

RMMFI celebrates anniversary and graduates

— Page 5



Sargent wins epic match with Del Norte

— Page 6



Today's Issue Sponsored By:



VOLUME 98, NO. 154

Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

September 27, 2024

\$1



Visit our website

SLV Today

Harvest Moon Festival in Saguache County

BACA GRANDE — The third annual Harvest Moon Festival will be held in Casita Park from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28.

A free meal is available, if you like, there is a potluck to bring a dish to share. There will be a bake sale, silent auction, music, and more. Casita Park is off of T Road between Moffat and Crestone.

PC to discuss natural medicine businesses

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Planning Commission will be having a public discussion about Natural Medicine Businesses during the next meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa.

Natural Medicine includes psilocybin, psilocyn, ibogaine, mescaline, and dimethyltryptamine (DMT), and its use by adults is permitted and regulated through the Natural Medicine Health Act of 2022 and SB23-290.

Alamosa County is permitted to regulate the "Time, Place, and Manner" of state-licensed natural medicine businesses, and the Planning Commission wants input and feedback from the community about this topic. You can obtain more information from Land Use Administrator Richard Hubler at landuse@alamosacounty.org or 719-589-3812 and are encouraged to participate in this discussion.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny, Breezy 78/42

Sat: Sunny, Light Breeze 77/42

Sun: Sunny, Breezy 78/41

INSIDE

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



How will the candidates vote?

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

SAN LUIS VALLEY — On the November ballot, voters will be asked to weigh in on eight topics that range from school choice to a ban on hunting mountain lions.

In an effort to provide information to voters about how their votes will align or not align with the candidates, the Valley Courier presented these same ques-

tions to the two candidates running for the state legislature. Today will be the responses of the two candidates for the House of Representatives District 62 and on Saturday the responses of the two candidates for the Colorado Senate District 6.

The questions that appear under each candidate's name are abbreviated versions of the actual question that will appear on the ballot. These are the ques-

tions in their entirety. Question no. 9 does not appear on the ballot and was posed by the Valley Courier.

1. In cases where prosecutors have a strong case, should defendants charged with first degree murder be denied bail?

2. The Colorado constitution contains obsolete language that reads "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in

this state." Should the same-sex marriage ban be removed from the state constitution?

3. Should access to legal abortion be enshrined in the state constitution?

4. Should the right to school choice be included in the state constitution?

5. Should there be a ban on sport hunting of big cats, including mountain lions, bobcats and lynx?

■ See VOTE page 3

Velhagen stands in its rightful place

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
and JOHN WATERS

Courier Reporter and News Editor

ALAMOSA — On a brilliant Thursday afternoon, the face of downtown Alamosa was forever altered with the installation of the Velhagen clock, named for the two brothers who, in the early 1900s, came to Alamosa in search of their fortune and opened a fine jewelry store that was frequented by countless patrons over the years.

The clock, which stood at a dignified height of 16 feet outside their store for decades, kept impeccable time over the years until "progress" dealt a blow. With plans to widen State Avenue, the extraordinary reminder of a time when workmanship was the supreme mark of excellence was destined for the trash heap.

Over a number of years with the last three marked by fierce determination to finish the job and do it right, the Velhagen clock was restored to its former glory and located in its rightful place, less than a block from its original location.

From this point on, the clock will be in view of all who travel in and out of Alamosa.

The Velhagen, one of only nine remaining in the world, stands as a testament to the devotion of one man — John Davis whose long time love for the clock inspired him to, singlehandedly, save it from being lost forever.

Davis, a brilliant machinist who had grown up seeing the clock every day as a boy, dreamed of restoring the clock himself but, tragically, his health failed before that was possible.

Upon his death, the clock took on new meaning as an entire community of people took it upon themselves to finish the journey Davis had begun, an act done in homage to an extraordinary piece of functional art and in remembrance of the man who loved it so dearly.



About 50 people attended the ribbon-cutting event for the Velhagen clock on Main Street in Alamosa on Thursday. The clock was in front of the former Velhagen Jewelers on State Avenue from 1912 to sometime in the 1960s.

"The clock was a dream of my dad's for many years," says Deborah Davis Shawcroft. "His health got the best of him and he couldn't finish what he and JR started. So, JR kept the dream alive with help from many beautiful people.

"When we started the pendulum yesterday and the clock's heartbeat took over, I was overjoyed and so happy that the dream became a reality.

"Thank you so tall who made it possible. My dad is smiling form above."

"If it wasn't for John Davis, this clock would not be here," says J.R. Olson. "If it wasn't for his John Davis' children, this clock would not be here. If it wasn't for an entire community of volunteers, this clock would not be here.

"If you were to take this clock to

the Antique Road Show, it would be appraised at being worth \$100,000. If you were to buy insurance, it would probably be worth \$200,000. But to the people of Alamosa, it's priceless.

"My deepest thanks go out to all the good people who worked so hard and were so generous in bringing the clock back to life."

Mayor Ty Coleman, who was Master of Ceremonies for the event, said, "This was installed by the Van Velhagen brothers in 1912 in front of the jewelry store. The clock was built by the famous Seth Thomas clock company. Originally, about 200 of these clocks were built, and today, less than ten remain... the clock returns to its rightful home in downtown Alamosa. The project would not have been possible with-

out the dedicated help of community members, and the local businesses which donated their time and material, craftsmanship."

Beata Ramza, a Planning Technician with the Development Services Department was responsible for obtaining grant money and painting the clock, said, "I was lucky. I got to paint the clock, and that was super fun. I'm very excited to be here and see this."

Heather Sanchez, city manager of Alamosa, says, "This is an amazing project, the type of project that makes you proud of the community we live in. The volunteers, the family legacy, everyone coming together to make this a reality. This is the type of project that makes you proud to live in a small town in America."

Polis offers his views on ballot issues

STAFF REPORT

COLORADO — The Valley Courier asked Governor Jared Polis to comment on amendments and propositions Coloradans will decide on when they cast their ballots.

According to Polis, "Friends have been asking me where I stand on the different statewide initiatives that will be on our ballots for the upcoming November election. So, I read through all 14 state-level ballot measures, and here are my thoughts. Like you, I am only one vote, so I encourage everyone to read up on the initiatives and make an informed decision."

Amendment G: Allow more disabled veterans to

access a state property tax exemption.

"This is very simple and extends the homestead property tax exemption to about 3,400 more veterans. Rather than requiring 100% disability, to qualify for the property tax exemption, veterans would instead need to demonstrate unemployment status, which generally means that they are unable to keep a steady job due to one service-connected disability rated at 60% or more, or 2 or more service-connected disabilities with at least one disability rated at 40% or more and a combined disability rating of 70% or more. Since I want to help make Colorado the BEST state for veterans, I will be

voting YES ON AMENDMENT G."

• Amendment H: Setting up a judicial discipline board

"This Amendment is meant to address several recent scandals in the judicial branch of government by setting up an independent judicial discipline board. I will be voting YES ON AMENDMENT H.

• Amendment I: No bail for defendants in first degree murder cases

This amendment makes sure that suspects accused of first degree murder are not let out on bail. This will help make Colorado safer and I will be voting YES ON AMENDMENT I.

■ See POLIS page 3



Colorado Governor Jared Polis



The only credit card you need for everything you want to do. Scan the QR code to apply now or call us today at (719) 589-2564.



Record

CommonSpirit Health leaders meet with SLVH leadership

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Leaders from CommonSpirit Health, formerly Centura Health, stopped by SLV Health for a tour and meeting on Sept. 4.

The teams reviewed their business lines and discussed how they can help each other to continue being a strong referral partner for SLVH's patients.

Kristi Olsen is new to her CEO role but not to healthcare leadership. She was excited to meet people and hear feedback about the relationship with Penrose. Allen Overturf is new to his role and enjoyed the tour of our facility and meeting everyone.



Courtesy photo

L to R: Carmelo Hernandez, MD, SLVH CMO; Mike Archuleta, Trauma Nurse Educator, CommonSpirit; Antonio Gurule, SLVH Director of Clinics; Sarah Kay, Regional Director of Rural Health and Outreach, CommonSpirit; Konnie Martin, SLVH CEO; Josh Neff, VP Rural Outreach/CEO - Mercy Durango; Kristi Olsen, CEO - Penrose; Allen Overturf, VP Nursing/CNO - Penrose; Shane Mortensen, SLVH CFO; Zach Weiderspon, SLVH Director of CCH.

OBITUARIES

Virginia MJ Casados

Virginia MJ Casados, 79, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family following a bout with cancer, on Sept. 20, 2024, in Center, Colo. Born on Feb. 24, 1945, in Monte Vista, Colo., Virginia was a cherished daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend who left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who knew her.

Raised by her loving grandparents, Modesto and Deliah Roybal, Virginia grew up with a deep sense of family and community. She was the heart of a large and loving family, which included her children Marie (Carlos) Archuleta, Robert Casados Jr., Felix (Elaine) Casados, Elayne (Steve) Lucero, and adopted son Gregg Casados, as well as her cherished seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Virginia's siblings, Jimmy (Cora) Roybal, Floyd (Lydia) George, Annalee Lovato, David (Anita) George, and Leroy (Sara) George.

Virginia was preceded in death by her beloved husband of nearly four decades, Robert P. Casados,



with whom she shared a love that was the envy of all who witnessed it. She also joins her grandparents, Modesto and Deliah Roybal, her mother Corley Roybal, her brother Jerome George, and her grandson Baby Archuleta, in eternal rest.

Throughout her life, Virginia was a devoted homemaker, pouring her love into every stitch of her crochet and diamond art. Her knitting, embroidery, and vibrant gardens were a testament to her meticulous care and attention to detail. Virginia's home was a welcoming haven where laughter, storytelling, and the joy of spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will not be forgotten.

Those who knew Virginia will remember her

for her loving nature, her generous spirit, and her thoughtful presence. She was the embodiment of warmth and kindness, touching lives through simple acts of love and the unwavering support she offered to everyone around her.

Virginia's legacy will live on in the memories she created with her family and friends, and in the countless lives she touched with her open heart and welcoming smile. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the John Zay Guest House, 2131 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907, or use this web address <https://www.mountain.commonspirit.org/penrose-st-francis-health-foundation/guest-house-ministry>.

A memorial service to honor her life will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista, Colo. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Virginia's family please visit www.Rogers-Funerals.Com.

Eda Rae Johnson

MANASSA – Eda Rae Johnson, a woman of creativity and devotion, passed away peacefully on Sept. 23, 2024, in La Jara, Colo. Born on Jan. 2, 1934, in Ely, Nev., Eda's life was a tapestry of love, art, and faith that touched the hearts of everyone she knew. Her 90 years of life were rich with experiences and relationships that reflected her passionate, creative, and faith-filled spirit.

Eda's journey began as the cherished daughter of Lewis Mattice and Mary Lasca (Boise) Mattice. She grew up surrounded by the love of family, including her late brothers and sister, and her dear brother Walt Mattice of Yerington, Nev. Her early years in the vibrant landscapes of Nevada instilled in her a lifelong appreciation for nature's beauty, which would later become a central theme in her artwork.

On Dec. 9, 1950, Eda married her soulmate, Rex Johnson, and together they embarked on an incredible love story that would have marked its 74th anniversary later this year. Eda and Rex's union was a testament to true companionship, and they filled their years with adventures, traveling the world and creating a legacy of love that



would extend through multiple generations.

Eda's passion for art was not just a hobby but a vital part of her being. Her paintings and crafts were not merely objects of beauty but expressions of her soul. She shared this gift generously, teaching painting to various groups over her lifetime. Eda became renowned for her exquisite card making, which graced numerous special occasions with a personal touch that was uniquely hers.

Her commitment to service was evident in her roles as a foster parent and scout leader, where she guided and nurtured countless young lives with love and loyalty. Eda's faith was the cornerstone of her existence, and she loved her church family dearly. She dedicated herself to serving others, and this was most

palpable in the numerous meals she helped prepare for those in her faith community.

Family was the heart of Eda's world. She is survived by her devoted children: Janis (Tim) Snyder of La Junta, Colo., Randall (Peggy) Johnson of Alamosa, Colo., Timothy (Kathleen) Johnson of Alamosa, Colo., Kris (Matt Knapp) Johnson of Essex Junction, Vt., and Donna Herod of Wright, Wyo. Eda's legacy continues to bloom through her 10 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren, each of whom carry a piece of her spirit and creativity.

A visitation will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Manassa, Colo. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. with burial to follow the services at Manassa Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Rio Grande Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in La Jara.

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

Clear the shelves sale at Spines

ALAMOSA – Saturday, Oct. 5, will be the final sale of the year at Spines, the used book outlet for Friends of the Alamosa Library. It's time to stock up for winter reading at great prices. It will be a Bag and Box Sale. Fill a bag or

box with your selected items for one set price. Prices will be – grocery bag \$10, tote bag \$20, and medium-sized box \$30. Cash or check only. The sale is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., located off the alley north of the Alamosa Post Office. Pro-

ceeds of all sales support the library. For more information or to volunteer for the sale, contact Allyn at 719-588-9410.

Books will be available for sale over the winter months in the library's Book Nook, and Spines will reopen in May.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department report week of Sept. 16

Melinda Deherrera, 52, of Alamosa, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance x3, violation of a restraining order.

Jordan Malouff, 19, of Alamosa, was cited for harassment, false imprisonment – adult, violation of restraining order, obstruction, and domestic violence.

Virginia Murphy, 49, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Michall Brown, 45, of Alamosa was cited for child abuse.

Daniel art, 51, of Alamosa was cited for harassment x4, disorderly conduct.

Celeste Valdez, 40, of Alamosa was cited for changing lanes when unsafe, driving under restraint, uninsured vehicle.

Diego Atencio, 30, of Denver was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance, violation of restraining order.

Leobardo Ortega Anaya, 29, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing, theft under \$300.

Debbie Pettigrew, 67, of Fort Garland was cited for failing to yield ROW at uncontrolled intersection.

Johnathan Hoff, 38, of Alamosa was cited for failure to abate.

Mark Ray, 53, of Alamosa was cited for dog

at large.

Patricia Mott, 44, of San Luis was cited for license required, dog at large, vaccinations required.

Crystal Fernandez Quintana, 35, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Laura Mayberry, 57, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Armando Ramos, 70, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Phil Lucero, 53, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Amanda Aragon, 37, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Juvenile male of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Malissa Martinez, 44, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Brenda Espinoza, 63, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Virgina Murphy, 49, of Alamosa was cited for storage and overnight parking of commercial/recreational vehicles.

Christine Villegos, 57, of Capulin was cited for trespassing x2.

Anthony Ramos, 33, of Fort Garland was cited for failing to obey traffic control device, driving without a license.

Jeffrey Dickerson, 38, of Vicksburg was cited for seatbelts required.

Carlos Rodriguez, 25, of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence, harassment.

Gabriel Sanchez, 48, of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence, 3rd degree assault.

Raquel Talk, 28, of Alamosa was cited for child abuse, disorderly conduct.

Monique Talk, 32, of Alamosa was cited for child abuse, disorderly conduct.

Juvenile male, 16, of Alamosa was cited for disorderly conduct.

Juvenile male, 15, of Alamosa was cited for disorderly conduct.

Terry Cooper, 30, of Alamosa was cited for driving defective vehicle, uninsured vehicle.

Wilford Steelman, 70, of Alamos was cited for careless driving.

Walter Punke, 67, of Albuquerque was cited for changing lanes when unsafe.

School Menu

Friday

September 27, 2024

No
School

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com. If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

Online - www.alamosanews.com

Valley Courier

719-589-2553 • 2205 State Ave. • Alamosa

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

Valley News

Polis

■ Continued from Page 1

• Amendment J: Remove the same-sex marriage ban from the state constitution

Colorado's constitution still has old language that defines marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. If the Supreme Court were ever to reverse the decision allowing same sex marriage, Colorado's current constitutional prohibition on same sex marriage would kick back in and prevent loving same sex couples from marrying. This Amendment simply removes that antiquated language preventing same sex marriage from the state constitution. As someone who happens to be in a same-sex marriage, I strongly support this Amendment. I will be voting YES ON AMENDMENT J.

• Amendment K: Earlier deadlines to set the ballot

"Amendment K moves up some of the electoral deadlines to give clerks more time to finalize the ballot before each election. While I will probably research it a bit more, for now I plan

to vote YES ON AMENDMENT K.

• Amendment 79 Enshrine legal abortion in the state constitution

"I am pro-choice, and this amendment would enshrine the right to choose in our state constitution. It's already protected in state law but protecting it in our state constitution is stronger. I will be voting YES ON Amendment 79."

• Proposition 127: Ban the sport hunting of big cats

"This proposition would end trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats in Colorado and ensure that lynx are never accidentally killed in a trap meant for bobcats. Whether this passes or not, I'm confident that Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be able to continue to manage our wildlife effectively to ensure ecological diversity with plenty of opportunities for big game hunting. I would love to hear what others think on this one, and I probably won't have a strong opinion one way or the other, but will certainly work to successfully implement the will of the voters either way. I am NEU-

TRAL ON PROPOSITION 127."

• Proposition 128: Parole eligibility for people convicted of violent crimes

"This amendment would require violent criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole or early release for good behavior. I haven't made up my mind on this one and would love to hear your thoughts. In general, I do support tougher sentencing for the worst violent crimes like murder and assault, but I'm not sure micromanaging parole or interfering in judicial discretion is the way to go. I think it might be better to have discretion to fit the crime, the victim's input, and the circumstances than to lock it in at 85%, but I'm open to the concept. I am NEUTRAL ON PROPOSITION 128."

• Amendment 80: Constitutional right to school choice

Amendment 80 would enshrine in the state constitution the right of parents to choose the right kind of education to give their children, from kindergarten to 12th grade, including neighborhood, charter

and private schools, homeschooling, or an open enrollment option. I generally support this concept, but I'm not sure exactly what a constitutional right would mean legally. Maybe it means that a parent could sue if the state ever tried to ban homeschooling or private school? In that case, it would be good to give parents more rights. On the other hand, it could lead to costly litigation with uncertain outcomes. I am NEUTRAL ON Amendment 80."

• Proposition 129: Creating the position of Veterinary Professional Associate

"This measure would create a new mid-level veterinary professional position between a vet tech (which typically requires an associate degree) and a full veterinarian (which requires eight or more years of higher education). I think this is a great idea, and we have something similar in human medicine with Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners. It would be great to have it as an option for veterinarians to expand the bandwidth of their practices, too, and it will help save people

money on veterinary bills for pets and also better support our ranchers in rural areas with severe veterinary shortages. I will be voting YES ON PROPOSITION 129."

• Proposition 130: \$350 million in state funding for law enforcement.

"This Initiative will set aside \$350 million in a dedicated fund to support law enforcement and establish a million dollar death benefit for the survivors of law enforcement officials killed in the line of duty. This initiative will support our men and women in blue and help make Colorado safer and I plan to vote YES ON Proposition 130."

• Proposition 131: All candidate primaries and ranked-choice voting.

"This initiative would make it so all candidates running for an office appear on the primary ballot, and then the top four vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, proceed to the general election. For future November elections, voters would get a ballot listing four candidates. Instead of picking just one, voters would rank the candidates in order of preference. This

is also called "instant-run-off voting." While Colorado has among the best voter integrity and access protections, no system of voting is perfect, and I think instant runoff voting is better than our current system because it gives voters more choices. I'm hopeful that if it passes it will encourage participation and improve our democracy. I will be voting YES ON Proposition 131."

• Proposition KK: A new excise tax on gun and ammunition sales.

"This initiative would put a 6.5% excise tax on gun and ammunition sales, with the proceeds going to behavioral health support for veterans and youth, school safety and gun violence prevention, and services for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes. While higher tax levels were discussed early in the process, I was pleased that proponents brought it down to 6.5%, which I think is a reasonable level, and we do need more funding for school safety and victim services and will help make Colorado one of the ten safest states. I plan to vote YES ON PROPOSITION KK."

Vote

■ Continued from Page 1

6. Currently, inmates can apply for parole when they've served 75% of their sentence or even sooner if they've earned time off for their behavior while in prison. Should eligibility for parole when convicted of a violent crime be increased to 85% of sentence?

7. Should there be a new excise tax of 6.5% on the sale of guns and ammunition sales, impacting gun manufacturers, gun vendors and businesses that sell ammunition? Money from the tax collected would be used for behavioral health support for youth and veterans, school safety and gun prevention programs and services for victims of violence and domestic violence.

8. Do you believe elections in Colorado are safe and secure?

9. If elected, what are you top three priorities?

is both Federal and State law. Love is love, and ensuring this right in Colorado's Constitution is long overdue. While this should have been done ten years ago when same sex marriage was legalized, we now have the opportunity to enshrine this right in the Colorado constitution."

Should access to legal abortion be enshrined in the state constitution?

"Yes. Coloradans have voted time and time again on this issue and have resoundingly said that Colorado should remain pro-choice. This ballot initiative will ensure that reproductive health care in this state is protected, and women will continue to have control over their own bodies."

Should the right to school choice be included in the state constitution?

"No. This is a dangerous initiative that threatens public education under the guise of choice. In the last two years, the state has prioritized public education and eliminated the Budget Stabilization Factor. Additionally, we also rewrote the formula on how schools are funded and finally put money into the rural parts of the state for the first time in a generation. We cannot risk putting our public schools at risk with all the hard work that has been done to date."

Should there be a ban on sport hunting of big cats, including mountain lions, bobcats and lynx?

"No. This is another ballot box biology initiative that will have long lasting impact on the state. The hunting industry is already well regulated and if passed will be detrimental to rural Colorado. Hunting licenses pay for habitat conservation and wildlife management efforts. Additionally, these animals play a vital role in our ecosystem. Left unchecked, and without other predators could be disastrous. As we have seen with the recent wolf reintroductions, ballot box biology is not a good approach to our ecosystem nor our state."

Should eligibility for parole when convicted of a violent crime be increased from 75% to 85% of sentence?

"No. Before my time in the legislature, I worked with incarcerated students

in Colorado and across the nation. I have seen firsthand the value of rehabilitation programs in the facilities and how it reduces recidivism. Allowing those who are incarcerated the opportunity to earn time off their sentences either by good behavior or through education cannot be overstated. Studies show that if an incarcerated student earns their Bachelor's degree, their recidivism rate drops to 5.6% and if they earn their Master's, that rate drops to 0%. This shows that education is the key to reducing recidivism and ensuring a safer Colorado."

Should there be a new excise tax of 6.5% on the sale of guns and ammunition sales, impacting gun manufacturers, gun vendors and businesses that sell ammunition?

"Yes. While I disagree with increasing taxes on guns and ammunition sales, I understand the importance of funding behavioral health support for youth and veterans, school safety and gun prevention programs and services for victims of violence and domestic violence. In particular, the San Luis Valley relies on grant money for victims of violence and domestic violence, and these services would be in jeopardy without this additional revenue."

Do you believe elections in Colorado are safe and secure?

"Yes. I have the utmost confidence in our county clerks and Colorado's election system."

If elected, what are your top two or three priorities?

"If re-elected, my number one priority has been, and will always be, protecting our water. In the last two years, we have seen an increase in water purchases in rural Colorado by the front range. Water is life, and I will continue to ensure that the water in the San Luis Valley is protected. Second, I will continue to improve and enhance services for our Veterans. We can, and must do better for those that served this great country. Last but certainly not least, continue to support our agricultural community. We must continue to highlight our success and educate the front range on the importance of agriculture in the state."



Republican challenger Carol Rigenbach D-62.

Carol Rigenbach, Republican candidate for Colorado House of Representatives District 62.

In cases where prosecutors have a strong case, should defendants charged with first degree murder be denied bail?

Yes.

Should the same-sex marriage ban be removed from the state constitution?

Candidate Rigenbach did not respond to this question.

Should access to legal abortion be enshrined in the state constitution?

"Why would a medical procedure be enshrined in the state constitution? Enshrining it in the constitution would also mean that taxpayers pay for the procedure. How does abortion span across all medical procedures as the one that makes it into the constitution?"

Should the right to school choice be included in the state constitution?

"Why are we having to consider putting school choice in the state constitution? Don't parent's already have rights to access any school of their choice? Shouldn't the federal government get out of our schools so that our school boards can make decisions based on their local needs? I realize this question is being asked because it is on the ballot.

Are you asking how I will vote? The level of governmental control in our lives has gone too far. If school boards had freedom to do what the people want, not what the teacher union wants, not what the federal government wants with threats to cut off funding, we could then operate our schools in such a way where children could excel. There

is a concern with this ballot initiative that the language of the bill could give the government more control over every choice and upend parental authority—"all children have the right...."

Should there be a ban on sport hunting of big cats, including mountain lions, bobcats and lynx?

"This ban also prohibits commercial fur trapping. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife have hired experts to manage our parks and wildlife. Why are we managing wildlife by ballot initiatives?"

Should eligibility for parole when convicted of a violent crime be increased from 75% to 85% of sentence?

"Yes. We have a serious problem within our communities. Our police officers are more at risk than ever because of the control of our legislative leaders. The majority of those who sit in seats of authority have put us, the people of Colorado, at risk with their irresponsible decisions. Thus communities are more at risk which we are seeing every day. There is so much more that needs to be done to address the crime, drug issues, homelessness, and cost of living where these 4 items go hand in hand."

Should there be a new excise tax of 6.5% on the sale of guns and ammunition sales, impacting gun manufacturers, gun vendors and businesses that sell ammunition?

"No. I testified against all the gun bills that came through the capital this last session. It is clear that the promise to have the money go to behavioral health support and school safety is an empty promise. Money could be given to those programs now. Why hasn't our legislators listened to the people and made these programs a priority right now rather than giving hand over fist of monies to illegal immigrants that mean harm to our people?"

Do you believe elections in Colorado are safe and secure?

"No. I have done my homework. Any citizen of the State of Colorado

who seriously wants to trust the electoral process needs to do a deep dive and look at the evidence and how we got here in the first place. A perfect place to start is "Rocky Mountain Heist" on YouTube. We, as the people of Colorado, need to wake up and take our state back."

If elected, what are your top two or three priorities?

"The number one issue facing the communities of Pueblo county which is in my district (East Side, Bessemer, South Side) is crime. The consequences for crime are nearly non-existent. When a woman found with enough fentanyl to kill my hometown can get bonded out with \$400, we have a serious issue.

I also have all six counties in the San Luis Valley. The water needs to be protected. All efforts have been made to protect the water. Vigilance will be key. In Huerfano county, safety and the economy are also issues which need real solutions. Talk is cheap. Let's get to work.

The cost of living is hurting our people all across Colorado. Our families are hurting to just put food on the table, pay for fuel to get to work, pay for housing, etc. How does a family do anything extra such as paying for school sports (shoes and uniforms), going out to eat and more. It is a travesty and so not necessary when Colorado has such abundance. The rampant government spending is out of control. The additional governmental offices created in the last several years are not helping the average citizen of Colorado.

Homelessness is a serious problem which is threatening our state at many levels. The homeless suffer in their ability to function at a state where they can feel good about themselves and their lives. The infiltration of drugs and crime in the homeless population is right down sad. There are those who choose to be homeless and then there are those who choose not to be homeless. It's those that want to escape who need to be on our radar screens with real solutions."



Democratic incumbent, Rep. Matt Martinez - D62

Rep. Matt Martinez, incumbent and Democratic candidate for Colorado House of Representatives, District 62

In cases where prosecutors have a strong case, should defendants charged with first degree murder be denied bail?

"Yes. This ballot initiative was addressed in HCR24-1002 that addressed a loophole that was created when the death penalty was repealed in the state. I voted in favor of this resolution in March to ensure that those who pose the most risk to our community are held until their trial."

Should the same-sex marriage ban be removed from the state constitution?

Yes. This is outdated language in the Colorado Constitution that must be updated to reflect what

Opinion

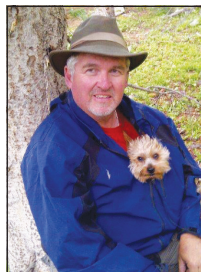
Alvin and The Chipmunks

Ol' Dutch has spent a lot of time lately up in the forests in pursuit of the elusive elk. In doing so, I have been able to see a lot of animals in their everyday activities. I love watching them as they go about their daily lives not knowing that I am hiding a few feet away from them. For about eight years, I've been hunting in the same makeshift blind. Early on, I would have certain chipmunks come into the fallen timber blind with me. Being an old softy, I would share my meager lunch with them. They would take a small portion and run off to store it for winter in their dens then quickly return begging for more.

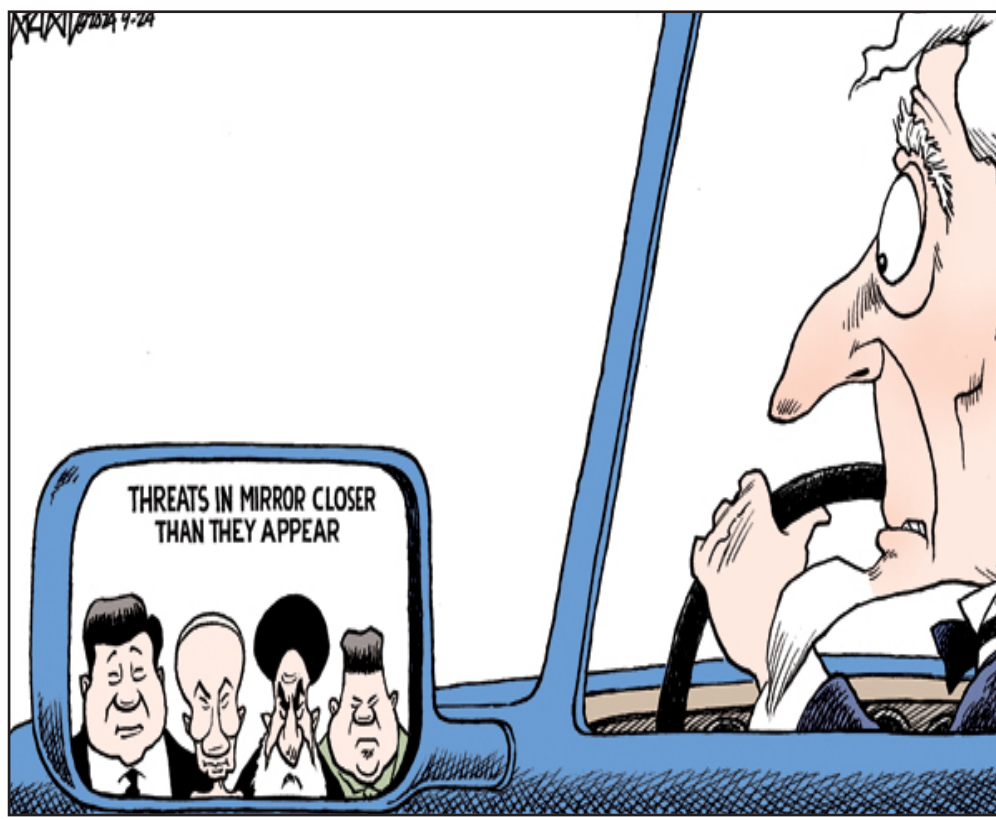
This has gone on for some years now and while I know it cannot be the same chipmunks due to their short lifespan, they have evidently taught their children to come stand in line and beg as I have regular customers now. There's probably a social lesson there but that's for another day. They remind me of Alvin and the Chipmunks. That singing trio was dreamed up way back in 1958 and had a huge run of success with Grammy awards plus a best-selling album with over 5 million copies sold of one song alone. Who can dispute that we as Americans will fall for anything that comes down the pike?

They are cute little rascals and this year I started out with some granola bars which they really seemed to like. Of course, they are sweet with honey

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



on them, and I got concerned I was leading them to an early grave with diabetes. Therefore, I switched to almonds. And boy oh boy, do they ever like those. Fat little cheeks soon swell with sweet nuts, and they scamper to and fro taking them back for a winter larder. One morning Ol' Dutch forgot the nuts, but I had three pieces of bread in my pocket and put that out for their arrival. And to my surprise, they turned up their noses at the brown "healthy" wheat slices. They just refused to eat them.

The look of complete and total disdain on their part toward me was funny to behold and "Alvin," the chipmunk with the short tail, stood up on the wood wall of the blind and scolded me for a good while. Needless to say, I made sure to have a package of almonds each day

since and they have resumed their many trips with cheeks stuffed full of nutty goodness. Having spent a lot of time sitting up there, I began to contemplate just how picky they have become in what they eat. It mirrors what we as humans consume, too.

They far prefer sugary treats to the healthy nuts as evidenced when I put them both out at the same time. And I think this further proves that the snack companies know that sugary treats are the key to getting our dollars. Our growing waistlines and horrific amount of snacks now stocked in every store is evidence that the snack companies are winning. It's actually quite frightening when you really look at how prevalent sugar and snacks are.

Watching Alvin and his friends scamper about the forest floor, I am reminded

To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

just how close winter is as of late. The little rascals get lost in the fallen golden aspen leaves that now cover the forest floor. Soon the snow of winter will descend with a vengeance. Unlike bears, chipmunks don't store fat to get them through the winter. Instead, they periodically wake up to eat their stored food. These three little chipmunks will be safe and sound in their dens through the cold months, snacking on almonds and granola bars to their hearts' content when they wake up.

I hope that I have not led them astray to needing Ozempic by spring.

Kevin Kirkpatrick spends his days fishing, hunting, ATVing, hiking or making people laugh. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

Kamala Harris' never-ending border dodge

Entertainment legend Oprah Winfrey recently held a star-studded town hall for Vice President Kamala Harris. It took place in Farmington Hills, Michigan, in a key swing state, but celebrities from around the world connected via Zoom to help celebrate Harris' last-minute candidacy for president. Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Chris Rock, Jennifer Lopez, Ben Stiller and others joined in.

Don't confuse anything that happened with the kind of scrutiny candidates undergo when they hold town halls under real campaign conditions. No, in this case, Winfrey's first question was, "Can you feel the joy rising here?" (Harris said she could.) After that, Winfrey said, "It seems to us that something happened to you the moment Joe Biden stepped aside and withdrew his candidacy, that a veil or something dropped and you just stepped into your power."

And so on. The event was part love fest, part pep rally. Harris said almost nothing of consequence because 1. her entire approach to the campaign is to avoid saying anything of consequence, and 2. it wasn't that kind of event. So rather than go through Harris' various statements, it might be a good idea to take another look at her way of avoiding any substantive discussion of her record on what is one of the top three issues in the campaign -- the border.

About 40 minutes into the event, a man named Justin rose and said to Harris, "When you become president, what would be your specific steps to strengthening the border?" It was one of the few real questions of the day.

"So it's a wonderful and important question," Harris said. "You know my background was as a prosecutor, and I was also the elected attorney general for two terms of a border state, so this

is not a theoretical issue for me. This is something I've actually worked on. I have prosecuted transnational criminal organizations for the trafficking of guns, drugs and human beings. I take very seriously the importance of having a secure border and ensuring the safety of the American people."

The credentials Harris claims to have on the border predate her time in the Senate and in the vice presidency. She does not cite anything she has done in the White House as proof that she could secure the border as president. She continued: "Sadly, where we are now can be traced most recently back to the fact that when the United States Congress, members of the Congress, including some of the most conservative Republicans, came up with a border security bill, and here's what the border security bill would have done. It would have put 1,500 more border agents at the border. Let me tell you, those border agents are working around the clock. It would have just been about giving them some support and relief, which is probably why the border agents actually endorsed the bill. ..."

Harris continued: "The bill would have allowed us to have more resources to prosecute transnational criminal organizations, and it would have been part of the solution. And Donald Trump called up those folks and said don't put that bill on the floor for a vote. He blocked the bill ... because he'd prefer to run on a problem instead of fixing a problem." The room erupted into applause. "And this again gets to the point about what does leadership really look like -- is it about you or is it about the people?"

At that point, Winfrey stepped in and said, "So to answer Justin's question,

now that that bill has gone and hasn't passed, will you reintroduce that?"

"Absolutely," Harris answered. "And when I am elected president of the United States I will make sure that bill gets to my desk and I will sign it into law."

It was an absolutely surreal moment, as is every moment Harris addresses the border issue. The bill, which she has made the centerpiece of her case on the border, was introduced in the Senate on Feb. 4, 2024. Yes, this year. It died in the Senate in May. It was never introduced, and would never have passed, in the House of Representatives. In the Senate, most Republicans opposed the bill in part because, even though it would have done some good things, it would also have regularized massive, daily flows of illegal crossers into the United States, which is specifically the problem Congress needed to stop, not normalize.

Here's the thing: President Joe Biden and Harris took office on Jan. 20, 2021. They opened the door to illegal border crossers, and millions came into the United States. It went on through 2021, through 2022, through 2023. Only when an election year came around did they make any noise about "securing" the border.

Now, the entirety of Harris' border security agenda is to somehow revive the bill and somehow get it passed in both Senate and House. And then she will bring about border security by signing it into law.

That is simply not a serious position. It's a dodge, a deflection -- and a totally transparent one at that. Harris claims signing a bill would show what leadership really looks like. But she has been in a position of leadership for nearly four years, and for all that time her administration has sought to accommodate, not to stem, the flow of millions of illegal

border crossers into the United States.

And yet that is the only case Kamala Harris makes for what she claims would be her "leadership" on the border. Yes, it's unreasonable to expect serious policy discussion during an Oprah cheerleading party. But Harris has not offered any more substance anywhere else, either. At this point, it seems obvious that she doesn't plan to say anything more before Election Day.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner. Email him at byork@washington-examiner.com.



By Byron York

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

STATE HOUSE

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

STATE SENATE

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

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Lauren Boebert (R)
Pueblo Office: 503 N. Main, Suite 426, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 696-6970;

Washington Office: 1609 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4761

Fax: (202) 226-9669;

Contact: <https://boebert.house.gov/>

U.S. SENATE

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

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

Contact: bennet.senate.gov

John Hickenlooper (D)

Washington office: B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-5941

Contact: www.hickenlooper.senate.gov

Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

coloradopress
ASSOCIATION

Debbie Sowards Advertising Manager
John Waters News Editor
Priscilla Waggoner Staff Writer
Ryker Alonzo Editorial Assistant

Ken Hamrick Sports Editor
Gary Honodel Print and Digital Sales
Shasta Quintana Circulation
Richard R. Quintana Mailroom Supervisor/Press



Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles



Photos by Marie Mccolm



Approximately 40 people attended the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting celebrating its anniversary and its area 14 graduates on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper.

A mini-business bazaar was also held during the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting in Hooper on Sept. 21. The bazaar featured local vendors and graduates of the institute.

RMMFI celebrates anniversary and graduates

Event held at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper

By MARIE MCCOLM
HOOPER — Approximately 40 people attended the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting celebrating its anniversary and its area 14 graduates on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper.

A mini-business bazaar was also held as part of the festivities with local vendors and graduated entrepreneurs, selling many different items, that were both homemade and from their local stores.

Free food was also served at the event, including pulled-pork sandwiches, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and a generous piece of peach pie with ice cream for dessert.

Daliah Torrez, who is a graduate and Digital Marketing Manager for the institute, was the hostess of the event. Everyone cheered and clapped for the graduates.

Torrez spoke about the institute and what they do for entrepreneurs.

"We just celebrated 16 years in business. We try to do these community events at least once a year in the Valley. We try to get all the entrepreneurs that have graduated from the program from the area together for this event, that's why we held this here today. There have been a ton of entrepreneurs that have gone through the program already," Torrez said.

Torrez explained that the institute gives entrepreneurs education on how to start a business, and all the aspects of running a business. There are also grants and loans available to graduates.

"This is a great program for anyone who is interested in starting a business, because we realize it can be hard," she said.

Torrez explained that people who enroll and get involved with the program are paired up with mentors, including financial mentors and ac-

countability mentors, to help ensure that every-

one that's going through the program is getting what they need from it. "There are different phases to the program, there are some eligibility requirements involved in getting started. We do look at income and household size. Once it is deemed that you are eligible, you just move into the program from there," Torrez said.

Rocky Mountain Microfinance Institute or RMMFI according to its website is focused on helping individuals and communities that have been overlooked by traditional businesses and financial services. Torrez stated that the program does try to focus on people in rural areas too.

"The program takes you through many different aspects of business, including core, finance, marketing, business operations, and so much more. We do try to work with rural communities a lot. We want to see people succeed that are interested in creating their own businesses, that's what the institute is focused on and that's what it's all about."

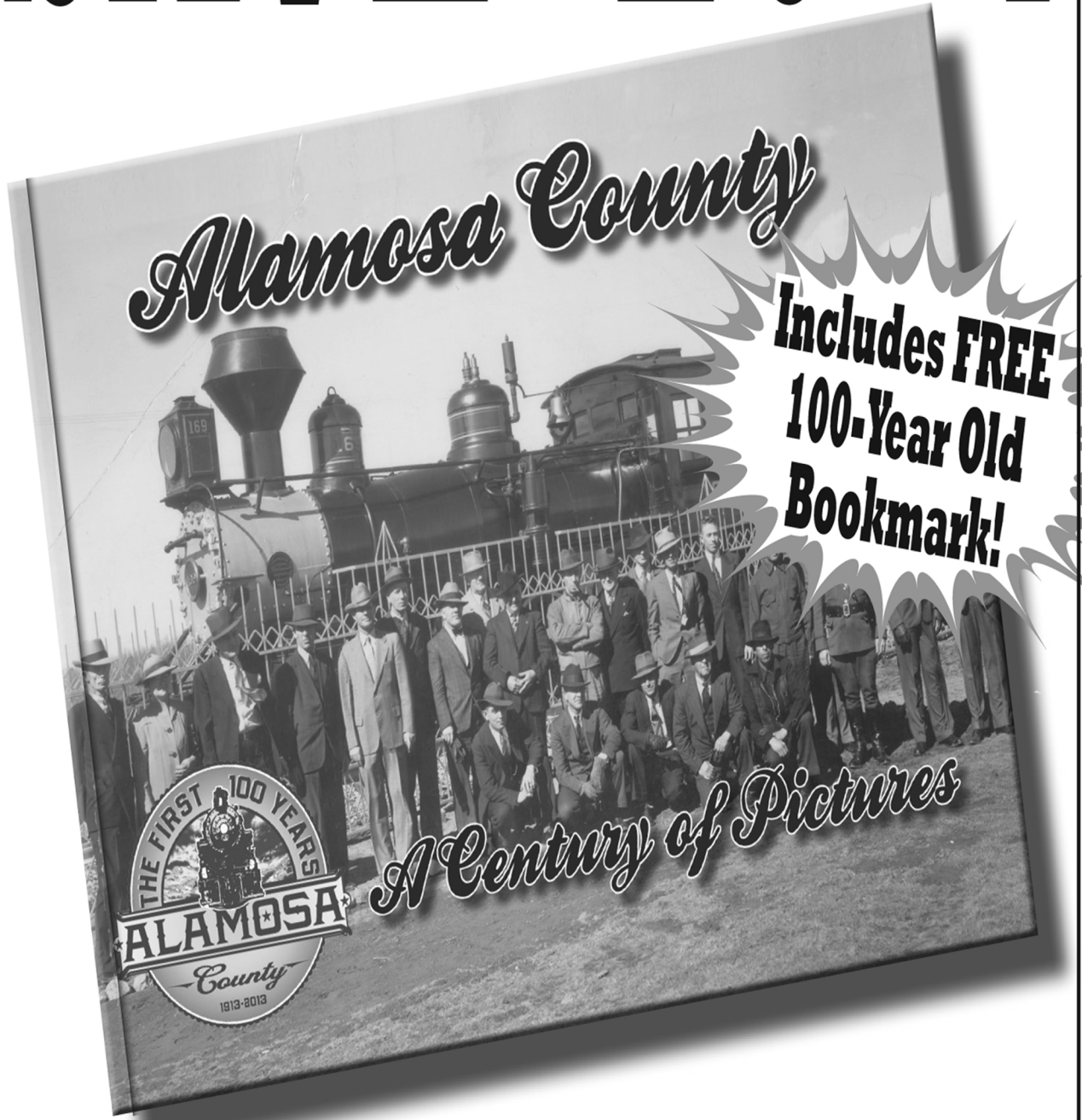
Local RMMFI graduate Jennifer Graves attended the event and said it helped her open an art studio in Monte Vista.

"They have many individualized programs that help you with your specific area of business interest. It's a well-supported program that can take you from point A to point B and really teach you the ins and outs of running a business by yourself. I would recommend this to any entrepreneur looking at opening their own business, but not having all the information that they need to do so. The mentorship programs alone open your mind to so much and really help you in ways that support your individual dreams. I am very proud of the art studio that I have in Monte Vista, and I feel like RMMFI really helped me and opened a clear path to help me get there. I hope other entrepreneurs will consider enrolling. It is a fantastic program," Graves said.

Ruby Rose Bakery is at 11704 N Highway 17 in Hooper.

For more information, visit www.rmmfi.org or call 1-303-522-9266.

SAVE \$20⁰⁰!



"Alamosa County: A Century of Pictures"

NOW \$29⁹⁵ reg. \$49⁹⁵

Limited Time Only



2205 State



Alamosa

Sports

Sargent wins epic match with Del Norte

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
SARGENT SCHOOL— It was a battle of ranked undefeated teams Tuesday at the Sargent High School gym as the Lady Farmers, ranked ninth in Class 1A, took on Del Norte, ranked third in Class 2A.

The match lived up to the hype. It was decided in four sets with all of the sets being decided by five points or less. That included the first and fourth sets that had to be decided in extra points.

But when the dust settled, Sargent came out on top. They won the first set 28-26, but the Lady Tigers won the second 25-21. The Lady Farmers took the final two sets by scores of 25-20 and 26-24.

"It was a good game," said Sargent coach Sami Cotten. "Del Norte's a good team. I'm glad we came out on top. They were all close. Del Norte has been in every single match that they've played and they will the rest of the season. We're just going to focus on finishing a little bit more. But I'm proud of the girls."

"Both great teams were competing," said Del Norte coach Chance Canty. "A few balls fell the wrong way for each team in each set. So it came down to two points when it mattered."

Del Norte scored the first point of the first set, but Sargent went on a 7-2 run to take a 7-3 lead. The Lady Tigers closed the margin to 9-8, but the Lady Farmers scored two straight points for an 11-8 lead.

Del Norte then scored seven consecutive points, including three service aces by Kailee Gallegos, to take a 15-11 advantage. But Sargent responded with a 6-1 run to regain the lead at 17-16.

The Lady Tigers scored

three points in a row for a 19-17 lead. But the Lady Farmers had a 4-1 run for a 21-20 edge.

Del Norte retook the lead at 22-21, but Sargent took the lead back at 23-22. The Lady Farmers scored two straight points for a 24-23 lead, but Sargent did the same and led 25-24.

The Lady Tigers regained the lead at 26-25, but the Lady Farmers scored the final three points for a 28-26 win.

Sargent scored the first point of the second set, but Del Norte had a 10-4 run for a 10-5 advantage.

The Lady Farmers closed to within 10-8, and after the teams traded side outs, they narrowed the deficit to 13-12.

The Lady Tigers pushed the lead to 15-12, but the Lady Farmers scored four straight points for a 16-15 lead.

Del Norte had a 5-1 run for a 20-17 lead. Sargent scored four in a row to lead 21-20, but the Lady Tigers scored the final five points to claim a 25-21 win.

Sargent scored the first two points of the third set and increased the lead to 5-1. Del Norte went on a 6-1 run to take the lead at 7-6. The teams exchanged side outs before the Lady Tigers scored three consecutive points for an 11-8 lead.

The Lady Farmers answered by scoring seven unanswered points to take a 15-11 advantage. The Lady Tigers narrowed the margin to 15-13, and after trading side outs, Sargent increased the lead to 20-16.

Del Norte came back to cut its deficit to 21-20, but Sargent scored the final four points to claim a 25-20 victory.

The Lady Tigers scored the first two points of the

fourth set before the Lady Farmers came back to tie the score at 3-3. Del Norte scored three straight points for a 6-3 advantage.

Sargent came back to deadlock the score at 7-7. Del Norte then went on a 6-3 run for a 13-10 lead.

The Lady Farmers again knotted the score at 15-15, but the Lady Tigers scored four consecutive points for a 19-15 advantage.

Sargent went on a 7-1 run for a 22-20 lead. It increased the lead to 24-21, but Del Norte scored three straight points to tie the score at 24-24.

The Lady Farmers scored the final two points to win 26-24.

Sargent was led by Reese Anderson with 21 assists and 11 kills, and Kandace Pargin with 16 assists and 21 kills. Makenzie Consaul had eight kills, and Bella Anderson, Kimmy Pargin, and Catie Deacon each had five. Deacon and Anderson each had one service ace.

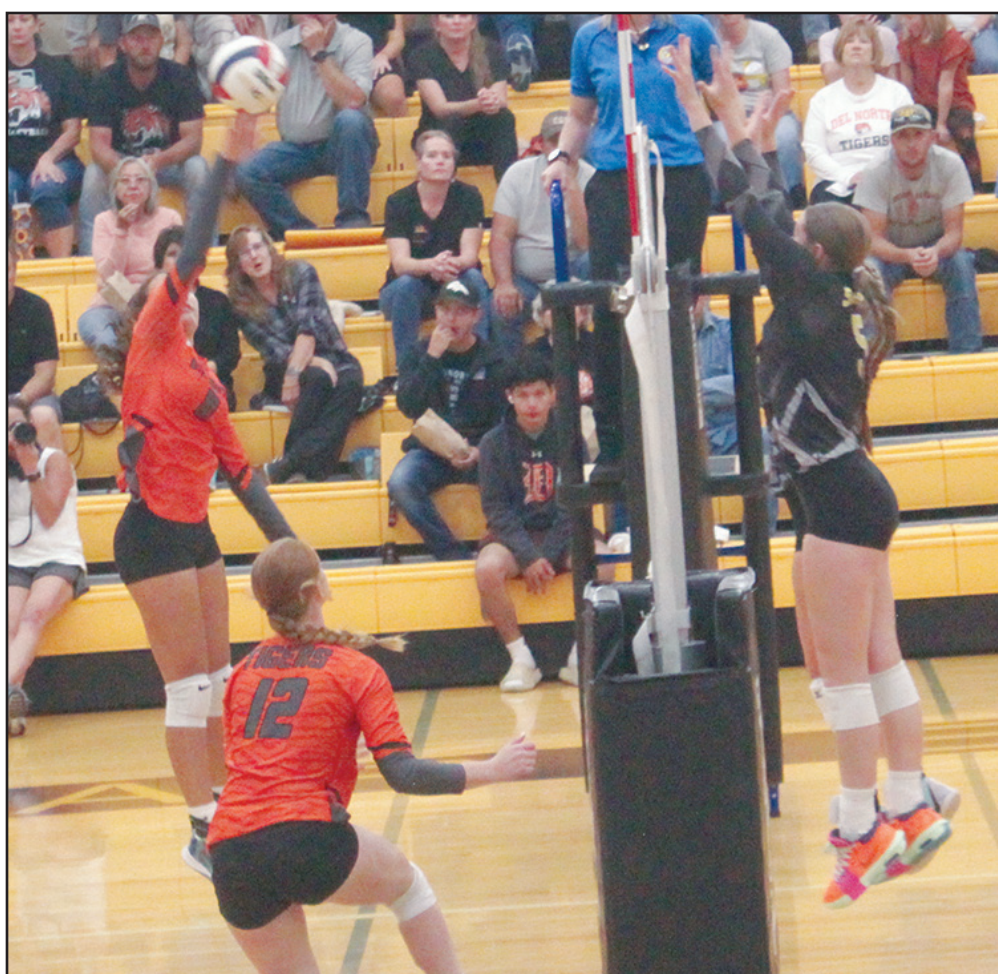
Leading Del Norte was Kailee Gallegos with 38 assists. Brynley Brown led in kills with 18, followed by Reece Brown with nine, Baylie Laymon with seven, and Autumn Gallegos and Hadley Leggett both with six.

The Lady Tigers had 12 aces and were led by Kailee Gallegos with five and Reece Brown with three.

Sargent (12-0, 4-0) will return to league play on Saturday as it will host Sierra Grande.

"It's another league game and we're looking forward to taking care of them," Cotten said.

Del Norte (9-1, 1-0) will play another nonleague match against Dolores Huerta Prep on Friday.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Del Norte High School's Brynley Brown (8) hits the ball while Sargent's Kandace Pargin (5) goes up for the block in Tuesday's match at the SHS gym. The Lady Farmers, ranked ninth in Class 1A, defeated the Lady Tigers, ranked third in Class 2A, in four sets.

Nominate us for Best in the San Luis Valley!

TRUCKS AND CARS AT GREAT PRICES

In-House Financing (on Select Vehicles) ✓
Oil Changes ✓ Tires ✓ Auto Service ✓

We can find You the Perfect Vehicle on request

**1591 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-206-2777
garciaautosales.1591@gmail.com**

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

Prep boys soccer
Durango 6, Alamosa 0

Prep girls softball
Alamosa 15, Gunnison 5, 6 inn.

Prep girls volleyball
Center def. Antonito in three sets – scores not reported

Sargent def. Del Norte 28-26, 21-25, 25-20, 26-24

Monte Vista def. Crested Butte 25-21, 20-25, 25-19, 25-17

College women's volleyball
Colorado State Pueblo def. Adams State 25-17, 22-25, 25-22, 25-21

THURSDAY

Prep girls softball
Alamosa at Southeast Colorado – late

Prep girls volleyball
Centennial at Sangre de Cristo – late

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep football
Sangre de Cristo at Holly, 6 p.m.

Bayfield at Centauri, 7 p.m.

Dolores Huerta Prep at Del Norte – canceled

Prep cross country
Alamosa, Centauri at Rampart Invitational (at Cottonwood Creek Park, Colorado Springs), 2:30 p.m.

Antonito, Center, Sierra Grande at Lake City Invitational, 3 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Bayfield at Centauri, 3 p.m.

Mountain Valley at Sierra Grande, 3 p.m.

Dolores Huerta Prep at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 4 p.m.

Sanford at Escalante (N.M.), 4 p.m.

Sargent at Center, 4 p.m.

College men's soccer
Adams State at South Dakota Mines, 1 p.m.

College women's soccer
Adams State at Westminster (Utah), 7:30 p.m.

College women's volleyball
South Dakota Mines at Adams State, 6 p.m.

College swimming
Adams State at Western Colorado, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY

Prep football
Branson/Kimat Antonito, 1 p.m.

Prep girls gymnastics
Alamosa at Lakewood

Invitational, 8 a.m.

Prep boys soccer
Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez, 11 a.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Montezuma-Cortez at Centauri, 11 a.m.

Sanford at Buena Vista, noon

Creede at Centennial, 1 p.m.

Del Norte at Center, 1 p.m.

Sierra Grande at Sargent, 1 p.m.

College football
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 1 p.m.

College women's volleyball
Black Hills State (S.D.) at Adams State, 6 p.m.

College swimming
Western Colorado at Adams State, 9 a.m.

SUNDAY

College men's soccer
Colorado Christian at Adams State, noon

College women's soccer
Adams State at Colorado Mesa, noon

MONDAY

Prep boys golf
Alamosa at Class 3A Region 1 Tournament (at Conquistador, Cortez), 9 a.m.

Del Norte, Monte Vista at Class 2A Region 1 Tournament (at Hollydot), 9 a.m.

Best of the Best 2024

Nominate Your Favorite Local Business Today!

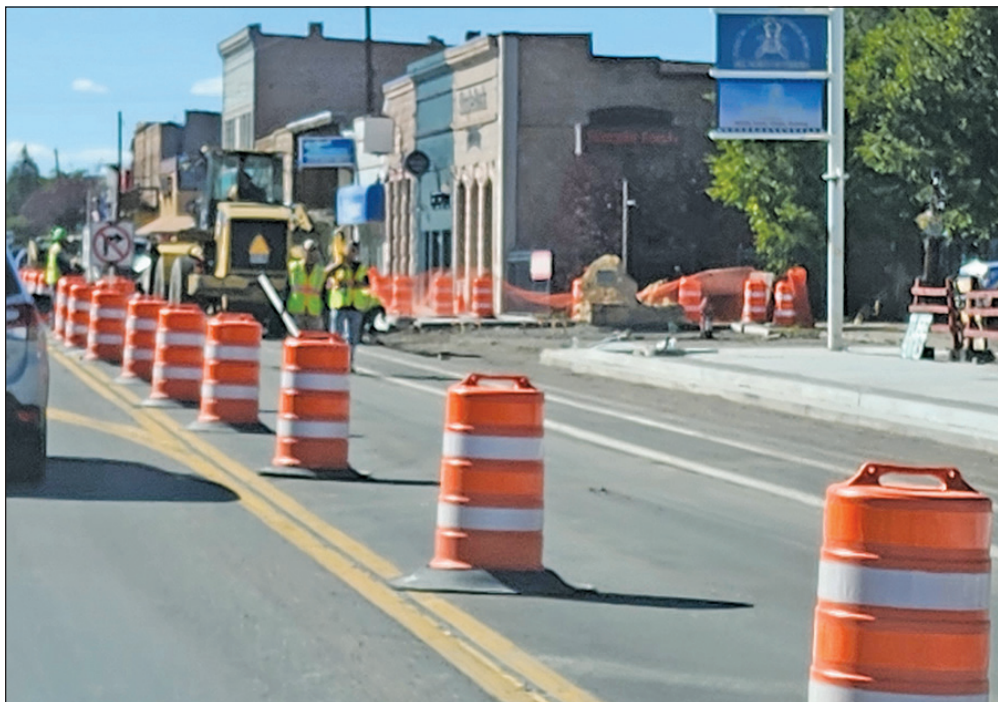
TRUCKS & CARS AT GREAT PRICES
In-House Financing Options ✓
Oil Changes ✓ Tire Service & Sales ✓

Open: Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Saturday
1591 State Ave. • Alamosa • 719-206-2777
garciaautosales.1591@gmail.com

6687 Malouff Rd. • Alamosa, CO
www.valleyelectricinc.com
(719) 589-3957 • Fax: (719) 589-6865

SCAN ME

Lifestyle



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Work on downtown Del Norte started in August. RMS Utilities says the project is moving along nicely.

RMS, Town of Del Norte give update on downtown project

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Now that summer is ending, Del Norte has stepped back from the busy season to see what has been accomplished since the downtown project began at the beginning of August. Over the past several weeks, the town has navigated construction during the busiest time of year and the hope that when the dust settles, downtown Del Norte will be a showstopper for visitors.



Town of Del Norte Public Works Director Kevin Larimore says the next step of the downtown project will be begin work on the south side of the highway by spring of 2025.

flower beds. We wanted to be sure to include a natural element to the project and will be working with a local gardener to get some vegetation installed.”

RMS Utilities and the Town of Del Norte would also like to remind the public that the businesses along Grande Avenue are open and there is access to all of the businesses through the alleyways.

“There is plenty of parking and side streets that take guests to businesses while construction is underway. We are also here to answer any questions or to help however we can. We have a small window to complete projects like this and unfortunately it takes a toll on the businesses,” said Malouff.

Malouff also wanted to ask that people crossing the highway cross at 5th Street and use the light.

“That is the safest location for anyone crossing the highway right now. We want everyone to be safe,” Malouff said.

Beyond those few recommendations, the project is right on track and the first phase is expected to be completed before the snow flies. For more information, contact RMS Utilities at www.rmsutilities.com or the Town of Del Norte at 719-657-2708.

Malouff was joined by Town of Del Norte Public Works Director Kevin Larimore, who has been working with RMS Utilities and helping to make sure the project stays on track.

“We are right on schedule and are looking forward to finishing the first part of this project. Our next step will be to move back to Cherry Street and begin work on the south side of the highway by spring,” Larimore said.

According to Malouff and Larimore, the streetlights should be arriving by late October to the beginning of November which will be a pivotal time for the project.

“It will give us a chance to really see how this is going to look. We have the benches and trash receptacles ordered and those will be the next things to be installed,” said Larimore.

Malouff said they received questions about the cutouts lining the sidewalks that contain black rock and was happy to explain, “They are

Nominate us for Best of San Luis Valley!



6687 Malouff Rd. • Alamosa, CO
www.valleyelectricinc.com
 (719) 589-3957 • Fax: (719) 589-6865

Call Us for All Your Electrical Needs

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Oktobrüfest

and spirits

2024

Alamosa, Colorado

SATURDAY SEPT. 28

COLE PARK 2PM-6PM

FEATURING

FREE TO ATTEND! DRINK PACKAGES!
NON-ALCOHOLIC OPTIONS! RETAIL BOOTHS!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE BENT EARS
D.J.- E.

SAFE RIDES HOME OFFERED BY SLV ADVENTURES***TIPS APPRECIATED!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

alamosachamber.com/oktoberfest

Classifieds

County Court, Rio Grande County, Colorado
 926 6th Street, Rm 204
 Del Norte, CO 81132
 In the Matter of the Petition of:
 Jordan Taylor Gram Shipe-Davis
 For a Change of Name to:
 ASAH ANDREW HANNA
 COURT USE ONLY
 LAW OFFICE OF ANGELA LEE
 Angela Lee #53495
 620 Grand Ave. PO Box 69
 Del Norte, CO 81132
 719-657-1919
 angela@angelalee.law
 Attorney for Petitioner
 Case Number:
 Division: Courtroom
 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Public Notice is given on September 11, 2024 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Rio Grande County Court.
 The Petitioner requests that the name of
 JORDEN TAYLOR-GRAHAM SHIPE-DAVIS
 First Middle Name Last Name
 be changed to
 ASAH ANDREW HANNA
 First Middle Name Last Name
 No. 4126.
 Published in the Valley Courier on September 13, 20, & 27, 2024.

Notice of Hearing
 To the residents of East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District:
 The Board of Directors for East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District will call a public hearing on October 28th at 6 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comment on the proposed Bulk Water rate increase. All inquiries concerning the public hearing should contact the District's office at 719-589-2649.
 No. 4153.
 Published in the Valley Courier on September 27, 2024.

221 - HELP WANTED

HARDWARE MANAGER - RANDALL LUMBER & HARDWARE, INC. Department: Hardware & Ranch Departments. Supervisor: Paula Ervin. General Job Description: MANAGE HARDWARE/RANCH DEPARTMENT of RANDALL LUMBER & HARDWARE, INC. Job Description: The Hardware, Ranch & Feed manager will lead and manage employees including hiring, training and development; They will manage inventory and pricing, Managing P&L performance will also be a duty of the Hardware Manager; Vendor and customer relations, new business development, marketing, analysis, forecasting and budgeting are also areas of responsibilities for this position. Qualifications For The Job: Education: Bachelor's degree in business (preferred) Or equivalent experience (5 Years in management position with similar Responsibilities); Strong leadership skills and creative thinking would be great. Physical Requirements: Ability to lift 40 lbs. and the ability to physically move throughout the Hardware Store facility. This is a FULL-TIME position Supporting a Monday through Saturday store schedule, with a Salary commensurate to experience, + benefits. If interested, please submit a cover letter, resume & 3 References to pervin@randalltaos.com For more information or answers to questions, please contact Paula Ervin directly, 575-758-2271. (10/30/24)

VENDOLA PLUMBING & HEATING hiring full time experienced HVAC TECH with paid health insurance and full benefits. Send resume to rhonda@vendola.com, or apply in person at 185 1/2 Broadway, ALAMOSA. (10/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

THE ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for a PAYROLL/HUMAN RESOURCES CLERK. Qualifications: High School Diploma, computer Literate, accuracy and typing skills, Understanding of payroll and Federal and State procedures, Two (2) years payroll experience, good communication skills. Application, Job Description and Salary Schedule available online at <http://www.alamosaschools.org>. For more information please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (10/4/24)

ELEMENTARY PARAPROFESSIONAL NEEDED: We are seeking a dedicated Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about working with young learners, we'd love to hear from you! Salary starts at \$21,035.19 on the Paraprofessionals salary schedule. New employees to the district may be granted up to 8 years of experience at the discretion of the superintendent at the time of hiring. Benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, optional \$1,200 a year toward an HSA, and life insurance coverage. Free admission to all home athletic events, staff wellness room, discount rates to Monte Vista Athletic Club, Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, and Monte Vista Golf Course. Please complete the non-certified application and submit with resume. For more information and to apply, visit www.sargent.k12.co.us or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 10/8/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (10/15/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SAN LUIS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER in CENTER, CO, seeks FARM MANAGER, full-time salaried w/ benefits. Min. requirements include experience managing an entity involved in research, agricultural production or related commercial enterprise environment. Read full job description and apply online by 09/30/2024 for full consideration at: <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/150505>. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. (10/25/24)

SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH is looking for an EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANAGER. This position is responsible for creating and overseeing emergency preparedness and response plans and involves assessing risks, coordinating training and drills, and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations to protect the organization's assets, personnel, and operations in the event of emergencies. To learn more about this opportunity check out our careers page at www.slvh.org or call 719-587-1200. (10/01/24)

SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH is seeking a DIRECTOR of HUMAN RESOURCES. Leading a team of six, this position is directly responsible for the management, administration, coordination, and evaluation of Human Resource services and functions for all departments and the 765 employees of San Luis Valley Health. To learn more about this incredible opportunity check out our careers page at www.slvh.org or call 719-587-1200. (10/9/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

RIOGRANDE COUNTY is seeking a LAND USE CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR w/ without building inspector duties to join our team. The land use code compliance inspector performs duties related to the enforcement of the Rio Grande County land use development code and building codes. Performs inspections of vacation rental properties and maintains records relating to vacation rentals. Performs field verification of building setbacks. Maintains address and zoning permit database and assigns new addresses and issues agricultural building permits. Assists with building construction inspections as assigned. This a full time, non-exempt position, that will receive county benefits of annual & sick leave, retirement and health insurance. Wage/salary range is \$20.19 - \$29.26 per hour doe. Check out the employment section on <https://riograndecounty.colorado.gov/>. Submit applications to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or drop it off at 925 6th Street, Rm 200, DEL NORTE, CO 81132. Job will remain open until filled. (10/9/24)

FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR: SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a highly motivated Facilities/Maintenance Director for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have strong team management and interpersonal skills, knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and HVAC, we'd love to hear from you! Starting salary is between \$45,000 and \$53,800 BOE and qualifications. For more information and to apply, visit www.sargent.k12.co.us or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 9/30/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (9/28/24)



Satisfy your curiosity by reading the newspaper every day. You'll find something interesting in the newspaper.

In fact, the paper is such a reliable source for the information you want, it can even be used by students as a homework and school research tool.

Valley Courier
 Subscribe Today!
 719-589-2553.

221 - HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL is accepting applications for a HEAD WRESTLING COACH for HIGH SCHOOL and MIDDLE SCHOOL as well as ASSISTANT COACHES. Please contact Larry Hunt at Mountain Valley School 719-655-2578. (10/16/24)

GRANT SPECIALIST. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS at ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time GRANT SPECIALIST to facilitate, write, review, and prepare grant proposals. The applicant must have a bachelor's degree and proven experience in grant writing, budget preparation, and securing federal, state, and/or private grants. Position open until filled. More information at: adams.edu/hr/employment/ or <https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ASU>. (10/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA COUNTY ASSESSOR is seeking a PERSONAL PROPERTY CLERK. This position maintains records for commercial businesses to determine the value of their personal property for taxation purposes. The successful candidate will track existing businesses and actively look for new businesses within the County, meet with owners, managers and/or tax agents and perform other duties as assigned. One-year experience in an office setting is desired. Must have strong computer and math skills, strong organizational skills and good penmanship. A valid Colorado driver's license is required. Applications may be picked up at the Assessor's Office, 8999 Independence Way, Suite 105. The starting pay rate is \$18/hour. A cover letter and resume must accompany the completed application. Deadline to apply is October 9th, 2024. (10/09/24)

You'll find it all in the ...
Business & Service Directory
 • Easy to Read Format • Affordable • Seen 4 Days a Week
 To Place Your Ad Call (719) 589-2553

APPLIANCE REPAIR
 All Major Brands of Kitchen & Laundry Appliances
 • Trained and Certified Technicians
ALTITUDE APPLIANCES
 Open 10-6 Mon-Sat
 611 Main • Alamosa
 (719) 206 - 2844

Architecture
 Your Local SLV Architecture Firm for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Projects
 Don Spencer, A.I.A. Licensed in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico
 719-696-5783
 Steve Copley Sr. Project Manager, E.I.T.
SPENCER architecture studio
spencerarchitecturestudio.com

Mystic Saguache County
 The Saguache County Tourism Council has grants available to individuals and organizations for marketing and promoting public events held within Saguache County.
 To learn more and apply, visit: www.Mystic-Colorado.com

Electrical
ALPINE ELECTRIC INC.
 82 CONEJOS ALAMOSA
 719-589-9144

Earth Moving
Earthworks of Southern Colorado LLC
 Troy Geringer 719-480-1756
 • Trenching • Dirt Work
 • Ditch Cleaning • Demolition
 • Site Cleaning & Prep • Snow Removal
 • Driveway Construction & Grading
 • Landscaping • House Pads
 • Stream Bank Restoration
 • Irrigation Welding & Fabrication
 • Tractor Mowing

SPRINKLER REPAIR
Sprinkler Repair and Installation
 Quick Service!
 Call evenings & weekends
 719-580-0033 or
 719-376-2593

Real Estate
Greg & Jeni Goodwin
PORTER REALTY, INC.
 503 Mam Street, Alamosa CO
 719-589-5899
www.PorterRealty.com
 greg@porterrealty.com (719) 580-5395
 jeni@porterrealty.com (719) 580-2636
 ♦ Excellent Service ♦ Expert Advice ♦ Exceptional Results

AUCTION
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
 Last Saturday of the month from April 27 until November 30. At the Community Building next to Quality Timbers on Hwy. 285. Taking consignments on Fridays. Sale starts at 10:00 am. Lunch available.

FOOD TRUCK
SUAVECITO Follow us on Facebook
 719-588-7485
GARTITAS
 Catering located in the parking lot in front of Little Caesars

APPLIANCES
 KitchenAid MAYTAG Whirlpool AMANA SLV APPLIANCE
 239 Walker Rd. • Alamosa (Located in the old Sears store)
 719-587-3882
www.slvappliance.com

Advertising
 Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
 Only \$99 per month*
 *3 month commitment

Plumbing & Remodeling
DEREK'S Plumbing & Remodeling
 License# PC-33398 • License# MP-600281
 Derek Marquez
 Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor
 (719) 588-0682
dereksplumbing@outlook.com
 1110 Alamosa Ave. • Alamosa, CO

We Buy Cars
 We Welcome Insurance Claims
L&M Paint & Body Shop
 8425 Rd. 8 South • Alamosa
 589-9205

Construction
ZTEC Construction
 5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
 Free Estimates
 Mervin Fisher 719.992.1396
 14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Stucco
Sanchez Plastering & Masonry
 Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint
 Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
 (719) 486-6781

Tires
Jim's Tire Store
 711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
 719-589-9690
 NEW • USED • RECAPPED
 Great Service!

LICENSED PLUMBER
 All Types Plumbing Repair
 Quick Service!
 Call evenings & weekends
 719-580-0033 or
 719-376-2593

Advertising
 Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
 Only \$99 per month*
 *3 month commitment

Get Your Service Out there! call the Valley Courier Today! 589-2553

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Aid to navigation
- 4 Sound loudly
- 8 Punta del —
- 12 Hosp. area
- 13 Military force
- 14 Villain's retreat
- 15 Hold back
- 17 "— Well That Ends Well"
- 18 Boost
- 19 Stinging plant
- 21 Tragic fate
- 23 Moisture
- 24 Baker's quantity
- 27 Clean-air org.
- 29 Vestment
- 32 Tokyo, formerly
- 33 Not know from —
- 34 Stalemate
- 35 Bovine sound
- 36 Actor — Garcia
- 37 Supplement (with "out")

DOWN

- 38 Bother
- 39 Thickness measure
- 40 White heron
- 42 Actor — Wallach
- 44 Move carefully
- 46 Regular
- 49 Divides
- 53 Mushroom tops
- 54 Showing creative skill
- 56 War god
- 57 Additional
- 58 Baseball stat.
- 59 Roman emperor
- 60 Seven —
- 61 "Married to the —"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Country star
- 8 Gladden
- 9 Brine
- 10 Cash drawer
- 11 Scottish Gaelic
- 16 Neap —
- 20 Cheese variety
- 22 Interfere
- 24 Actress — Moore
- 25 Aroma
- 26 Animals' caretaker
- 28 Remuneration
- 30 Enjoy
- 31 Root veggie
- 33 Cuckoo
- 36 In the company of
- 40 Catches sight of
- 41 Takes shape
- 43 "Ted —"
- 45 Ad — per aspera
- 46 Read
- 47 Container weight
- 48 Sweet potatoes
- 50 Particular
- 51 Beginner (Var.)
- 52 Strike-breaker
- 55 Fish eggs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18						19	20			
			21			22		23		
24	25	26				27	28		29	30
32						33			34	
35						36			37	
38						39			40	41
			42	43		44	45			
46	47					48	49		50	51
53						54	55			
56						57			58	
59						60			61	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

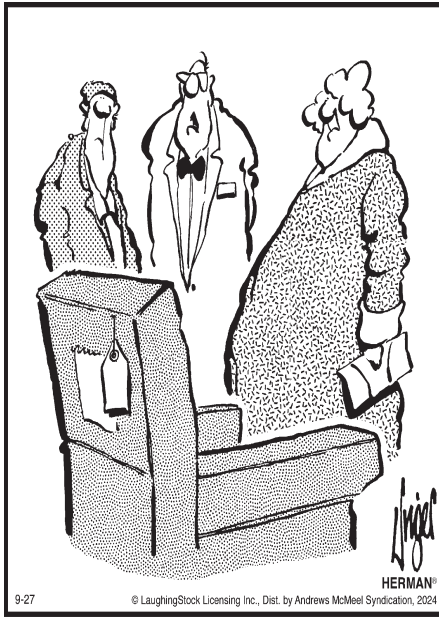
© 2024 Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UPS

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

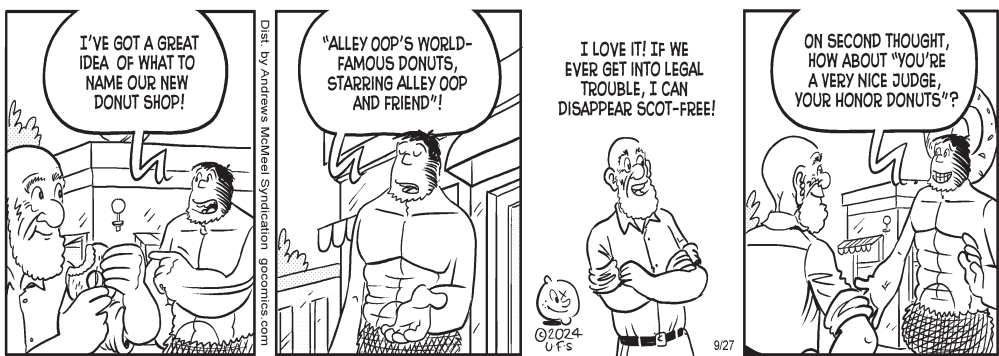
HERMAN



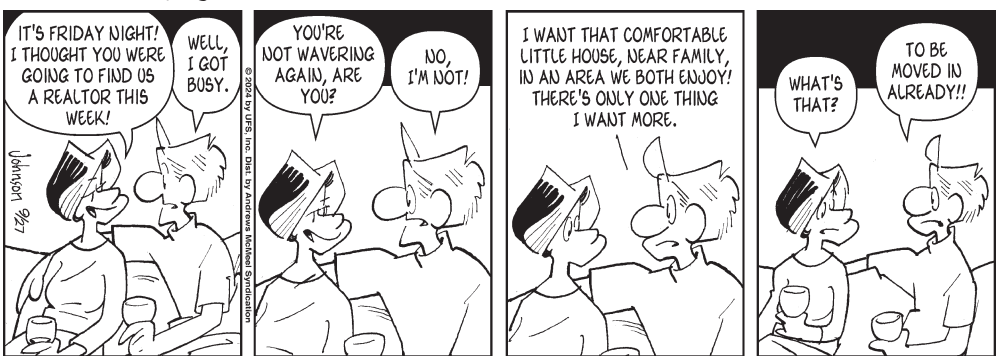
"If it's for your wife, sir, I'd suggest crushed velvet."

© LaughingStock Licensing Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication, 2024

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



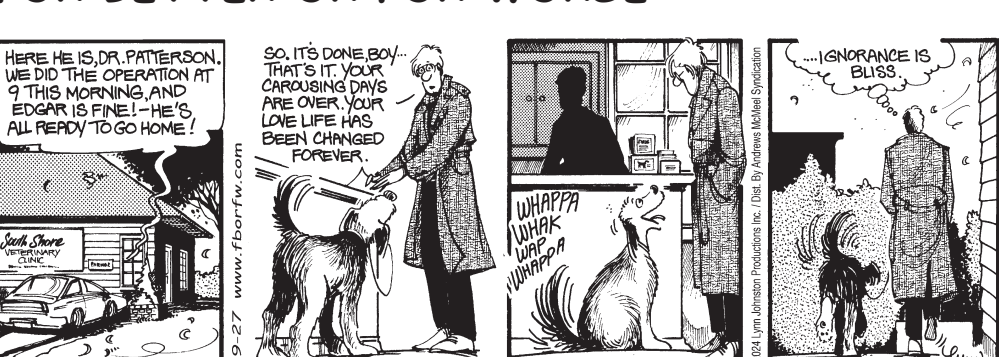
BIG NATE



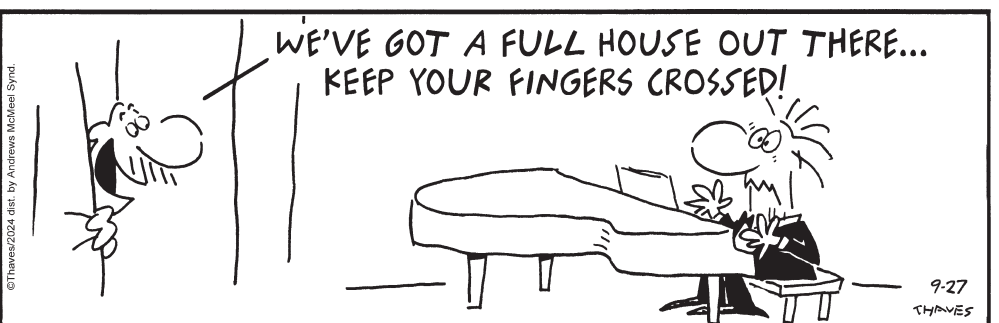
THE BORN LOSER



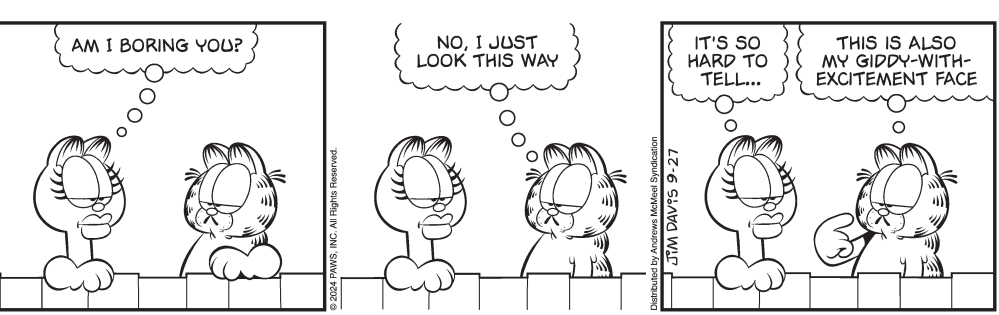
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Daughter's decision-making impacted by dad's suicide

DEAR ABBY: My husband's uncle died by suicide in his home six months ago. It was a shock to the entire family. Since the funeral, we have helped to settle his affairs, including cleaning out his home to get it ready for sale.

My husband's cousin (the uncle's daughter) has had an understandably difficult time coming to terms with the loss of her father and has decided to purchase the house and reside there. She hasn't sought grief counseling and uses social media as a therapeutic outlet.

Many in the family believe she's making a mistake spurred by grief. She wants to hold family gatherings and holiday celebrations there. Those of us who helped clean out the house do not want to go back there. The loss is still recent, and the memories of the scene are still fresh.

How can we tell this cousin we are uncomfortable visiting the home without causing her more grief? We want to be supportive, but it's just too hard to walk back into the place where he ended his life. -- **TRAUMATIZED IN MISSOURI**

DEAR TRAUMATIZED: Your husband's cousin is trying hard to deal with her grief, however ill-advised her method may be. Everyone has been supportive, but someone needs to speak honestly with her and let her know that what she is fantasizing about isn't going to happen.

The person closest to her needs to speak frankly -- for the family -- about their reluctance to visit the house again. Once she knows, she may be less eager to buy her father's home. Yes, she could probably use some grief counseling, and it's available to families who have experienced the kind of trauma she has. A resource that could help is the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988lifeline.org), but that poor, grieving woman has to be willing to ask for it.

DEAR ABBY: When I'm invited to a friend's house for dinner and asked to bring dessert, I always make something fresh and delicious for that evening. Lately, I'm noticing that several friends, when invited to my house or another friend's party, are bringing along half-eaten des-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

serts from the previous evening's family dinner. I think this is rude. It's like they're saying, "You're not worth the effort." Is this a new trend, or am I too sensitive? -- **IRRITATED IN IDAHO**
DEAR IRRITATED: You're not too sensitive, and if this is a new trend, I haven't heard of it. Many hosts serve fresh food to their guests and are careful about how it is presented. By that I mean, it is not half-consumed and doesn't look like leftovers. If the "several friends" who do this don't have time to prepare something to bring, they should buy something and bring it whole.