



Gone but not forgotten – Fort Market

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Sangre uses long runs to sweep Centennial

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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\$1

SLV Today

DNFPD to discuss public safety sales tax

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Fire Protection District will be holding an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8, in the old Tiger Field House, 955 French St., Del Norte, to discuss the possibility of a public safety sales tax. Every resident in the fire protection district is invited to attend and share their comments. For more information, contact Ryan Haynie with the Del Norte Fire Protection District at 719-850-0656.

City of Alamosa fall large item pickup

ALAMOSA — To help facilitate fall cleanup efforts, the City of Alamosa will be offering a large item trash pickup from Oct. 14 through Oct. 17 for City trash customers. Call the Public Works office before Thursday, Oct. 10, at 719-589-6631 to schedule a pickup time. Pickup of no more than three large items will be offered during this time.

Tires, hazardous material or electronic devices cannot be accepted. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must have the Freon removed and the red tag placed on them prior to the time of pickup. Lawn debris must be bagged separately for composting.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department.

CORRECTION

The Valley Courier has received updated information related to "APD dispatched to call of unresponsive infant" that appeared in the Sept. 18 print edition. The incident occurred on Friday, Sept. 13.

SLV WEATHER



Sunny 76/38
Sun: Sunny 78/38
Mon: Sunny, Breezy 80/37

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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 questions to the two candidates running for the state legislature. Today will be the responses of the two candidates for the Colorado Senate District 6. On Friday, Sept. 27, candidate responses from the House of Rep-

resentatives District 62 were in the Courier.

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 questions 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

■ See VOTE page 3



Photo by Marlys Hersey

Willow Park, located at an elevation of about 9800 feet, has plenty of fall colors for experienced hikers. This photo from the Willow Lake Trail is a moderate two-mile (one-way) uphill hike from the trailhead. The trail continues another 3.8 miles uphill to the lake.

Fabulous fall foliage

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAN LUIS VALLEY — This weekend promises to be a great time to get out and view the spectacular

■ See FOLIAGE page 3

Hikers along the Mountville Nature Trail in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve can experience these aspens and cottonwoods in full fall glory. Red osier dogwood can also be seen along the easy half-mile trail. For more colors, hikers can take the Mosca Pass Trail, which splits off this trail for a 6.2-mile (round trip) hike to higher elevations.

Courier photo by John Waters



Trial to block proposed Kroger-Albertsons merger starts Sept. 30

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

DENVER — A trial resulting from a lawsuit filed by Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser to block the merger between Kroger and Albertsons is set to begin on Monday, Sept. 30, in Denver District Court.

Weiser is leading efforts to block the \$24.6 billion proposed merger with a lawsuit he filed in Denver District court on February 14, 2024.

"We already have food deserts," Weiser said in a press conference on Thursday. "If Kroger is able to buy Albertson's, it's going to hurt consumers, workers, farmers, and communities. We filed this lawsuit because

we want to control our own destiny."

The lawsuit followed a year-long investigation beginning in 2023, during which Weiser held 19 listening sessions across the state, including one in Alamosa.

"We heard from local Safeway employees, members of the union, consumers, and ag producers in the Valley," he said. His office also received more than 6,100 responses to an online survey about the merger. The information gathered helped ensure that Coloradans had a voice in the process.

Kroger and Albertsons are two of the largest supermarket chains in Colorado. Kroger op-

■ See TRIAL page 3



Courier photo by John Waters.

Safeway and City Market both have a presence in Alamosa. Should the merger be successful, Safeway will be listed as one of the stores sold (or 'divested') to another company.



Courier photo by John Waters

National Park Service Park Rangers responding with a rescue basket to a fatality at Zapata Falls on Sept. 27.

Tragedy at Zapata Falls

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA COUNTY — On the morning of Sept. 27, an adult male fell and hit his head on a rock at the end of the trail to Zapata Falls. Alamosa County Sheriff's Office confirmed the hiker died at the scene.

The cause of death is pending an autopsy report. Numerous agencies, including the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, National Park Service, Alamosa EMS, and Mosca Hooper Volunteer Fire Department, responded.

The half-mile trail begins at about 9,000 feet and gains 200 feet in elevation.

Record



Courier photo by John Waters

The Fort Market in Fort Garland has closed after being in business for 23 years.

Gone but not forgotten — Fort Market

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

FORT GARLAND — For over two decades, the Fort Market has been a vital part of the Fort Garland community, providing essential goods and a gathering place for residents. Now, it has closed its doors.

A statement in the window states, "With a sad and heavy heart, we announce the closing of Fort Market, our business, which was influenced by factors beyond our control. We will be closing the doors September 10-13.

"We are thankful and grateful for the 23 years you allowed us to serve

you and for being an integral part of our story. We have shared laughter, tears, and eventful moments. Your support and loyalty have meant the world to us. It has been an honor and pleasure to have you as the heartbeat of our business. And saying goodbye is bitter-sweet. So let's say, we look forward to seeing you again soon. Thank you for the wonderful memories, wishing everyone the very best life has to offer. This is the ending of one chapter... and the beginning of a new chapter. Much love and aloha, Gerald and Emerald, Fort Market."

The town no longer has a functioning supermarket. Several years ago, a Dollar General with a limited food selection opened in the small village.

In 2017, the market received loans from the Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund, which enabled Fort Market to replace the outdated equipment and provide working capital to stock shelves for the summer tourist season and sustain it during slower winter months. The market also received funding from the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a federal funding program.



Courtesy photos

Sam Salazar grilling.

La Puente brings H.O.P.E. in Alamosa

By VANESSA RENE
Assistant Director of
Communications and
Engagement at La
Puente

ALAMOSA — La Puente hosted a series of events for our neighbors in honor of H.O.P.E. (Homeless Outreach, Prevention, and Education) Week. H.O.P.E. Week allows the community to come together and learn about the effects of homelessness in the Valley.

On Monday, Sept. 23, La Puente's Open House BBQ served over 160 meals to members of the community. This annual event acts as an opportunity to enjoy a meal and each other's company. For folks who have experienced homelessness, the event reunites current and past shelter guests and combats feelings of isolation. For

others in the community who may have never stepped foot in a shelter, the event literally and figuratively opens the door for education and exposure. Students from Mullen High School volunteered their time to help organize this event. Attendees enjoyed delicious hotdogs, hamburgers, and fresh fruit kebabs, along with mingling, music, and some impromptu karaoke!

During a Candlelight Vigil on Sept. 25, over 50 people from the community joined to walk in solidarity with those experiencing homelessness. There were speakers from the community, musical accompaniments, and a final message shared by Father Carlos from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A special thanks to La Puente's Seamus Gor-

man and Adams State's 68 West for performing. We were also honored to be recipients of Sacred Heart's generosity for donating their space and hosting a reception afterward.

La Puente Home, Inc. is our community's response to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services, where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive. To meet the needs of the homeless and community members in crisis, La Puente's services both restore and strengthen people's lives, so that they can live independently, and with dignity. To learn more about La Puente's services or other upcoming events visit lapuentehome.org/ programs.

OBITUARIES

Lisa Sykes

Lisa Kate Sykes passed away on Sept. 23, 2024. She was born on Dec. 29, 1951, to Rex Elmer and Etha Louise Hudson, in Dumas, Texas. Lisa grew up in Stratford, Texas, attended college at West Texas A&M University, and married Charles Eugene Sykes in Canyon, Texas, on Aug. 18, 1972.

The couple and their one young son moved to Alamosa, Colo., to farm and ranch in 1976. In 1991, they bought Star Steel, which Lisa operated until she retired in 2013. In addition to raising three children, she

enjoyed raising chickens, goats and ducks, quilting, and watching the hummingbirds.

Lisa is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Sheri and Marvin Rasmussen, her sons and daughters-in-law, Morgan and Tess Sykes; and Glenn and Becka Sykes, her daughter and son-in-law Briana and Elliot Mallet; and 8 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

An open house to celebrate Lisa's life is set for Oct. 12 from noon to



3 p.m. at her residence in Star, 14440 Estrella Road, Alamosa, CO, 81101. Please feel free to come and go as you are able.

William 'Playboy' Olivas

With deep sadness, we announce the sudden passing of William "Playboy" Olivas on Sept. 22, 2024, at the young age of 51.

William was born in Alamosa, Colo., on Sept. 27, 1971, to John and Irene Olivas.

William was the baby of a large, combined family. He is survived by brothers Jerry Olivas, Nathan Gallegos, Mike Ruybal, and Tom Gallegos, and sisters Wilma Olivas, Pauline Martinez, and Berna Ramirez.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Irene Olivas and son Richard Olivas.

Family was what Wil cherished above all, including his three children: Romey Ybarra, Deja (Santos Villanueva) Sandoval, Santana (JP Lopez) Sandoval, and one beloved grandson Julian Villanueva and another



on the way. Extremely proud of his family circle.

Wil lived a life defined by love, creativity and his enormous heart which showed to all those in need. After graduating high school, he attended an Arizona Art School. Art was one of Wil's passions. Painting, drawing, and tattooing were a few things he loved doing.

Rose Segura

Our Beloved Rose Segura was called home to be with the Lord and her sons on Sept. 21, 2024. Rose was born on Dec. 26, 1950, the daughter of Joe F. Barela and Erlinda (Gonzales) Barela.

She was united in marriage to the love of her life Juan Segura on March 1, 1971. They shared a happy and loving union for 54 years. In her free time, Rose enjoyed reading, going for bike rides, cooking delicious meals for her family and watch-

ing her favorite T.V. shows. Her greatest joy in life was getting to spend time with her family and friends.

Rose is survived by her loving husband Juan Segura of Garcia, Colo.; daughter Teresa (Jesse) Maestas of Alamosa, Colo.; son Joshua (Sarah) Segura of Alamosa, Colo.; eight grandchildren Celina, Maria, Moises, Nathan Jr., Shania, Jesse Jr., Isabella, Jenna, four great-grandchildren, four sisters and

Cooking was also something he excelled at. His joy of cooking was apparent if you ever went to The Rubi Slipper where he was employed.

Music was his true calling. Karaoke with family, friends, and strangers is what he loved. Recording music of friends and family is one thing most know him by. A member of a local group known as Playaz Cru.

Very talented in many areas, he left his mark on all who knew him. Well known for his large heart and colorful imagination and clothing, he will be deeply missed by all.

Memorial service will be a small gathering of friends and family at Romero's Funeral Home in Alamosa at noon on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. Come help us remember him and share stories with one another.

many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joe and Erlinda Barela, sons Nathan and Jeffrey Segura and three brothers. Cremation was chosen and services will be held at a later date.

To leave the family condolences or send flowers, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.



68 West Performing at Sacred Heart for Candlelight Vigil.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Carol D. Schroeder

Carol D. Schroeder was called home Sept. 26, 2024. Arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Arthur Johnson Jr.

Arvada resident Arthur Johnson Jr. was called home Sept. 25, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Eduwiges Corral

Eduwiges Corral was called home Sept. 25, 2024. Arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

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

School Menu

Monday

September 30, 2024

BREAKFAST

Cereal Bar
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Corn Dog Bites
French Fries
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Corn Dog Bites
French Fries
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Corn Dog Bites
French Fries
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

Vote

Continued from Page 1

ban on sport hunting of big cats, including mountain lions, bobcats and lynx?

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 your top three priorities?



Republican incumbent Senator Cleave Simpson, D-6.

Senator Cleave Simpson, incumbent and Republican candidate for

Colorado Senate District 6

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

"I do believe the judge in a first degree murder case should be able to deny bail, at their discretion, depending on the circumstances."

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

"Yes, to align with Supreme Court rulings and to reflect societal standards."

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

"No, this issue should continue to be debatable in the General Assembly. I am hopeful we can get beyond the binary conversation on the extremes of this issue, it is so much more nuanced. I continue to advocate to provide assistance, support and alternatives for women and families making such a difficult life decision."

Should the right to

school choice be included in the state constitution?

"Yes, I believe in school choice but also support our public school system and will continue to advocate for its success."

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

"No, wildlife management needs to be left to the professionals at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 'Sport hunting or trophy hunting' of cats is already illegal and lynx are already a protected species."

Should eligibility for parole when convicted of a violent crime be increased from 75% to 85% of sentence? "Yes, I think the incremental increase in time served prior to parole eligibility is warranted. We need to be focusing more on holding criminals more accountable for their actions."

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, burdening law-abiding citizens with more taxes to assist with important victim services is not good policy. Particularly now with such a high cost of living in Colorado."

Do you believe that elections in Colorado are safe and secure?

"Yes, but the system is not perfect. We should continue to strengthen confidence in the system and make it harder to cheat."

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

"1. Demand more fiscal responsibility from the general assembly and assure we abide by our constitutional funding requirements as well as our statutory requirements to maintain a 15% reserve. We FINALLY eliminated the budget stabilization factor and put forward a budget this year to fulfill our constitutional requirement on funding K-12 education."



Democratic challenger Vivian Smotherman D-6.

Vivian Smotherman, Democrat running for Colorado Senate District 6

Should defendants

charged with first degree murder be denied bail?

"I like the premise of this ballot measure, but without a more concrete definition of what constitutes a 'strong case,' I fear it could be used to discriminate against defendants based on the color of their skin, identity, sexual orientation, gender, income level, homelessness, etc. In its current form, I will vote No."

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

"Absolutely. This is simply cleaning up old language that is no longer applicable. As a country, we've grown to understand that relationships are based on love. If two people want to commit their lives to each other, we as a state should honor and respect their decision. I will vote Yes."

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

"This is another issue centered around who should have control over individuals' lives—in this case, women. This is a freedom issue; no one should have their personal rights and liberties taken away because of someone else's beliefs, especially through government interference. I will vote Yes."

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

"Absolutely not! This is a deceptive measure framed around 'choice,' which every parent already has. Everyone is free to choose their children's school or homeschool. This measure would take valuable resources away from our struggling public school system and give them to institutions that want to operate outside state educational guidelines. Our best investment is in public schools that serve everyone with equity. I will vote No."

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

"This is a difficult issue. I believe Colorado has a reliable program that manages our big cat populations. I refuse to legislate someone else's morality to deny another person's freedom. This measure would negatively impact our tourism dollars, which hurts our small businesses. I love our big cats, but until our Department of Parks and Wildlife tells me they're in danger, I won't interfere. I will vote No."

Should eligibility

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

"I see no rationale for this measure apart from making legislators look 'tough on crime.'"

This 10% increase would require more beds and a larger budget to keep people locked up longer—Colorado doesn't have the revenue for senseless changes. I will vote No.

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?

While this bill seems simple, it's been proven that adding taxes doesn't reduce violent crime. Even using the tax for community programs feels like putting the cart before the horse. Let's address the root causes of gun violence—poverty, hate, fear, and discrimination. I will vote No."

Do you believe elections in Colorado are safe and secure?

"I have unwavering confidence in our election system here in Colorado. We track every ballot, voter, and vote carefully. We have the most secure system in the country, and I'm proud of that."

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

"A. Housing and Cost of Living: Throughout SD-6, communities are suffering from a lack of housing and out-of-reach prices. I aim to funnel money to counties to form public private partnerships for affordable housing. We also need to fight for living wages so no one has to choose between housing, food, and healthcare. B. Rural Healthcare: The high cost of living affects our ability to attract young healthcare professionals. Older professionals are retiring, and we're losing services. Lower Medicare/Medicaid payments in rural areas only worsen the issue. We need to stop losing access to vital services. C. Education: Our legislature eliminated the BS factor, but they're already talking about cutting education funds. This is unacceptable, especially for rural schools. Lack of good schools deters young professionals from moving into our communities. We need affordable housing and better schools to build sustainable communities where everyone can thrive."

Foliage

Continued from Page 1

lar fall foliage. Colors in the mountains are popping with superb color at about 10,500-11,000 feet in elevation. There are plenty of colors at lower elevations.

In the San Juan Mountains, conditions are at a

peak from Molas Pass to Silverton, Red Mountain Pass, and other areas. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the San Juan Byway is bursting with colors, especially north of Coal Bank Pass through Molas Pass all the way north to Ouray.

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are a riot of autumnal pigmentation.

Trial

Continued from Page 1

erates 148 King Soopers and City Market stores, and Albertsons operates 105 Safeway and Albertsons stores in the state. Both stores have a presence in Alamosa.

"We know people are pinched at the checkout counter," Weiser said, "and this merger will make it worse. The companies can say, 'don't worry, prices won't go up and stores won't close,' but history has proven otherwise." As Weiser went on to explain, "There is no mechanism to hold a company" to doing what they said they would do.

According to the lawsuit, the merger would eliminate head-to-head competition between Kroger and Albertsons and consolidate an already heavily concentrated market, which is bad for Colorado shoppers, workers, and suppliers.

"Coloradans are concerned about undue consolidation and its harmful impacts on consumers, workers, and suppliers," stated Weiser in announcing the lawsuit last February. "After 19 town halls across the state, I am convinced that Coloradans think this merger between the two supermarket chains would lead to stores closing, higher prices, fewer jobs, worse customer service, and less resilient supply chains."

Kroger and Albertsons also compete to offer the best local products to draw customers into their stores. For example, Kroger and Albertsons often sell Palisade peaches on promotion — and sometimes at a loss — to generate store traffic.

Kroger and Albertson's being owned independently of each other benefits Palisade peach farmers because they can be assured of a fair price and avenues to sell their crops, and it benefits consumers because they have access to great local product at low prices. The same benefits apply to other local Colorado products, including other fresh products like meat, dairy, baked goods, or center-store packaged products.

The merger would eliminate this head-to-head competition between the companies.

On July 25, Denver District Court Judge Andrew Luxen issued an order temporarily stopping the merger while the trial proceeds, noting that the state has a "reasonable probability" of proving its claims based on the evidence presented to the court.

When asked what happens if the lawsuit is successful and the merger is blocked, Weiser said, "We'll go back to the way things were before the merger was proposed."

The trial is set to start in Denver District Court on Monday, Sept. 30. AG Weiser anticipates it will last for three weeks.

Notice of Request for Proposal to Install a 6-Foot-Tall Chain Link Fence. Subdistrict No. 3 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking bids to install the fence on land just north of Antonito, CO. Bidders should itemize bids and should include the costs to; **1) Install a 6-foot-tall, 9,200 linear-foot long chain link fence; 2) Install a 6-foot-tall, 16-foot-wide chain link gate; and 3) Locate all underground infrastructure along the path of the fence line.** Bids should also include a description of the equipment to be used and the bidder's qualifications. The Subdistrict will be responsible for all costs associated with the completed installation of the fence. The Subdistrict reserves the right to accept the bid it deems most accurate for the scope of work proposed. The property will be open for a site visit on November 1st at 10am for any potential bidders. To get details on the aforementioned site visit (address), to schedule a one-off site visit, or if you have any questions and/or need more details, please contact Angelo Bellah at (719) 589-6301. Proposals will be accepted through November 29th, 2024, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to angelo@rgwcd.org. The expectation is that the installation of the fence would be completed no later than May 1st, 2025.

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY COLORADO® <i>Great Stories Begin Here</i>		CALENDAR OF EVENTS			September/October	
SUNDAY • 29 Homecoming Week: Alumni & Friends Farewell Breakfast 9 a.m. Richardson Hall Lawn M Soccer vs Colorado Christian University 12 p.m. Soccer Field	MONDAY • 30 www.adams.edu	TUESDAY • 1 Hispanic Heritage Month: "Strike" by Priscilla Falcon, Ph.D., 5 p.m. McDaniel Hall 101 Free Volleyball vs New Mexico Highlands University 6 p.m. Plachy Hall	WEDNESDAY • 2 Wellness Wednesdays: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Student Health & Wellness Resource Center Kindred Spirits: Life with Cancer, Sarah Hallman 12 p.m. SUB Banquet Room Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>IBEX Search for the Edge of the Solar System</i> and <i>Life: A Cosmic Story</i> Play: Crow's Lullaby Written and Directed by Nathan Pooler 7:30 p.m. Xperimental Theatre Tickets: adams.edu/theatre	THURSDAY • 3 Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>FORWARD! To the Moon</i> and <i>Escher's Universe</i> Faculty Lecture: <i>Alluvial Fans</i> Chayan Lahiri, Ph.D., 6 p.m. McDaniel 101 Free Hispanic Heritage Month: Board Game Night 6:30 p.m. CoRE Center Play: Crow's Lullaby 7:30 p.m. Xperimental Theatre	FRIDAY • 4 W Soccer vs Western Colorado University 3 p.m. Soccer Field Volleyball vs Fort Lewis College 6 p.m. Plachy Hall Play: Crow's Lullaby Written and Directed by Nathan Pooler 7:30 p.m. Xperimental Theatre Tickets: adams.edu/theatre	SATURDAY • 5 Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center: Reception with Remarks by President Tandberg and Ambassador Ken Salazar 11 a.m. Richardson Hall Auditorium Free Relations Between Mexico and US: Presentation by Ambassador Ken Salazar 1 p.m. Leon Memorial Hall Free Play: Crow's Lullaby 7:30 p.m. Xperimental Theatre
Through November 1, 2024						
Cloyde Snook Gallery: <i>Cleverly Laid Plans</i> by James Fuller Hatfield Gallery: <i>Den Eye Photo</i> by Dennis Schoenfelder Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday						

Opinion

Mama says: Eat your vegetables and play nice with one another

There's a bracelet Steel by Design created named "Mama Says." It includes sayings from most every mom on the planet like: eat your vegetables and say your prayers. My mother passed away 14 years ago but I still remember some of her sayings from when I was a child:

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss

Did you wash your hands? - I was outside picking pecans from the ground and dashing around like a wild horse with neighborhood friends. When I came running in after hearing "Nellie Jean, time for supper," I was always asked before supper: Nellie did you wash your hands?

Your room looks like a pigpen. Clean up your bedroom. Pick up your clothes. — Like so many young children, when friends beckon to play "hide-and-seek," I thought that pigs were pretty cool. It wasn't until later that I saw that the pigpens were more uncluttered than my own room.

If you're going to 'rough house,' go outside. Play nice with your sister. — Jumping up and down, chasing my little sister, and being like a "tom-boy" — that's my way. Rough housing was my favorite activity as an elementary student. The fact that I was often seen jumping off the chicken coop to my cousin's dare or tackling when the neighborhood kids played football are proof.

Don't rock the boat. Don't talk back. Watch your p's and q's. — Mama tried to teach me some manners; but not rocking the boat is just not me; even as a six-year-old "talking back" was not being disrespectful but was asking those unspoken, necessary questions. As an advocate and prevention specialist for the Behavioral Health Center, I did ask the hard questions; and I presented educational material that is tough for some nicotine addicts to hear. These questions arose when Mama and Dad were smoking in the car. We now have research numbers that show us that smoking around children is detrimental to children's health and is directly linked to childhood asthma, ear infections, upper respiratory infections, and, now, to cases of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)—see www.trdrp.org/ for more research. Throughout my childhood, like so many children exposed to parental smoking, I suffered from tonsillitis, upper respiratory distress, asthma and ear infections. Still there are times when talking back or sharing your perceptions, is better for the planet than keeping silent. The reader might also know that Mama died of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder; she had lung cancer and emphysema—all attributed to her lifelong habit of smoking.

Be satisfied with what you have. — Like settlers from the old countries of Europe, my family prided itself on this notion. This saying was a favorite of Mom's; undoubtedly told to her by her German immigrant parents. Yet, the notion puts a crimp in bettering oneself, improving one's lot in life and advancing knowledge. Although taken for what it originally meant which was not to crave someone else's good fortune, the whole notion of being satisfied with what you have has become a license to be apathetic, irreverent of working and to not value education.

Don't put so much on your plate. — Like the adage, "Eat your vegetables," this notion came out of the hard-times. Mama was born five years after the Great Depression, but times were still lean, and abundance was scarce during the 30's too. On a psychological note, this proverb reverberates with wisdom — even now. I see this phenomenon daily with students and myself. When multiple jobs need to be tackled, optimists undertake more than their share.

Consider Confucius' proverb: The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. The reader might notice that it is not five steps forward at once, or too much on our plates, it is one unit at one time.

Finally, be patient with yourself, smile often, love your neighbor as yourself; and remember that life goals are worth the leap of faith.

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



To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By TU CASA

October was first proclaimed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and those who have passed, and to be a voice for those who may be experiencing it. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

Every October, Tu Casa, Inc. joins with its partners, supporters, and allies across the country to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). During 2023, Tu Casa served 294 individuals and answered 578 crisis calls.

Tu Casa, Inc. encourages everyone to get involved and help raise awareness about domestic violence. We have seen the power each and every one of us have in making a difference by bringing awareness to domestic violence. The color purple has been nationally recognized as the symbolic color to show support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that help is available for themselves and their families. Tu Casa, Inc. hopes to spread awareness this October by asking staff and the community to wear purple every Thursday in the month. We also encourage you to ask co-workers, friends, and family members to join Tu Casa, Inc. in this month's activities in order to start conversations about domestic violence.

Tu Casa, Inc. invites everyone to join us at the following events:

- The Purple Light Campaign: The Purple Light Campaign was created to promote domestic violence awareness and remind survivors there are supports all around them. Tu Casa will be handing

out purple lightbulbs to community members to light their porches for the month of October and help ensure survivors in our valley know they are not alone. Call the office to figure out where/when to pick up a lightbulb!

- Lunch and Learn: On Oct. 17, from 12-1 p.m., in the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group large conference room, Tu Casa will be presenting on the history of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and request attendees help us let survivors in our valley know that Tu Casa is here to help, by painting rocks with supportive phrases/words for survivors, designs, and Tu Casa's hotline number. These rocks will be placed throughout the valley for survivors to find and utilize if they need. We'll also be decorating luminarias for our "Light Up the Night Event" at this Lunch & Learn as well!

- "Light up the Night": Our 4th Annual "Light up the Night" event will be held on Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. under the West pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa. This event is free to attendees and works to honor victims, survivors, those who have passed, and anyone who has been affected by domestic violence. Refreshments will be served while you are provided with an opportunity to mingle and learn about resources within our community and at Tu Casa, Inc. We will start the ceremony at 6:30 p.m. with a warm welcoming introduction and guest speakers from our community and partners. We will take time to drop flowers in the river with a moment of silence and a performance by the ASU Samba Group in honor of the survivors in the San Luis Valley. The night's event will culminate with a candlelight vigil to light up the night and an opportunity for anyone who wants to share their stories or

experience. Attendees are encouraged to take photos and participate in the activities.

Proclamations: Join Tu Casa, Inc. staff at the following meetings for the formal recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)!

- Mineral County Commissioner's Meeting on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.
- Alamosa City Council Meeting on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Alamosa County Commissioner's Meeting on Oct. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Throughout October you can stay updated on events and activities by following our Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuCasaInc and Instagram: www.instagram.com/slvtucasa/ pages. We also request that you share photos of how you are raising awareness about this topic and tag us!

Domestic Violence can no longer be ignored; we must work together to raise awareness and to end violence. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline at 719-589-2465. If you would like to make a donation in honor of those who have been impacted by abuse, visit our website at www.slvtucasa.net, and click on the link to donate. If you are interested in volunteering with our agency or would like more information about events, contact us at 719-589-2465.

Tu Casa, Inc., which houses the Tu Casa Program, The Tu Casa, Inc. SANE Program, and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley Program (SLV CAC), is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that works to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. All services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

Women are sending a message

By STEVEN ROBERTS

"I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT!" Donald Trump wrote on his platform, Truth Social, after she endorsed Kamala Harris.

Well, of course he hates her. This is a man who cannot stand strong, independent women. And for someone consumed by size -- crowds, ratings, whatever -- it must be infuriating to know that Taylor has 284 million followers on Instagram and he has only 26.6 million: less than one-tenth of Swiftie Nation.

Democrats cannot win the White House without maximizing their support among women, particularly younger ones. And Swift's support for Harris -- plus Trump's vile reaction toward her -- could be a critical factor in widening the gender gap in Harris' favor.

That gap is already growing. In the latest NBC poll, Harris topped Trump by a stunning 21 points among female voters, while Trump led by 12 with men, making the gender gap 33 points. By contrast, the gap was only 23 points when Trump lost to Joe Biden in 2020.

"It is now close to, or certainly in the ballpark of, the biggest gender gap we've ever seen," Democratic pollster Paul Maslin told Politico. "If you go back in time to the moment before Biden drops out of the race, we have what I call a huge group of standoffish voters -- they were unquestionably disproportionately younger, independent and a little more female. Kamala Harris just reached up and gobbled them up in droves."

"The historic summer we've lived through pulled some young women off the sidelines and into the election," added Sarah Feldman, a senior data journalist at Ipsos, in The New York Times. "These

are more marginal shifts overall, but with an incredibly close election, these small decisive swings in support can matter."

The gender gap first appeared in 1980 and is built on some structural foundations, one of which is race. White women, especially evangelical Christians, still vote Republican, but women of color heavily favor Democrats.

Another key variable is ideology. As the Center for American Women and Politics reports, election studies "show that women tend to be more liberal on social welfare issues -- such as aid to the poor, funding public schools, social security and child care -- than men."

Demography amplifies the impact of female voters, who are 51.1% of the population but comprised 54% of the total electorate in 2020. "Young men have repeatedly been found in recent years to be apathetic toward voting, with young women in recent election cycles constantly turning out to vote at higher rates than young men," write Elaine Kamarck and Jordan Muchnick of the Brookings Institution.

The Supreme Court's 2022 decision in the Dobbs case, overturning a constitutional right to an abortion, has only increased the motivation of young women. Gallup reports that 60% of voters call the Dobbs decision a "bad thing," with only 36% supporting it.

Trump knows how dangerous this issue is for him, but he's caught in a terrible bind. His conservative followers -- and his own ego -- impel him to take credit for appointing three justices that supported Dobbs. But he knows how unpopular that decision is with the larger population, so he recently posted this message to women: "YOU WILL NO LONGER BE THINK-

ING ABOUT ABORTION, BECAUSE IT IS NOW WHERE IT ALWAYS HAD TO BE, WITH THE STATES."

That is delusional. Women are still deeply worried about their reproductive rights, and the Harris campaign won't let them forget it. But Trump's problem with women goes far beyond one issue.


His personal behavior might be even more damaging. He has been found guilty of 34 felonies in a case where he paid off a porn star to stay silent about their affair. Another jury found him guilty of sexually abusing -- and defaming -- advice columnist E. Jean Carroll. His own wife Melania, and his daughters Ivanka and Tiffany, remain noticeably absent from the campaign trail.

So when Trump posts this message -- "I WILL PROTECT WOMEN AT A LEVEL NEVER SEEN BEFORE. THEY WILL FINALLY BE HEALTHY, HOPEFUL, SAFE, AND SECURE" -- many women find it both insensitive and insulting. In a recent Pew poll, only 34% of voters called Trump a "good role model," while 53% described Harris that way.

Women -- especially younger ones -- are solidifying behind Harris because they agree with 23-year-old Sierra Sanson, who told the Times: "She's a badass woman who I want to see succeed."

And they are listening to another "badass woman," the 34-year-old Taylor Swift, when she sings: "Could someone give a message to the smallest man who ever lived?"


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




Valley Courier

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Brian Williams
Managing Editor



Your FIRST Source for Local News

Religion

Are Protestant pastors facing partisan political pressure?

Eight years ago, Life-way Research asked Protestant pastors who they planned to support in the presidential election, and only 3% declined to answer.

That number didn't change much in 2020, when 4% declined. But things changed recently, when almost a quarter of the pastors refused to voice their choice in the 2024 White House race.

Among those who tipped their hand, 50% said they would vote for former President Donald Trump, and 24% backed Vice President Kamala Harris. The intriguing question is: Why -- in a tense, tight election -- are so many clergy insisting that they are undecided or need to remain silent for some other reason?

"Whether these pastors are mum because their vote might differ from the majority view in their congregations or because they are genuinely undecided was not clear," noted Mark Wingfield of Baptist News Global. "Nationally, as few as 3% of all voters are considered truly undecided this election year, a much lower share than in previous years."

In the document ex-

plaining the survey, Life-way executive director Scott McConnell noted that how pastors define

"their own political party preference" is consistently the best way to predict their voting-booth decisions.

Half of the Protestants surveyed identify as Republicans, while

18% are Democrats and 25% said they are political independents. Clergy leading conservative flocks -- evangelical, Baptist, nondenominational or Pentecostal -- are most likely to be Republicans. Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and clergy in other progressive mainline churches are most likely to be Democrats. Also, Black pastors are among those most likely to back Harris (71%) and the least likely to support Trump (5%).

Thus, a recent Pew Research Center survey found that 82% of white evangelicals -- clergy and laity -- plan to vote for Trump, while 86% of Black Protestants plan to support Harris. White mainline Protestants were more evenly divided, with 58% ready to back Trump.

"Denominational groups often lean one

way politically, but pastors must minister alongside many clergy who don't share their political views. The same is true within their own congregations," noted McConnell.

"In a culture that increasingly doesn't want to tolerate people with different political views," he added, many pastors are striving for "unity centered on their faith. ... The growing number of pastors unwilling to respond with their voting intentions shows how sensitive or divisive politics has become in some churches."

The new Lifeway survey also found that:

-- A majority of the surveyed Protestant pastors stressed the importance of maintaining "national security" (85%), protecting "religious freedom" (84%), improving the economy (83%), addressing immigration issues (81%) and handling abortion questions (80%). Supreme Court picks and racial injustice were important, as well.

-- Trump supporters were among the most likely to stress "religious freedom" (96%), an issue that once was a shared concern of Democrats and Republicans -- with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 passing in the U.S. Senate on a 97-3 vote. Clergy

poised to vote for Trump were the most likely to say their top priority was a candidate's stance on abortion.

-- Pastors prepared to vote for Harris were among those most likely to say they wanted a candidate "with personal character" (96%) and who was committed to addressing racial injustice (92%) and climate change (91%).

While it's important to note that many clergy hesitate to say where they stand on the merits of specific candidates, Marvin Olasky notes that it's also important to ask why many laypeople believe

their pastors should go public with these choices. Olasky is a conservative writer whose bestseller "The Tragedy of American Compassion" was influential during the era of President George W. Bush. He has been a consistent critic of Trump.

It's important for pastors to defend their church's doctrines on moral issues such as abortion, racism, marriage and gender, he said, reached by telephone. The problem is when pastors begin to fear whether matters of partisan politics will force people out of their pews or cause them to cut financial support to

their congregations. "It's wrong to act out of fear," said Olasky. "Pastors are pastors because we believe they have more understanding of theological questions than we do. But there is no reason to believe that pastors have been given greater insights or authority on how to handle matters of politics."

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

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 5th St., Alamosa Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m. 2-3 p.m. - Lunch 3-5 p.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Antonio Apostolic Church 710 Main St., Antonio Meets Sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service</p> <p>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-8th 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 (twice-perk)</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 laundromat & 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, Kriya 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 Pentecostal 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, 9:30 am - 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 7160 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.com</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 Zalazar 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 Christ 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 The Door 1300 West 12th St., 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 Sunday</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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Bible Digest

Saturday, September 28, 2024

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:27 AKJV)

Jesus is coming back. Are you ready to face Him. **Sunday, September 29, 2024**

"What man is he that lives, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah." (Psalms 89:48 AKJV)

This is a good question. Jesus came to save us from sin and death. Surrender your life to Him now. **Monday, September 30, 2024**

"He that walks with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools

shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20 AKJV)

Who are your friends? **Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

"Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 AKJV)

The only way to Heaven is the way that Jesus says. Have you been made new by Him? **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 AKJV)

God loves you. He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for your sins. Accept His love and love Him back. **Thursday, October 3, 2024**

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalms 103:12 AKJV)

God can forgive you too. Repent of sin and cast yourself on the mercy of God. **Friday, October 4, 2024**

"He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30 AKJV)

Jesus must come before self if we are truly going to live a life that is pleasing to God.



The Secret to Your Best Life

One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that you can't be both selfish and happy. I know this is true through my own personal experience, but more importantly, the Bible has some things to say about the attitude we should have about "self."

For example, love is not selfish. In the Amplified Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:5 says love "is not self-seeking." In 1 Corinthians 15:31, the apostle Paul said, "...I die daily [I face death and die to self]" (AMP), which basically means he was not self-seeking but instead focused on doing what God called him to do with his life.

There are also scriptures that teach us the importance of having self-control. Galatians 5:23 lists self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, and 2 Timothy 1:7 says that in Christ, we have a spirit "of power and of love and...personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]."

If you've lived very long, you realize that not being selfish requires self-control, because we're all born with a human nature that is selfish. Think about how babies act: They are only concerned with what they need and usually cry when they don't get their way.

Thankfully, when we experience new life in Christ, we die to sin (Romans 6:11). But even though we die to sin, sin does not die. That's why we have to continually make the decision over and over again to choose to do the right thing on purpose. And we have what it takes, in Christ, to do what's right—whether we feel like it or not.

As Christians, we're destined to be molded into the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Jesus is the greatest example of what it means to love others and not live a selfish life. First

John 3:16 (NIV) says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

This scripture shows us that Jesus gave everything when He demonstrated His love for us. And we are to follow His example.

The truth is, loving others is not always easy, and it always costs us something: time, money, convenience, etc. But through our relationship with Christ, we can find the strength and ability to love others, even when it seems to cost more than we think we can give.

God is faithful to give us His love, grace, and wisdom to reach out and be a blessing to others. And when we do, we end up receiving more joy and peace than we had before.

It's important to understand that God doesn't expect you to take this to such an extreme that you don't take care of yourself. We need to use wisdom so we can be healthy emotionally, mentally, and physically while we're helping others.

In following Jesus' example, remember to make your relationship with God your number one priority and do what He puts in your heart to do. The world is full of lonely, hurting people who are hungry for the love of God and the hope that is only found in Jesus. I want to encourage you to get rid of a "What about me?" mindset and instead pray, "God, show me someone who needs a blessing. Show me someone I can help."

We all have room to grow in our relationship with God, and learning how to reach out to others is a big part of that process. I used to be self-centered and focused on getting my way all the time. And I was miserable! But now I am happier than I've ever

Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

been because I don't spend all my time thinking about what I want, what I think, and how I feel. The truth is, you can't be happy if the center of your life is you!

Imagine how different the world would be if everyone would just do one nice thing to help someone else every day. It can be so simple to put a smile on someone's face. Give a compliment, give something away, take the time to listen, open a door for someone, let someone go before you in line at the store...the list could go on and on.

Make it your business to regularly reach out to people around you, encouraging them and meeting their needs as you are able to do it. Be determined each day to do at least one thing for someone else that makes their life better. Trust me: You'll discover that serving God by loving others is the most wonderful, exciting thing you can do!

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

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

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Fall Home Improvement

Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance. What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed — expanding the list of rooms where

a fireplace can be installed. Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- **Minimalist style:** Many fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- **Convertible fireplaces:** Homeowners can choose between open

or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- **Nature-inspired materials:** Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- **Vintage fireplaces:** Vintage continues to be



a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage

also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- **Integrate into wall decor:** Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same

wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.

Build your gift list for DIY enthusiasts

Rising prices have pushed people to look for new ways to save money. The do-it-yourself approach to home repairs has long been seen as a potential avenue to save money, and holiday shoppers can consider DIY when shopping for loved ones this year.

A recent survey by the remodeling company Allstar Home reported that 70 percent of Americans have recently engaged in DIY home improvement projects. Similarly, a new Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of the DIY Network found that 73 percent of Canadian homeowners have done a renovation project themselves in the past. With so many homeowners tackling projects around the home on their own, DIY-related products may be just what's needed to hammer down the perfect gift. The following are some potential home improvement presents for DIY enthusiasts.

- **Magnetic wristband:** Keeping items close at hand takes on new meaning when one utilizes a magnetic wristband. The BinyaTools Magnetic Wristband is just one of the versions of this handy tool that's ideal for wrangling screws, nails, washers, and any other ferrous items. It's also a great option for crafters and jewelry makers.

- **Painting essentials kit:** Painting is an easy and effective way to transform a room. For those DIYers who have yet to compile all of their painting gear, local home improvement retailers often package kits that include a drop-cloth, assorted roller sizes, brushes, a paint tray, and even painter's tape to get started on projects.

- **Rolling work bench:** People serious about projects will need a place to store all the tools they have collected. A rolling work bench, such as the Gladiator nine-drawer work bench, has drawers to store tools and a wooden top on which smaller tasks can be tackled. Roll it where needed.

- **Hearing protection:** Drills, sanders and other power tools can be noisy. DIYers will want to pro-



tect their hearing, and a set of workshop earmuffs can be a thoughtful gift. Some, like the 3M WorkTunes headphones, even come with Bluetooth technology to offer both hearing protection and the ability to listen to tunes while working.

- **Headlamp:** DIYers need both hands to tackle jobs effectively, which can make holding a flashlight to illuminate the area challenging. Hands-free

lighting is possible with an LED headlamp. The light is easily focused where the user is looking.

- **Laser measuring tape:** A smart measuring tape utilizes a laser to increase measuring size, calculate distances and ensure that every home improvement project lines up.

- **Sawhorse:** DIYers working on large projects can benefit from an adjustable saw horse to support materials and ensure

safer cuts. The Tough-Built C700 is an option to consider since it has support pegs that fold out of the legs to allow for greater ease of use.

The list of gifts for DIYers is endless. Tools and additional gear can help people nail holiday shopping this year.

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Sports



Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

Sangre de Cristo High School's Kylie Smit (8) hits the ball while Centennial's Reina Aguilera (9) goes to for the block Thursday in Mosca. The Lady Thunderbirds defeated the Lady Rams in three sets.

Sangre uses long runs to sweep Centennial

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

MOSCA – The Sangre de Cristo High School volleyball team got back into league play on Thursday as it hosted Centennial Thursday at the SdCHS gym.

The Lady Thunderbirds had a relatively easy time in the first set, winning 25-9. They looked to be cruising in the second set before the Lady Rams came back to make a game of it. However, Sangre held off the charge and won 25-18.

The Lady Thunderbirds gradually built a lead in the third set and won 25-12.

Centennial scored the first point of the first set, but Sangre took a 2-1 lead. The Lady Rams then went on a 3-1 run to regain the lead at 4-3.

After exchanging side outs, the Lady Thunderbirds scored three straight points for an 8-6 lead. After a brief Lady Rams side out, Sangre scored nine unanswered points to take a 17-7 advantage.

The teams again traded side outs before the Lady Thunderbirds scored the final seven points of the set for a 25-9 win.

Sangre started the second set by scoring the first three points. After a Centennial side out, the Lady Thunderbirds went on a 3-1 run for a 6-2 lead.

The Lady Rams had another brief side out before the Lady Thunderbirds scored nine consecutive points to take a 15-3 advantage. But Centennial went on an 11-4 run to close the deficit to 19-14.

The teams again traded side outs before Sangre scored four of the final six points for a 25-18 win.

The Lady Rams took a 4-2 lead to open the third set. The Lady Thunderbirds scored three straight points for a 5-4 edge. Centennial tied the score at 5-5, but Sangre went on a 7-3 run to push its lead to 12-7.

The Lady Rams closed to within 12-9 before the Lady Thunderbirds had a 9-1 rally for a 21-10 advantage. Centennial



Centennial's Amaya Garcia (3) goes up for the kill attempt.

narrowed the gap to 21-12, but Sangre scored the final four points for a 25-12 win.

Sangre was led by Kylie Smit with 18 assists and she also had six kills. Belle Beiriger led in kills with eight, and Haylee Freel had five.

The Lady Thunderbirds served up 17 aces and were led by Emma Jimenez with six, followed by Hallie Henry and Jaydra Cordova both with four, Beiriger with two and Smit with one.

Leading Centennial was Mariah Portillo with five assists. Amaya Garcia led in kills with five, followed by Reina Aguilera with three. Adriana Vigil had the Lady Rams' only service ace.

Sangre de Cristo (7-8, 2-1) will host Mountain Valley this coming Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Centennial (3-7, 1-2) will host Creede today at 1 p.m.

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- 1 Shopping Local Creates Jobs:** The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and helps create more jobs.
- 2 Local independent businesses invest more in our community:** They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.
- 3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.**
- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
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Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep girls softball
 Southeast Colorado 11, Alamosa 4
Prep girls volleyball
 Sangre de Cristo def. Centennial 25-9, 25-18, 25-12

FRIDAY

Prep football
 Bayfield at Centauri – late
 Dolores Huerta Prep 1 Del Norte 0 – forfeit
 Sangre de Cristo at Holly – late
Prep girls volleyball
 Bayfield at Centauri – late
 Dolores Huerta Prep at Del Norte – late
 Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa – late
 Mountain Valley at Sierra Grande – late
 Sanford at Escalante (N.M.) – late
 Sargent at Center – late
College men's soccer
 Adams State at South Dakota Mines – late

College women's soccer

Adams State at Westminster (Utah) – late

College women's volleyball

South Dakota Mines at Adams State – late

College swimming

Adams State at Western Colorado – late

SCHEDULE 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.

TUESDAY

Prep cross Country
 Antonito, Center, Del Norte, Sierra Grande at Del Norte Invitational (at Rio Grande Golf Course, South Fork), 4 p.m.

Prep girls softball
 Rocky Ford at Alamosa (at Adams State), 4 p.m.

College women's soccer
 New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball
 Centauri at Sanford, 5 p.m.

Mountain Valley at Sangre de Cristo, 5:30 p.m.

Lifestyle

The benefits of energy-efficient homes

Consumer efforts to be more eco-conscious are more and more noticeable. For proof of that, one need look no further than the increase in vehicle charging stations. Such stations are more accessible than ever and illustrate that consumer preference is increasingly leaning toward products that leave as small a carbon footprint as possible.

Another indicator of a growing interest in eco-friendly products is the popularity in energy-efficient homes. In fact, a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders found that energy-efficient features are among the most sought-after "must-haves" among homebuyers. Among those surveyed, 83 percent desired Energy Star-rated windows, 81 percent wanted Energy Star-rated appliances and 80 percent preferred energy-efficient lighting.

sensibilities compel millions of homeowners to make their homes more energy-efficient, that's not the only reason to upgrade your home. The following are a handful of the many benefits of energy-efficient homes.

- **Save money:** Inflation was one of the biggest stories of 2022, as the cost of living rose dramatically in the wake of world events. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation led to an overall 6.5 percent increase in prices. But that increase was dwarfed by the cost of electricity, which increased by 14.3 percent in 2022. Energy-efficient appliances can help homeowners overcome that spike, as the U.S. Department of Energy indicates upgrading to such products can help homeowners reduce their energy costs by as much as 30 percent.

- **Improve resale value:** As the NAHB survey indi-

ates, modern homebuyers want energy-efficient homes. They're also willing to pay more for such homes. Research from the mortgage lender Freddie Mac found that homes with energy-efficient ratings sold for nearly 3 percent more on average than homes without such ratings.

- **Live healthier:** The benefits of energy-efficient homes aren't just economic, though health-related benefits certainly produce an economic incentive as well. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, insulation and air sealing protect individuals from heat waves and other ripple effects of climate change. The ACEEE notes that weatherization can improve indoor air quality and comfort, a notable benefit for asthma sufferers and seniors. In fact, the ACEEE estimates that integrating energy effi-

ciency programs in homes could reduce seniors' risk for falls in their homes, potentially saving \$2 billion in fall-related health care costs over the next decade, and improve asthma outcomes, which could reduce health care

costs by as much as half a billion dollars.

Energy-efficient products and practices pay numerous dividends, making them a worthy expenditure for any homeowners looking to upgrade their homes.



How to prepare a fireplace for winter

As hours of daylight shorten and fall gives way to winter, thoughts shift from fall foliage to spending time cuddling under warm blankets and being cozy indoors. A fireplace can improve the ambiance of any room and help to create a warm and welcoming gathering spot.

Home fireplaces typically are wood-burning or gas. Though maintenance for these fireplaces differs, certain preparatory steps must be taken to prepare a fireplace for winter.

says failure to properly clean chimneys is one of the leading contributors to home fires. That's due to creosote, a highly flammable residue that builds up in the flue that lines the chimney.

Inspect the interior

The interior of a wood-burning fireplace is likely lined with fire bricks. Check for cracks and loose joints. Hire a professional mason to make any repairs, as special materials are needed to withstand the heat of fires.

Install a chimney cap and screen

According to Family Handyman, a chimney cap is a protective covering that goes over the top of the chimney. It is made of steel or copper mesh with a cap on top. This protects the chimney from rain and downdrafts and keeps animals and debris from getting into the chimney.

Prune overhanging branches

If there are trees close to the home and the chimney, cut them back, as they can be a fire hazard. Branches and leaves also can restrict the proper draft of the chimney.

Assess the outdoor vent

Gas fireplaces typically emit exhaust through a vent in the home. Remove any blockages from the vent, including leaves, cobwebs and debris.

Check glass or other coverings

The glass or face of the fireplace helps regulate carbon monoxide exposure and protects people from the flames. Be sure the glass covering is intact.

Clean ceramic logs

Gas fireplaces use ceramic logs, rocks or beads that can become dusty. Clean them prior to use. Dirty ceramic logs can be a fire hazard and produce an unpleasant burning smell.

Check the blower and pilot

If the fireplace has an electric blower, clean and dust it so it doesn't become clogged. Inspect the pilot light for any wear and tear that includes wiring or structural issues.

It takes several steps to prepare fireplaces for cold weather seasons when they're most likely to be used with frequency.

Clear the clutter


Items can accumulate in areas that are not in use, and a fireplace is no exception. Take a few hours to remove any belongings from in front of the fireplace and clean the mantle thoroughly.

Have the chimney cleaned

Hire a professional chimney cleaning company to inspect the chimney and clean it thoroughly before winter. According to BobVila.com, a chimney should be cleaned once a year, or after about every 80 fires. The National Fire Protection Association

and keeps animals and debris from getting into the chimney.

an additional threat to small farmers and growers, as the Union of Concerned Scientists notes that the heavy application of fertilizers and pesticides accelerates soil erosion and increases pest problems. Consumers concerned by the effects of industrial agriculture on the environment and on small farmers' and growers' ability to earn a good living can support efforts such as regenerative farming and organic farms.



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**Family Passes will go to regular rates Oct. 7, 2024

FAMILY PASSES - All passes must be same type. Families consist of father, mother, or partners in civil unions and their single, dependent children, 22 years old or younger, living together supported by the same income.

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Volunteers Needed for San Luis Valley Well Water Samples:

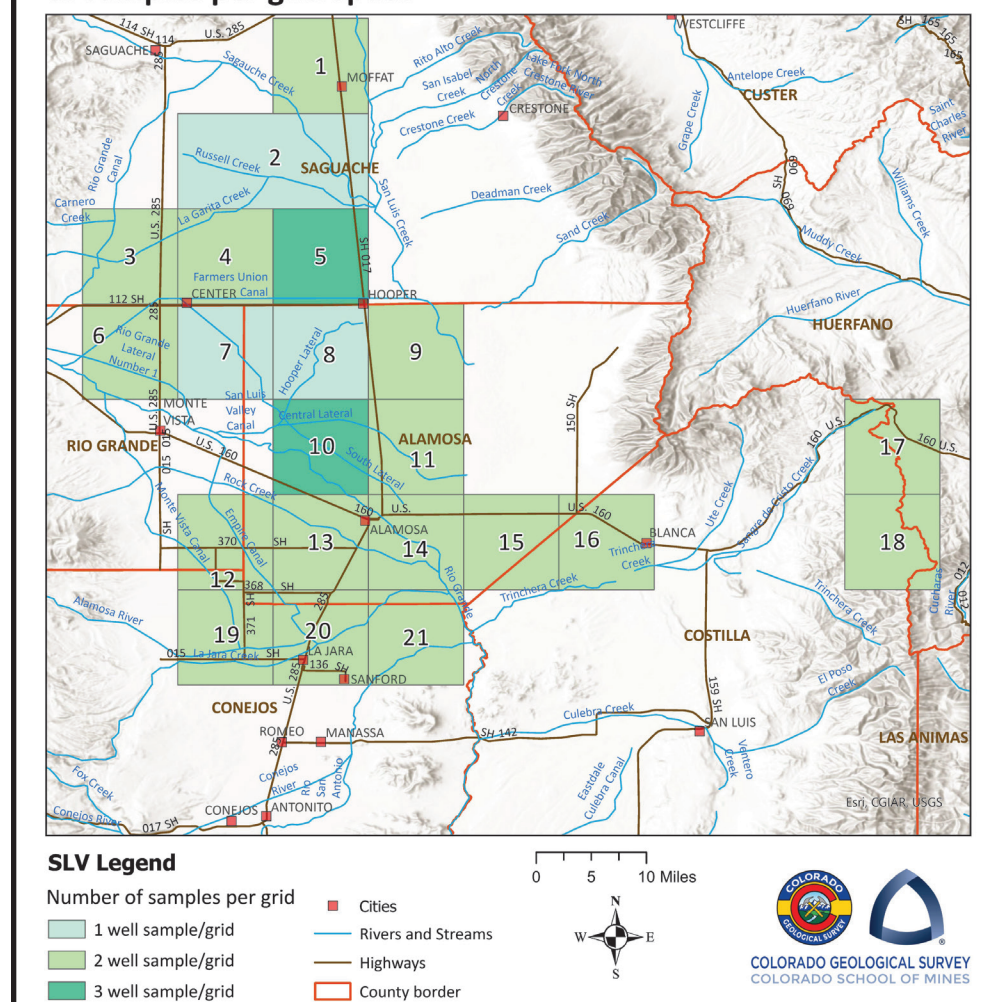
The Colorado Geological Survey (CGS), a department of the Colorado School of Mines, has been funded through a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to conduct a 5-year study of baseline radionuclides and metals in groundwater obtained from privately owned residential 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



Did you know?

Farmers and growers face a significant threat in the years to come as industrial agriculture operations continue to expand. According to the National Resources Defense Council, industrial agriculture is the large-scale, intensive production of crops and animals. Such operations make it more difficult for small farmers and growers to turn a profit, and they often involve the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The use of such products poses

Lifestyle

From the Librarian's Desk- New Arrivals

CONTRIBUTED

Look what's new at Conejos County library, Maria De Herrera Branch, for your reading pleasure.

A Death in Cornwall by Danile Silva

A brutal murder, a missing masterpiece, a mystery only Gabriel Allon can solve . . .

Art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon has slipped quietly into London to attend a reception at the Courtauld Gallery celebrating the return of a stolen self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh. But when an old friend from the Devon and Cornwall Police seeks his help with a baffling murder investigation, he finds himself pursuing a powerful and dangerous new adversary.

The victim is Charlotte Blake, a celebrated professor of art history from Oxford who spends her weekends in the same seaside village where Gabriel once lived under an assumed identity. Her murder appears to be the work of a diabolical serial killer who has been terrorizing the Cornish countryside. But there are a number of telltale inconsistencies, including a missing mobile phone. And then there is the mysterious three-letter cypher she left behind on a notepad in her study.

Gabriel soon discovers that Professor Blake was searching for a looted Picasso worth more than a \$100 million, and he takes up the chase for the painting as only he can—with six Impressionist canvases forged by his own hand and an unlikely team of operatives that includes a world-famous violinist, a beautiful master thief, and a lethal contract killer turned British spy. The result is a stylish and wildly entertaining mystery that moves at lightning speed from the cliffs of Cornwall to the enchanted island of Corsica and, finally, to a breathtaking climax on the very doorstep of 10 Downing Street.

Eruption by Michael Crichton

A once-in-a-century volcanic eruption is about to destroy the Big Island of Hawaii.

But a decades-old military secret could turn the volcano into something even more terrifying...

Now it's up to a handful of brave individuals to save the island – and the entire world.

Think Twice by Harlan Coben

A man presumed dead is suddenly wanted for murder in this thriller of secrets, lies, and dangerous conspiracies that threaten to cover up the truth.

Three years ago, sports agent Myron Bolitar gave a eulogy at the funeral of his client, renowned basketball coach Greg Downing. Myron and Greg had history: initially as deeply personal rivals, and later as unexpected business associates. Myron made peace and moved on – un-

til now, when two federal agents walked into his office, demanding to know where Greg Downing is.

According to the agents, Greg is still alive—and has been placed at the scene of a double homicide, making him their main suspect. Shocked, Myron needs answers.

Myron and Win, longtime friends and colleagues, set out to find the truth, but the more they discover about Greg, the more dangerous their world becomes. Secrets, lies, and a murderous conspiracy that stretches back into the past churn at the heart of Harlan Coben's blistering new novel.

Safe Enough: Crime stores by the author Jack Reacher

For the past twenty years, Lee Child has been one of the bestselling authors in the world, thanks to the popularity of his iconic and instantly recognizable hero Jack Reacher. But even at the height of Reacher's fame, Child's short story writing was not confined to the series; through-

out the course of his career, he published tales about a range of characters on both sides of the law, including assassins, a body guard, CIA and FBI agents, gangsters, and more. Meticulously plotted and packed with Child's trademark action and suspense, the stories show the author's mastery of the short form, and they've never been collected before now.

In "Ten Keys," a drug-dealing hit man feels that he must unburden his fears and guilt to a stranger. A rookie cop in "Normal in Every Way" is assigned to the department's file room, where he makes connections to historic dates that could lead to solving crimes. A methodical bodyguard quits his job when he's outsmarted. A military mission is planned to perfection. A potential worker for the Manhattan Project is carefully surveilled by an FBI agent. A killer preys on other killers. Taken together, these stories are a riotous calamity of criminals and crime fighters; individu-

ally, they are expertly crafted, piercing tales that hit hard enough to leave a mark.

On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service by Anthony Fauci

Anthony Fauci is arguably the most famous—and most revered—doctor in the world today. His role guiding America sanely and calmly through Covid (and through the torrents of Trump) earned him the trust of millions during one of the most terrifying periods in modern American history, but this was only the most recent of the global epidemics in which Dr. Fauci played a major role. His crucial role in researching HIV and bringing AIDS into sympathetic public view and his leadership in navigating the Ebola, SARS, West Nile, and anthrax crises, make him truly an American hero.

His memoir reaches

back to his boyhood in Brooklyn, New York, and carries through decades of caring for critically ill patients, navigating the whirlpools of Washington politics, and behind-the-scenes advising and negotiating with seven presidents on key issues from global AIDS relief to infectious disease preparedness at home. ON CALL will be an inspiration for listeners who admire and are grateful to him and for those who want to emulate him in public service. He is the embodiment of "speaking truth to power," with dignity and results.

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Young playwright Melina Green has just written a new work inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor Emilia Bassano. But seeing it performed is unlikely, in a theater world where the

playing field isn't level for women. As Melina wonders if she dares risk failure again, her best friend takes the decision out of her hands and submits the play to a festival under a male pseudonym.

In 1581, young Emilia Bassano is a ward of English aristocrats. Her lessons on languages, history, and writing have endowed her with a sharp wit and a gift for storytelling, but like most women of her day, she is allowed no voice of her own. Forced to become a mistress to the Lord Chamberlain, who oversees all theatre productions in England, Emilia sees firsthand how the words of playwrights can move an audience. She begins to form a plan to secretly bring a play of her own to the stage—by paying an actor named William Shakespeare to front her work.

ALAMOSA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION OF NATURAL MEDICINE BUSINESSES

The Alamosa County Planning Commission will be having a public discussion about Natural Medicine Businesses during the next meeting at **6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 16, 2024** in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado.

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.

Notice of Lease

The San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners Inc are offering a pasture lease which includes the grazing rights to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allotments known as the East Custodial Allotment, the West Custodial Allotment, and the Twin Lake Allotment held by the Well Owners along with 1640 acres of private land. The private land is the base property assigned to the BLM permit. The Well Owners are pursuing an augmentation plan involving the surface water rights of this property. Should that plan come into effect during the term of this lease, the Tenant is free to terminate or renegotiate this lease at that time. The Tenant will pay all fees to the BLM, complete all required reports with the BLM and abide by the BLM rules and regulations. The Tenant will provide copies of all BLM reports and payments to the Well Owners for the file. The Tenant will maintain the fences and manage all water rights pledged to this lease.

The term of this lease is February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2030. The annual minimum bid for the lease, including grazing rights, is \$2,500.

To request a bid packet, please email secretary Lyla Hathaway at Lyla@Notes-Numbers.com or call 719-852-2144. Bids will be due December 31, 2024 to P O Box 631, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

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FDI-1867N-A AECSPAD 2325469

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A Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) Event

October 24th

6:30-8:30pm

Cole Park: Under the West Pavilion

A night to remember and honor survivors and their loved ones.

For more information contact Megan Lang 719-589-2465



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SCAN ME

Classifieds

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town of Blanca Festival Park Design + Planning Services
PURPOSE: This Request for Proposal is to provide the selection process for Professional Services to provide design and planning services for Blanca Festival Park. Blanca was recently awarded a CDOT Main Street Revitalization Grant for the first phase of construction on the park. Consultants will be responsible for engaging subconsultants on services that they are not able to provide in-house.
PROPOSAL AMOUNT: The Town desires to utilize a Fixed Price Best Value structure in the selection of the Consultant. The Town offers \$30,000 for the entire study including subconsultants. The consultant to offer the most credible data, recommendations and action/implementation plan would be the selected consultant.

OVERVIEW: The Town of Blanca in Costilla County is one of the poorest counties in Colorado and is in an area largely surrounded by private lands, which allows for little access to open spaces for our citizens. 53% of the population is low income and 49% are people of color. The project will support and benefit these disadvantaged populations by introducing recreational, entrepreneurial, and community-building opportunities in a unique way within the community. The community doesn't have access to trails or public lands to support the healthy and active lifestyle that our citizens strive to lead. Additionally, there is a state highway running through town which presents some challenges for our community to gather and enjoy the town. The Festival Park project will support our community vitality by establishing a safe, comfortable, and accessible place for the people to gather and celebrate. The Festival Park project is focused on enhancing a vacant lot with some amenities that will support community gathering and expand economic vitality through a designated location for markets and vendors to sell to the community with comfortable walking and shade conditions.

PROJECT DETAILS
 The Festival Park project will create an attractive and comfortable outdoor space and a sense of place for our community which is surrounded by private lands and currently has just one small playground area. The plan is to establish a Festival Park for community gathering, concerts, markets, and locally focused engagement with a creative entrepreneur training aspect. The community itself doesn't have access to trails or public lands to support the healthy and active lifestyle that our citizens strive to lead. Additionally, there is a state highway running through town which presents some challenges for our community to gather and enjoy the town. The park is a key anchor point to the downtown and by increasing the activity there, it will increase the vitality of the main corridor through town.

This project will create recreational opportunities including picnic tables, multi-purpose grass field for sports, open air pavilion i.e. concerts or movies, walking path, and shady places to hang out, and also develop opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs to try out a concept and help improve their livelihoods through small open air kiosks structures that can be rented by entrepreneurs. This project will also help to bring together the community again for festivals. Overall, this unique community space will encourage community, healthy lifestyles, and improve quality of life. The park will also serve as a gateway to encourage tourists to stop and maybe spend some money in the community.

SOURCES OF FUNDS
 • Town Funds
 • DOLA EIAF Planning Grant

SCOPE OF SERVICES
 The Town is seeking a multi-disciplinary project Consultant Team (Consultant) to provide professional survey, landscape architectural design, and civil engineering services and prepare construction contract documents for construction of Blanca Festival Park.

Task 1: Topographic survey
 1. Survey the project area for existing surface features, topography, and utilities as necessary for design and utility investigations.
 2. Perform survey work necessary to establish all right of way/property boundaries and easements within the project area. Survey work shall be performed in accordance with CDOT standards for survey within their right of way.
 3. Prepare an AutoCAD basemap of the site for use in subsequent design and plan preparation
 All civil design work shall be performed under the direction of and stamped by a professional engineer (PE) registered in the State of Colorado. All landscaping design shall be performed under the direction of and stamped by a landscape architect registered in the State

of Colorado. All survey work shall be performed under the direction of and stamped by a public land surveyor registered in the State of Colorado. Survey control and project drawings shall be tied into the Town's control network.

Task 2: Prepare Stormwater Protection Plan (SWMP) and Permit Application assuming over site is over one-acre in total.

Task 3: Detailed Project Design and Stakeholder Outreach

1. Project Management and Meetings to include kick-off meeting, and bi-weekly, virtual meetings to inform stakeholders of progress and evaluate design solutions

2. Facilitate one virtual or in-person public meeting to solicit feedback on park plans and amenities.

3. Incorporate community feedback and prepare Design Development (50%) documents including general site layout with grading and drainage, materials, site furnishings, and planting sheets. Irrigation and electrical plans shall be schematic, and assumed to be design build. 50% documents shall include a detailed cost estimate and phasing plan to accommodate construction budget.

4. Identify potential grant opportunities and/or in-kind contributions.

5. Prepare a Design Brief for custom market kiosks for school use.

6. Prepare Final (100%) contract documents to procure bids for construction/installation services. Final documents shall advance 50% documents, include technical data and specifications, graphic details of assemblies, and SWMP application.

7. Address bidder questions as requested by the Town (assume 16 hours). Submit stamped and signed Bid documents at Contractor Award. The Town will perform all construction administration activities.

8. Prepare a copy of physical materials i.e. poster, packets, etc. for community use

9. Prepare graphic artwork to advertise an Opening Celebration. Project Schedule to note substantial completion by June 2025.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS
 The Town requests that all services and deliverables listed in the Scope of Work be included in the proposal. Please provide your fee structure and budget. Please indicate any possible additional charges to the standard fee or total budget. Provide a fee schedule and a description of those services to be performed.

If any service or deliverable is unable to be met it must be clearly communicated in the Vendor History and Experience Section as well as clearly identified in any additional charges to the standard fees.

STRUCTURED RESPONSE TO THE RFP

1. Narrative:
 * - Outline your approach and vision for Blanca Festival Park.

* - Describe how your proposal aligns with the community's project goals.

* - Qualifications of the development team.

* - Timeline for completion of each phase of the project and the final presentation

* - Fee structure and budget for all services and deliverables

2. Additional Attachments (optional):
 * - Examples of similar projects completed.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE
 RFP Deadline: October 16, 2024
 Review by Town of Blanca team: October 23, 2024
 Award by: October 30, 2024

Technical Assistance:
 If you have any questions regarding any elements of this Request for Proposal, you may contact Rayna Sanchez at blancaco@gojade.org

Evaluation and Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Review Committee including agency delegates from the Parks and Recreation Commission, other community boards/representatives and the UCD Master's Student/Intern.

Selection Method:
 The objective of the review committee will be to evaluate the proposals against the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposed plan

* Cost competitiveness to market standards

* Satisfaction of submittal of the most information requested in the RFP.

SUBMISSION
 All Proposals must be received electronically at blancaco@gojade.org by October 16, 2024.

No. 4156.
 Published in the Valley Courier on September 28 & October 5, 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.

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN EARLY LEARNING CENTER is seeking energetic and experienced PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS to join our staff. In this position, you will help lead teacher-developed curriculum for the various age groups of our student population. You will implement lesson plans throughout the school day, work with our community to bring quality child care and schooling, as well as have a chance to grow personally and professionally. To express interest in joining our team, please call: 719-937-4654. Applications can be picked up at 1304 San Juan Ave. ALAMOSA, CO 81101 or send Resume to: BOD@childrensgardenalamosa.com. (10/18/24)

ELEMENTARY PARAPROFESSIONAL NEEDED: We are seeking a dedicated Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about working with young learners, you'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

221 - HELP WANTED

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 State's Human Resources Employment Opportunities webpage, <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> or <https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ASU>. (10/5/24)

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)

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)

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)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Follow a curved path
 - 4 Like better '80s sci-fi comedy
 - 12 — Grande
 - 13 Resembling sheep
 - 14 Boston — Party
 - 15 Past
 - 16 Ascended
 - 17 Tater —
 - 18 Honeyed pastry
 - 20 Think
 - 22 Method
 - 23 Smither-eens
 - 24 Unexpected difficulty
 - 26 Job
 - 28 Corn spike
 - 29 Long arm of the —
 - 30 Rind
 - 34 Looks at
 - 36 Common verb
 - 37 Stringed instrument, for short

- 38 Also-ran
 - 40 Raced
 - 41 Accumulate (2 wds.)
 - 44 Cheer for the team
 - 45 Lab substances
 - 46 Hit show byproduct
 - 50 Transgress
 - 51 Wyoming range
 - 53 Kind of deer
 - 54 Spread to dry
 - 55 Antelope
 - 56 Anger
 - 57 Altar constellation
 - 58 Ceremonies
 - 59 Georgia airport code
- DOWN**
- 1 Graceful horse
 - 2 Latvia's capital
 - 3 Pots and pans
 - 4 Raid
 - 5 Tel —
 - 6 Word on a card

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 The loneliest number
- 8 French painter
- 9 Garret
- 10 Sierra —
- 11 Group of three goddesses
- 19 Fall behind
- 21 Chick's cry
- 23 Strength
- 24 Understand
- 25 Vote against
- 26 Hold tight
- 27 Fabled runner in a race
- 31 Exhilaration
- 32 Get with effort (with "out")
- 33 Bulb type
- 35 Coaster
- 39 Forced removal
- 40 — Antonio
- 41 Ristorante fare
- 42 Colder
- 43 Actress — Hamilton
- 44 Outer layers
- 46 "Right away!"
- 47 Corn bread
- 48 Army post
- 49 Texture
- 52 Yale student

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
18			19			20	21				
		22				23					
24	25			26	27						
28				29				30	31	32	33
34			35	36				37			
			38	39				40			
41	42	43					44				
45				46	47				48	49	
50				51	52				53		
54				55					56		
57				58					59		

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

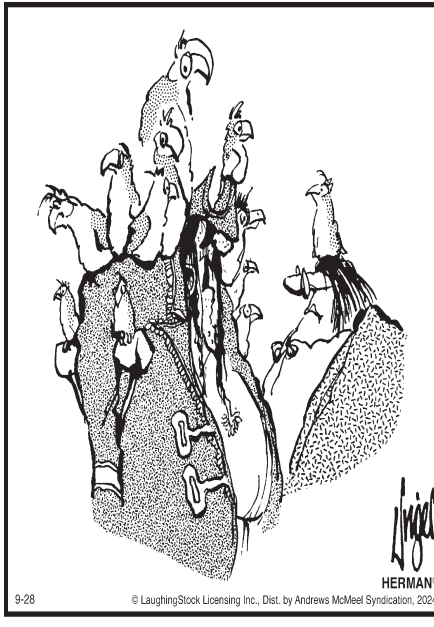
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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"His family flew in for a visit."

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Man appears content with commitment-free romance

DEAR ABBY: I have been talking to a man for a little more than a year. Things are wonderful between us, but he doesn't seem to want to make a commitment. It's not that I feel he's using me for sex, because he shows me off to his friends, we go out together and he texts or calls daily.

He's kind, and I don't have a single bad thing to say about him. BUT, when I bring up going further, he runs in the opposite direction. He claims up and I can barely get a word out of him. How can things be so great, yet he is so unsure about wanting me to be his official girlfriend?

We act like each other's significant other without having the title. We have taken numerous vacations together and he trusts me to watch his house when he's out of town. I feel confused, and as much as I hate to admit it, I'm hurt. I know he cares for me, but at what point is it time for me to move on? -- COMMITTED IN MISSOURI

DEAR COMMITTED: Your question is a valid one. You have been seeing someone for a little more than a year who has made it obvious that he wants to keep his options open. Because he refuses to discuss the issue, you need to decide how much more time you think is practical to invest in a relationship that may go nowhere. After that, set a deadline and be prepared to move on.

You appear to want dif-

ferent things. I cannot make such a personal decision for you; this is something you will have to decide for yourself.

DEAR ABBY: You have printed letters from readers asking what to do with old love letters (either before they die or when they are found after a death). Let me share my story.

One evening, shortly after our mother passed, my siblings and I were going through some of her belongings and came across correspondence between her and our stepfather, written before they were married. My sister and I began putting them in chronological order and took turns reading them aloud. The content was spicy (their behavior was somewhat frisky!).

Our brother covered his ears, claiming his mom would never behave that way! My sister and I, on the other hand, were laughing and delighted to learn about these intimate and romantic details of the early days of their relationship. My (adult) daughter's eyes were bulging, but I reminded her that Grandma was her age once, as was I!

My advice is to treasure these precious memories and preserve them for your children and grandchildren. As for us, we have scanned the letters into our family's digital archive so they will be available for future generations. -- JUST WANTED TO SHARE

DEAR JUST: Thank you for sharing. Not all people



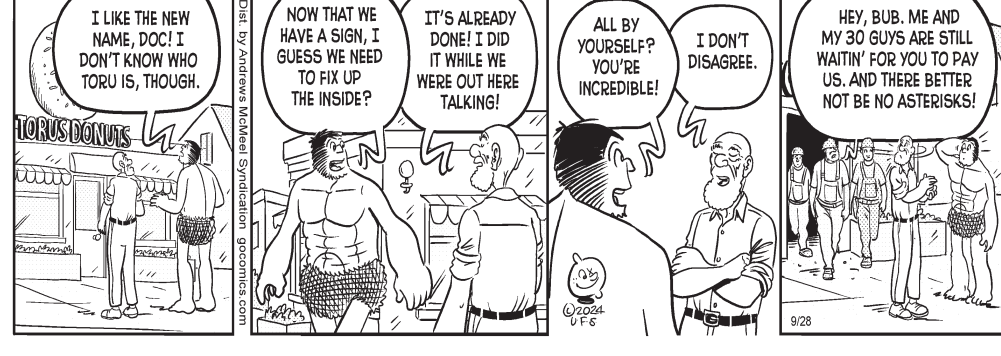
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

are comfortable thinking about their parents as sexual beings. If your mother was as "frisky" as the letters revealed, I hope you have labeled them "X-rated" so they won't shock more members of your family.

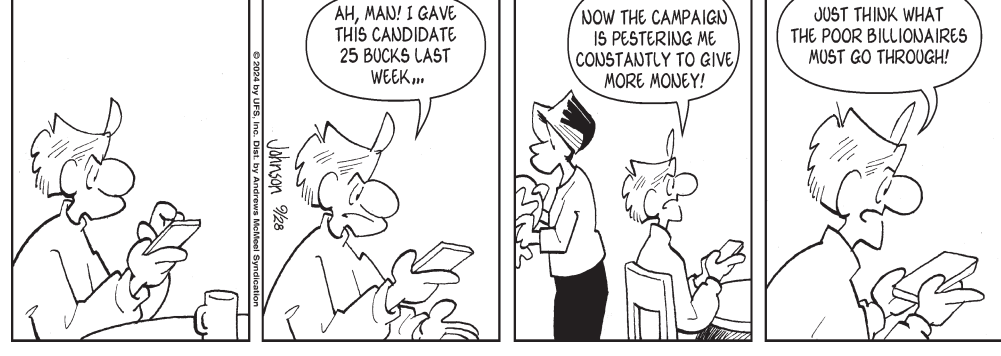
DEAR ABBY: Please give me a tactful way of explaining to my son and daughter-in-law that their "born again" religious pressure makes me uncomfortable, and I'm not interested in changing my views in any way? -- CONTENT IN THE EAST

DEAR CONTENT: Thank your sweet son and daughter-in-law for their concern and state that you are comfortable with your spirituality JUST AS IT IS. Then ask them to please not bring this up again because, when they do, it makes you uncomfortable.

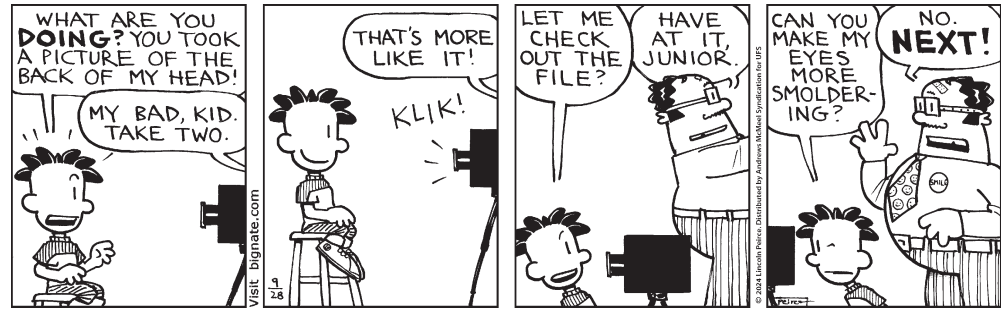
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



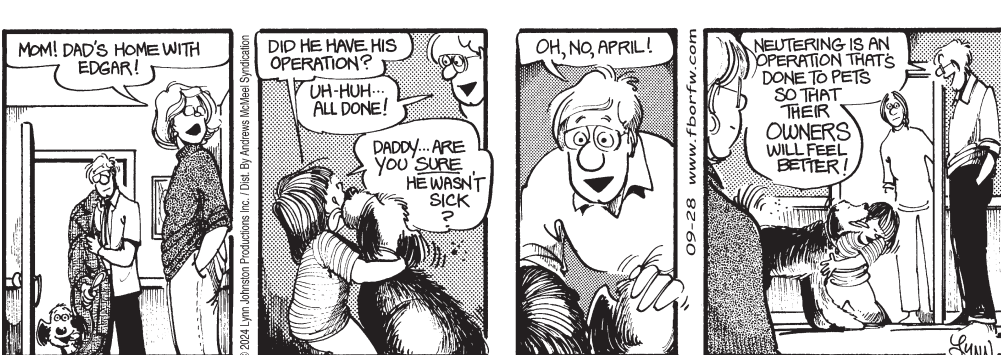
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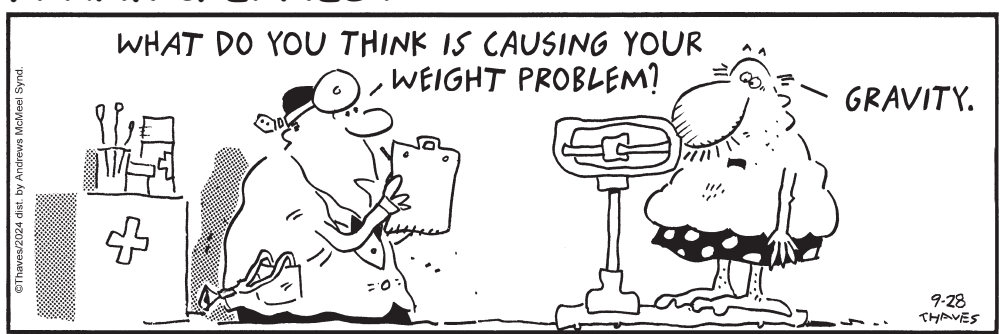
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



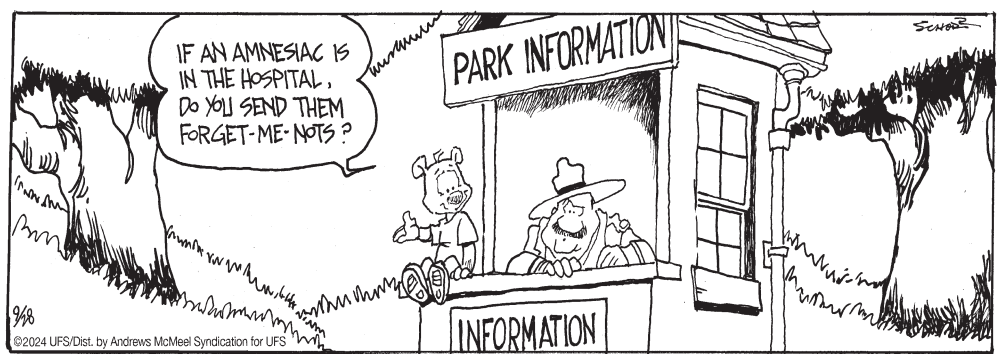
FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

