored not reported

North Fork at Monte Vista - no report

Sanford at Swink - no report

College women’s soccer

West Texas A&M 1, Adams State 0

College women’s volleyball

Angelo State (Texas) def. Adams State 25-14, 25-14, 25-16

California State-Dominguez Hills def. Adams State 25-21, 22-25, 25-23, 25-21

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

Prep football

Del Norte at Roaring Fork, 1 p.m.

Prep cross country

Antonito, Center, Monte Vista, Sierra Grande at Bayfield Invitational, 9 a.m.

Centauri, Del Norte at Gunnison Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls gymnastics

Alamosa at Cherry Creek Invitational, TBA

Prep girls volleyball

Gunnison, Hoehne at Alamosa, 9 a.m.

Antonito at Mountain Valley, 11 a.m.

Centennial at Cripple Creek-Victor, 1 p.m.

Rocky Ford at Center, 1 p.m.

Cheraw at Sangre de Cristo, 2 p.m.

Sanford at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Monte Vista at Eaglecrest Invitational, TBA

Sierra Grande at Bethune Invitational, TBA

College football

Adams State at Texas-Permian Basin, 6 p.m.

College women’s volleyball

Adams State vs. Minnesota State-Moorhead (Colorado Mesa Fall Classic), 11 a.m.

Adams State vs. Cal Poly-Humboldt (Colorado Mesa Fall Classic), 4 p.m.

MONDAY

Prep boys soccer

Alamosa at Bayfield, 4:30 p.m.

College women’s golf

Adams State at South Dakota Mines Invitational, TBA

TUESDAY

Prep girls softball

Alamosa at Gunnison, 4 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball

Alamosa at Centauri, 4:30 p.m.

Antonito at Questa (N.M.), TBA

College women’s golf

Adams State at South Dakota Mines Invitational, TBA

Mean Moose golfers tie for second at Rocky Ford

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School boys golf team finished the regular season on Thursday as it competed at the Rocky Ford Invitational at the Rocky Ford Country Club.

The Mean Moose finished in a tie for second place with 290. They were led by Zavier Medina who was fourth with a 90. He was followed by Jace Sanchez who was 13th with a 96, Erik Garcia who tied for 28th with a 104, and Kyan Mason who was

36th with a 111.

Las Animas won the tournament with 264. The Mean Moose tied with Fowler.

Las Animas’ Damien Baca was the medalist with a 75.

Alamosa will next compete at the Class 3A Region 1 Tournament on Sept. 30 at Conquistador Golf Course in Cortez.

Lifestyle

Additional security will be in place for Jan. 6, 2025 certification of presidential vote

By JENNIFER SHUTT
Colorado Newswire

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Capitol Police are welcoming a special security designation from the Department of Homeland Security for Jan. 6, 2025, when Congress will gather to certify the Electoral College vote count for the winner of the presidential election.

The last time Congress undertook the responsibility, a pro-Trump mob attacked the building, eventually breaking through police barricades, severely injuring officers and disrupting the process.

The rioters were spurred on by false claims from former president and current Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump that he won the 2020 election when he had in fact lost both the popular vote and the Electoral College.

Members of Congress and then-Vice President Mike Pence were evacuated or told to shelter in place in their offices as one of the most secure buildings in the country

was overrun. Federal prosecutors have since secured convictions or plea deals for hundreds of the people who attacked law enforcement and obstructed Congress' responsibility to certify the vote that day.

United States Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger released a written statement Thursday saying the "National Special Security Event designation will further strengthen our work to protect the Members of Congress and the legislative process." "The United States Capitol Police has been preparing for the January 6 count, as well as the Inauguration, for several months," Manger added. "We have made hundreds of changes and improvements over the past three years, and we are confident that the Capitol will be safe and secure."

National Special Security Events, or NSSEs, are somewhat expected for major events, like State of the Union speeches, presidential inaugura-

tions and the presidential nominating conventions that the Democrats and Republicans hold every four years.

This, however, will be the first time that one has been issued for Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote.

The designation means the U.S. Secret Service will be the lead federal law enforcement agency planning security for the event, despite it being held in the U.S. Capitol, where USCP typically holds the top jurisdiction. "National Special Security Events are events of the highest national significance," Eric Ranaghan, special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service's Dignitary Protective Division, said in a written statement released Wednesday. "The U.S. Secret Service, in collaboration with our federal, state, and local partners are committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated security plan to ensure the safety and security of this event and its participants."

Colorado religious leaders support constitutional amendment that scraps gay marriage ban

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

A coalition of Colorado religious leaders on Tuesday endorsed a ballot measure that would remove language in the state Constitution banning same-sex marriage.

Amendment J, referred by the Legislature to the November ballot, seeks to remove a constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2006 that defines a marriage as only between a man and woman.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Colorado and at the federal level because of the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges. State leaders worry, however, that the court could reverse the decision just as it overturned the right to abortion enshrined in Roe v. Wade.

In a concurring opinion in the decision that overturned Roe, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote the court could reconsider rulings such as Oberge-

fell. "We are one bad decision away from overturning (Obergefell)," Susy Bates, the campaign director for Freedom to Marry Colorado, told reporters on a Tuesday call. "If that happens, the 2006 ban would go into effect and marriage for LGBTQ couples would immediately be at risk. We have to take action now to remove the ban and ensure protections for our communities."

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis is in a same-sex marriage. He married his longtime partner in 2021.

Nearly 40 religious leaders from churches and temples across the state signed a letter in support of the ballot initiative, writing that it is in line with their faith tradition and values.

"If indeed we are all created in God's image, then laws which exclude and discriminate against one's ability to express and sanctify their love

and relationships violate basic principles of fairness and equality that are central to who we are. My tradition teaches this," Joseph Black, the senior rabbi of Temple Emmanuel in Denver, said.

The leaders criticized people, including those on the far-right, who use religion as justification for discrimination.

"These efforts stand in stark opposition to our core religious and spiritual convictions, which compel us to forge a beloved community that rejects the misinformation and rejects divisions that fuel hostility, misunderstanding, fear and hatred expressed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and nonbinary persons," the letter reads.

Constitutional amendments need to be approved by 55% of voters. Voters will decide on seven other constitutional amendments in November, including one over the right to an abortion.

U.S. senators from Kansas, Colorado, Arizona introduce bill to unlock funds for water preservation

By ALLISON KITE
Colorado Newswire

States, Native American tribes and local communities could get help accessing federal funds for water infrastructure projects in drought-stricken areas under new U.S. Senate legislation.

The Water Project Navigators Act — sponsored by U.S. Sens. Jerry Moran and John Hickenlooper and Reps. Brittany Pettersen and Juan Ciscomani — would create a program in the Bureau of Reclamation to place "navigator" positions in local, state and tribal communities. Navigators would help connect communities to resources.

In a news release announcing the legislation, Moran, a Kansas Republican, said federal resources to help preserve water can be difficult to access. "Widespread drought

is impacting many communities across Kansas, hurting family farms, local municipalities and businesses," Moran said.

Hickenlooper, a Colorado Democrat, said the same.

"Rural and Tribal communities deserve their fair share of federal funds to address drought, but all too often are left out," Hickenlooper said.

Fellow Coloradan Pettersen said water scarcity is felt throughout Colorado, but rural communities struggle to respond.

"It is critical that we invest in these areas to strengthen and protect our water resources and help communities draw down federal dollars," Pettersen said.

Kansas and Colorado — along with Ciscomani's home state of Arizona — struggle with continual drought and limited access to water. As of last

week, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 51% of Kansas is in some level of drought, mostly moderate or severe. Almost 5% of Arizona is in extreme drought. Colorado is currently the least affected with about 12% of the state in some level of drought.

"In Arizona, water is our most precious resource," said Ciscomani, a Republican. "As the drought worsens in the West, it is now more important than ever that impacted communities have the necessary tools to secure federal dollars for critical multi-benefit water infrastructure projects."

The legislation is backed by conservation groups, according to the news release, along with the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Volunteers Needed for San Luis Valley Well Water Samples:

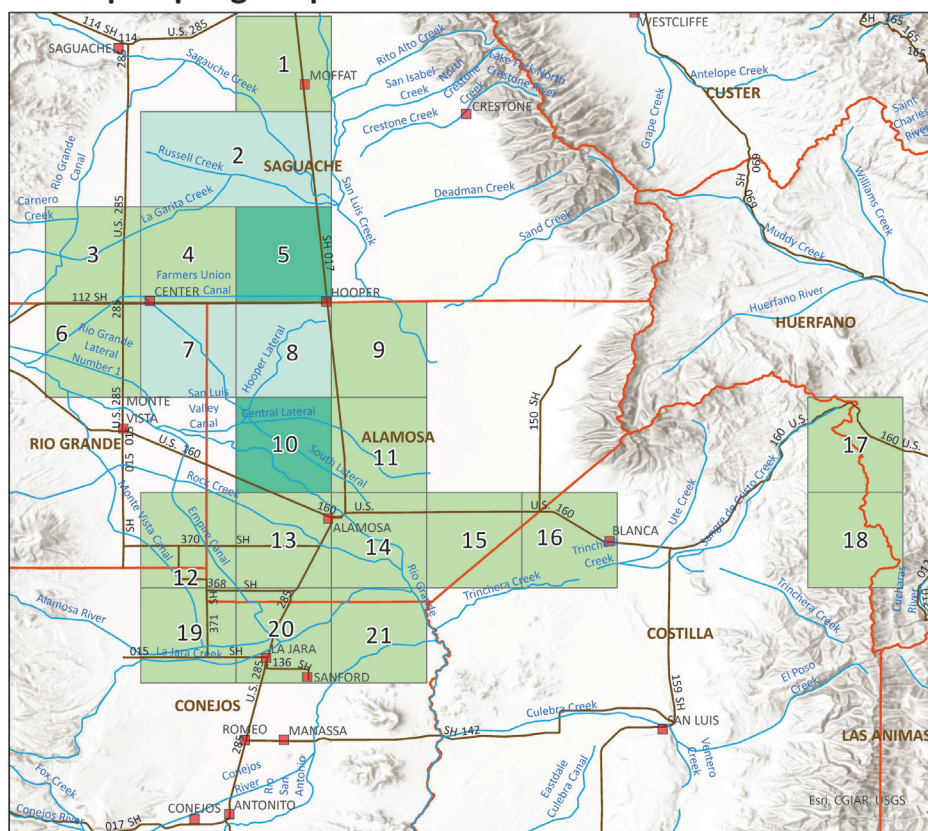
The Colorado Geological Survey (CGS), a department of the Colorado School of Mines, has been funded through a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to conduct a 5-year study of baseline radionuclides and metals in groundwater obtained from privately owned residential water wells throughout Colorado. CDPHE's reason for this study is education focused for homeowners on wells. Note: CDPHE has no regulatory authority over private wells. The grant is covering the costs so is free to homeowners.

For this effort, 41 water samples are currently available for select areas of the San Luis Valley. These have been divided up in a grid, each containing 1, 2, or 3 samples. If the number of volunteers in a grid space exceeds the quota, the CGS will prioritize selection of participants by spatial distribution combined with geologic considerations.

For this effort we are seeking volunteers to whom we will ship, via FedEx Ground, a boxed sampling kit with a pre-paid FedEx Ground return shipping label. We will need filled water samples returned within about 2 weeks. Once we receive a water sample, we will assign a sample number to anonymize it. Thus, the owner's contact information will stay solely with CGS. We anticipate about a 2 month turn-around time before we can email lab results to the individual well owners.

Volunteers, please send an email to LSEBOL@mines.edu with your name, shipping address, (physical address of property if different), and phone number (FedEx requires phone numbers for shipping). A reply email will be sent with more detailed sampling information, asking for confirmation. If possible, please also identify which grid space the well is located within (available grids are shown in color on our grid map).

Residential water well sampling grid showing available number of samples per grid space



SLV Legend

- Number of samples per grid: 1 well sample/grid (light green), 2 well sample/grid (medium green), 3 well sample/grid (dark green)
- Cities (red square)
- Rivers and Streams (blue line)
- Highways (black line)
- County border (orange line)

Scale: 0, 5, 10 Miles

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Lifestyles

Threats to election workers as November nears detailed at congressional hearing

By **ASHLEY FIGUEROA**

Colorado Newswire

WASHINGTON

— Republicans on the House Administration Committee at a Wednesday hearing argued that legislation to bar people from voting who are not citizens — something already illegal — is what's needed to prepare for the November elections.

But Democratic secretaries of state in battleground states told committee members they are more concerned about the detailed threats they and their election workers are experiencing resulting from election misinformation.

Three Democratic secretaries of state, Adrian Fontes of Arizona, Jocelyn Benson of Michigan and Maggie Toulouse Oliver of New Mexico, said that people who are not citizens voting in federal elections do not constitute a problem, despite the GOP push for legislation barring the act.

"There's no evidence that noncitizens are voting and if they were, it would be easy to prove, since voting records are public. And despite numerous organizations spending a lot of money to try to convince people that noncitizens are voting, none of these groups have actually been able to provide any evidence of it," Benson said.

Those Democratic secretaries of state added that since former President Donald Trump has continued to perpetuate the falsehood that he won the 2020 presidential election, they have been forced to deal with threats and are concerned the lie has led to overall distrust in election results.

The insurrection on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 was an attempt by a mob of pro-Trump supporters to stop Congress from certifying the electoral results of the 2020 presidential election.

The three Republican secretaries of state at the hearing, Frank LaRose of Ohio, Cord Byrd of Florida and Mac Warner of West Virginia, argued that federal legislation requiring proof of citizenship to register is necessary to prevent people who are not citizens from voting and to secure elections. Research has found that noncitizen voting rarely happens.

"The fact is it's rare, but we keep it rare by enforcing the law," LaRose said of such voting. "It is my duty to carry that out. Unfortunately, that duty is not as easy to carry out as it should be."

• Bill pulled from floor

House Republicans are currently trying to attach H.R. 8281, passed in July, that requires proof of citizenship to register to vote, to a stopgap government funding bill. A vote was planned late Wednesday, but House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana pulled the bill because he didn't have enough votes for passage.

However, it's dead on arrival in the Senate and President Joe Biden has already promised a

veto.

House Administration Committee Chair Bryan Steil, Republican of Wisconsin, said he is still working to get H.R. 8281 passed ahead of the November elections.

"As we approach the upcoming federal election, it is imperative that we take a close look at how each Secretary of State will implement federal and State election laws to guarantee that every legal vote counts," Steil said in his opening remarks.

Multiple GOP-led states have ballot initiatives this November to bar noncitizens from voting, including in Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

It's also a priority for Trump, the current GOP presidential nominee, who has made immigration a core campaign platform and has falsely stated that noncitizen voting cost him the popular vote in 2016.

The top Democrat on the committee, Joe Morelle of New York, noted that the election is already here, as ballots are going to be sent to military members overseas and states are getting ready for early voting in the coming weeks.

He raised concerns about threats to election workers as well as misinformation about the security of elections.

"Election officials are operating in an election season that continues to be marred by a steady drumbeat of mis- and disinformation," he said in his opening statement. "For months, we have heard the former President and others either refuse to say they will accept the outcome of the election, or condition their acceptance with an 'if they are free and fair'— which undermines Americans' confidence that our elections are, in fact, fair and secure."

• More consistent funding

Morelle said that Congress needs to do more to help election officials, including providing consistent funding in election security grants.

He said that in fiscal year 2024, Congress appropriated about \$55 million to states and U.S. territories in election grants.

Oliver and Benson said that a consistent stream of federal funding would also help them deal with misinformation about elections.

Benson said that her state is often scraping together funding and that a "predictable and sustainable stream of funding" would help, especially when dealing with threats of violence and intimidation.

She added that she knows all eyes will be on Michigan, a battleground state, and noted that during the last presidential race, her state was able to post results within 24 hours. Michigan's 2020 presidential election results were challenged by Republicans.

"We'll never sacrifice accuracy and security in tabulating our votes over efficiency," Benson said. "We understand the urgency of the

movement and the fact that the eyes of the nation will often be on our state."

• Biden order on voter registration

Republicans on the committee took issue with a three-year-old executive order from President Joe Biden that directed federal agencies to help register eligible voters.

"It is our duty to ensure that registering to vote and the act of voting be made simple and easy for all those eligible to do so," according to the executive order.

GOP Rep. Greg Murphy of North Carolina took issue with the initiative and argued it was partisan because it helped Democrats in elections.

"This is where the angst and the anger comes from," he said, referring to Americans' distrust in elections. "It is absolutely for Democrats."

Oklahoma GOP Rep. Stephanie Bice agreed, and said that while voter registration is important, it's not something the federal government or its agencies should undertake. She asked the Republican secretaries of state if they had been contacted about the executive order.

LaRose said that because he sued the Biden administration over it,

"I think they know better than to ask me."

Byrd said that he's instructed Florida agencies not to participate and Warner said that he sent a letter to the White House asking them to rescind the executive order because he believes it's unconstitutional.

• Threats to election workers

California Democratic Rep. Norma Torres said she is concerned about threats to election workers.

Oliver said that misinformation about elections had led to mistrust for voters. She said that the discussion of voting by people who are not

citizens is an example.

"When voters are misinformed, they lose trust in the system," she said. "Noncitizen voting does not happen in any systematic way in New Mexico or across the nation."

Torres asked how that type of misinformation affects their work and that of election workers.

Benson, who was elected as Michigan's secretary of state in 2018, said that she's had people show up at her house to threaten her.

"People show up on my doorstep when I'm inside trying to hang Christmas decorations with my 4-year-old son,

screaming into a megaphone 'You're a murderer and you should be arrested and tried for treason,'" she said. "That's the reality of all this. That's who it all impacts."

Benson said lies and misinformation about election results "make us afraid to go to work, afraid to go grocery shopping, afraid to take our kid to school, afraid to go into our backyard because we don't know what might be lurking in the bushes."

"That's what we've been experiencing not just this last week, but these last four years," she said.

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Lifestyle

Promises were broken on state-funded Rio Grande dam project, river advocates say

By JERD SMITH
The Colorado Sun

requests for comment. The district uses the reservoir to store water for irrigators. Trout Unlimited and others aren't asking for any water, they say, just that existing water that would be released anyway be sent downstream at times that are beneficial to the river.

Among key complaints by environmentalists is that the irrigation company is not allowing water to flow out of the rehabilitated dam during the winter, something that would benefit young fish and allow them to grow larger for the next fishing season.

Terry said the irrigation district has said it can't deliver that winter water because it is difficult to operate the new equipment in freezing winter weather. But Terry said he doesn't understand how the project could have been built without the ability to deliver in cold weather, something that occurs routinely in other reservoirs in the valley.

Jim Loud, a Creede resident and avid angler who lives on the river, said he and others are tired of waiting for the river to receive the benefits many believed would have been delivered by now.

"All we want is to get them to do what they said they were going to do," said Loud, citing numerous CWCB documents dating back several years outlining the environmental benefits of the project. Loud is part of the Committee for a Healthy Rio Grande.

The old days weren't fun

The conflict comes as the Rio Grande Basin, which begins high above Creede and flows south to the Gulf of Mexico, continues to struggle with declining aquifer levels due to heavy agricultural use and low stream flows due to drought and climate change. In Colorado, the Rio Grande waters a potato industry that is one of the largest in the nation.

Creede local Dale Pizel, who owns a ranch on the river and caters to the fishing community, said river conditions have improved some since the dam was rebuilt. Prior to the project, the irrigation company would routinely dry up the river for weeks during the high summer tourist season to make repairs to the dam.

"That doesn't happen anymore," Pizel said. He too serves on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, which also approved some grants for the project.

"I voted for that project knowing it would have environmental benefits, and it did," Pizel said, because there is no need for the irrigators to dry up the river to repair a failing dam anymore.

Still, he said, if environmental promises are being made publicly, the state needs a better way to make sure they are kept.

Trout Unlimited's Terry said for years he was hopeful that the re-

Four years after a high-profile dam restoration project was completed in the scenic headwaters of the Rio Grande, promises to deliver water for fish during the winter and other recreational benefits have not been met, environmental groups charge.

The Rio Grande Reservoir Project was funded by state loans and public grants provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which often bases financing approvals, in part, on a project's ability to serve multiple purposes, including water for fish, habitat and kayakers.

"The Colorado Water Conservation Board ... provided \$30 million in the form of loans and grants to complete the project," the CWCB said in a project update posted on its website. "Benefits include: instream flow enhancement; channel maintenance; outdoor recreation opportunities; terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat; irrigation, augmentation; and storage to comply with the Rio Grande Compact between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas."

The public-private project was completed in 2020.

The CWCB declined an interview request for this story, but said in an email that there were no specific conditions in the loans and grants tied to providing environmental benefits.

"CWCB does not have the ability to impose extra terms on the recipients of funds that are not articulated in the funding agreements. In the case of the Rio Grande Reservoir Rehabilitation, the final deliverable was completion of the project," a spokesperson said.

Still Kevin Terry, southwest program director for Trout Unlimited, said the project would likely never have been funded without assurances that the dam would be operated differently to help the river, including releasing water in the winter to aid the fish and changing the time water is released throughout the summer to keep the river cooler and healthier during prime fishing and kayaking season.

"There were lots of environmental benefits touted before the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the roundtable," Terry said, referring to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. The roundtable is one of nine public groups across the state's major river basins that help address local water issues and funnel state grants to projects they approve.

The San Luis Valley Irrigation District, which owns and operates the dam, serves farms around Center and has delivered water from the dam since 1912, according to its website. Neither District President Randall Palmgren nor Superintendent Robert Phillips responded to numerous



Photo by Dean Krakel, Special to The Colorado Sun

Mike Deminco, left, and his wife, Beth, fish the Rio Grande below Creede, Colorado on Sept. 6. Beth is just learning to fly fish. The couple traveled from their home in Boulder to go fishing with Mike's father on his 79th birthday. The Rio Grande has been designated a Gold Medal stream by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, meaning that it consistently produces trout over 14 inches long.


habilitated dam would serve as another multi-use storage project in the water-short valley helping farmers and the environment.

"We are so disappointed in the delivery of what was promised and the lack of the CWCB holding the irrigation district accountable in any way," he said.

Altering the dam's new equipment so that winter releases can occur will likely require spending about \$5 million, according to Terry.

Pizel and others hope a resolution between the farmers and the environmentalists can occur without legal action.

"We don't want to start thumping each other in the chest," Pizel said. "That's the way it was in the old days. It was not fun."



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Classifieds

Notice of Request for Proposal to Drill a Well

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District (District) is seeking proposals from qualified well drillers to drill a 20-inch, 220 foot deep confined aquifer well in Saguaque County. Contact Chris Ivers at the District office at (719) 589-6301 for a BID packet with full details. Additionally, you can access this information online at www.rgwcd.org. In your response, please include your qualifications to drill this type of well, a cost estimate for drilling the well, and your timeline for completing the project. Proposals will be accepted through 1:30 p.m. September 27, 2024 and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org. No. 4107. Published in the Valley Courier on August 27, 28, 30, 31, September 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, & 14, 2024.

Notice of Request for Proposal

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking proposals from qualified CONTRACTORS to grade a road, install 2 culverts, install approximately 303 feet of piping from an augmentation well, and construct a riprap ditch. The pipeline has 12 inch and 16-inch diameter sections. Contact the district office at (719) 589-6301 for a BID packet with full details. Additionally, you can access this information online at www.rgwcd.org. In your response, please include your relevant qualifications, and your timeline for completing the PROJECT. Proposals will be accepted through 1:30 p.m. September 27, 2024 and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org. No. 4108. Published in the Valley Courier on August 27, 28, 30, 31, September 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, & 14, 2024.

STATE OF COLORADO COUNTY OF ALAMOSA

NOTICE OF LOST STOCK CERTIFICATE

The San Luis Valley Canal Company, a Colorado Mutual Ditch Company, pursuant to C.R.S.A. §7-42-115 causes this NOTICE to be published on the 31st day of August, 2024 and once every week thereafter for five successive weeks the fifth publication being on the twenty-eighth day after the first publication." CRS 7-42-115, in the Valley Courier, a newspaper of general circulation in Alamosa County, in which the principal office of the San Luis Valley Canal Company is located.

In accordance with the terms of C.R.S.A. §7-42-114 to §7-42-117, Lloyd J. Simpson and Wilma H Simpson, joint tenants and The Federal Land Bank of Wichita, has filed a Notice with the San Luis Valley Canal Company making Demand for the issuance of duplicate certificates for stock certificates No. 765, for 100 shares each, respectively, of capital stock in the San Luis Valley Canal Company. The San Luis Valley Canal Company will issue, on or after the 31st day of October, 2024, thirty days after the last publication date, duplicate certificates to the registered owner, as above stated, unless a contrary claim is filed with the San Luis Valley Canal Company, Attn: Secretary, P O BOX 631, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144, prior to the date stated in this NOTICE.

The San Luis Valley Canal Company
Jess Freel, President Attest: Lyla Hathaway, Secretary
No. 4114.
Published in the Valley Courier on August 31, September 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – 1041 Regulations-Public Utilities

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Conejos County Commissioners will have a presentation from Xcel Energy with a work session to follow on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM. The presentation and work session will be held at the PARISH HALL – 6631 County Road 13, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church complex in Conejos. A special meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Conejos County Department of Social Services meeting room at 12989 County Rd G.6/Veterans Blvd, Conejos CO. The presentation and work session are being conducted to obtain additional information concerning 1041 Regulations – Public Utilities. The special meeting will be to finalize the 1041 Regulations – Public Utilities. The presentation, work session, and special meeting are open to the public. Any questions prior to those events may be directed to the Land Use Office at 719-376-2014 or by email at landuse@co.conejos.co.us. No. 4127. Published in the Valley Courier on September 14, 18, & 24, 2024.

ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Planning Commission on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM and again before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering Text Amendments to the Land Use & Development Code.

The proposed changes are to Section 2.3 Permitted Land Uses, Section 3.2 Residential Use Standards, Section 3.3 Civic Use Standards, Section 3.4 Commercial Use Standards, and Section 11.3 Defined Terms. Details regarding this proposal are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or at (719) 589-3812. Richard Hubler
Land Use Administrator
Alamosa County
No. 4129.
Published in the Valley Courier on September 14, 2024.

221 - HELP WANTED

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ALAMOSA is now hiring for **BREAKFAST ATTENDANT, FRONT DESK and MAINTENANCE**. Apply in Person. (9/14/24)

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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)

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

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173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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221 - HELP WANTED

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PERSON, or team, wanted for a 12-unit apartment complex in DEL NORTE, CO. Duties include but not limited to: office paperwork, cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@landmark-management.com. Equal Employment Opportunity. (9/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a **MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR** for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Please submit a district application, resume, and cover at <https://www.south-conejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (10/4/24)

IST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **COMPLIANCE DIRECTOR**. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit, and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE. (10/4/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for **PART-TIME CUSTODIAN** help. For more information please contact Gary Fritz at 719-378-2321 or email gfritz@sangreschools.org. Applications may be downloaded from sdc.schoolsdesk.net under tab "about us". Position open until filled. (10/2/24)



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