



Colorado grocery workers rally against Kroger-Albertsons merger

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Falcons soar past Wolverines, 41-0

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San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 1, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

County Rd. 106 at Highway 160 closure

ALAMOSA — Alamosa County Road and Bridge will be closing County Road 106 at US Highway 160 beginning the morning of Oct. 1 with an anticipated reopening of Oct. 14. They will be replacing the last of four railroad crossings at this location.

Concrete pouring just finished on the 9 South Airport Road and US Highway 285. It will reopen on Oct. 7.

Hospice del Valle hosting 'Death Café' on Oct. 4

ALAMOSA — The public is invited to Hospice del Valle for a "Death Café" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 4. The Death Café movement has become popular all over the world. It's an opportunity to get together with folks and chat about all topics related to death over tea, coffee and treats.

At the beginning of every meeting, attendees are asked to anonymously put ideas for topics in a bowl. A topic is drawn from the bowl and the conversation begins. Nobody is an "expert" and all opinions and experiences are valid and welcome.

Hospice del Valle is 514 Main St., Alamosa. RSVP to 719-589-9019. For more information about the Death Café movement, visit online <https://deathcafe.com>.

SLV Veterans plan annual parade

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

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

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

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Breezy 78/39

Wed: Sunny, Breezy 78/37

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 77/37

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Burn camp: helping kids heal from the inside out

'Your scars don't define you'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — "Welcome to your new normal." Jan Mortensen recalls those words spoken to her 10 years ago by nurses working in the burn unit at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) after two of her young children had been severely injured in a fire. "They knew what they were talking about," Mortensen says.

On Tuesday, July 1, 2014, Tamlen Mortensen, 5, and her little brother, Dane, 2 ½, were

playing in the family's camper parked outside their home in Sanford when they found a book of matches and lit them, accidentally catching the camper interior on fire.

By the time the kids were rescued, Dane had suffered severe burns on 42 percent of his body while Tamlen had severe burns on 36 percent, mainly on her back and feet.

"They were only 2 and 5 when this happened," Mortensen says. "This has basically been their life."

Taken at face value, Mortensen's words might suggest that the last 10 years have been filled with nothing but suf-

fering and pain. Over the years, both kids have gone through so many painful surgeries that Mortensen has lost count.

"I think Tamlen has had 25 surgeries, and Dane has had about 30," she says.

But Mortensen's voice and demeanor are in sharp contrast to the painful journey she relates. In a show of her personal strength and resilience, Mortensen describes her chil-

■ See **HEAL** page 3

Tamlen Mortensen was selected to attend the International Firefighters Association burn retreat in Washington D.C.

Courtesy photo



La Puente's Food Bank Network open

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Slightly more than two years after signing a contract to buy the former Atencio's Market in Alamosa, the doors are opening again as the new site of La Puente's Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley. Not all the renovations are complete, but the food bank, 802 State Ave., on Alamosa's south side, began serving the public on Monday.

"We're very excited," says Annalise Baer, director of the Food Bank Network. "We've been looking forward to this day for a long time."

At 6500 square feet, the new Food Bank Network is double the size of the old location, which provides significantly more room for storage of food items. The space even has



Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner

At the newly renovated and refurbished food bank at 8th Street and State Avenue in Alamosa, an employee is labeling food and stocking shelves in preparation for the location's first clients.

a large walk-in cooler, a big advantage over the prior building that didn't have the greatest capacity for keeping perishable food as cold as Baer would have liked.

"It's hard for vegetables to last in seventy or eighty degrees," she says, "and when the Care and

Share Network donated fresh food that was on the edge, we couldn't store it for any length of time. Now, we can keep fresh vegetables much longer and nothing will go to waste."

One of the goals of the Food Bank Network is not just to provide

healthy food but to also support people in learning new ways to cook food that is more nutritious. With that in mind, Baer is also looking forward to the completion of the commercial kitchen. That space isn't completed yet but will be by November.

"Using food that we

have available, we'll be cooking samples and passing out recipes where people can get ideas for how to cook the food they're taking home."

Another significant change that staff had long advocated for includes the creation of

■ See **FOOD** page 3

Local foods at Harvest Moon Festival



Courier photo by John Waters

Nick Navares of Crestone points to a platter of vegan stew available on Saturday, Sept. 28, as part of the Harvest Moon Festival in Casita Park.

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAGUACHE COUNTY — On a beautiful fall day, residents and visitors enjoyed various locally sourced food, fun, and music at the Harvest Moon Festival in Casita Park.

Nick Navares of Crestone and one of the organizers of the festival held on Saturday, Sept. 28, said, "This is the third annual Fall Harvest Festival, and this year we are raising funds to buy trees."

The festival included a buffet with green chili enchiladas, stews, salads, and baked goods. Chronic Joy Collective, Kosmos and The Audience performed live music.

Eddy Byerly with the Friends of Casita Park said the group plans

to plant 25 trees. "To help our neighborhood. This is what we can do as neighbors. Every year, we are going to plant more trees to protect our kids from the wind, and someday, we will offer shade."

Navares thanked the Valley Roots Food Hub and Saguache County for their generous donations of food and money.

On Oct. 12, the Crestone Energy Fair will hold a gala fundraiser at the Dune Valley Distillery, and Navares will prepare an Indian-themed 4-course meal sourced through the food hub. Local musicians Kosmos and Xerphine will perform. Tickets for this are available for purchase at www.crestoneenergyfair.org.

Gov. Polis, former opponent Ganahl back Prop. 129

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

DENVER — Governor Jared Polis and former Republican gubernatorial nominee Heidi Ganahl announced their joint endorsement of Proposition 129, an initiative aimed at increasing access to veterinary care for Colorado's pets. This measure, which will establish a Veterinary Professional Associates (VPA) posi-

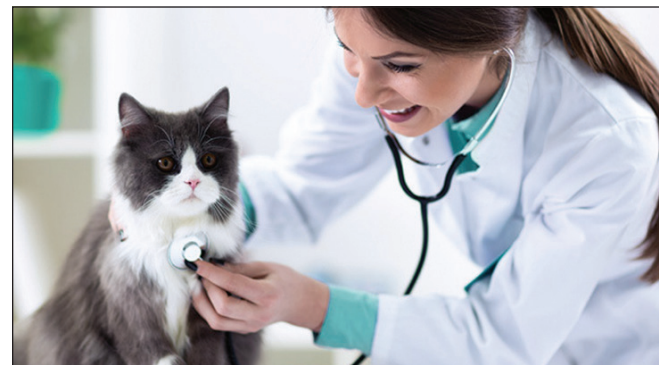
tion, is poised to play a critical role in veterinary practice, offering a promising future for pet care in the state.

Proposition 129 seeks to create a trained veterinary practitioner akin to a Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner in human medicine. This will empower VPAs to perform simple procedures and provide high-quality care, ultimately benefit-

ing both pets and their owners who face the challenge of accessing veterinary care.

In a statement to the Valley Courier, Gov. Polis said, "I'm backing Prop. 129 because it will help save people money, support our ranchers in rural communities who are facing vet shortages through no fault of their own. This commonsense measure

■ See **PROP. 129** page 3



Courtesy photo

Proposition 129 seeks to create a new licensed position as a trained veterinary practitioner.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Eduwiges Corral



greatest happiness came from creating cherished memories with her family.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Isaac, and her children, Hiram Delgado and Annette (Leonel) Rios. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren Ana-hi (Tyler) Atkins, Hector Delgado, Angel Rios, Yandel Delgado, Lexani Rios, Yaretzi Rios, and

her great-grandchildren, Liam and Lianna Atkins. Vicky is also survived by her brother, Francisco Corral. Vicky will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, love, and cherished family moments.

Viewing and Prayer Service will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, from 4-10 p.m. at the Cristo Salva Church in Alamosa. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at 10 a.m. also at the Cristo Salva Church in Alamosa. Interment will be held at the Monte Vista Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Eduwiges "Vicky" Corral, born on Oct. 22, 1956, in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, Mexico, passed away on Sept. 25, 2024, of Center, Colo. She is now with her mom (Arcenia Majalca), dad (Fidel Corral), and brother (Manuel Corral).

A dedicated labor worker, Vicky was known for her bright smile and her loving, caring nature. She found immense joy in spending time with her husband, Isaac Delgado, her children Hiram and Annette, and her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Vicky had a passion for gardening and cooking, often delighting her family with her favorite foods, which included coffee, sweets, and biscochos.

She loved to travel and enjoyed shopping, but her

Carol Dawn Duran



eta, step-grandfather Eli Martinez, uncles Jose Archuleta, Fred Archuleta, Glenn Martinez, Leroy Sanchez, aunts cousin Kimberly Archuleta, Melody Duran, Ruby Grace Duran and Frances Duran.

She will live on through her parents Joseph and Elizabeth Duran of Alamosa, Colo.; grandmother La La Archuleta of

Austin, Colo.; brother Robert (Shannon) Duran of Alamosa, Colo.; nephew Carson Duran and one niece Brooklyn Duran. She is also survived by many other extended family members and friends.

Cremation was chosen and a Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Del Norte. A Memorial Mass will be held Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, at 10 a.m. also at Holy Name of Mary Church. Inurnment will follow at the Agua Ramon Cemetery.

To leave online condolences to Carol's family, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romeo Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Beloved Del Norte resident Carol Dawn Duran was called home to be reunited with the Lord on Sept. 26, 2024. She passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side. Carol was welcomed into the world on Dec. 16, 1978, she is the daughter of Joseph Duran and Elizabeth (Archuleta) Duran.

Carol was truly one of the kindest, gentle and compassionate person you could ever meet. She had a smile that could light up a room. She was selfless in all she did. She loved writing poems, doing diamond art and reading. Carol loved spending time with her family, friends and of course her dog Bella.

Carol was preceded in death by her grandparents Mary Martinez, Ruben Duran, Jose Archul-

PENDING OBITUARIES

Ernesto I. Sanchez

Chama resident Ernesto I. Sanchez, 78, passed away Sept. 30, 2024. Arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Tobias Romo

Center resident Tobias Romo, 63, was called to his heavenly home on Sept. 25, 2024. Cremation was chosen and services will follow soon. Care of services are under the direction of A Better Place funeral Home of Denver. Online condolences can be made at abplace-funeral-cremation.com.

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

Alamosa County Sheriff's Office report for week of Sept. 23

Tanner Douglas, 18, of Monte Vista was cited for speeding 40 mph over the limit in the 6000 block of CR 6 South.

Brian Crow, 60, of Vail

was cited for careless driving at 102 Highway 160.

Tori Boyer of Colorado Springs was cited for second degree burglary, first degree criminal trespass and theft at 7630 Lane 11, North Hooper.

Johnathan Elisha Sais

of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence, child abuse and assault third degree at 6111 Malouff Road.

Ashley Whitney of Alamosa was cited for child abuse, domestic violence and criminal mischief at 4892 Highway 17 South.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

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

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

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

APD traffic stop yields seizure of 1,781 fentanyl pills

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Courier Reporter ALAMOSA

— In the course of conducting a traffic stop on Thursday, officers with the Alamosa Police Department (APD) discovered a large amount of fentanyl and a significant amount of cash, resulting in the arrest of the driver.

According to a press release from the City of Alamosa, at about 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, APD initiated a traffic stop in the 500 block of 4th Street. The vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation and to investigate a possible domestic violence situation.

After speaking with the occupants of the car, no domestic violence was found to have occurred, but officers spotted drug paraphernalia in plain view in the vehicle.

That prompted a search of the vehicle where 218 grams (the equivalent of 1,781 pills) of fentanyl.

The driver, 26-year-old Anthony Cumby of

Alamosa, was arrested and charged with suspicion of the following unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (Drug Felony 1), unlawful possession of a controlled substance (Drug Felony 4), driving under restraint (Canceled/Denied), failure to signal (Traffic Infraction).

Cumby was booked into the Alamosa County Detention Center where he is being held on a \$25,000 bond.

When asked to comment on the amount of fentanyl seized by APD, Chief George Dingfelder said, "A lot of the people we contact (users) that have fentanyl, have 2 to 3 pills. 1,700 pills is a lot of pills."

When asked to comment on what impact close to 2,000 fentanyl pills could have on a community, Dingfelder was reluctant to make a definitive statement, citing that a number of factors figure into trying to compute the impact, making it impossible to offer a definitive answer.



Photo courtesy of the City of Alamosa

Photo of cash and illegal drugs seized during routine traffic stop on Sept. 26 by the Alamosa Police Department.

With that caveat, Dingfelder said, "We report in grams, in this case, 218 grams. Each gram has 1,000 milligrams." Citing a report from the DEA, Dingfelder continued, "This [DEA] report states, 2 milligrams can kill a person, depending on body size, tolerance and past usage. The math equates: 218 grams x 1,000 milligrams = 218,000 milligrams. DEA states, again, that 2 milligrams can kill a person depending on their tolerance, body size, etc."

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department report for week of Sept. 23

Ashley Stockham, 40, of Alamosa was cited for violation of restraining order x2, 2nd degree possession of contraband, unlawful possession of controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence.

James McDonnell, 64, Clifton was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance.

Oscar Gaspar, 30, of Alamosa was cited for harassment.

Omar Flores, 25, of Center was cited for theft under \$300.

Angel Lucero, 41, of Alamosa was cited for 1st degree criminal trespass, violation of restraining order and criminal mischief.

Janessa Martinez, 24, of Alamosa was cited for drivers vision obstructed, improper use of plates, uninsured vehicle, driving under restraint.

Morgan Carpenter, 23, of Alamosa was cited for violation of restraining order.

Cody Hatcher, 33, of Silt was cited for 1st degree criminal trespass, obstruction and disorderly conduct.

Joseph Salas, 34, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing x2 and theft under \$300.

Joaquin Gallegos, 23, of Alamosa was cited for exhibition of speed, speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in a pedestrian zone.

Chauncey Matthews, 21, of Belen was cited for careless driving causing

bodily injury.

Robert Lujan, 63, of Alamosa was cited for uninsured vehicle, failing to stop at a stop sign.

Antonio Aldana-Becerril, 46, of Santa Fe, New Mexico was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Jonathan Griffin, 53, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 5-9 mph over the limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Zachary Thomas, 26, of Pueblo was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Michael Vangieson, 44, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Vanessa Archuleta, 36, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Dave Dominguez, 43, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing, storage and overnight parking.

Virginia Murphy, 50, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Inez Cruz de Medina, 44, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Brenda Espinoza, 63, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Daniel Gallegos, 55, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Melissa Martinez, 44, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Andrew Gutierrez, 65, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Austin Leppert, 20, of Del Norte was cited for violation of restraining

order.

Michael Mascarenas, 42, of Alamosa was cited for harassment.

Martin Garcia, 42, of Sanford was cited for domestic violence, false imprisonment and harassment.

Keith Ditmars, 32, of Alamosa was cited for uninsured vehicle.

Juvenile, 14, of Alamosa was cited for criminal mischief.

Juvenile, 14, of Alamosa was cited for criminal mischief.

Geraldine Gallegos, 78, of La Jara was cited for failing to yield ROW from stop sign.

Salomon Chavez, 26, of Westminster was cited for failing to yield ROW from stop sign.

Donovan Valdez, 32, of Monte Vista was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over and uninsured vehicle.

School Menu
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October 1, 2024

October Menu
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Valley News

ASU 2024 Homecoming



Courier photo by John Waters

Adams State University President David Tandberg took part in the homecoming parade on Main Street in Alamosa on Saturday. Tandberg walked the parade and was busy promoting the university and handing out candy.

Food

Continued from Page 1

an inside waiting room (with chairs) where clients no longer have to stand in a line outside in sometimes inclement weather as countless cars drove by may wait to begin shopping. Baer pointed out that they now even have an electronic “now serving number” sign.

When asked if the project came in within the budget, Baer referred the question to executive director Lance Cheslock.

“Lance confirmed we were on budget and our budget took into account that we would need 1500 hours of volunteerism (both professional and unprofessional) to keep costs down. We ended up receiving over 2500



Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Storage, including walk-in coolers, is greatly expanded at the new location.

hours of volunteer assistance and 250 people contributed to and volunteered for the project.

“Per Lance, many elements of the project were sponsored by community help who purchased things for us or donated labor to us and the cost of the project can’t be

measured by just our finances.”

People who are living on little or significantly limited income have encountered significant challenges in the past year as benefits granted during the pandemic expired and inflation increased.

When asked for a current estimate of the numbers of people being served by the food bank in Alamosa, Baer responded, “Right now we are serving approximately 1800-2000 unduplicated individuals per month at the Alamosa Food Bank (or 800-900 unduplicated households).”

Baer uses the term “unduplicated” to report on people who access the food bank once a month versus numerous times.

In terms of individual visits, Baer says, “We are serving approximately 1300 visits at the pantry per month – that is, households visiting over multiple visits in a month.”

Finally, Baer highlighted how the new space will help in the administration of the Food Bank Network of the SLV, which comprises a total of 15 food banks throughout the valley. With the new space also providing enough room for the Valley Educational Gardens Initiative (VEGI program), this will be the first time both programs will be housed in the same building.

As far as what is

planned for the space the Food Bank Network is vacating, Baer says, “We have a committee that is working on determining what we’re doing with it, and we hope to put together a commercial lease for somebody that’s in alignment with our values.”

Monday was, in Baer’s words, a “soft opening”, meaning the facility was open to the public but still under renovation. It’s estimated the project will be entirely completed by sometime in November when an official ribbon cutting will be held.

The food bank is open from noon to 4 p.m.

“The opening of the new Alamosa Food Bank is a huge benefit to clients, staff, and volunteers alike,” says Baer. “Our new space provides a much more welcoming and accessible experience for those visiting the pantry, especially with our new waiting room, accessible public bathroom, and renovated, updated space.”

“We’ve already received positive feedback from neighbors since our soft opening on Monday, Sept. 30. Our staff and clients are unbelievably grateful to the many community volunteers and partners who worked to make this building a beautiful part of the neighborhood. We are proud to continue the building’s long tradition as a food provider and eager to continue to serve our community.”

Prop. 129

Continued from Page 1

aligns with what Colorado already has in human medicine with Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners and expands options for hard-working veterinarians to help grow their businesses and practices.

“Though Heidi and I don’t agree on everything dogs and cats, we both enthusiastically endorse Prop 129, which would improve veterinary care in Colorado and save pet owners money by establishing a master’s-level veterinary practitioner,” said Polis. “This initiative is so important for addressing the growing veterinary shortage and ensuring that every pet in Colorado receives the care they deserve.”

Ganahl added, “While I may not align with every aspect of what’s happening in Colorado today, I am dog-gone thrilled to support Proposition 129. This initiative represents a significant step forward in improving pet care. By addressing the veterinary shortage, it will provide

better and more affordable care for all animals. Proposition 129 is truly a win-win: it benefits rural communities as well as pet owners in our cities and suburbs.”

Proposition 129 is opposed by veterinarian associations, both locally and nationally. They are concerned that VPAs would not have the experience and instruction needed to perform surgery safely. Currently, there are no accredited VPA education programs. Unlike veterinarians, who are required to pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, VPAs would not have to pass a national exam.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, “In partnership with the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, we voice strong opposition to the proposed VPA. Multiple other veterinary organizations have voiced their opposition to an MLP/VPA, including the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), the American Association of Equine

Practitioners (AAEP), and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV). Numerous shelter veterinarians, former presidents of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, veterinary technicians, veterinary specialists and their associations (e.g., the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and American Veterinary Dental College), and pet owners also have voiced grave concerns about the proposed VPA in Colorado.”

The Dumb Friends League is in favor of the measure. CEO Apryl Steele, DVM, CAWA, told the Valley Courier, “Our veterinary care system is broken. Veterinary practices regularly refuse patients because they are too busy to serve them. Pets with treatable conditions are being euthanized simply because their families cannot afford treatment. Veterinary fees have increased at twice the rate of inflation, and there are few options to obtain life-saving veterinary care for pet owners who don’t have significant disposable income.

“The Dumb Friends

League’s mission is: ‘Working with our compassionate community, we will end pet homelessness and animal suffering.’ Lack of veterinary care causes vast suffering, and creating a Veterinary Professional Associate (Vet PA) position will increase access to life-saving treatment. We need our compassionate community to help us end animal suffering through a highly trained new professional who will work under the supervision of a veterinarian. Proposition 129 decreases regulations that block this systemic change that will facilitate healing for countless animals.”

In addition to Polis and Ganahl, Proposition 129 is also endorsed by the Denver Post, the Colorado Republican Party, Animal Welfare Association of Colorado, the Dumb Friends League, the ASP-CA, the Humane Society of the United States, and many other animal welfare groups, veterinarians and local humane societies.

Ballots in Colorado will be mailed out starting on Oct. 13.

Heal

Continued from Page 1

dren’s lives and, by association, her family’s life, as being rich with experiences, opportunities, friendships and support.

And much of the credit for that, she says, goes to an extraordinary program at CHCO called “Burn Camp.”

A TRUE VISIONARY

Forty-one years ago, a psychologist on CHCO’s burn team, Marion Doctor realized a very real need existed among burn injury survivors and families after the acute care was done. The “outward facing scars” were healing but, inside, burn survivors and their families were still very much in pain.

That gave birth to an idea that, with the help of a burn surgeon, became a reality in 1983 when Doctor created Burn Camps. As Tim Schuetz, CHCO Director of Outreach Programs puts it, Burn Camps give both children who have sustained a burn injury and their families the ability and courage to thrive throughout their recoveries and beyond by offering inspiration, rehabilitation, and shared experiences in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment.

“The program was incredibly visionary,” says Schuetz. “[CHCO was] one of the first burn camps in the nation and the world, and that’s why

we have other hospitals refer their kids to us. We like to say that we’re one of the first and one of the best.”

Now, 41 years later, CHCO’s Burn Camps include programs for kids of all ages. At Family Camp, survivors aged 0 to 7 come with their parents and siblings who are helped in dealing with the life stressors that came with traumatic burn injuries. There’s another camp for teenage survivors. Held in Steamboat Springs during the winter, the teens spend days on the slopes skiing and snowboarding and participate in programs at night.

But Burn Camps’ flagship is the summer camp program held every year in Estes Park’s Cheley Colorado Camps. “We bring 85 campers from all over the nation to a camp where burn survivors can just be a kid for a week. They don’t have to worry about anything else that’s going on. They just hike and horseback ride and mountain bike and fish and camp and do all the things that other kids do.”

The purpose of burn camp, Schuetz explains, is to create independence because the natural progression of a kid becoming independent can be stopped by a traumatic burn injury. “Instead of saying to their kids ‘you can be independent, you can do things for yourself and take risks’, parents often become fearful,” he says. “We teach them how to appropriately take



Kids being kids at Children’s Hospital Colorado burn camp in Estes Park.

risks because that fosters self-identity and independence in the survivors’ lives. We’re helping to get them over some really hard things – some really hard things – so they can ultimately thrive.”

But other lessons learned through the burn camp experience run very deep and can alter how a kid views himself, how he sees himself fitting in with others and how a family learns to move forward.

“Because our camp brings kids in from all over,” Schuetz says, “kids learn there are others going through what they’re going through. They learn they’re not alone.”

“That’s one of the amazing things about our program, specifically for kids like Dane and Tamlen. They’re some of the only burn survivors in Alamosa, Colorado. There isn’t a community there for them. There isn’t a place for them to go where someone can say ‘I know what you’re doing

through.’

“Burn Camp creates that safe space, that community for burn survivors. They don’t have to talk about it if they don’t want to. They can just look around and see others just like themselves.”

And families benefit, as well. “The kids get so tight and make such good friends that it brings the parents along, too. A community’s created for parents where they can talk to each other and support each other and learn from each other, too. It’s an amazing thing to see.”

But there is one lesson that goes even deeper to places that might be the hardest but most important places to reach.

“The survivors learn that their scars don’t define them or who they are as individuals,” Schuetz says. “They learn that their scars are a part of them and a part of their story, and they can continue to go on and be who they are.”

Mortensen recalls one



Courtesy photos

Dane Mortensen on horseback at burn camp.

burn camp experience that was especially meaningful.

A 13-year-old boy with burns similar to Dane’s had been hiding in his room and wouldn’t come out. “Our kids were involved in a chess tournament,” Mortensen says. “He came out and saw what was going on and asked if he could play the winner. Our oldest daughter, who wasn’t burned, said sure. I saw him later and asked who won, and he said, ‘Boy, she whooped me bad!’ Just like any 13-year-old kid. And that’s a big part of the burn camp. The kids see that they’re okay and have a lot to offer and go on with life.”

Tamlen and Dane Mortensen personify that attitude.

“I’m so impressed and excited that they’ve immersed themselves in the program and the com-

munity and continue to say yes to all the opportunities that come their way.” Schuetz adds that Tamlen went to Washington D.C. this past weekend after being chosen by burn camp staff as the best camper to attend the annual International Firefighters Association burn camp retreat, which will include guided tours of historic sites, numerous monuments, the Smithsonian and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Looking back, Mortensen says it’s been a long haul. “It’s one of those things that you can’t describe. But they’ve done so much for our kids and hundreds of others. It means a lot.”

CHCO operates solely off donations. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Tim Schuetz at Tim.Schuetz@childrenscolorado.org.

Lifestyles

Adams State names Executive Equity Officer

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — Adams State University announces the appointment of Florencio Urias Aranda III, Ph.D., as Executive Equity Officer (EEO). He will serve as a strategic advisor to the President and member of Executive Council, with the objective of promoting university-wide inclusion, diversity, and engagement.

“Adams State University’s designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) is not just a label—it’s a commitment and a call to action,” said Adams State President David Tandberg, Ph.D. “We are dedicated to operationalizing this status by integrating culturally responsive practices across our curriculum, expanding support services tailored to our Hispanic students’ needs, and fostering an inclusive campus environment that celebrates diversity. By doing so we learn and implement practices that help first-generation, low income, other minoritized populations, and all students to not only enroll, but thrive and succeed at Adams State.”

Aranda has dedicated his life to service, leadership, advocacy, and research.

“Because of the remarkable populations that Adams State serves, the diversity work being done really spoke to me, because in college I was many of those identities: first generation, financially limited, Latino/Hispanic,” he said. His responsibilities will include facilitating development of an institutional strategic plan for equity, diversity, and inclusion. “Initially, I will meet with and listen intensely to students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni. I want to hear what they want out of my role and what initiatives they see themselves undertaking. I will collect this information and craft a strategic plan that mirrors the needs of our institution.”

Aranda is charged with fostering meaningful, equitable, and inclusive changes in the areas of evaluation, policy, hiring, professional development, programming, and support. His office will support the full spectrum of diversity at Adams State, including all racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, national origins, disabilities, age, veteran status, religious/political beliefs, affectional and sexual orientations, gender identities and expression, and lived experiences.

“Adams State has unique diversity specific to its region, and it is uniquely positioned to create a bigger impact,” Aranda said. “As a Hispanic Serving Institution with a high percent of ethnic minorities and limited income students, it is important to continue the beautiful work that Adams State has been doing for many years. Adams State’s size, location, and faculty involvement make the goal of serving each and every student very doable. Essentially, my main priority is to intentionally serve our diverse comunidades con intención, humildad, y cariño.”

Aranda will build upon the progress made by Dr. Heidi Schneider as the Inclusive Excellence Liaison.

“Adams State thanks Dr. Schneider for her dedicated service in this position over the last three years. Dr. Schneider was presented with the challenge of assuming an executive role that had previously not existed in this fashion. She rolled up her sleeves and immediately began implementing programs and policies that made life better for minoritized populations at Adams State. As she transitions off of eTeam, the University is better for her efforts and well prepared to welcome Dr. Aranda,” President Tandberg said.

As the Inclusive Excellence Liaison, Schneider, associate professor and sociology department chair, oversaw initiatives related to campus safety and



Florencio Aranda III is named Adams State Executive Equity Officer.

wellness, as well as to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She was the grant administrator for “JUNTOS: Initiative for Campus Safety and Cultural Responsiveness,” awarded by the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Office of Violence against Women (OVW).

She also acquired a University Innovation Grant to convert space in the Student Union Building (SUB) into a Student Health and Wellness Center. A joint venture between Adams State, SLV Health, and Valley Wide Health Systems, the center assists students with accessing health care and completing medical related paperwork.

Under Schneider’s direction, the university also adopted use of the uSafeUs app, a platform designed for colleges and universities to prevent and respond to sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The university also developed a Special Emphasis Observation Policy, which covers annual recognition and celebrations for seven history and heritage events. Dr. Schneider is particularly proud of the Black History/Heritage mural created by students and faculty on the 3rd floor of McDaniel Hall.

Since last June, Aranda has been with Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, as

director of the Office of Student Global and Community Connections under The Lozano-Long Division of Global, Community, and First-Gen Initiatives.

Prior to that, he served Texas Christian University in Fort Worth as assistant director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives. His experience also includes positions at South Dakota State University and Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Aranda is also vice president of the board of directors for the Mexican American College Education Fund, Inc., in Fort Worth, as well as co-president of the Texas Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (TADOHE) and a chapter of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE). He was recently elected vice president of the Lambda Sigma DFW Alumni Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., and concluded his tenure as State President of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education.

Aranda earned a Ph.D. in higher education research from Texas Tech University in 2015. His dissertation investigated “Higher Education Pathways of Latino Males in the United States: The Narratives of Latino U.S. Congressmen from Southwest Border States.” Now, he and a colleague are conducting a similar study of Latinas in government.

At Texas Tech, he also earned an M.S. in interdisciplinary studies; an M.A. in romance languages (Spanish); and a B.A. in Spanish. He also holds a Master of Legal Studies from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

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Lifestyles

Colorado grocery workers rally against Kroger-Albertsons merger

By CHASE WOODRUFF

Colorado Newsline

Colorado grocery workers joined labor advocates and elected officials outside Denver city hall on Monday to rally against a proposed \$24.6 billion merger between the nation's two largest supermarket chains, as a two-week trial in the state's antitrust case against the deal got underway inside.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser in February sued to block the merger between grocery giant Kroger, which operates King Soopers and City Market stores in Colorado, and Albertsons, which operates the Safeway brand. Weiser's suit alleges that the deal violates state antitrust laws and would inflict "substantial harm" on Colorado consumers and workers.

"When these CEOs promise not to shut stores if the mega-merger goes through, do we believe them?" Ramon Zuniga, treasurer for the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, asked the crowd on the steps of Denver's City and County Building. "When they promise not to lay off workers if this mega-merger goes through, do we believe them? When they promise lower prices if the merger goes through, do we believe them? No, we don't."

Kroger, which is based in Ohio and operates more than 2,700 grocery stores nationwide, first announced plans in 2022 to acquire the Idaho-based Albertsons, which operates more than 2,200 locations. One of the largest retail mergers ever proposed, the deal has been staunchly opposed by labor unions and consumer advocates who fear that the consolidation could lead to higher prices and decreased wages and bargaining power for workers.

Earlier this year, the companies detailed a divestiture plan in which they propose to sell 579 locations nationwide — including 91 Safeway stores in Colorado — to New Hampshire-based C&S Wholesale Grocers, in a bid to allay antitrust concerns. But critics of the plan have painted C&S, a supplier that currently operates just 23 retail locations nationwide, as a struggling company with shaky finances, unequipped to operate 579 newly acquired stores as an "effective competitor" to the merged Kroger-Albertsons behemoth.

Carol McMillian, a King Soopers employee and a member of UFCW Local 7 for more than 20 years, said Monday that she feared the Kroger-Albertsons deal would lead to a repeat of the "horror story" that grocery workers experienced following the 2015 merger between Albertsons and Safeway.

"There were store closures, there were job losses, there were communities that were devastated," McMillian said. "There were other businesses that were also destroyed. There were large empty buildings left in the wake of the devastation."

Weiser's lawsuit echoes those fears, ar-



Photo by Chase Woodruff/Colorado Newsline

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 and other labor groups rallied against the proposed \$24.6 billion merger between grocery giants Kroger and Albertsons outside the Denver City and County Building on Sept. 30.

guing that the terms of the 2015 merger, which included the divestiture of 168 stores to the small regional grocery chain Haggen, "utterly failed to ameliorate the anticompetitive effects of the (Albertsons) acquisition of Safeway."

"Haggen went bankrupt within months of the divestiture sale, (Albertsons) bought back many of the stores, and many other stores soon shuttered," including 20 stores in Colorado, the state's lawsuit says. It similarly calls the Kroger-Albertsons plan an effort to offload the companies' "worst-performing and least desirable stores," which "demonstrates that Kroger does not want to face a strong competitor post-merger."

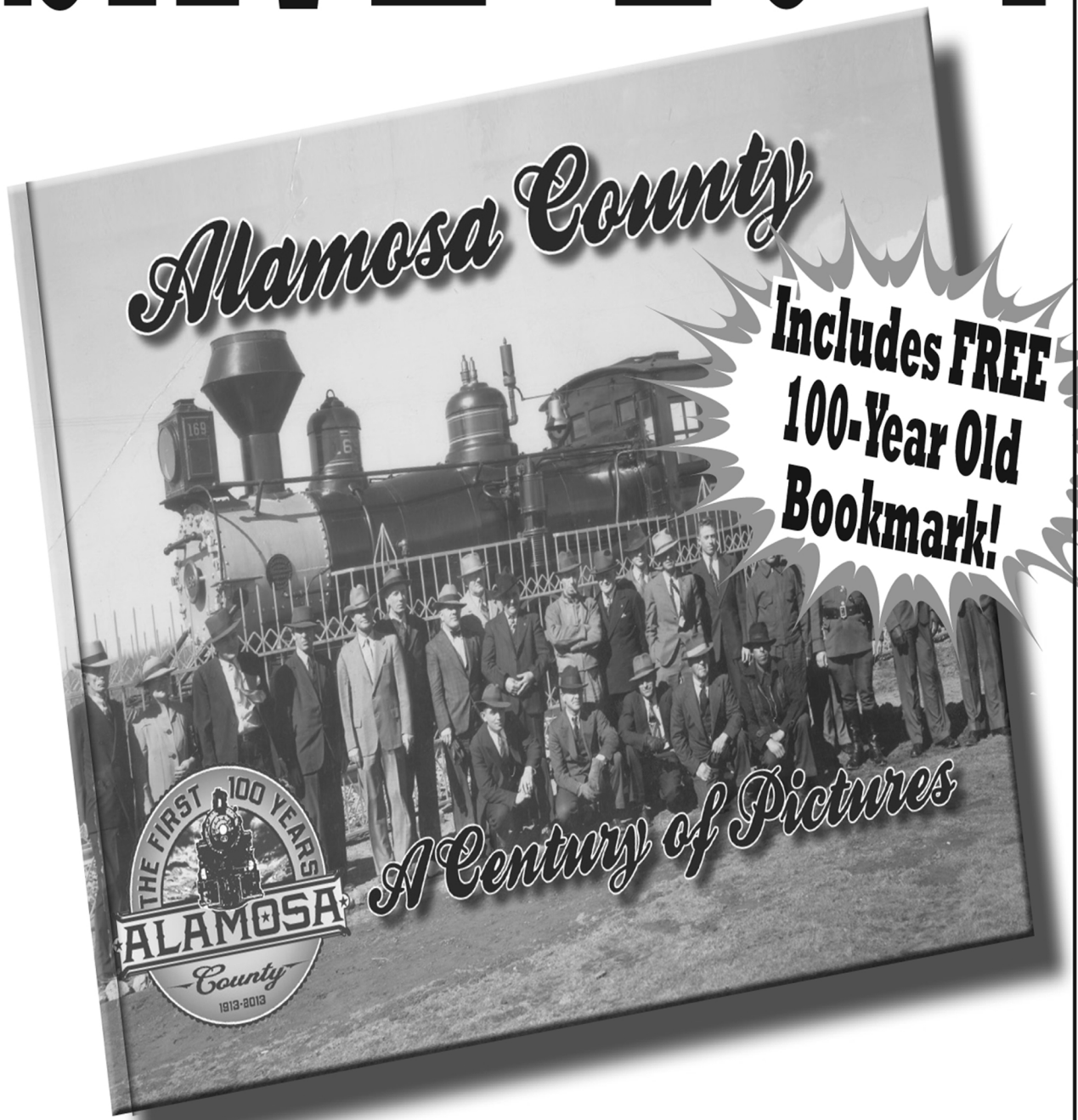
A Kroger spokesperson didn't return a request for comment Monday. Kroger and Albertsons executives have defended their merger plan as a necessary step to help traditional grocery stores compete with big-box retailers like Walmart and delivery services like those provided by Amazon, pledging that it would lead to "lower prices and more choices" for consumers.

In addition to Weiser's lawsuit in Denver District Court, the merger has been challenged by the Federal Trade Commission. A three-week trial in that case concluded in the U.S. District Court of Oregon earlier this month. Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson has also sued to block the merger. The terms of Kroger's proposed acquisition expire on Oct. 9, after which the parties could renegotiate or exit the deal.

In a statement released last week, Weiser said his lawsuit had resulted from a yearlong investigation and 19 listening sessions held in communities across the state, calling the proposed deal "bad for shoppers, workers, suppliers, and farmers."

"Nearly two years since the companies announced the merger, we finally have the chance to prove in court why this deal would be bad for Colorado and the country," Weiser said.

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Sports

Falcons soar past Wolverines, 41-0

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

LA JARA – For the second time this season, the second-ranked Centauri football season faced a Class 2A opponent Friday at the Falcons' field.

And for the second time, the Falcons were victorious as they soundly defeated Bayfield by a score of 41-0.

"Bayfield's been playing well and putting up a lot of points," said Centauri coach Kyle Forster. "I felt like our kids came out really ready to play tonight and they executed what we asked them to do."

The Falcons had the ball first and got into Wolverines territory. However, three penalties moved Centauri back and it turned the ball over on downs.

Bayfield was able to get out of the shadow of its own end zone, but the drive stalled and the Wolverines punted.

Centauri again drove into Bayfield territory, but turned the ball over on an interception.

The Wolverines got barely onto the Falcons' side of the field, but once again punted.

Centauri finally got on the scoreboard early in the second quarter. Sean Jarvies tossed a 50-yard pass to Carson Shawcroft to put the Falcons deep into Bayfield territory. Jarvies then scored on a 3-yard quarterback keeper three plays later. Jace Haslett kicked the extra point and Centauri led 7-0.

After a short kickoff, Bayfield took over on its own 35. It however, turned the ball over on downs as the Wolverines were short by just a couple inches.

The Falcons took advantage of the good field position as they scored 11 plays later. Jarvies scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak, and Haslett again



Left: Centauri High School's Cole Jackson (55) pressures Bayfield's Cole McWhirter (16) into an incomplete pass in Friday's game at the Falcons' field. Right: Parker Buhr carries the ball. Buhr ran for 231 yards on 33 carries in the Falcons' 41-0 win over the Wolverines.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

booted the point-after and Centauri had a 14-0 lead.

The Falcons got one more touchdown before the half. Parker Buhr broke several tackles and raced 59 yards to the end zone. Haslett again made the extra point and Centauri led 21-0 at the intermission.

Bayfield had the ball first in the second half but went three and out. Centauri

answered with another touchdown, this time with Buhr scoring on a 3-yard run. Haslett's point-after attempt was successful, and the Falcons had a 28-0 advantage.

After another Wolverines punt, the Falcons went on another scoring drive. This time Jarvies threw a 19-yard scoring strike to Haslett. Haslett's extra-point attempt was partially blocked and no

good. Centauri managed one more touchdown in the fourth quarter. Buhr scored for the third time, this time on a 5-yard run. Haslett converted the point after to wrap up the scoring.

Centauri ran up 561 yards of total offense – 315 rushing and 246 passing. Buhr led the running game with 231 yards on 33 carries.

Jarvies completed 15 of 20 passes for 246 yards. Shawcroft was his top target with five receptions for 142 yards. Haslett had four catches for 62 yards, Leland Chacon had three receptions for 20 yards, Dallyn King had two catches for 19 yards, and Buhr had one catch for three yards.

The Falcon defense limited the Wolverines to just 66 yards of total offense. Bayfield had 56 passing yards and only 10 rushing yards.

Centauri (4-0) will open South-Central League play this coming Friday as it will host Ignacio. Last week, the Bobcats played Bayfield tough before losing 38-35.

"It was a good game," Forster said. "It was tied late in the game and Bayfield kicked a field goal to win it. We're going to have to come out and focus this week and come out and play again."

Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Centauri 41, Bayfield 0			
Bayfield	0	0	0-0
Centauri	0	21	13 7-41
Second quarter			
C – Jarvies 3 run (Haslett kick), 9:38			
C – Jarvies 1 run (Haslett kick), 4:25			
C – Buhr 59 run (Haslett kick), 0:11			
Third quarter			
C – Buhr 3 run (Haslett kick), 7:17			
C – Haslett 19 pass from Jarvies (kick failed), 3:55			
Fourth quarter			
C – Buhr 5 run (Haslett kick), 6:11			

Grizzlies pounded by Thunderwolves, 66-10

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Adams State University football team was looking to get its first win of the season on Saturday as it hosted Colorado State University Pueblo at Rex Field.

The Grizzlies were in the game – at least for the first quarter. After that, it was all Thunderwolves as CSU Pueblo went on to win the game 66-10.

The Thunderwolves had the ball first but punted. The Grizzlies found themselves in good field position and moved into the CSU Pueblo red zone. However, they could only salvage a 35-yard field goal by Brysen Gardner.

The Thunderwolves quickly responded as Devin Larsen threw a 69-yard touchdown to Reggie Retzlaff. Cody Ramming then ran in the two-point conversion for an 8-3 CSU Pueblo lead.

Adams State punted the next time it had the ball, but Trevor Allen's punt pinned the Thunderwolves deep in their own territory. Then Traivian Denesto intercepted Larsen and returned the ball 12 yards for a touchdown. Gardner converted the extra point and ASU led 10-8 after the first quarter.

Larsen gave the Thunderwolves the lead for good early in the second quarter as he threw a 4-yard touchdown to Tyler Dvorak. Evan Lyons made the extra point and CSU Pueblo led 15-10.

The Thunderwolves got two more touchdowns in the second quarter. First Larsen threw a 12-yard scoring strike to Taylor Tosches, and then Howard Russell ran into the end zone on a 26-yard run. Lyons made the extra point both times and CSU Pueblo led 29-10 at halftime.

The Thunderwolves scored four times in the third quarter.

The first touchdown was a 32-yard scoring strike from Larsen to Zack Rakowsky. Then Russell ran six yards for a touchdown.

The third touchdown came as Roman Fuller threw a 67-yard pass to Nigel Mitchell. Fuller then tossed a 48-yard touchdown to Xavier Marshall.

CSU Pueblo led 56-10 after the third quarter. Fuller threw another touchdown in the fourth quarter as he completed a 7-yard pass to Moosah Alsaffar.



Left: Adams State University's Brysen Gardner (39) kicks a 35-yard field goal out of Alex Reid's (10) hold in Saturday's game against CSU Pueblo at Rex Field. Right: Trevor Allen (38) punts the ball. The Grizzlies lost to the Thunderwolves 66-10.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

Lyons wrapped up the scoring with a 35-yard field goal. CSU Pueblo rolled up 718 yards of total offense compared to 141 for the Grizzlies.

Adams State had 59 yards on the ground with Ahmare Merrida leading with 45 yards on 16 carries. The Grizzlies' Alexander Grado completed 12 out of 31 passes for 82 yards. Aaron Johnson had three receptions for 17 yards and Merrida had two catches for 23 yards.

Russell led CSU Pueblo with 168 rushing yards on 13 carries. Larsen completed 16 out of 24 passes for 268 yards and Fuller completed all seven of his attempts for 149 yards. Mitchell had three receptions for 89 yards, and Retzlaff had three catches for 83 yards.

Adams State (0-4, 0-2 RMAC) will travel to Nebraska

CSU Pueblo 66, Adams State 10			
CSU Pueblo	8	21	27 10-66
Adams State	10	0	0 0-10
First quarter			
ASU – Gardner 35 FG, 9:38			
CSUP – Retzlaff 69 pass from Larsen (Ramming run), 8:24			
ASU – Denesto 12 interception return (Gardner kick)			
Second quarter			
CSUP – Dvorak 4 pass from Larsen (Lyons kick), 9:12			
CSUP – Tosches 12 pass from Larsen (Lyons kick), 6:47			
CSUP – Russell 26 run (Lyons kick), 5:33			
Third quarter			
CSUP – Rakowsky 32 pass from Larsen (Lyons kick), 12:58			
CSUP – Russell 6 run (Lyons kick), 10:37			
CSUP – Mitchell 67 pass from Fuller (Lyons kick), 7:15			
CSUP – Marshall 48 pass from Fuller (kick failed), 2:34			
Fourth quarter			
CSUP – Alsaffar 7 pass from Fuller (Lyons kick), 12:06			
CSUP – Lyons 35 FG, 4:08			

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep football

Centauri 41, Bayfield 0
 Dolores Huerta Prep 1 Del Norte 0 – forfeit
 Holly 68, Sangre de Cristo 48

Prep girls volleyball

Alamosa def. Montezuma-Cortez 25-13, 25-17, 25-12
 Bayfield def. Centauri 25-23, 25-18, 25-20
 Del Norte def. Dolores Huerta Prep 25-13, 25-3, 25-8
 Sanford def. Escalante (N.M.) 25-13, 25-13, 25-13
 Sierra Grande def. Mountain Valley 25-20, 25-7, 25-15

College men's soccer

Adams State 6, South

Dakota Mines 1

College women's soccer

Westminster (Utah) 2, Adams State 0

College women's volleyball

South Dakota Mines def. Adams State 30-28, 25-20, 17-25, 19-25, 19-17

SATURDAY

Prep football

Branson/Kim 80, Antonito 7

Prep boys soccer

Alamosa 1, Montezuma-Cortez 1, tie

Prep girls volleyball

Centauri def. Montezuma-Cortez 25-12, 25-14, 25-15
 Centennial def. Creede 25-23, 25-22, 10-25, 25-16

Del Norte def. Center in five sets – scores not reported
 Sanford def. Buena Vista in four sets – scores not reported

Sargent def. Sierra Grande 25-14, 25-20, 25-20

College football

Colorado State Pueblo 66, Adams State 10

College women's

volleyball

Adams State def. Black Hills State (S.D.) 23-25, 25-12, 25-20, 20-25, 15-11

SUNDAY

College men's soccer

Adams State 1, Colorado Christian 1, tie

College women's soccer

Colorado Mesa 1, Adams State 0

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Prep cross Country

Antonito, Center, Del Norte, Sierra Grande at Del Norte Invitational (at 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.

Pirate golfers win regional tourney

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Monte Vista High School boys golf team won the Class 2A Region 1 Tournament Monday at Hollydot Golf Course in Colorado City. The Pirates had a score of 225, 18 strokes better than runner-up Swink. By winning its regional, Monte Vista qualifies all four golfers to next week's state tournament.

Leading the Pirates was Kaden Mellott who was second with a 73. Liam Ellithorpe was third with a 75, Connor Mellott was fifth with a 77, and Jakoby Ross tied for 27th with a 99.

Del Norte, however, saw its season come to an end as it finished in 10th place with 317. Tytus Atencio tied for 27th with a 99, Landan Velasquez was 32nd with a 104, and Noah Bailey was 37th with a 114.

Las Animas' Damien Baca was the medalist with a one-under-par 70.

The Class 2A State Tournament will be next Monday and Tuesday at The Club at Rolling Hills in Golden.

Team scores

Monte Vista 225, Swink 243, Fowler 250, Las Animas 252, Rye 270, Cheyenne Wells 286, La Veta 295, Rocky Ford 307, Eads 315, Del Norte 317, Swallows Charter Academy 326, Calhan NS.

Two Moose golfers qualify for state

The Alamosa High School boys golf team competed at the Class 3A Region



1 Tournament Monday at Conquistador Golf Course in Cortez.

The Mean Moose finished in fifth place with 268.

Two Alamosa golfers qualified for next week's state tournament. Serjio Najera placed 14th with an 86, and Kobe Mizokami was 18th with an 89.

Also golfing for the Mean Moose were Clayton Treinen who finished 24th with a 93, and Gibson Gillespie who was 39th with a 101.

Montezuma-Cortez, the host team, was the regional champion with 229. Peak to Peak was second with 239. Both schools qualified all four golfers to state.

Cortez's Vince Lopez was the medalist with a two-under-par 70.

The Class 3A State Tournament will take place next Monday and Tuesday at Walking Stick Golf Course in Pueblo.

Team scores

Montezuma-Cortez 229, peak to Peak 239, The Classical Academy 254, Pagosa Springs 260, Alamosa 268, Canon City 274, Pueblo East 274, Woodland Park 277, Lamar 282, Pueblo Central 285, Pueblo South 286, Pueblo Centennial 288, Manitou Springs 309.

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SIGNING BONUS-\$1,500 AT hire. CONEJOS COUNTY is seeking a CASEWORKER for the DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES. Annual Salary starting at \$42,500. DOQ. Duties include: Intake and/or ongoing social casework services to families/adults. Bachelor's Degree required. One-year experience preferred. Applications accepted until filled and available on line at conejoscounty.colorado.gov. County Human Resources or via email upon request at cricci@co.conejos.co.us. Inquiries, call (719) 376-6799. EOE. (10/9/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SECONDARY PARAPROFESSIONAL NEEDED: SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a dedicated Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about working with young learners, we'd love to hear from you! Salary starts at \$21,035.19 on the Paraprofessional's 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: 10/19/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (10/19/24)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

FOOD SERVICE COOK: SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a dedicated food service cook for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about nutrition and would love to join a great team, we'd love to hear from you! We have a FULL TIME 8 HOUR position and a PART TIME 4 HOUR position available. Starting rate is \$14.61 on the cook 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. Full time employee 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: 10/19/24 or until position is filled. EOE. (10/19/24)

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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)

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is seeking applications for the Full-Time position of **CONTENT STRATEGIST**. Salary Range is \$42,252-\$48,060, commensurate with education and experience. Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, Retirement, PTO, Paid Holidays. This position provides key decision support in developing and implementing a cohesive, integrated communication strategy across multiple platforms, including social media, web, print and digital, that tell Adams State's story in a compelling, visually engaging and consistent manner. Review of applications will remain open until position is filled. For more information and application please visit <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/>. (10/9/24)

RIO GRANDE COUNTY is seeking a **GRANT SPECIALIST** to join our team. The Grant Specialist will work with federal, state, and private grants to manage programs and secure funding. They often work with a variety of staff, including department heads, financial staff, and others. Grant specialists may also be responsible for special projects. The Grant Specialist will report to the Chief Financial Officer, is an Exempt Full-Time Position, will receive County benefits of Annual & Sick Leave, Retirement and Health Insurance. Wage/Salary Range is \$59,133.00 - \$65,248.00 per year DOE. Please submit your application to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or drop it off at 925 6th Street, Rm 200, DEL NORTE, CO 81132. Deadline to apply for the Grant Specialist position is 4PM on October 11, 2024. (10/9/24)

BUSY POTATO WAREHOUSE hiring full time **PERMANENT BAGGERS/STACKERS**. Apply at WORLEY & McCULLOUGH, 2471 East CR 7 North, MONTE VISTA, CO. 81144. (10/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

CDL DRIVER: JT TIMBER FALLING is hiring a full-time **LOG TRUCK DRIVER**. CLASS A CDL. Based out of BLANCA, CO. Local destinations and home every night. A Comprehensive benefits package is available. \$23-\$30/hr. depending on experience. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jtimber.com for more information. (10/16/24)

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (10/4/24)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking to fill a full-time position for a **TELLER** in the **CREEDE BRANCH**. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main St, Creede or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (10/2/24)

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is accepting applications for **ALL DEPARTMENTS**: lifts, ski school, base operations, food & beverage/bakers & baristas, rental, retail, ticket office, snow reporting/guest services, ski patrol, grooming, snow removal, custodial building maintenance, and a freelance photographer. To download an application and see job descriptions please visit the employment page of WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with skiing privileges. Starting wage of \$19/hour with merit increases based on performance and experience. (10/30/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service! Call evenings and weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (10/11/24-monthly)

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (10/18/24-monthly)

330 - FREE

FREE: RUBBER TIRES from older vehicles. Call/text 719-942-3567. SALIDA. You pick-up.

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

FOR SALE BY Owner. HOMESTEADER'S CABIN: 3 out buildings, 16.85 acres, SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO. \$40,000. 720-483-2725. (10/9/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

CLEAN COZY TWO BEDROOM, MONTE VISTA, apartment for rent. Only serious inquiries. Call 719-588-2840, 719-588-2284. (10/16/24)

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX available for rent. W 7th St, ALAMOSA. \$1,200/month; \$1,200 security deposit. Water, trash and sewer are included. Tenant is responsible for gas, electric, internet. 719-587-6960 or email manuelm@slvbhg.org. (10/9/24)

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH duplex in BLANCA. Call 719-588-5900. (10/9/24)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HOME for rent. W/D hook up, fenced-in back yard and front yard. \$1600 per month plus utilities. Pets negotiable. Please call 719-588-0009 for more information. (10/12/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Poke
- 4 — close for comfort
- 7 Daddy
- 11 Lawyers' org.
- 12 Stern
- 13 Place of perfection
- 14 Fanatic
- 15 — of Sandwich
- 16 Like many dorms
- 17 Moral philosophy
- 19 Per annum
- 21 Speck
- 23 Letters in genetics
- 24 Energetic
- 27 Capacious cup
- 29 Duo
- 32 — Maria
- 33 Quick
- 34 Actor — Somerhalder
- 35 Lux. neighbor
- 36 Oven
- 37 Artist's paint

38 Type

- measures
- 39 Mil. address part
- 40 Masculine
- 42 Poorly
- 44 "Hold — horses!"
- 46 Hordes
- 49 Crafty
- 53 Residence
- 54 Loathe
- 56 Turf
- 57 Like a bump on —
- 58 Covered with buttercream
- 59 Health club
- 60 Nota —
- 61 Corral
- 62 Circular edge

DOWN

- 1 Tarzan's mate
- 2 Border on
- 3 Tub event
- 4 Brownd bread
- 5 Belonging to us

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 6 French airport city
- 7 Hickory nut
- 8 Worship
- 9 Kitchen discard
- 10 Actor — Griffith
- 12 Artificial bird
- 18 Devilkin
- 20 Nervous
- 22 Put on the payroll
- 24 Knight's attendant
- 25 Regular
- 26 Reddish fruit
- 28 Samovar
- 30 Howl
- 31 Just
- 33 Tentative taste
- 36 Salad plant
- 40 Pondered
- 41 Museum contents
- 43 Loyal subject
- 45 Of a grain
- 46 Melville captain
- 47 Function
- 48 Large boat
- 50 Defunct acronym
- 51 Pith helmet
- 52 Mild cheese
- 55 Point in tennis

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
32								33			34
35								36			37
38								39			40
				42	43			44	45		
46	47							48	49		50
53								54	55		56
57								58			59
60								61			62

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"Your boss wants to hear you cough."

Daughter refuses to forgive mother for affair

DEAR ABBY: My older sister had an affair with an old boyfriend that lasted several months. She was 58 and had been married for 38 years. Her husband, who is a wonderful person and father of their three grown children, forgave her. He's a devout Catholic, and divorce was out of the question. She has made every effort to ask for forgiveness from her husband and children and fix the issues in her marriage.

The lingering problem is her oldest child (a daughter, age 35) who is unwilling to forgive and seems to hate her mother now. My niece refuses to have any kind of relationship with her mom. This situation is so painful for my sister that it's kind of destroying her. Please offer any advice. -- **SAD-DENED IN OKLAHOMA**

DEAR SADDENED: Your sister's husband and the other two adult children have forgiven their mother for the affair. No one can force the daughter to accept that her mother, like so many others, is flawed. People make mistakes. Your sister will have to go on with her life and hope that as this daughter matures, she will learn to forgive as the Lord forgives most of us after we have repented.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a caregiver and have been since the age of 13. I'll soon be 54. I have taken care of my sister since our parents passed nearly 20 years ago. I'm seriously considering placing her in a nursing home because she has started needing even more care, and I'm having some health issues myself.

We have brothers and sisters who promise to help care for her and give me a break, but they haven't done it. I am married. Both my sons are grown and out of the house, living their lives. Should I feel guilty or not? -- **DUTY-BOUND IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR DUTY-BOUND: I don't think so. It is now time to take care of yourself. You have done more than your fair share of taking care of your sister. If she needs assisted living, your siblings should step forward, at the very least, in sharing the cost since they have done nothing else in the past to help.

DEAR ABBY: I am a stepmother to a beautiful woman I love very much. She has given us three beautiful granddaughters and a handsome grandson. Sadly, my husband has a rare and aggressive form of cancer, and it looks terminal. My question is, after his passing, do I con-

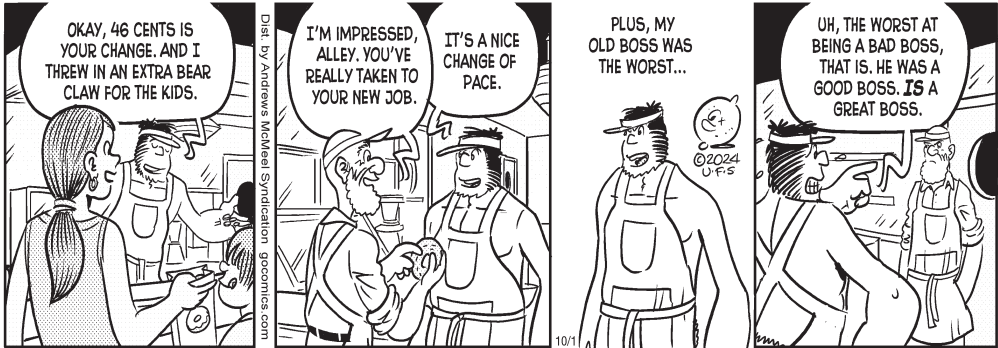


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

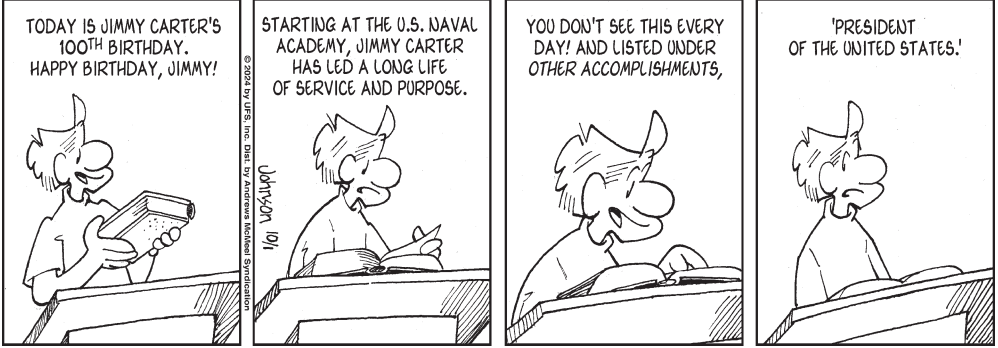
tinue to be a stepmother? I know it's most likely up to her, but I'm curious about the proper protocol. This will help me determine how I introduce her to others. Will she always be my stepdaughter, or does she become my late husband's daughter? -- **UNKNOWN IN NEW YORK**

DEAR UNKNOWN: When it comes to love, the rules are not important. This conversation is premature. After your husband's funeral, ask his daughter what she would like you to call her in the future, and assure her that you love her as though she is your natural child, and would not want to use any label that would make her feel less than that.

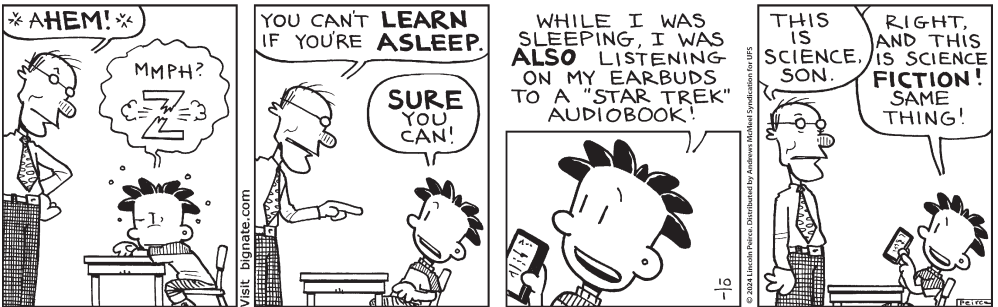
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



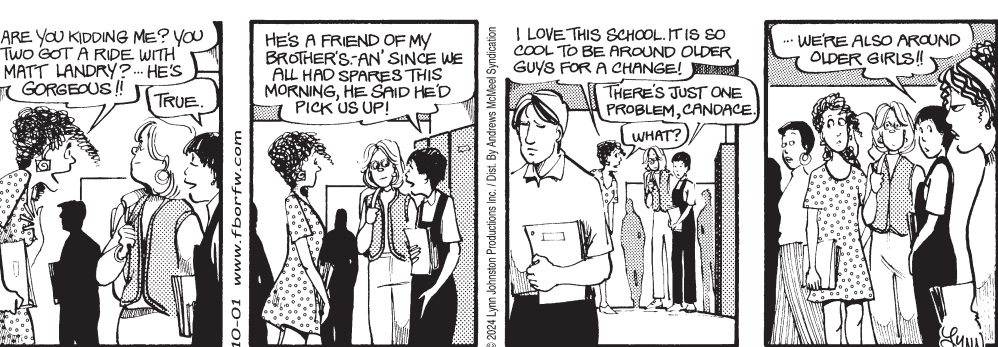
BIG NATE



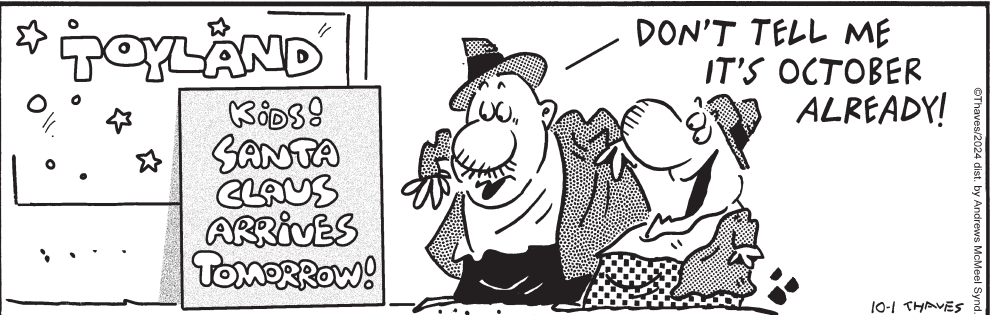
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



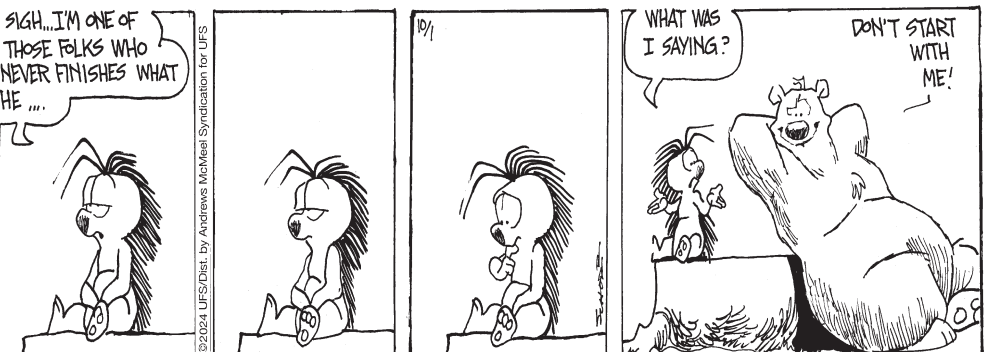
FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

