

Commissioners embracing 'let the voters decide' on term limits

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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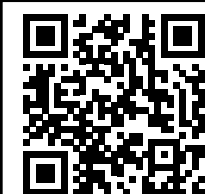
ALAMOSA — The six boards of county commissioners that make up the SLV BOCC held a special meeting on Monday, June 29 to discuss putting a ballot measure before voters in November asking if term limits should be removed for the office of District Attorney (DA) for the 12th Judicial District. The meeting ended with four counties - Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande and Mineral - all being in favor of removing term limits with Saguache and Costilla undecided.

Saguache and Costilla County will put a vote on the agenda of their next meeting to be held July 7.

Currently, district attorneys in this area are limited to serving two terms in office, after which they are not eligible to run for re-election. In the case of District Attorney Anne Kelly, she is in her first term now. Should she run and be re-elected in 2028, current law would prohibit her from running again.

The idea of eliminating term limits has been proposed by county commissioners in recent months and led to several productive discussions, with Monday's

■ See **LIMITS** page 19



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Barry Morpew won't go on trial for at least another year

District Judge Hopkins grants a continuance requested by defense counsel

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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ALAMOSA — At the request of his defense counsel, the trial of Barry Morpew has been postponed until sometime in 2027. Last Wednesday, June 26, defense counsel asked the court for additional time to prepare, saying they could not be ready for trial as it was currently scheduled because too much information had been provided by the prosecution for them to go through in time.

District Judge Amanda Hopkins, presiding, granted the motion, indicating that both parties, including the prosecution, were dealing with voluminous amounts of material. The trial could now start as late as July of 2027.

Several media outlets have reported that members of Suzanne's immediate family protested the continuance. According to the Denver Post, the attorney representing Suzanne's sisters said they were afraid Morpew was a flight risk and they had already made travel arrangements to return to the Valley for his Morpew's trial in October.

Morpew is standing trial on charges of first-degree murder in his alleged connection with the death of his wife, Suzanne. The last time the 49-year-old mother of two was seen was on May 10, 2020 when she went for a bike ride on Mother's Day. When she did not return home, she was reported missing to the Chaffee County authorities.

Although her body had not yet been found, Barry Morpew was arrested and charged in Suzanne's death about a year after she went missing. Trial was scheduled for April of 2022 but, just days before it began, the case was



Photo courtesy of Channel 13, KRDO, who were granted media access by the court

Barry Morpew, facing charges of first degree murder of his wife, smiles at his daughters when appearing in court after being extradited from Arizona.

abandoned when the judge barred key witnesses from testifying due to serious procedural errors on the part of the prosecution.

Despite national attention on the case and an extensive search of the area around her home involving multiple agencies, it was not until three years after her disappearance when, about fifty miles away in September of 2023, Saguache County law enforcement discovered remains ultimately identified as Suzanne Morpew off a dirt road near the tiny town of Mofat in a remote area of their county.

With Suzanne's remains finally in possession

of law enforcement, DA Anne Kelly for the 12th Judicial District engaged multiple agencies - both local and at the state level - in investigating the case.

On June 18, 2025, the Twelfth Judicial District Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Barry Morpew with first degree murder.

Two days later, he was taken into custody in Arizona where he was living and extradited to the San Luis Valley.

When Morpew first appeared in the court

■ See **MORPHEW** page 19

Extreme fire danger prompts back-to-back restrictions

STAFF REPORT

news@alamosanews.com

MONTE VISTA — Critically dry vegetation and prolonged drought conditions have forced local public safety officials to implement a series of strict fire bans across Rio Grande County and within the corporate limits of Monte Vista, as area authorities brace for a heightened risk of wildfires.

The restrictions escalated rapidly this week when Monte Vista Interim Police Chief Charles Schoepflin issued an Emergency Fire Ban Declaration, effective immediately. The municipal order directly follows a regional Stage 1 Fire Restrictions mandate implemented days earlier by Rio Grande County Sheriff Anne Robinson, demonstrating a unified, multiagency front against escalating environmental threats in the San Luis Valley.

Local authorities emphasized that regional weather forecasts indicate an imminent threat to public health, safety and critical infrastruc-

ture. Under the current extreme parameters, public safety officials warned that even a single stray spark or an unattended ignition source could rapidly swell into an uncontrollable blaze threatening local homes, agricultural resources and businesses.

"Protecting our community, our homes, our agricultural resources, our businesses, and our first responders remains our highest priority," Schoepflin said in a statement accompanying the emergency directive.

The regional crackdown began June 18, when Robinson enacted unincorporated countywide Stage 1 restrictions. Those rules target human activities traditionally known to trigger high-risk wildfires, specifically restricting open campfires and outdoor smoking. According to county officials, Stage 1 restrictions become necessary when increasing preparedness levels and regional dangers outweigh the safety of keeping public lands open to standard residential and recreational activities.

Under the county mandate, building or maintaining a campfire is strictly forbidden unless it occurs within established fire grates at designated, developed recreation sites. Outdoor smoking is banned entirely across unincorporated areas, with explicit exceptions limited to enclosed vehicles, permanent buildings, developed recreation grounds, or within a cleared 3-foot barren diameter free of all flammable vegetation.

The municipal declaration in Monte Vista, formally enacted via Municipal Code Section 8-7-110, reinforces and expands these measures within the city. The city order explicitly bans all outdoor open fires — including warming fires, bonfires and recreational fires — alongside field burning, weed clearing, fence row maintenance and trash disposal using combustible materials or burn pits.

With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, both city and county law enforcement

■ See **RESTRICTIONS** page 19

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On the Record

WEATHER
FORECAST

WEDNESDAY
39°/84°
Mostly Sunny,
Windy

THURSDAY
37°/86°
Sunny,
Windy

FRIDAY
42°/88°
Partly Cloudy,
Windy

SATURDAY
45°/87°
Partly Cloudy,
Breezy

SUNDAY
48°/84°
Partly Cloudy,
Breezy

MONDAY
48°/84°
Afternoon
Showers, Breezy

TUESDAY
48°/86°
Afternoon
Showers, Breezy

Coming
Next
Edition

4th of
July

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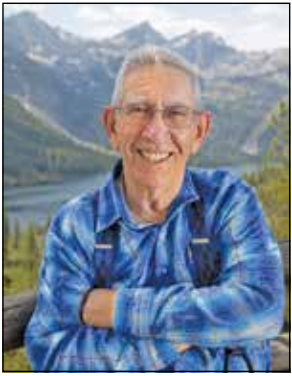
Obituaries

Alfrio Augustine Sandoval

Alfrio Augustine Sandoval, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2026, in Westminster, Colorado, at the age of 91.

Born on March 18, 1935, in Northern New Mexico Alfrio lived a life defined by faith, family, kindness, and love. A devoted man of God, he carried a deep and unwavering faith throughout his life, finding strength, purpose, and peace in his relationship with the Lord.

Alfrio was known for his gentle nature, warm heart, and wonderful sense of humor. He was a natural jokester who could brighten any room with his smile and laughter. His patience and understanding were unmatched. Family and friends knew him as someone who never held a grudge and always offered love, support, and forgiveness.



Above all else, Alfrio cherished his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Maryann Sandoval, and a loving father who dedicated his life to caring for and supporting those he loved. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family, sharing stories, laughter, meals, and special moments together.

Alfrio also set an enduring example of love through the devotion he showed to Maryann throughout their marriage. Their affection, respect, and partnership were evident to everyone who knew them and served as an inspiration to their children, grandchildren, and all who witnessed their bond.

He is survived by his loving wife, Maryann Sandoval; his children, Josie (Randy) Gellner, Alfred Sandoval, Donna Sandoval, and Linda (Randy) Baird; and his cherished grandchildren, Amanda Baird, Tyler Baird, Tanner Cahall, and Kyle Cahall. He is also survived by extended family members and many dear friends who will forever cherish his memory.

Though his family grieves his loss, they find comfort in knowing that he is now in the loving presence of his Lord and Savior. His legacy of faith, compassion, humor, patience, and unconditional love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Alfrio will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever treasured.

Vigil Service will be held on July 1, 2026 at 10:30 AM and Mass of the Resurrection to follow at 11:00 AM at Our Lady Of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos. Burial will follow at the Ortiz Cemetery.

The care of arrangements has been lovingly provided by Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Quincy Batson Cornelius

Quincy Batson Cornelius, 78, died Tuesday, June 9th, 2026, at his home in Escondido, Calif. He is survived by his daughter, Valerie Cornelius, and son, Ryan Cornelius; his siblings, Cathy Jacobson, Connie Cornelius (Dave Ashby), Peggy Cornelius, Carol Sharp, Claudeen German (Neal), and Pauline Carter (Steve); his brother-in-law John Whitcomb and Quincy's 10 nieces and nephews and 10 great-nieces and -nephews.



Quincy was born February 22, 1948, in Monte Vista, Colo., to Quincy and Dorothy Cornelius. He grew up on the family farm near Hooper, Colo., where he learned the value of hard work. As a youth, Quincy was active in 4-H and participated in both academic and sports activities at Sangre de Cristo High School. Following graduation, he attended the New Mexico Military Institute and Colorado State University where he graduated with a B.S. in Economics in 1971.

Quincy went on to earn his J.D. Law degree from the Lincoln University Law School in San Francisco in 1976 and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1978. His early work with the Small Business Administration's Office of Disaster Assistance took him to communities recovering from natural disasters - including Guam where he met his wife, Betty Paguio. They were married in Hawaii in 1980 and later welcomed two children, Valerie Annette and Ryan William.

In 1981, Quincy opened his own private law practice in Escondido and provided civil litigation services to the community for 35 years. He was known for his diligence, fairness, and commitment to the clients he represented. He was a generous friend to many.

Quincy enjoyed fishing, fine wine, sports, and rock/roll music. He had a passion for horse racing and proudly participated as a joint owner of several thoroughbreds at Del Mar Racetrack. Fittingly, Quincy was recognized for his exclusive preference for cowboy boots - he owned 19 pairs of boots and wore them for all occasions. He will be sorely missed.

A private internment took place at Oak Hill Memorial Park in Escondido, and a Celebration of Life is planned for October.

Jacob P. Valdez

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Jacob P. Valdez, a devoted son, steadfast friend, and cherished member of our community, who left us unexpectedly on June 23, 2026, at the age of 34. Born on January 2, 1992, Jacob was a lifelong resident of Alamosa, Colorado, where he embraced life with an unwavering spirit and served as an inspiration to those fortunate enough to know him.



He channeled determination and dedication into his role at the local Rakhra Mushroom Farm, always willing to lend a hand and contribute positively to his workplace and community. Jacob also demonstrated his dedication at his job at Adam State University.

His passion for hard work was matched only by his love for music, particularly his skillful guitar playing, which brought joy to family and friends. Whether sharing melodies around a campfire or engaging in spirited discussions about video games and shooting guns, Jacob's infectious enthusiasm and genuine nature drew people to him.

Jacob is survived by his loving parents, Mitchell Valdez and Gina Valdez, who remains forever proud of his son's accomplishments and the countless lives he touched. He is further survived by sister, Vanessa Valdez; his nieces, Naticia Valdez, Naliyah Valdez, and N'Ryah Valdez; and his Grandma, Frances Gallegos. His memory will echo in the hearts of those who knew him, and his unwavering spirit will live on in their stories and recollections.

Jacob is preceded in death by his Grandparents, Victoria and Samuel Valdez; his uncle, Anthony Gallegos; his cousin, Lisa Gallegos; and his Grandpa, Eugene Gallegos.

There will be a Funeral Mass service in his honor on Wednesday, July 1st, 2026 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 10:00 am.

In this time of sorrow, we encourage all to remember Jacob not only for the loss we feel but for the love and light he brought into our lives. May we carry forward his legacy of hard work, honesty, and passion in all that we do. Jacob P. Valdez will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Bottom of Form

I Made it Home

I just wanted to let you know that I made it home.
The journey wasn't an easy one, but it didn't take
Too long. Everything is so pretty here, so white, so
fresh and new. I wish you could close your
eyes so that you could see it too.
Please try not to be sad for me,
Try to understand God is taking care of me...
I'm in the shelter of His hands.
Here there is no sadness, no sorrow, and no pain.
Here there is no crying
And I'll never hurt again.
Here it is so peaceful
When all the angels sing.
I really have to go for now...
I've just got to try my wings.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances of Jacob, and tributes for his family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com

Lillian T. Herrera

Born Nov. 30, 1951, Lillian T. Herrera, 74, of Del Norte, went to be with the Lord on June 18, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her grandson, Carlos Hernandez; parents, John Calderon and Lillian Lave; siblings, Alfred Calderon, and Susie Herrera; and father of her daughter, Arthur "Punky" Jaramillo.

She is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Rudy Herrera; children, Antoinette (Mark) Ortiz, Anthony Hernandez, Charlene and Christopher; grandchildren, Joseph Jr., Isaac, Steven, Relena, Anthony, Richard and Daniel; numerous great-grandchildren; siblings, John Calderon, Mike (Carolyn) Calderon, Frank Calderon, Rita, Stephanie, Mike (Megan) Deterding, and Jaramillo; and numerous extended family and friends.

Lillian was a beautician for over 30 years and enjoyed making her clients feel beautiful. She enjoyed cooking, fishing, hunting, gambling and was an avid Denver Broncos fan.

Lillian loved her family and enjoyed every gathering, filled with laughter and love.

She also loved her special and dear fur friends - Raggedy Ann, Baby, Bandit, Princess, Chicita, DeeDee and Poopsie.

Funeral/Memorial Services will be held at Romero's Funeral Home in Pueblo at 10 a.m. on July 1, 2026. Interment will be at Imperial Cemetery in Pueblo.



On the Record

Obituaries

Janet Elaine Schmidt

Janet Elaine Worth Schmidt, a beloved musician and cherished member of the Homelake community, peacefully passed away on June 16, 2026, at the age of 87, after a life filled with music, love, and selflessness. Born on August 2, 1938, in Monte Vista, Colorado, Janet was the eldest of three daughters, and her deep bond with her father shaped her compassionate spirit that touched the lives of many.

In her younger years, she was a member of the Monte Vista Rifle Team, an experience that strengthened the special bond she shared with her father. Through his dedicated coaching and her unwavering determination to excel, she distinguished herself as the only female member of the team. Her hard work and talent led to remarkable success, earning her the title of Colorado State Champion for three consecutive years and National Champion for one year.

Janet earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder and went on to receive a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan. Her passion for music led her to a fulfilling career as an elementary music teacher in El Paso, Texas, and later as a professor at Florida State University. A talented musician, she was often seen playing as the Principal Bassoonist in various orchestras, where her artistry and dedication shone brightly. This also gave her the opportunity to travel and she was able to play in places as far away as Russia with the University of Michigan Symphony.

Those who knew Janet will remember her for her kind heart, patient demeanor, and warm smile. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to others, exemplifying selflessness and a deep love for her family and friends. She leaves behind her loving sisters, Vicki Bever of Monte Vista and Cathy (Bob) Woolley of Holdrege, Nebraska, as well as her stepchildren, Charles (Debbie) Schmidt, Debbie (Bob) Brandt, and Suzanne (Jeroen) Walhof, her nieces and nephews: John (Coleen) Bever, Kari Bever-Valdez, Thomas (Teresa) Bever, Bob (Jacke) Woolley, Jr., Mike (Deborah) Woolley, and Brian (Amanda) Woolley, and many great-nieces and nephews who will carry her spirit forward.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, John F. and Katherine Worth, her husband Harry Schmidt, her brother-in-law Jack Bever, and her step-son Roy Schmidt.

Cremation was selected and a Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 am on Monday July 6, 2026 at the Monte Vista Community Methodist Church. Friends and family are invited to gather for a service that will honor her love for music and the joy she brought to others' lives. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Monte Vista Community Methodist Church or the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake and are marked for activities.

Janet Elaine Schmidt will be deeply missed, but her melody will play on in the hearts of those she touched.



Terry James Vance

It is with deep sorrow yet profound gratitude that we announce the passing of Terry James Vance, on June 24, 2026, at the age of 80. Born on September 20, 1945, Terry lived a life rich in service, love, and dedication.

Terry proudly served his country in the United States Navy, embodying the values of loyalty and courage throughout his life. After his honorable service, he channeled his passion for education and leadership into a significant role as the School Board President of the North Conejos School District, where he dedicated himself to nurturing the minds of young learners and supporting educators in their mission.

Terry earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Colorado State College in Pueblo, CO, laying a strong foundation for his future endeavors. He went on to work as a Foreman for Dicaperl, where he was known for his strong work ethic and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Terry's love for life extended far beyond his professional achievements. He cherished the simple pleasures of life, particularly farming and camping, where he found solace and joy in the embrace of nature. On December 3, 1966, he married the love of his life, Georgia Carol Todd, at Christ the King Church in Pueblo, beginning a journey filled with love, adventure, and cherished memories.

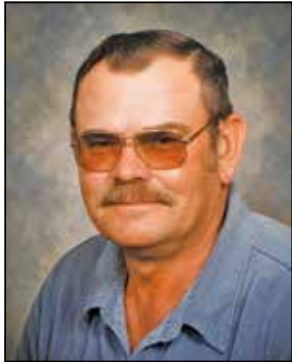
He is survived by his beloved children, Jeffery (Elissa) Vance, Christopher (Jessica) Vance, , Denise Tollenaar, Melissa (Brad) Milner, Pamela (Joshua) Sinclair, Amber (Ben) Burnett who carries forward his legacy of kindness and strength. He is further survived by his siblings, Kathy (Jim) Larimore, Sam (Debra) Vance, and Randy (Laura) Vance; and his brother-in-law, Al Livingstone; along with several grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Terry is preceded in death by his parents, John Terry Vance and Harriet Lorraine (Van Teylingen) Vance; his wife, Georgia Carol (Todd) Vance; his infant son, Daniel Vance; his sisters, Jackie Martin and Alice Livingstone; and his nephew, Duane Martin.

In reverence of his remarkable life, funeral services will be held in honor of Terry James Vance on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at United Church of La Jara with the visitation starting at 9 am and the service to take place at 10 am. Terry will be laid to rest following the service at La Jara Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate his legacy, to share stories, and to find comfort in one another.

As we reflect on Terry's life, let us remember him not just for his accomplishments but for the warmth he brought to those around him. May his spirit continue to inspire us all, reminding us to live fully, love deeply, and cherish the moments we share.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances of Terry, and tributes for his family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.



Patricia Ann Garoutte (Bone)
1935-2025

Pat was born on January 29, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Albuquerque High School and worked as an operator for the American Bell Telephone Company. In 1953, she married Charles Theodore Garoutte, Jr. (Ted), and they owned and operated a variety of businesses, including a grocery store, a fishing resort, Port of Call Catering, and an Indian jewelry business. They raised their four children at Bluewater Lake, NM; where outdoor fun and shenanigans were always in order.

Pat was an avid supporter of her children's activities. She volunteered for 4-H clubs and was always their biggest fan in the audience. Pat was a charter member of the Uranium Capital Bi-County Fair in Prewitt, NM.

After her children were grown, Pat started her own catering company, Pat's Port of Call, providing food service and gifts for the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.

In 2001, she married Warren Hemphill and lived in Yuma, Arizona, until 2021. Pat was known for her love of dancing and her great group of friends.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents: Elmer Bone, Opal Nixon, her husband: Warren Hemphill, and her brother: Joe Bone. She is survived by her children: Aaron Garoutte (Gay), Kim Miller (Gary), Heidi Brislin (John), Travis Garoutte (Amy), her 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on July 25 at 2 pm at Antonito Presbyterian Church, 719 W. Main St., Antonito, Colorado. A dinner and dance at the Dutch Mill Restaurant will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association.



James Jose Miera

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of James Jose Miera, a beloved husband, father, friend, and community member, who left us peacefully on June 24, 2026, at the age of 88. Born on August 25, 1937, James spent his life in Alamosa, Colorado, where he touched the hearts of everyone he met.

James was not just a cook by trade; whose meals brought joy to countless gatherings. His laughter and passion for life echoed in every kitchen, where he masterfully blended flavors and warmth, bringing family and friends together. An avid guitar player and singer, James filled every room with melodies and laughter, creating cherished moments that will forever remain in our hearts.

A true wrestling aficionado, James enjoyed his weekends rooting for WWE wrestlers with fervor and spirit. He was a devoted Broncos fan, sharing his love for the game with friends and family as they cheered for their team together. Known for his infectious energy and for giving everyone a nickname, James had a unique ability to make everyone feel special and welcomed.

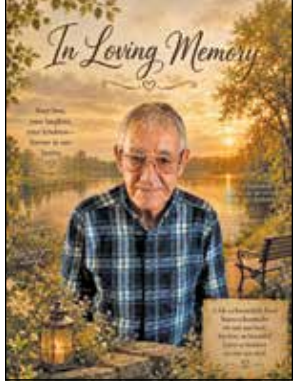
James' legacy extends beyond his culinary skills and musical talents; he played an instrumental role in the building of the KGIW radio tower, leaving a mark on the community that will not be forgotten.

James Jose Miera is survived by his loving wife, Margaret Miera, his children, Bobby Madril, Lorraine Miera, James Miera Jr., Anna (Patrick) Vigil, and Josie Rojo. He is further survived by his sister, Rose (Harry) Mitotes; his grandchildren, Joseph (Lynn), Lizzy, James III, Leanna, Brianne, Austin, Angelo, Desiree, James Douglas, Andrea, Nena, Joseph, and Lisa; along with numerous great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Together, they hold his spirit close, surrounded by the warmth of their memories.

James is preceded in death by his parents; Juan Jose Miera and Reyes Griego, his daughter, Marianne Madril, his son, Marty Madril, his grandchildren; Adrian Madril, Anthony Sandoval, and Michael Madril. As well as his loving sister's-in-law; Donna Maes, Dorothy Lujan, Jennie Lee, Ruby Medina, Josephine Montez, Josie Lee, Tereina Lee, and Theresa Rael Lee.

A visitation will take place on Sunday, July 5 at 5 pm at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in his honor Monday, July 6th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the rosary being at 9:30 AM and the Mass taking place at 10 am. This will be a time where family and friends will gather to pay their respects and celebrate James' remarkable life.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances of James, and tributes for his family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.



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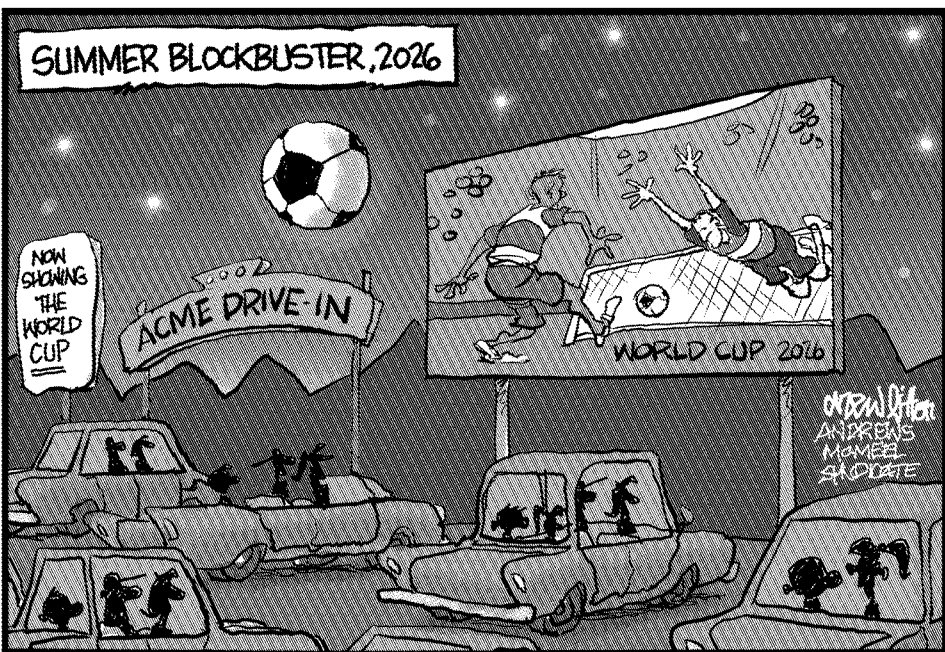
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Opinion



Let's make America 250 about US

Our country's Bicentennial in 1976 was a glorious experience for a 9-year-old boy. Communities came together to work on Bicentennial projects. My home county embarked on a multi-year project to restore the 1905 wooden carousel which had been purchased from Elitch Gardens in 1928. Picnics, festivals, and colonial costumes were ubiquitous, as were flags adorned with the Bicentennial logo.

Capitol Review

By Mark Hillman

A Freedom Train traversed the country with historic documents which the public could view at each stop. CBS aired a daily "Bicentennial Minute," detailing an event from exactly 200 years earlier.

Merchants and companies embraced the celebration with commemorative red, white and blue signs, banners and commemorative labels. The NFL even joined the celebration when, in January, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Dallas Cowboys wore special Bicentennial patches in Super Bowl X. Disneyland presented a Bicentennial Parade twice each day from July 1775 through September 1776.

The U.S. Mint produced a series of bicentennial quarter, half-dollar and dollar coins, each stamped 1776-1976, and each with a historic emblem engraved on the back.

The crown jewel of the celebration – at least in my memory – took place around the Fourth of July when a large international fleet of tall-mast sailing ships, like those that sailed in 1776, converged on New York City and later Boston. Queen Elizabeth visited Washington, D.C., for the celebration, and Johnny Cash served as Grand Marshall of the Bicentennial Parade which was attended by a

half-million people.

The Bicentennial was about "us" – the America we shared thanks to the vision and courage of our Founding Fathers, as well as that of generations who preserved our freedom and our republic through war and peace. The celebration brought us together and caused overwhelming majorities to be proud of our country.

We owe it to today's younger generations to do the same for America's 250th birthday, but we're off to an uncertain start.

Yes, we have severe political divisions, but that's not unique to us. The Bicentennial came on the heels of Watergate, the only scandal ever to cause the resignation of the President, and the Vietnam War, which culminated with the humiliating fall of Saigon in April 1975. If that weren't enough, 1976 was also a presidential election year, pitting incumbent Gerald Ford, who played only a ceremonial role in the celebration, against Jimmy Carter, who prevailed.

But our parents and grandparents understood that patriotism requires extending both grace and mercy to our fellow Americans by overlooking our divisions and celebrating what we have together – our history and our communities. From a young age, they learned pride in America, regardless of which party was in power, and they wanted future generations to share their patriotic spirit. Our leaders understood, too, that patriotism was bigger than any party or political figure.

Fifteen years before the Bicentennial, President Kennedy embraced his generation's responsibility to "assure the survival and success of liberty" when he said: "We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans – born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage..."

Just a few years later, before he became President or even Governor of California, Ronald Reagan cautioned, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

We can't do anything about today's politicians or celebrities who view everything through a self-serving lens, but we can resolve to celebrate America 250 inclusively, regardless of politics or any other dividing factors. We can each be leaders by demonstrating virtue and character, grace and mercy.

We owe that much to our children or grandchildren, so they can share memories of this celebration with their loved ones during our Tricentennial in 2076 and every year in the meantime.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer. To read more or comment, go to www.MarkHillman.com.

Out the lights

Way back in 1971 two realtors in the Seattle region erected a massive billboard with the phrase "Will the last one to leave please turn out the lights" on the sign. This was in reference to the massive job losses and economic depression that the city suffered after Boeing went bust and people left en masse for other parts of the country.

I don't think they were the first to use that phrase but it took on a life of its own in popularity after that and is still always used in reference to a migration of people out of a previously prosperous area such as the "Rust Belt" around Detroit and other areas that suffer some economic decline.

So historically I guess, the last person to leave any venue has always been the one to douse the illumination. And having been raised in a pastor's family, we were always the last to leave church of course as we had to turn out the lights, lock the doors and take out the trash. But that tendency to be the last to leave seemed to carry over to any function we were at as we stayed on and on and on when other people with better sense had long gone home.

Attending any function with people whether that is a church service, a pot-luck dinner, civic function or any other gathering of couples you soon notice one thing.

The men sit around jaw jacking with one another with nary a care in the world as they know that the departure from said event is not in their hands at all. And it is funny to see the younger guys try and get their wives to leave when they are ready as they just have not learned how the whole process works.

The men have learned to sit out of the way and wait patiently. Sooner or later however a wife will appear with a purse in hand and then said husband knows it's time to go whether he is ready or not. And he will give a grunt and say to all the rest of the men present, "well I guess I am going home." Then he will rise with a sigh and dutifully follow the little woman out the door carrying the Corel dish she had brought the banana cream pudding in.

This does cause some problems when a man is first married as he does not understand the "rules" and will try and get the wife to leave before she is ready. But give him enough time and soon he too will be sitting with the old guys just waiting for the signal to leave like all the rest of us.

When Ol' Dutch split the sheets with wife number one, I thought that I had escaped all that signaling and I found out that I could go home when I was good and ready. But as soon as Miss Trixie entered my life, it became apparent that we would always be not only some of the last to leave but we would always be the "very last" to leave.

Now Ol' Dutch loves that woman to pieces and having spent a lifetime sitting on trains I did learn an inordinate amount of patience when it comes to waiting. So it works out pretty good most of the time but let me tell you what, Miss Trixie can test even those patient pulses in me at times.

I do not generally care when we go-which is usually late- or when we leave but when her gorgeous self tells me we are leaving, I have learned that means at least another 15 minutes for her to talk to the host or some new best friend she just met and she is sure is a second cousin once removed.

Sometimes this has caused something called a "rhubarb" or spat between us as Ol' Dutch is out in the car waiting on Miss Trixie to go home and she is still detailing their family connections back to the Alamo in Texas history.

But maybe it's like my Mom always used to tell me. "It's always better to go when you have to than to wait and find out you have already gone."

Kevin Kirkpatrick spends his days fishing, hunting, ATVing, hiking or making people laugh. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at [TroutRepublic.com](https://twitter.com/TroutRepublic)

Dogs running at large and barking at all hours

What!-you mean police officers actually handle these calls for service? You better believe it! We receive more than our share of such complaints.

In my three decades of serving as a Chief in seven states, it seems that most of the dogs running loose, that totally horrify citizens, are Pit Bulls. Oh, we all know many "Pits" are unquestionably friendly loveable pets; however, let a Pit (or any other large breed) charge you when you are out walking your tiny Chihuahua or Dachshund, and start attacking and ferocious biting your pet: I am sure you never wish to relive this scenario. Another similar situation is the neighborhood Pit (or again, any other large breed running at large) who is constantly and mysteriously somehow running out of its owner's house, or being allowed to run at large, that chases down a citizen walking along the shoulder of the road and knocking the person to the ground.

I need to also mention that once a police officer (or Animal Control Officer) visits with the dog's owner about their dog running loose, the owner is so incredibly surprised that it got the attention of our department, and wonders why we are so genuinely concerned: after all their "animal companion" is so friendly and lovable?

While serving as Chief in Texas, and performing my morning jog regimen, I was attacked by a Pit that injured my forearm by jumping on me to get to my neck. I was fortunate as my injury only included having its "dew claw" puncture my skin drawing blood. The owner was cited by one of my officers for allowing the dog to "run at large" and was seized by the County Animal Control Officer and placed in quarantine. All the total the dog owner received fines (and quarantine fees) of \$500.00.

What about the yard dog (not only Pit Bulls but even the tiniest canine) that continuously barks at all hours: keeping their neighbors on edge not to mention without sleep? Again, here comes your local police officer (or Animal Control) only to be advised that their dog is so very lovable and needed to protect their property? When asked about being considerate to their neighbors the owner shrugs their shoulders and is speechless.

By the way, most police officers and animal control officers may initially issue warning tickets for the above mentioned violations that adversely affect our citizens' quality of life. However, for those owners who somehow do not get the message (and are repeat offenders) they may "earn" a citation to appear in the Municipal Court for that jurisdiction.

Final outcome: Fines are steep for not taking control of your "non-human" animal companions.

Advice: Please be considerate of your neighbors' need for safety and tranquility: control your dogs.



Trout Republic

By Kevin Kirkpatrick

Chief's Corner

Chief Randall Aragon
Center Police Department

Valley Courier

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Photo by Marie Mccolm

From left to right, Hannah Thill, Paul Formisano and Jocelyn Catterson, all three stand, proudly in front of the Mural at The Del Norte Library that they all partnered in making.

New Del Norte Library mural brings community together

Telling the story of water

By MARIE MCCOLM
mmccolm@valleypublishinginc.com

DEL NORTE — The side of the Del Norte Public Library was filled with conversation and community spirit as volunteers of all ages picked up paintbrushes to help create a new mural celebrating one of the San Luis Valley's most valuable resources—water on Saturday June 27.

By midmorning, the response was overwhelming.

"There was not a single space open on the wall," said Jocelyn Catterson with a smile. "We ran out of paintbrushes."

Catterson, community engagement director for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust and the artist leading the project, said the mural is part of the Rio Grande Water Education Mural Project, a Valley-wide effort that combines education, art and community involvement.

Although residents see a colorful mural taking shape, Catterson said the project actually began months earlier in the classroom.

Working alongside Del Norte High School students, Catterson led lessons about snowpack, drought, agriculture, recreation, wildlife and the many ways water connects life throughout the San Luis Valley. Students were encouraged to discuss what they believed was most important for their community to understand.

"We asked them what they thought was important for the community to know," Catterson said. "They shared that it was all the different people and creatures and things that we share our water with."

The education didn't stop in the classroom.

Students traveled to a private ranch outside Del Norte, where they visited one of Colorado's oldest spring gauges, learned about wetland restoration, met local ranchers and saw firsthand how water supports agriculture, wildlife and the total Valley's with its ecosystems.

"I think their favorite part was probably the field trip," Catterson said. "The classes were fun, but getting out there, talking with the ranchers, spending time together and seeing everything firsthand really brought it all together for them."

Those experiences became the inspiration for the mural itself.

One side of the mural that has been painted on the wall illustrates a healthy watershed filled with abundant mountain snowpack, flowing rivers, thriving wildlife, green vegetation, crops and outdoor recreation such as fishing and rafting.

The opposite side depicts the effects of drought, showing how reduced snowpack and lower river levels impact farms, wildlife, vegetation and the communities that depend on water every day.

Because the mural is painted on the Del Norte Public Library, it also features a large open book bearing the message:

"Our Water. Our Home. Writing the Next Chapter Today."

"The students really worked with me to come up with this whole design," Catterson said.

The Del Norte mural is only the beginning.

The Rio Grande Water Education Mural Project will continue across the San Luis Valley with additional murals planned in Alamosa, Monte Vista, Creede, Manassa and Antonito. Each community will feature its own design,

created by local students and artists after learning about the unique water issues affecting their area.

"The curriculum is different everywhere because water is different across the Valley," Catterson explained. "What Creede experiences with water is very different from what Manassa experiences."

The Alamosa mural will feature artwork by local artist Lares Feliciano and will be installed at the Dunes Valley Inn.

The project is a partnership between the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Colorado Mesa University and the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative. Catterson is joined by project partners Hannah Thill and Paul Fornis, director of the Sustainable and Resilient Design Program at Colorado Mesa University and director of the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative.

Together, the team hopes each mural will become more than a public work of art. Their goal is to encourage residents of every age to better understand and protect the water that connects every community in the San Luis Valley.



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Community

Monte Vista Band Boosters keep Stampede tradition alive at new location

By MARIE MCCOLM

mmccolm@valleypublishinginc.com

MONTE VISTA — One of Ski-Hi Stampede's favorite traditions is moving to a new location this year, but its purpose remains unchanged: supporting the Monte Vista High School Band.

For decades, the Monte Vista Band Boosters' annual Hamburger Fry has been a popular stop for parade-goers, serving lunch while raising money to support student musicians throughout the school year. This year, the longtime fundraiser has moved from the Sunflower Parking Garage to the Monte Vista Elks Lodge, at 121 N. Washington St., because of maintenance taking place at the parking garage.

"As far back as I can remember, it's always been there," said Tammy Gonzales, president of the Monte Vista Band Boosters. "I remember walking by it in the '80s and early '90s, even before I was involved with the band."

Although the location has changed, organizers were determined to keep the fundraiser on Main Street during Stampede weekend.

"We just asked the community," Gonzales said. "The Elks graciously let us have it there."

The Hamburger Fry will be held during Ski-Hi Stampede weekend on Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, with serving beginning at approximately 11 a.m. each day and continuing until around 1:30 p.m., or until the food sells out.

Lunch includes a hamburger, a bag of chips and a pop or bottled water for \$10.

Tickets are currently available through Monte Vista band students and Band Booster members, but lunches can also be purchased at the door.

"If you don't get a ticket from a band kid or one of us Band Boosters, we also sell them at the door," Gonzales said.

Keeping the event on Main Street was important because of the steady stream of parade visitors.

"We get a lot of foot traffic from the parade," she said. "People smell the hamburgers cooking, realize they're hungry and come over to eat."

The Elks Lodge also offers a new convenience this year by providing a comfortable indoor space where visitors can cool off, enjoy lunch and visit with family and friends after the parade.

"We'll be able to let people eat inside," Gonzales said. "We're still right there in the middle of everything."

Every dollar raised during the Hamburger Fry goes directly back to the Monte Vista High School Band.

"One hundred percent of the money we raise goes straight to the band," she said.

Those funds help pay for meals and lodging when students travel to competitions, instrument repairs, uniform needs, leadership camps, and other band-related expenses. The Band Boosters also hope to send students to a fourth marching competition this year.

The organization is powered entirely by parent volunteers.

"This event is all parent volunteers," Gonzales said. "It's all of us parents volunteering our time to do this."

As the parent of two band students herself, she said becoming involved with the Band Boosters gave her a new appreciation for the countless hours volunteers dedicate behind the scenes.

"I've seen how much work it really is," she said. "It's a lot of planning, getting the food, getting donations and organizing

volunteers."

The support doesn't stop after the fundraiser. Throughout the marching season volunteers chaperone trips, prepare meals, transport equipment and trailers, and so much more in order to help care for nearly 80 students during regional and state competitions.

"We try to give them good meals," Gonzales said. "When we go to state, we'll take them to places like Olive Garden or Chick-fil-A. If we have camps, we'll all get together and cook for them there, too."

She said the goal is simple.

"We do it all for the kids," she said. "The band is very successful, and we want to do everything we can to support them."

The Hamburger Fry is one of the Band Boosters' largest fundraisers of the year, along with the annual Chili Supper held during Band Appreciation Night each October. Together, the events help provide opportunities for student musicians to travel and continue building on the band's success.

Alamosa County Commissioners approve property transfer, funding agreements

By LYNDIE FERRELL

lferrell@alamosanews.com

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Board of Commissioners moved forward with several key administrative actions during its regular meeting Wednesday, June 24, including the transfer of city-situated property and the approval of a contract to explore refinancing county obligations.

The meeting, attended by all three commissioners and staff, addressed a wide range of business from financial approvals to local scholarships.

Commissioners approved Resolution 2026-G7, authorizing the transfer of a small parcel of land on 10 Street to the City of Alamosa. County Attorney Jason Kelly explained the sliver of property, which lies within city jurisdictional limits, had unclear ownership but was currently assessed to the county. The board opted to use a quitclaim deed to transfer any county interest in the property to the city.

In a move to streamline financial stability, the board approved an engagement agreement with Stifel, an underwriting firm. The agreement allows the firm to run numbers for potentially refinancing the county's certificates of participation. Kelly noted the contract includes a five-day termination clause for convenience if the county decides not to proceed.

County Treasurer Amy McKinley requested and received permission to close the treasurer's office from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. July 13 for specialized training. The session will focus on Senate Bill 26-144, a treasurer deed cleanup bill that changes process timelines. The training will include staff from various valley counties.

The board also authorized several grant-related items. Reyna Martinez-Ramirez received approval to apply for a \$250,000 Peace Officer Mental Health Grant. The 18-month grant would fund counseling, therapy and peer support programs for local law enforcement and their families.

Commissioners signed a letter of support for a HRSA grant application in partnership with Rio Grande County. Commissioner Arlan VanRy emphasized that the funding is intended to join with existing opioid settlement funds to support local partners.

The meeting included the presentation of the Bright Future Scholarship to Kiara Gios. Gios, a nursing student with a 4.27 GPA, was recognized for her academic excellence and leadership as vice president of the National Honor Society.

Additionally, the board appointed Julie Ramstader and VanRy to represent Alamosa County on the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council board.

Additionally, the board appointed Julie Ramstader and Commissioner VanRy to represent Alamosa County on the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) board.

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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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We are estimating she is about 4 years old. She has lived with other dogs before and given birth to puppies before. We think she would do well with respectful kiddos. Not sure how she feels about cats. Zoe is a wonderful girl with a big ol' heart who would thrive with an independent, funny, opinionated adopter who is just like her. We would love that for this deserving mama!

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Community

Del Norte rocks Summer River Fest on Saturday

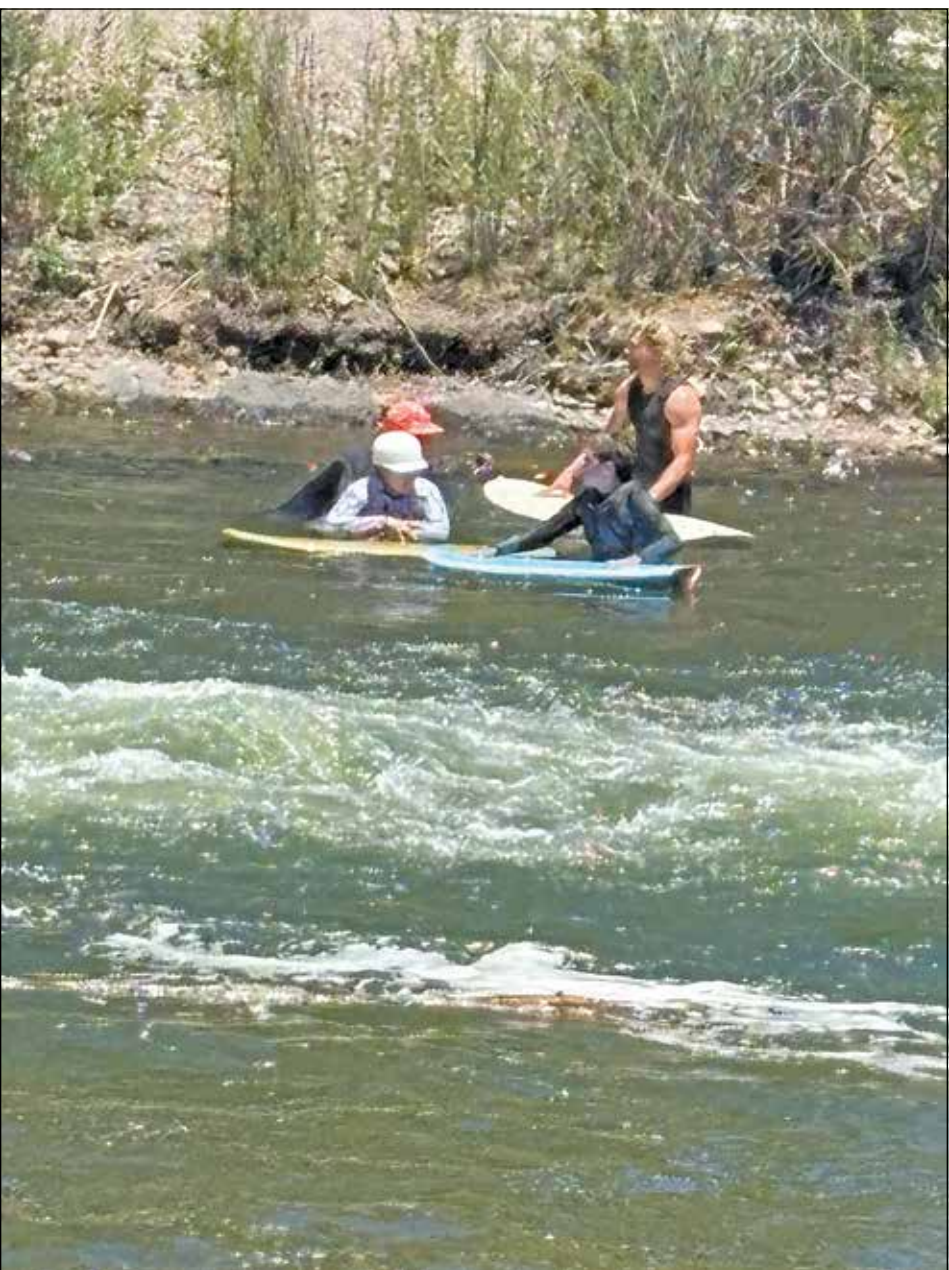


Photos by Marie McColm

Children's laughter mixed with the smells of summer BBQ and the squeals of fun as crowds gathered in North River Park on Saturday for the 2nd annual Del Norte Summer River Fest.



For the second year in a row, the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Town of Del Norte celebrated summer with the Summer River Festival.



Residents and guests hit the Rio on Saturday, June 27 while celebrating the 2nd annual Summer River Fest in Del Norte!



People gathered along the banks of the Rio soaking up the sunshine and watching as homemade cardboard boats, floats and paddleboards skimmed the waves during Summer River Fest in Del Norte.



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Community

Del Norte has a ball opening new volleyball court

By LYNDIE FERRELL
lferrell@alamosanews.com

DEL NORTE — Del Norte served up some community fun Thursday as residents gathered to celebrate the completion of a new sand volleyball court located just down the street from North River Park.

The project, which aims to boost local outdoor recreation, was made possible through a collaborative effort. The Town of Del Norte supported the project, while funding was provided by the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation. Sol Mountain Farm and Landscaping was also instrumental in creating the space, handling all of the necessary dirt work to build the court.

Local residents and visitors alike expressed enthusiasm for the new addition to the town's recreational lineup, with many hoping it will foster a deeper sense of community.

"We saw what happened when Del Norte put a wave in the river ... a new community of surfers appeared," said resident Ike Mandobla, who attended the opening. "We are hoping that the same thing happens and we can get groups of volleyball players that show up each week. I attended the opening of the court and met five people I never knew before. I am excited to play in the future".

The sentiment was shared by newcomers and longtime area supporters, who praised the ef-

forts of the town and local organizations.

"We are new to Del Norte, and we are over the moon about the sand court," Jessa Walter said. "We are grateful the city and D-Mountain Parks and Rec invested in volleyball and look forward to building up the community here".

Kaitlin Bradshaw noted the broader impact of the project on the area's wellness initiatives.

"I am very proud of the momentum Del Norte is gaining around healthy activities for the community," she said.

The court's opening even drew attendees from outside the immediate area, including Marlena, Jesse, Hazel and Ida, a group that drove from Alamosa for the event.

With summer in full swing, locals are already planning to make the court a staple of their seasonal routines.

"Del Norte is so lucky to have dedicated community members like D-Mountain. The new sand court is amazing," Makinzie Owlesley said. "I am looking forward to playing all summer. Volleyball is awesome and everyone should come out and play".

For many, the project represents more than just a place to play sports; it is an investment in the town's future.

"We are beyond blessed to have a community motivated to invest in enrichment opportunities for all," Marlayna Martinez said.



Photos by D Mountain Park and Rec
Residents of Del Norte came out in style on Thursday to enjoy an evening of volleyball on the new court.

Right: From spiking the ball to laughing with friends, everyone enjoyed the new volleyball courts in Del Norte on Thursday.



D Mountain Park and Rec alongside members of the Del Norte Town Board and residents gathered for a group photo before hitting the sand at the new volleyball court in Del Norte.

Saguache residents evacuated due to gas leak

SUBMITTED
news@alamosanews.com

SAGUACHE — Saguache residents were briefly evacuated from their homes early Monday morning after an intermittent natural gas leak from a high-pressure pipeline release valve sent a plume of gas over the town.

The leak, located on Gunnison Avenue between 11th and 12th streets, produced a plume that moved over Saguache from the west-northwest, according to local officials.

Firefighters went door to door to evacuate residents on Gunnison and Denver avenues from 11th Street to 7th Street. Evacuees were directed to an emergency shelter established at the Town of Saguache Community Building at Otto Mears Park.

Xcel Energy Colorado techni-

cians responded to the scene and were able to clear the high-pressure relief valve.

All evacuated residents were cleared to return to their homes at 1:50 a.m.

Officials have asked returning residents to open their windows and doors to air out any residual gas. Those who smell a strong odor of gas or require assistance are instructed to call the Saguache County Sheriff's Office at 719-655-2525 so firefighters can be dispatched to the location.

Xcel Energy personnel are scheduled to be in Saguache today to monitor the natural gas facility and conduct any necessary repairs.

Town officials thanked residents for a safe and orderly evacuation, noting that public cooperation greatly aided the emergency response.

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Fires break out across the southwestern part of the state

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
pwaggoner@alamosanews.com

ALAMOSA — As of Monday, June 29, mostly up-to-date maps available to the public on the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFC) website, there were 17 active wildfires in this part of the state.

Fortunately, none were indicated within the San Luis Valley. One of the most ferocious fires that claimed the lives of three firefighters on Sunday - the Mesa-Snyder fire that is burning west of Grand Junction along the Utah state line - has grown to 28,264. That's the equivalent of about 40 square miles, and it is 0% contained.

The WFC describes the conditions in western Colorado - especially the southwestern part of the state - as being at significantly elevated risk for fire. The chart showing which areas are at the greatest risk consumes essentially all of this region, with more remote areas of Saguache County being of note.

The National Weather Service also predicts a continuance of very low humidity, gusty winds and warm temperatures - basically a perfect storm should a wildfire break out - for at least the next few days.

So, it is no surprise that, Monday morning, Alamosa County Sheriff's Department issued a Stage 1 fire ban. Sheriff Jackson told the Valley Courier he did not do this lightly; he knows there are some people whose work may be impacted by the ban.

"There were just too many things saying it had to be done," he said. Jackson also called the State Department of Fire Prevention and Control, and they agreed without

hesitation that the fire ban was needed. A description sent by Jackson spells it out more clearly, including what is prohibited.

Alamosa County Ordinance No. 18, Stage 1 restrictions: (Prohibits the following activities):

(a) Open burning, excepting fires and campfires within permanently constructed fire grates in developed campgrounds and picnic grounds, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves at private residences in areas cleared of all flammable materials, and those other exceptions/exemptions as noted in Section 10.

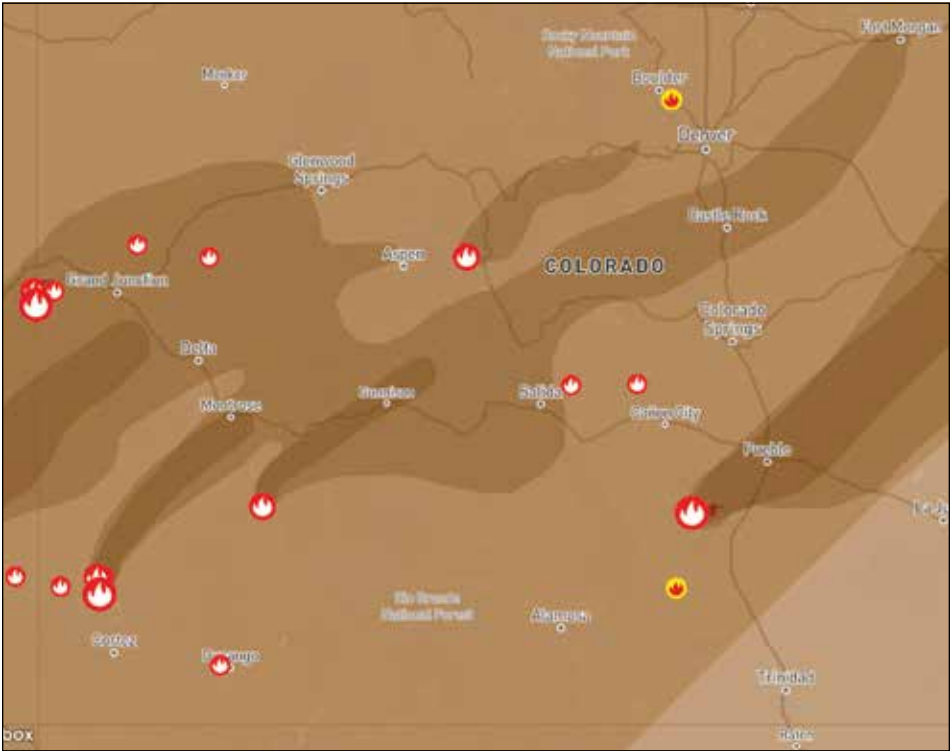
(b) The sale or use of fireworks (as defined in Section 6) pursuant to C.R.S. § 30-15-401(1)(n.7);

(c) Outdoor smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Other organizations are showing their support for being cautious, including SLV Federal Bank that cancelled this year's fireworks show. And it is expected that, within the next few hours, the city of Alamosa will be prohibiting fireworks within city limits, as well.

As Jackson emphasized, "All it takes is a gust of wind and a single spark and next thing you know, you've got a fire on your hands." And, as other fire officials are stating in the news, due to the winds that are literally fanning the flames, what fires there are growing very large very quickly and moving erratically and in unpredictable ways.

Not all information had been updated in several hours, but, as of Monday afternoon



Data provided from the Wildland Fire Interagency Service and published in an interactive map at <https://data.coloradoan.com/fires/>

at 2:30 p.m., the Mesa-Snyder fire west of Grand Junction had burned 28,264 acres with 93 personnel on the scene.

The Gold Mountain fire that prompted the evacuation of parts of Ouray had burned 7,108 acres with 0% contained and 124 personnel on the scene. According to reports, the fire started when a tree fell on a power line. The Willow fire, which is about 10 miles west of Leadville and report-

edly prompted the evacuation of some areas near town has burned 1,064 acres. Doe Canyon, near the Utah border, has burned 1,046 acres with 0% contained. And Aspen Acres, near Rye, has burned 2,476 acres with 0% containment.

All of these fires have started within the last three days with most being discovered on June 27. Causes are also listed as unknown with only a few being attributed to humans.

Rocky Mountain District field offices enter stage 2 fire restrictions

By LEVI-SPPELLMAN
levi_spellman@ios.doi.gov

CANON CITY — The Bureau of Land Management implemented Stage 2 fire restrictions across its Rocky Mountain District on Monday to combat elevated wildfire dangers brought on by severe weather conditions.

The restrictions, effective immediately, cover all BLM-administered public lands within 34 Colorado counties under the jurisdiction of the Royal Gorge and San Luis Valley field offices. The emergency measures will remain in place until conditions improve and the order is rescinded.

"The move to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions was made after careful review of current conditions and wildfire risk," said Chris Ziegler, acting district manager for the BLM's Rocky Mountain District. "Prolonged heat, low humidity, and steady winds have rapidly dried vegetation, making heightened restrictions necessary."

Ziegler added that protecting local communities, visitors and public lands is the agency's top priority.

Under Stage 2 restrictions, the following activities are strictly prohibited on covered BLM lands:

ing or using any fire, campfire, or charcoal barbecue. Campers may still use stoves or devices powered by gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel.

Smoking: Smoking outdoors is banned, except inside an enclosed vehicle or building, within a developed recreation site, or while stopped in a cleared area at least 3 feet in diameter that is free of flammable materials.

Chainsaws: Operating a chainsaw is prohibited unless it is equipped with a properly functioning, government-approved spark arrester. Operators must also carry an 8-ounce chemical fire extinguisher and a round-point shovel at least 36 inches long.

Torches and Welding: Using arc or gas welders, or operating any acetylene or open-flame torch.

Explosives: Using exploding targets.

The affected areas span a massive portion of the state, including Alamosa, Boulder, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Pueblo and Weld counties, among nearly three dozen others.

Officials urged the public to check current federal and state conditions using the Rocky Mountain Area Interagency Fire Restriction Dashboard. Information is also available by calling the Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8500 or the San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.



Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

- "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- Whirl
- The State Dept. has a notable one
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Part of the mind
- Mountainous country
- Type of beverage
- Atomic #109
- Opposite of falsities
- Female sheep
- Rocky peak
- Sensitive information sharing environment
- Ethnic group of Thailand
- Patron saint of Rome Philip
- Psychedelics
- Japanese pine
- Have an impact on
- Violent disorder
- A French river
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Valley
- A way to unwind
- Atomic #93
- Recommending
- Indigo bush
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Off-Broadway theater award

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11														
16														
19														
25														
28														
34	35	36	37											
39														
43														
49														
53														
56														
60														

- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to songbirds
- A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- Some are "secret"
- Intestinal openings
- Distant planet
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- Genus of typical owls
- One with distinctively colored hair
- Red cross
- An alternative
- Abominable snowmen
- About ear
- The opening letters
- Feeling of regret
- Atomic #39
- Luteinizing hormone
- Atomic #55
- Carries a debt
- Albanian monetary unit
- Semitic abjad letter
- Yes

- Negative
- Earn a perfect score
- Connecticut
- Partner to cheese
- Snack nuts
- Quadruped's body part
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- "___ myself and I"
- Utah city northwest of Provo
- Football players in the trenches
- One who runs the show
- Wood
- Performing artists
- Slang for a cut
- More breathable
- Most crafty
- Provokes into action
- University of Dayton
- Sodium
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not one
- ___ and behold
- Sports highlight show
- "The Great Lakes State"



**19TH
ANNUAL**

LA JARA AMISH SCHOOL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 • 9 A.M.



Location: Quality Timbers & Wood Products
10725 St. Hwy. 285 • Antonito, CO 81120

*Directions: From Alamosa, CO - Go south on Hwy. 285 23 miles to sale site on the right.
From Antonito, CO - Go north on 285 5 miles to sale site on the left. Consignments accepted through Friday, July 11.*

FARM - RANCH - TOOLS

Industrial Shop Planer
John Deere Riding Lawn Mower
Multiple Brand New Skidsteer Attachments
Brand New 5 and 6 Bar Continuous Fence Panels
Brand New 8'x12' Mini Barns
Machinery
Several Soff-Cutt Cement Saws
Insulated Concrete Blankets
5 - 5 ft. Truss Type Concrete Screed
2 Whiteman Screed Heads
12 ft. Electric Concrete Vibrator
2 ft. Bull Float • 4 ft. Bull Float
2 Concrete Brooms
Rebar Bender

QUILTS

Handmade quilts
will be available sale day

MISCELLANEOUS

Dining Table and Chairs
Sewing Machines
Corning Ware
Brand New Deer Artwork Driveway Gates
Various Lawn Ornaments

TRAILERS - CAMPERS

1992 Horse Trailer - 3 Horse Slant
Fifth Wheel Vacationeer Camper

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING,
MANY MORE ITEMS
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Lunch will be available by school parents.

Also, baked goods, doughnuts, fry pies & other refreshments will be available.

All Dollar items considered donations.



FOR MORE INFO:
Freeman 719-580-7121
Vernon 719-494-4216
Perry 719-992-8334

**MORE
CONSIGNMENTS
WANTED**

All items sold as is where is.

Not responsible for items not showing up or being in quality as listed.

Not responsible for accidents, lost or stolen items.

No merchandise removed until settled for.

All announcements on day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

Selling with 2 & 3 rings throughout the day.

Health



Rio Grande Hospital awarded AARP grant

STAFF REPORT

news@alamosanews.com

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande Hospital announced today, June 25, that it received an AARP Community Challenge grant to fund innovative, age-friendly projects.

State data confirms that Colorado's 60-and-older population has surpassed 1.3 million and is on track to reach 1.5 million by 2030, when seniors will outnumber residents under 18. This demographic shift is largely driven by longtime residents aging in place rather than a massive influx of retirees from other states.

Rio Grande Hospital proposed an age-friendly wellness route anchored at the Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center in Del Norte. Building on a newly established trailhead, the project will connect wellness center grounds with existing town walking paths and nearby sidewalks to create a short, welcoming and accessible route designed for adults 50 and older.

The project will install three to four benches with sunshades and armrests at regular intervals to support rest and mobility needs. In addition, six to eight wayside "Wellness Moments" — small and larger interpretive-style installations — will be placed along the route. These stations will of-

fer simple prompts focused on gentle movement, breath, balance, reflection and social connection outdoors.

"We are honored to receive this support from AARP and excited to bring the Wellness Route to life," said Arlene Helms, CEO of the Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center. "This project reflects the Rio Grande Hospital and Wellness Center belief that health happens not only inside healthcare facilities, but throughout our community. By creating welcoming spaces for movement, reflection, and connection, we are investing in the well-being of our residents today and for years to come."

Together, these improvements will transform an existing walking path into a comfortable, purposeful and inclusive community wellness experience. The route directly benefits residents 50 and older by reducing barriers to physical activity, addressing comfort and accessibility needs, and creating intentional opportunities for social interaction.

In a rural community where isolation and limited infrastructure can impact older adults, the route provides a free, low-impact and highly visible way to support healthy aging.

AARP today announced 13 organizations throughout Colo-



Photo courtesy of Rio Grande Hospital

Rio Grande Hospital announced today that they are the recipients of the AARP Community Challenge grant that will help fund further projects on the hospital's campus.

rado will receive 2026 Community Challenge grants. Marking the program's 10th anniversary, the grants are part of an \$8.3 million commitment by AARP to fund 750 quick-action projects nationwide aimed at making communities more livable for people of all ages, especially older adults. The funds will support improvements to public spaces, transportation, housing, digital connectivity, disaster preparedness and other local priorities that help improve social connections and strengthen neighbor-

hoods and towns of all sizes.

Projects across Colorado reflect growing demand for practical, local solutions that help residents stay connected, safe and independent. This includes the project at Rio Grande Hospital, where benches and wellness stations will be added along an existing walking route. The enhancements will support rest, movement and social connection outdoors.

"Communities across Colorado are eager for solutions that boost mobility, connection and quality of life," said Marissa

Volpe, associate state director for livable communities. "Thanks to Community Challenge grants, we're empowering residents to implement impactful improvements that make a sizeable difference."

Since 2017, the AARP Community Challenge has awarded \$639,657 through 53 grants in Colorado to nonprofit organizations and local government entities. Grant projects will be funded in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Three Simple Steps to Activate Your Faith

What is faith? And what does it look like to actually live by faith?

These are important questions, because we receive and experience the blessings God has for us through faith.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (NIV).

I like to define faith as the hand that reaches out and receives what God has for us. By faith we believe what God says in His Word is true, that it's for us, and that we will receive everything He wants to give us. We believe we have His promises before we get them or experience them.

Everyone has faith, but not everyone puts their faith in God. For example, when a person sits in a chair, they have faith that the chair will hold them. People drive to work because they have faith in the traffic laws that make it possible to travel on the roads.

But first and foremost, we need to put our faith in God and the truth of the Bible.

Romans 1:17 (NIV) says, "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

This verse reveals that we're saved by faith and we are created to live by faith. In order to live by faith, we have to release it, and there are three ways we do that: praying, saying, and doing.

In this teaching, I want to share some things with you about the power of prayer. Prayer is the greatest privilege we have! It's amazing that we can personally communicate with Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe. That means we can talk to Him and He hears us, and He wants to talk to us.

One of the main ways we hear God's voice is through

His Word, which is why it's critically important for us to study the Bible. When we diligently study the Word, we get revelation of who God is, how He loves us, and what His will is for our lives. We learn how to pray for the things He wants to give us...the kind of life Jesus died for us to have.

James 4 says that people live in strife, quarreling and fighting, because they try to get what they want and they're jealous of what others have, but they can't make it happen for themselves. Verses 2-3 say, "... You covet but cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (NIV).

Have you been trying to get something or make something happen and you're frustrated because you can't achieve it? Maybe you're struggling because you're striving to do it in your own strength or you're going after things that aren't right for you or in God's plan for your life.

We need to pray and ask God for what we want, but we need to ask for the blessings He wants to give us. I often pray like this: "God, I'm going to ask You for everything I want, but if I ask for something that's not right for me, please don't give it to me. I really only want what YOU want for me, because You know what's best for me."

There are some situations where we may not know for sure what God's will is, and that's when we need to trust that if we don't get what we think we want, it's because He has something better for us. But there are many things we can ask for with assurance and confident expectation that God will give them because He promises them to us in His Word. Here are a few...

Moving Up Higher
with
Joyce Meyer



You don't have to be lonely because God is always with you. (Psalm 73:23; Hebrews 13:50)

You can have peace in every situation. (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7)

You can have God's wisdom for every decision. (James 1:5)

You have the strength, in Christ, to do whatever you need to do. (Philippians 4:13)

God loves you and He has an amazing plan for your life. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Jeremiah 29:11)

God has so much more for you than what you have experienced so far in your life. Make it your number one priority to spend time with Him every day in prayer and Bible study, and begin boldly asking Him to give you every good thing He's planned for you.

Put your faith in God in every area of your life and everything you do, and you'll discover how living by faith really is an amazing adventure!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's two-part teaching resource *What Is Faith and How Does It Work?* 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 150 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

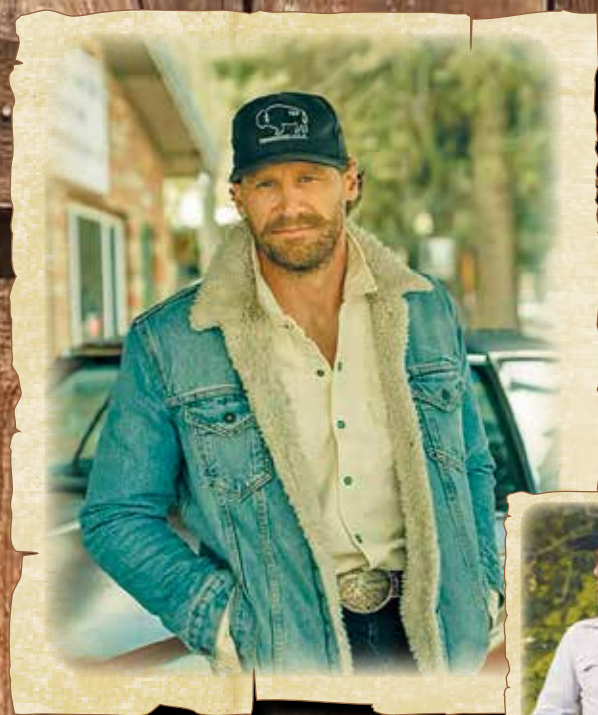
Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

SKI-HI STAMPEDE

COLORADO'S OLDEST PRO RODEO



July 9-12, 2026
Monte Vista, Colorado



Chase Rice

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***Nightly Dances with
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Downtown Parades

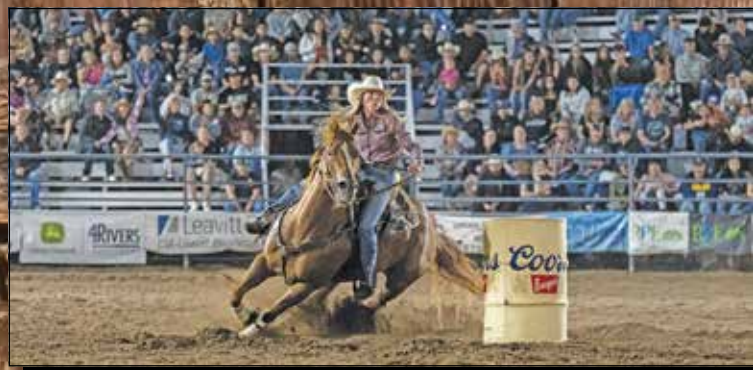
**10 a.m.
 July 10 & 11
 Monte Vista**



**Friday Night PRCA Rodeo
 July 10, 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday Night PRCA Rodeo
 July 11, 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Matinee PRCA Rodeo
 July 12, 2:00 p.m.**



Rodeo performances sponsored by Pepper Equipment Company

The Arts

'This Moment Deserves Time'

Invites Visitors to Slow Down at Center Gallery

By Marie Mccolm
mmccolm@valleypublishinginc.com

CENTER — Visitors entering the Hands-On Center Gallery, located at 377 South Worth Street, were greeted by more than artworld, during the opening two-day reception for “This Moment Deserves Time.” They stepped into an experience designed to encourage them to slow down and appreciate the moments that often pass by too quickly, on Saturday June 27, beginning at 10 a.m.

Throughout the gallery, every display seemed to capture a different moment in time. Peaceful paintings of nature lined the walls, shadow boxes displayed familiar objects from years gone by, and vintage televisions quietly played original animations. Together, the exhibit created a sense of nostalgia while inviting visitors to reflect on how memories shape their lives.

The multimedia exhibition was created by the artist Duo Doombox, Lares Feliciano and her husband, Bothe Kretsinger, who collaborated to bring the unique installation to life.

“The title of the show is This Moment Deserves Time,” Feliciano said. “It’s all about capturing time and finding ways to make time tangible.”

Rather than measuring time with clocks or calendars, the artists explore the way people experience time through memories, and everyday objects.

“As humans, we do this in a lot of different ways,” Feliciano said. “We do it through nostalgia and objects.”

Throughout the gallery, visitors discovered carefully arranged shadow boxes filled with items that many remembered from childhood or family homes. Treasure Troll dolls, colorful plastic magnetic letters, a toy xylophone, a Barbie princess figurine, The Simpsons figurines, vintage Super Mario Brothers characters, a child’s tea set complete with a teapot, a small steel horse, a handwritten letter bearing four vintage postage stamps, delicate crocheted doilies and even a Cookie Monster Happy Meal toy all found a place within the exhibit.

While each object appeared ordinary on its own, together they encouraged visitors to remember special moments from their own lives, reminding them that the smallest keepsakes often carry the greatest memo-

ries. Nature also plays an important role throughout the exhibit.

Peaceful paintings of deer, cranes and quiet landscapes encourage visitors to slow down and appreciate the beauty found in everyday life. One especially striking painting created by Kretsinger features a row of birds in flight, symbolizing the passage of time and reminding viewers that life is constantly moving forward.

Kretsinger’s paintings throughout the gallery have a distinctive style, appearing almost like carefully assembled puzzle pieces. The layered artwork reflects the exhibit’s overall theme—that memories and experiences are made up of countless small moments that come together to shape a lifetime.

The exhibit also blends visual art with sound and motion.

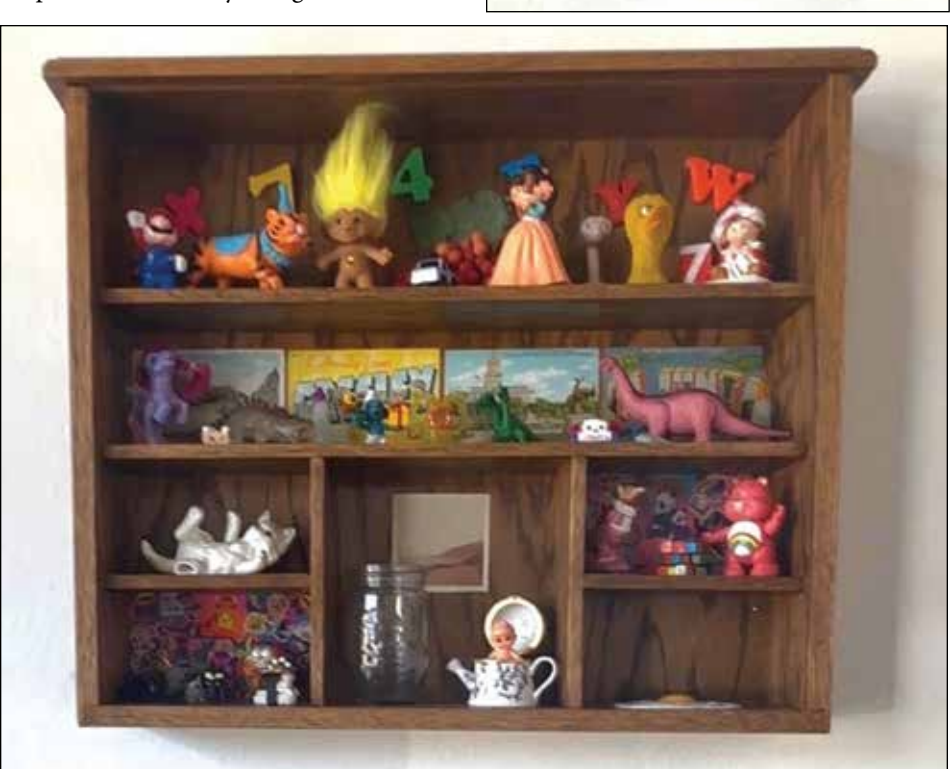
Vintage televisions positioned in the gallery windows play original animated films created by Feliciano, while Kretsinger composed the original music and audio accompanying each piece. During daylight hours the screens quietly draw visitors in, while after dark the glowing animations become visible from outside the gallery windows.

“It looks great at night,” Feliciano said. “When you’re walking by, you can really see the animation playing.”

Feliciano said she hopes visitors leave the gallery with a renewed appreciation for slowing down and noticing the moments that often go unnoticed in everyday life.

“It’s really about slowing down and taking the time to appreciate these experiences,” she said.

Presented at the Hands-On Center Gallery in Center, “This Moment Deserves Time” will remain on display through July 24.



Just Inside of The Hands On Art Center shadowboxes filled with nostalgic items, our all part of “This Moment Deserves Time” art display.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Artis Duo Bothe Kretsinger and Lares Feliciano make up the artistic duo DOOMBOX.

In collaboration with

unearthing futures / desenterrando futuros

Exhibition on View

June 28 2026 - February 28 2027

This exhibition explores adobe as a living practice that connects art, architecture, and ancestral knowledge across the Americas.

Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center
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FortGarlandMuseum.org

Sports

Reynolds, Loyd take advantage of second chances

By KEN HAMRICK

khamrick@alamosanews.com

ALAMOSA — The annual Alamosa Round-UP took place this past weekend at the rodeo grounds.

IN rough stock events, two cowboys took advantage of re-rides to gain victory in their events.

In bull riding, Caelan Reynolds of Marana, Ariz., had some bad luck on his first ride on Test Your Faith on Friday night. The bull stumbled and fell and Reynolds got the opportunity of a re-ride and he took advantage of the second chance as he scored 85 points on Hey Honey to secure the championship.

Also going to the pay window in bull riding were Colorado Kid Mackey of Ignacio who scored 83 points on Coconut Twist also on Friday, Mason Reine of Steamboat Springs who scored 82 on Rougarou on Saturday, Chris McKenna of Walsenburg who scored 79 on Lucky Charm on Friday, and Colton Kent of Pueblo who scored 79 on Brahman Bob on Saturday.

Bareback riding also had a cowboy take advantage of a second chance as Kash Money Loyd was fouled riding Suspicious Minds on Saturday. On his re-ride, he scored 84 points on Sassy Pants to tie for first place.

Dalton Williams of Loveland also scored 84 points on No Bueno on Friday for the co-championship.

Others scoring big paydays included Elan Smith of Pinedale, Wyo., who scored 77 points on Blue Eyed Lucy on Saturday, Evan Betony of Tonalea, Ariz., who scored 76 on Up All Night on Friday, and Creede Guardamondo of Avondale who scored 76 on Ranch Girl on Friday.

The Saddle bronc riding saw all of its best scores occur on Saturday night. Jack Chase of Magdalena, N.M., score 84 ½ points on Wolverine, and Traven Sharon of Ordway scored 84 ½ on Miss Bay Monster to tie for first place.

Quirt Carroll of Galeton was third with 78 on High Cotton, and Colby Smith of Burns, Wyo., scored 75 on Mexican Hat.

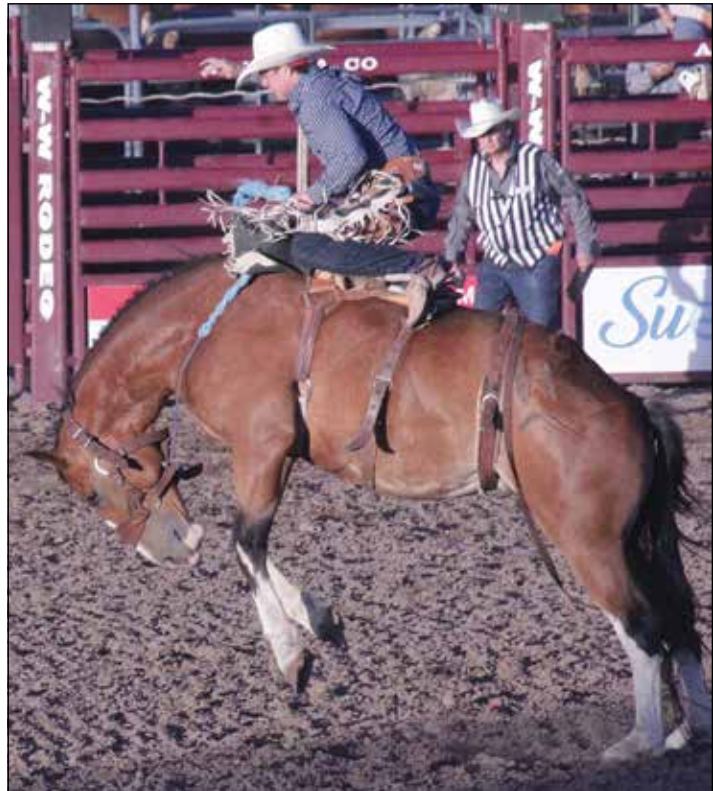
In timed events, Kalane Anders on Mills, Wyo., won steer wrestling on 4.1 seconds on Friday. Scott Dorenkamp of Bristol was second in 4.5 on Saturday, Talon Sterkel of Brighton was third in 4.7 on Friday, and David Gallagher of Brighton was fourth in 5.0 on Saturday.

Tie down roping was won by Cory Bomhoff of Cheyenne, Wyo., in 9.3 seconds on Friday. Boedy Lambert of Wiggins was second in 10.5 on Friday, Ricky Lambert of Wiggins was third in 10.9 on Friday, and Trev McCullar of La Veta was fourth in 12.8 on Saturday.

Winning the team roping competition was a pair of Albuquerque, N.M., cowboys as Seth Hall, and Pace Blanchard had a run of 4.8 seconds on Saturday. Riley Kittle of Woodland, Ala., and Trey Yates of Pueblo were second in 5.0 on Saturday, Kesley Phillips of Rough Rock, Ariz. and Trevor Nowlin of Casa Grande, Ariz., were third in 5.3 in the Friday morning slack, and Brit Ellerman of Sheridan,



Kash Money Loyd of Cleburne, Texas, scored 84 points on Sassy Pants to win the co-championship in bareback riding Saturday at the Alamosa Round-UP.



Jack Chase of Magdalena, N.M., was the co-champion in saddle bronc riding with 84 ½ points on Wolverine at the Alamosa Round-UP on Saturday.

Wyo. And Cael Espenscheid of Big Piney, Wyo., were fourth in 5.6 on Friday.

In the only women's event, barrel racing, Rachel Huerkamp of Delta won with a time of 17.43 seconds on Saturday. Brylee Banning of Litchfield Park, Ariz., was second in 17.44 on Friday, Kim Schulze of Larkspur was third in 17.62 on Saturday, and Kim Squires, Carnegie, Okla., was fourth in 17.67 in the slack.

The All-around Cowboy was Guardamondo who won \$489. In addition to finishing tied for fourth in bareback riding, he was also fifth in tie-down roping in 13.4 seconds on Friday.



Kalane Anders of Mills, Wyo., wrestles his steer to the ground as he won steer wrestling in 4.1 seconds Friday at the Alamosa Round-UP.



Rachel Huerkamp of Delta rounds the final barrel to win barrel racing in 17.43 seconds Saturday at the Alamosa Round-UP.



Cory Bomhoff of Cheyenne Wyo., picks up his calf as he won tie-down roping with a time of 9.3 seconds on Friday night at the Alamosa Round-UP.



Traven Sharon of Ordway rides Miss Bay Monster Saturday at the Alamosa Round-UP. Sharon scored 84 ½ points to tie for first place.



Dalton Williams of Loveland was the co-champion in bareback riding with 84 points on No Bueno Friday at the Alamosa Round-UP.

Sports

Several good scores in Round-UP mutton bustin'

BY KEN HAMRICK

khamrick@alamosanews.com

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Round-UP opened the rodeo portion of the event on Thursday as the mutton bustin' and local barrel race took place occurred.

The mutton bustin' – for children ages 4-7 was first on the docket on Thursday. The Top 4 in each age group returned to perform again in the Friday and Saturday night performances.

There were nine four-year-olds that competed. Mason Jordan and Reid McDaniel both had the high score as both scored 83 points. Rhyatt McDaniel was third with 81, and Rawley Honeycutt was fourth with 80.

There were only six entrants in the five-year-old division. Elijah Mora had the high score of 90, followed by Oaklyn McDaniel with 86, Ryan Bauer with 85 ½, and Liam Fresquez with 84 ½.

The six-year-old division had the most

entries with 16. Lynlee Claunch had the best score of 97, Bax Plane was second with 90, Hannah Romero was third with 89 ½, and Aubrey Beiriger was fourth with 89. Callan Burns was invited to the rodeo performance as a fan favorite.

There were nine riders in the seven-year-old division. Zane Canty had the high score of 98 ½, followed by Kole Claunch with 98, Kip Claunch with 97, and Koah Sowards with 95 ½.

In the finals on Friday night, Jordan won the four-year-olds with 89 points, followed by Reid McDaniel with 82, Rhyatt McDaniel with 80, and Honeycutt with 79. In the five-year-old division, Mora won with 86 ½, followed by Bauer with 86, Oaklyn McDaniel with 83 ½, and Fresquez with 81.

On Saturday, the six-year-old division, Lynlee Claunch won with 93 points, followed by Beiriger with 86, Plane with 81, Burns with 78, and Romero with 76. Lead-



Elijah Mora had the best score among five-year-olds on Friday with 90 points on Thursday. He also won the finals on Friday night with 86 ½.

ing the seven-year-old division was Kole Claunch with 97, followed by Canty with 95, Sowards with 93, and Kip Claunch with 90.

A total of 29 cowgirls entered the local barrel race on Thursday. The Top 10 times entered the Friday and Saturday rodeo performances.

Lyla Gesnick of Mosca started the competition with a time of 18.23 on VooDoo, which lasted throughout the rest of the riders. Gracie Wilson of Center was second in 18.31 on Sticks Fiesta, followed by Bobbi Jones of Creede in 18.33 on Drake Jet Fuel,

Raeley Bays of Fairplay on Tuff Dealin and Raelynn Bouet of Saguache on Juno both in 18.40, Hayden Huffington of Fairplay in 18.50 on Jackie Nitro, Addy Malouff of La Jara in 18.69 on Newt, Taycee DeHerrera of La Jara with 18.77 on Taz, Jaelie Jaminet of Alamosa in 18.87 on Sue, and Claire Cook of Alamosa in 18.98 on Stoli My Cat.

Wilson had the best time in the finals with 17.72 on Friday. Jones was second in 18.06 on Saturday, Gesnick was third in 18.19 on Saturday, Bouet was fourth in 18.22 on Saturday, and Bays in 18.31 on Friday.



Gracie Wilson of Center won the local barrel race in 17.72 seconds on Friday night.



Kole Claunch won the seven-year-old mutton bustin on Saturday night with 97 points. He was second in the preliminaries on Thursday with 98.



Zane Canty had the best score in the seven-year-old preliminaries on Thursday with 98 ½ points. He was second in the finals on Saturday with 95.

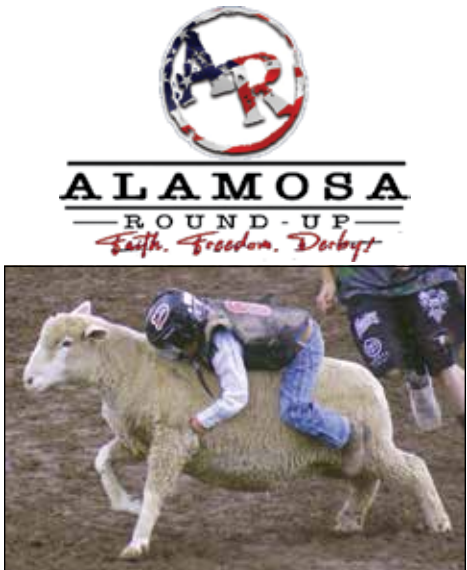
Courier photos by Ken Hamrick



Lisa Gesnick of Mosca had the best time in the local barrel racing preliminaries on Thursday in 18.23 seconds. She was third in the finals on Saturday night in 18.19.



Lynlee Clauch won the six-year-old division on Thursday with 97 points. She also won the finals on Saturday night also with 97.



Mason Jordan tied for the best score in the four-year-old division with 83 points on Thursday. He was second in the finals on Friday with 82.



Mason Jordan tied for the best score in the four-year-old division with 83 points. He won the finals on Friday with 89.

Sports

Alamosa Parks and Recreation Softball Schedule

Men's softball (as of June 25)				<u>Tuesday, June 23</u>				SOS Misfits 10, Cutthroat Lumberjacks 9				Alamosa Public Defenders vs. Deuces Wild			
Team	W	L	Pct.	Deuces/Rec 24, Expo/TBD 20				99 Problems 12, All Valley Rolloffs 10				– no report			
Deuces/Rec	8	2	.800	Team Wax 7, No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Livingstone Trucking 16, SLV Federal Bank 12				All Valley Rolloffs vs. Minnow Knights – no report			
Team Wax	8	2	.800	Commercial App 0, forfeit				La Puente Homers 21, Alamosa Public Defenders 9				<u>Wednesday, July 2</u>			
Platinum	7	3	.700	Bomb Squad 14, Platinum 11				Bomb Squad 25, The People 9				99 Problems vs. Alamosa Public Defenders, 6:30 p.m. (Lee 1)			
Bomb Squad	6	4	.600	99 Problems 7, Big Fellas 0, forfeit				Deuces Wild 20, Livingstone Trucking 12				Purple Cobra vs. La Puente Homers, 6:30 p.m. (Lee 2)			
99 Problems	5	5	.500	<u>Thursday, June 25</u>				Purple Cobra 13, Cutthroat Lumberjacks 9				Livingstone Trucking vs. All Valley Rolloffs, 7:30 p.m. (Lee 1)			
No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Deuces Rec 16, No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Minnow Knights 16, 99 Problems 14				Minnow Knights vs. Bomb Squad, 7:30 p.m. (Lee 2)			
Commercial App	4	6	.400	Commercial App 1				SOS Misfits 18, Rated R 4				Rated R vs. Cutthroat Lumberjacks, 8:30 p.m. (Lee 1)			
Expo/TBD	2	8	.200	Platinum 18, Expo/TBD 8				<u>Monday, June 22</u>				SOS Misfits vs. SLV Federal Bank, 8:30 p.m. (Lee 2)			
Big Fellas	0	8	.000	Team Wax 24, 99 Problems 18				SLV Federal Bank 24, Alamosa Public Defenders 9				Sharks vs. Cubs, 5:30 p.m. (northeast)			
<u>Tuesday, June 16</u>				Bomb Squad 7, Big Fellas 0, forfeit				99 Problems 11, Livingstone Trucking 1				Rockies vsl Dirt Devils, 5:30 p.m. (south-)			
Expo/TBD 20, Big Fellas 2				Tuesday, June 30				Cutthroat Lumberjacks 10, The People 9							
No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Platinum vs. No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Bomb Squad 20, All Valley Rolloffs 0							
Commercial App 29, 99 Problems 20				Commercial App – no report				Pueple Cobra 12, Rated R 1							
Team Wax 20, Platinum 8				Big Fells vs. Team Wax – no report				<u>Wednesday, June 24</u>							
Deuces/Rec 27, Bomb Squad 18				Bomb Squad vs. Expo/TBD – no report				SLV Federal Bank 24, Alamosa Public Defenders 9							
<u>Thursday, June 18</u>				99 Problems vs. Deuces/Rec – no report				99 Problems 12, All Valley Rolloffs 10							
Team Wax 20, Expo/TBD 17				<u>Coed Leisure Softball</u>				The People vs. Rated R – no report							
Bomb Squad 14, 99 Problems 12				<u>Wednesday, June 17</u>											
Deuces/Rec 20, Platinum 14				Minnow Knights 22, Deuces Wild 16											
No Glove No Love/Hawkins				Purple Cobra 26, The People 6											
Commercial App 21, Big Fellas 6															

Looking Back

Barlow and Sanderson stage line

The last in the western frontier

By LYNDIE FERRELL
lferrell@alamosanews.com

DEL NORTE — In the mid-19th century, as the American West exploded with mining booms and westward migration, transportation was a brutal business of dust, iron and horsepower. Standing as a titan against the near-monopoly of Wells Fargo & Co. was the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Line. Once dominating mainlines stretching all the way to California, the legendary stage company found one of its final, most profitable frontiers bridging the rugged gaps of Colorado's San Luis Valley.

The enterprise began in the early 1860s when Bradley Barlow and Jarib L. Sanderson entered the stagecoach business in Missouri. By 1866, operating officially under Barlow, Sanderson and Company, the founders eyed the immense profits awaiting further west.

During the 1860s, Wells Fargo & Co. had aggressively consolidated and dominated the western mainline routes. Rather than being absorbed by the Wells Fargo juggernaut, Barlow and Sanderson forged an independent path. They established their own expansive mail and passenger routes across the Santa Fe Trail, moving their headquarters to Colorado. Through strategic bidding and relentless expansion, they eventually controlled the Southern Overland Mail and Express Company. It became the last true

transcontinental stage line and the final stagecoach carrier of U.S. mail to California, running as a direct, formidable alternative to Wells Fargo.

At its operational peak, the company had 5,000 horses and mules in constant rotation across Colorado and New Mexico.

By the 1870s, the transcontinental mainlines were being rapidly overtaken by the relentless march of the railroads. Seeing the writing on the wall, Barlow and Sanderson adapted by shifting their focus to regional networks. They transformed their business into vital feeder lines, connecting isolated mountain booming towns to newly built railheads.

The San Luis Valley and specifically towns like Del Norte became central hubs for this new strategy. Knowing that their old plains routes would be succeeded by the railroad, they aggressively developed the Del Norte-Cañon City route by 1874, supplying an influx of miners and freighters flocking into the San Juan Mountains. Del Norte housed a critical Barlow and Sanderson Stage Express office, serving as the gateway for passengers and high-value freight moving deeper into the gold and silver camps.

The company primarily used "mud wagons" — coaches built lighter and lower to the ground than traditional Concord coaches, engineered specifically to navigate the steep, treacherous mountain passes of the Rockies.

The choreography of the line was a marvel of frontier efficiency. Drivers, heralded for their fearless navigation, would push teams at speeds of 8 to 10 mph. Stock tenders stationed along the route could swap



out a team of exhausted horses for a fresh one in less than four minutes.

However, the stagecoach could only outrun the locomotive for so long. As the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad pushed deeper into the San Luis Valley, the stage line's terminuses continuously shifted back.

Barlow retired from the partnership in 1878. Sanderson continued to run the routes as J.L. Sanderson and Company until 1884, when the remaining Colorado operations were sold to the Colorado and Wyoming Stage, Mail and Express Company. Though the iconic coaches continued to roll for a few years more, the golden era of the stage line had permanently drawn to a close, leaving behind a rich blueprint of the routes that built the American West.

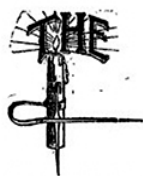


Stage Rules

The Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach, which ran a Far West Stage Line in the Fort Garland area, posted this set of rules in 1873.

- § Abstinence from liquor is requested, but if you must drink, share the bottle. To do otherwise makes you appear selfish and un-neighboring.
- § If ladies are present, gentlemen are urged to forego smoking cigars and pipes as the odor of same is repugnant to the gentle sex. Chewing tobacco is permitted, but spit with the wind.
- § Gentlemen must refrain from the use of rough language in the presence of ladies and children.
- § Buffalo robes are provided for your comfort during cold weather. Hogging the robes will not be tolerated and the offender will be made to ride with the driver.
- § Don't snore loudly while sleeping or use your fellow passenger's shoulder as a pillow: (or she) may not understand and friction may result.
- § Firearms may be kept on your person for use in emergencies. Do not fire for pleasure or shoot at wild animals as the sound riles the horses.
- § In the event of runaway horses, remain calm. Leaping from the coach in panic will leave you injured, at the mercy of elements, hostile Indians and hungry coyotes.
- § Forbidden topics of discussion are stagecoach rollovers and Indian uprisings.
- § Gents guilty of unchivalrous behavior toward lady passengers will be put off the stage. It's a long walk back.

CREEDE



CANDLE.

CREEDE, COLORADO.

100 YEARS AGO

The Creede Candle
July 3, 1926

Local Siftings

A baby boy arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boulware; Prof. and Mrs. Roberta Howard, formerly Miss Genevieve Corlett, are the parents of a son at this place; Fifteen miles of telephone line, new poles and two months of over haul for the Bristol View Ranger station telephone line; Married in a surprise wedding was Mr. Wilfred Moses and Miss Cathryne Goods and will make home in Alamosa; Colonel Humphreys received a thoroughbred Holstein cow from Vice President Dawes at the Dawes-Wood farm in Ohio; John I. Keller of Kansas has taken over the management of the Del Norte Prospector.

Up River Notes

The Wetherill Ranch these days have a good deal of activity and appear to have a full house; Automatic six a.m. alarm clocks have been installed in a few of the cabins whose mind may be willing but whose knees seem to be too weak to arise in time to partake of a seven o'clock up-river breakfast; Judge Edward Dierks arrived at Wrights Ranch last week to renew acquaintance with several prominent rainbow trout.

Jacuzzi

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News

CPW and Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance reintroduce endangered boreal toad tadpoles

SUBMITTED

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance (DZCA) hiked into alpine wetlands near Leadville to translocate 3,500 boreal toad tadpoles and reintroduce them into a historic breeding site to help recover the native species in Colorado.

The boreal toad is the only native alpine toad in the Southern Rocky Mountains in Colorado and has experienced dramatic population declines in recent decades due to chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*). These declines led to the classification of boreal toads as a Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Colorado's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which guides the conservation of Colorado's most vulnerable wildlife species and habitats.

CPW's Boreal Toad Conservation Plan identifies several management actions necessary for species recovery to create a self-sustaining population of boreal toads, the most critical of which are translocations and reintroduction of tadpoles into suitable habitats. This important work simultaneously advances CPW's 2026-2036 Strategic Plan, which seeks to support healthy wildlife populations and habitats.

"This continued conservation work is critical to protecting the biodiversity of our ecosystems. Many hours of fieldwork, habitat restoration, exploratory surveys, and proposal writing went into this project, and we're excited to start the project off strong in its first year," said CPW Native Aquatic Species Biologist Alex Jouney. "This work takes a village of people who care about recovering this sensitive species. Boreal toads could disappear in Colorado without all the proactive work our teams do every year. We're very grateful for our continued partnership with the wildlife professionals from Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance, and the Bureau of Land Management — without the cooperative work that we share and complete together, the mission would not be possible."

This translocation project has been meticulously planned over the last two years. The translocation stocking sites were selected by the Arkansas Basin Toad Conservation Team — an interagency panel of biologists led by CPW that is responsible for conservation of toads in the region. After months of surveying potential sites, the pond sites were selected for their ability to provide the highest-quality breeding habitat

and support a self-sustaining population.

For over 30 years, CPW has devoted resources toward boreal toad research and continues to explore ways to recover the species. Specifically, CPW biologists focus on developing methodologies for reintroducing toads to historically occupied habitats, detecting and working to mitigate the effects of chytrid fungus in the wild, marking and identifying individual toads, and improving breeding success at CPW's Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility, which plays a critical role in the state's efforts to restore boreal toad populations.

"This fieldwork is challenging and requires our biologists to hike miles uphill to alpine habitats with over 10 pounds of water containing over 100 tadpoles on their backs," said CPW Director Laura Clellan. "I continue to be amazed by our staff and our partners who are dedicated to protecting our amphibian species for future generations. This release marks an attempt to repatriate boreal toads to habitat that they historically occupied, in other words, habitat that has proven success in sustaining boreal toad populations."

Post-stocking, the sites will be monitored by CPW native aquatic species biologists and technicians, including returning to the stocking sites to conduct follow-up visual surveys through late August. Stocking efforts will continue for five years, and annual monitoring of the sites will provide information on toads that successfully breed in the ponds and any potential spread of pathogens throughout the drainage.

Since 2021, CPW and the DZCA have partnered to support Colorado's population of boreal toads. DZCA received adult toads from the John W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility and has successfully reproduced and reared them every year at the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance facility, enabling their release into the wild.

"This successful release effort was the result of a tremendous amount of hard work and planning by our Animal Care and Field Conservation teams, and our partners at Colorado Parks and Wildlife," said Cristal Torres DeHerrera, President and CEO of Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance. "Our shared love of Colorado's native wildlife and wild places is what made this achievement possible, and it's a strong example of field conservation work rooted in science, community and action. We're committed to continuing this effort with CPW for many



Photos by CPW

Staff from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance hiked miles to alpine ponds, carrying 10 pounds of boreal toad tadpoles on their backs to release them into the wild.



After months of surveying potential sites, the pond sites were selected for their ability to provide the highest-quality breeding habitat and support a self-sustaining population.

years to come and doing our part to make sure this important species remains part of Colorado's ecosystem for future generations."

Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance has been conserving endangered and critically endangered amphibian species for more than 18 years. In 2018, DZCA became the first zoo in the Northern Hemisphere to successfully breed critically endangered Lake Titicaca frogs, and has since provided more than 250 healthy frogs to zoos and

aquariums in the U.S. and Europe. In 2021, the organization successfully bred critically endangered Panamanian golden frogs as part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Plan.

To learn more about boreal toad research in Colorado, visit cpw.state.co.us/species/boreal-toad or watch the video Saving Colorado's Boreal Toads. To learn more about Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance projects, visit denverzoo.org/field-conservation/.

Limits

■ Continued from Page 1

meeting prompting a vote as the deadline for putting such a measure on the ballot is July 24.

According to state law, all six boards have to support the measure in order for it to be put before the voters. There is also the requirement that elections removing term limits only be held in even numbered years, which would make 2028 the next possible year to propose the vote to voters.

State law also does not allow a vote to remove term limits while the elected official is in their last term, which would essentially mean postponing the vote until 2032.

It should be noted that the discussion was specifically limited to the office of district attorney.

As Commissioner Zeke Ward of Mineral County said, "I'm in favor of term limits in some cases. Incumbents have an unfair advantage, which allows people to become too powerful while in office. That's why I'm in favor of term limits for the executive and legislative branches."

"But the DA position is not like that. They are less susceptible to having an unfair advantage. They don't control legislation and voters' choice is more influenced by the performance of the DA than other partisan offices."

Ward then closed with a statement that seemed to resonate with many of his colleagues. "If we limit the choice of the voters, we're saying we don't trust them to make the

right decision. So, let the voters decide."

Commissioner Thompson of Saguache echoed Ward's words, saying, "Put it on the ballot. Eighteen commissioners should not decide for the voters. Let them decide for themselves."

The only commissioner that still voiced objections to removing term limits was Commissioner McCracken, also of Saguache.

"At some point," he began, "voters decided that they wanted the DA to serve two terms. That's how it started. And I haven't talked to a single constituent who is in favor of removing term limits for the district attorney."

While DAs may have a somewhat different learning curve due to the nature of their job, several noted the effort Kelly has put into rebuilding, restaffing and now managing a strong, functioning district attorney's office.

"And let's face it," Thompson said. "We don't really have that many people who want to be DA anymore."

Commissioner Steven Romero indicated that he supported removing limits but could not commit until he spoke with the other commissioners. Commissioner Quintana nodded in agreement.

"So, what this comes down to is if Saguache and Costilla want this," Romero continued. "If so, it goes on the ballot. If not, it doesn't."

Ward once again advocated for investing power in the voters, and how this possibly encourages more connection between voters and officials. "And the closer you get to the voters, the more visible you are," he said, which elicited general murmurs of agreement.

Restrictions

■ Continued from Page 1

agencies are taking a zero-tolerance approach toward fireworks. Exploding targets and illegal fireworks are completely banned under both jurisdictions. Monte Vista police confirmed they will actively enforce the restrictions, warning that officers have the explicit authority to seize illegal fireworks possessed, stored or offered for sale within city lines.

Violators face severe legal consequences depending on the offense. Individuals breaking the municipal fire ban within Monte Vista will receive a summons to appear before the Monte Vista Municipal Court and face penalties authorized by local ordinances. Meanwhile, violations occurring on unincorporated county land carry harsher criminal weight, potentially punishable as a Class 6 felony under Colorado revised statutes.

Morphew

■ Continued from Page 1

of Alamosa District Judge Hopkins, Kelly requested bail be set at \$3 million cash, which the court granted.

Morphew's defense attorney subsequently filed a motion claiming the \$3 million cash was too high, requesting the amount be reduced to \$500,000. It was argued that Morphew is "an innocent man" who has not been difficult for law enforcement to find and was taken into custody without incident.

Kelly argued that Morphew was a flight risk; he has no connections to the San Luis Valley, had recently been moving around "large sums of money," went by different names and changed the license plates on his car depending upon where he was driving.

After listening to arguments, Hopkins declined to lower the bail and, instead, modified the conditions, keeping bail at \$3 million but setting it as cash surety or property bond. That paved the way for a bail bond company to post Morphew's bail for a

Despite the comprehensive nature of the bans, specific exemptions remain in place to prevent unnecessary disruptions to daily domestic life and professional emergency response. Both county and city directives permit the continued use of indoor fireplaces, indoor stoves and outdoor cooking devices powered by gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuels, such as standard propane grills.

Additional exemptions apply to individuals holding valid written permits issued by an authorized Fire Protection District, the U.S. Forest Service or the Rio Grande County Environmental Health Department. Organized rescue units, law enforcement personnel and firefighting forces are also exempted while performing official emergency operations.

Public safety officials urged residents to remain vigilant, use extreme caution with any spark-producing materials, and immediately report signs of smoke or unauthorized fire activity by calling 911.

non-refundable fee of \$300,000.

Morphew was subsequently released from the Alamosa County Detention Center after posting bail and has been living in Arizona since that time where his movements have been electronically monitored.

The Valley Courier reached out to the district attorney following the continuance but, unsurprisingly, she declined to comment.

Court theatrics are often a part of the judicial experience but, for those who have been following the case, there is just a twinge of irony in these latest developments.

In the bond hearing, Morphew's defense attorney had repeatedly stated that his client was innocent, going so far as to emphatically tell the court that "there is no new evidence" in this case. "The district attorney has nothing new to present to the court." It would now seem the amount of discovery defense has to sort through somewhat contradicts that original argument.

Barry Morphew is scheduled to appear in court again on July 6 for a motions hearing. All defendants are considered innocent until proven otherwise by a court of law.

Comics & Puzzles

NEA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Murmuring sound

4 —-faced lie

8 Strongbox

12 Barley bristle

13 Inter —

14 Walk with heavy steps

15 Wildebeest

16 Peel

17 Fat

18 Inherent nature

20 Like Chicago

21 Lawyer's charge

22 Brooch

23 Delicious

26 Daydream

30 A vital statistic

31 Girl

32 "Live and Let —"

33 Balloon basket

34 Cash dispenser, for short

35 Altar constellation

36 Molasses

39 Stopwatch

41 Payable

42 Distress call letters

43 Hidden store

46 Smoke-stack

50 — vera

51 Earth

52 Greek letter

53 Recipe direction

54 Ditty

55 Mover's truck

56 Moderate (with "down")

57 Went quickly

58 Deer kin

DOWN

1 Zoo enclosure

2 Has

3 Burden of proof

4 Friendly dinosaur

5 Juvenile heroine

6 Wrinkle

7 Family guy

8 Narrow wood piece

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

9 Actor — Alda

10 Tennessee Ernie —

11 Whirlpool

19 Newt

20 Come in first

22 Tropical tree

23 Diplomacy

24 Culture medium

25 Withered

26 Destiny

27 Name in Genesis

28 One way to address a king

29 "The — of Living Dangerously"

31 Burst of laughter

37 Stick

38 Billiards stick

39 Labored

40 Doctrine

42 Polish

43 Players on a stage

44 Palo —, California

45 Invent

46 — de grace

47 Granular snow field

48 Abbr. in citations

49 Pull Rds.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19				20				
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50						51				52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

6-18

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

6/30

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

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

ARLO & JANIS

YOU PROMISED ME THAT IF WE MOVED SOUTH, I'D WEIGH LESS!

9/30

I PROMISED YOU WHAT?!

Johnson

YOU ONCE TOLD ME THE EFFECT OF GRAVITY LESSENS AS YOU MOVE TOWARD THE EQUATOR!

I HARDLY THINK THAT CONSTITUTES...

WEASEL WORDS!

MONTE

I'M MAKING A PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH... WANT ONE?

NONO. HEH HEH...

I DON'T BELIEVE MR. LINCOLN WOULD INDULGE IN SUCH REFRESHMENTS.

NO, NO... I HAVE ALREADY CONSUMED MY MIDDAY MEAL... CORNED BEEF... CABBAGE... TURNIP BROTH AND A BISCUIT...

6/30

THAT'S ODD, BECAUSE I COULD'VE SWORN I SMELLED SOUR APPLE ON YOUR BREATH.

WELL...

UM... I...

IS THAT A GUMMY WORM?

I DO CONFESS, I FIND MYSELF BEWITCHED BY THESE NEWFANGLED CONFECTIONS.

THE BORN LOSER

THERE'S NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO FOR GLADYS, AND YOU KNOW IT!

www.the-born-loser.com

OF COURSE I KNOW IT!

6/30

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING FOR HER SINCE YOU GOT MARRIED!

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

MOM-UNCLE PHIL'S ON THE PHONE!

www.fborfw.com

I WISH I COULD COME WITH YOU, SIS. PROMISE YOU'LL CALL AS SOON AS YOU KNOW HOW MOM IS?

OF COURSE I WILL.

GOOD - AND I'LL TRY TO GET THERE AS SOON AS I CAN!

I FEEL SO GUILTY. THEY'RE ONLY A 5-HOUR FLIGHT AWAY--AND WE RARELY SEE THEM.

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SIS, WE'RE ONLY A 5-HOUR DRIVE AWAY--AND WE RARELY SEE EACH OTHER!

Lynn

FRANK & ERNEST

BRING ME THAT STUDY YOU DID ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, SWEETIE-PIE.

6-30 THAMES

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GARFIELD

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TRAFFIC'S REALLY BACKED UP THIS MORNING

JIM DAVIS 6-30

THE GRIZZWELLS

REMEMBER THAT MAGGOT-INFESTED POTATO SALAD?

AMAZING!... BUT HOW ABOUT THOSE FUZZY GRAY PIZZA SLICES?

6/30

OOH!... NOT TO MENTION THE MOLDY GREEN BAKED BEANS

YUM!

ENOUGH!...

© 2026 UFS Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

WILL YOU TWO KNOCK OFF THE TRASH TALK!

SORRY!

PEANUTS

I FEEL KIND OF WOOZY... I DON'T THINK I CAN PITCH ANY MORE...

© 1979 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SCHULZ

I FEEL SICK

YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN HIT ON THE HEAD WITH TOO MANY FLY BALLS

I THINK I'LL GO HOME

HE'S PROBABLY BEEN HIT ON THE HEAD WITH TOO MANY FLY BALLS

Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE OF SALE**PUBLICATION****(CRS §38-38-103)****FORECLOSURE SALE No. 5-2026**

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following Deed of Trust:

On April 21, 2026, under Reception No. 26000573, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Conejos records.

Original Grantor(s): Gloria Diana Chavez
Original Beneficiary: Community Banks of Colorado
Current Holder of the Evidence of Debt: Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
Date of Deed of Trust: January 10, 2007
County of Recording: Conejos
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: January 16, 2007
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.):
Reception No. 7000093
Original Principal Amount: \$33,200.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$3,248.85

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated for reasons including, but not limited to, the failure to make timely payments required under said Deed of Trust and the Evidence of Debt secured thereby.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

The property is all of the property encumbered by said Deed of Trust and is described as:

LOT 11, BLOCK B TO THE ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF ANTONITO, COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO.

Purported Common Address: 612 FRONT STREET, ANTONITO, CO 81120

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the office of the Conejos County Public Trustee, Conejos County Annex, 12987 CO RD G.5/Veterans' Blvd., Conejos, CO 81129, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.

First Publication Date: June 24, 2026

Last Publication Date: July 22, 2026

Name of Publication: The Valley Courier

Date: June 22, 2026

Mack M. Crowther

Public Trustee in and for the County of Conejos, State of Colorado.

The name, address, telephone number and registration number of attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Janeway Law Firm, P.C.

Attorneys for COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY

Lynn M. Janeway, #15592

David R. Doughty #40042

Allison L. Berry #34531

N. April Winecki #34861

9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320

Englewood, CO 80112

Phone: (303) 706-9990 Fax: (303) 706-9994

File: 26-037399/Chavez

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

No. 5242

Published in the Valley Courier June 24, and July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2026.

COMBINED NOTICE PUBLICATION**CRS §3838103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 98726**

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On April 14, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.

Original Grantor(s)

DENNIS B. COLLINS

Original Beneficiary(ies)

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING

Date of Deed of Trust

September 25, 2015

County of Recording

Alamosa

Recording Date of Deed of Trust

September 28, 2015

Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)

360887

Original Principal Amount

\$56,250.00

Outstanding Principal Balance

\$44,991.22

Pursuant to CRS §3838101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations of the terms thereof

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

LOT 8, IN BLOCK L, DEER VALLEY MEADOWS, UNIT II

Purported common address: 7995 FOOTHILL BLVD, ALAMOSA, CO 811019050.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 08/12/2026, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication: 6/17/2026

Last Publication: 7/15/2026

Name of Publication: Valley Courier

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 04/14/2026

Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado

/s/ By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Ryan Bourgeois, Esq. #51088

Barrett Frappier & Weissman, LLP 1391 Speer Boulevard, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80204 (303) 3503711

Attorney File # 00000010751444

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

No. 5228

Published in the Valley Courier June 17 and 24, and July 1, 8 and 15, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

County Court

Conejos County, Colorado

Court Address: PO Box 128, Conejos, CO 81129

Case Number: 2026C27

Date Filed: June 5, 2026

In the Matter of the Petition of:

Parent/Petitioner: Amos and Alicia Abeyta

For a Minor Child: Alyssa Elena Rosas Abeyta

For a Change of Name to: Alyssa Elena Abeyta

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on June 5, 2026, that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Minor

has been filed with the Conejos Combined Court.

The Petition requests that the name of:

Alyssa Elena Rosas-Abeyta

be changed to:

Alyssa Elena Abeyta

/s/ By Brooke Valdez

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

No. 5227

Published in the Valley Courier June 17 and 24, and July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT COURT, CONEJOS COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
Civil Action No. 2026 CV 030005, Division No. WV
SUMMONS (BY PUBLICATION)

RAE NEVIUS,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CRAIG DUNN,

and all other persons who claim as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise under said defendants, and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action;

Defendants.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty five (35) days after the service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice to you.

This is an action to quiet title to the following described property situate in the County of Conejos and State of Colorado, to-wit: Lot 109 in Block A of the Alamosa River Estates, (the "Property"), free and clear of all liens and encumbrances.

DATED: April 1, 2026.

MOTZ LAW FIRM, LLC

By /s/ Jeffrey E. Motz

Paul E. Motz, Reg. No. 7740

Jeffrey E. Motz, Reg. No. 35972

Attorneys for Plaintiff

410 San Juan Avenue

P.O. Box 779

Alamosa, Colorado 81101

Telephone: (719) 589-6676

Published in The Valley Courier

First Publication Date: June 24, 2026

Last Publication Date: July 22, 2026

No. 5243

Published in the Valley Courier June 24, and July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2026.

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION**CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 26-1153**

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On April 13, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Grande records.

Original Grantor(s): Scott A Bryant

Original Beneficiary(ies): Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association

Date of Deed of Trust: September 15, 2014

County of Recording: Rio Grande

Recording Date of Deed of Trust: September 15, 2014

Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)

201400422017 Book: 571 Page: 249-266

Original Principal Amount: \$60,000.00

Outstanding Principal Balance: \$42,218.19

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

THE SOUTH 3 FEET OF LOT 23. ALL OF LOTS 24 AND 25, AND THE NORTH 1 FOOT OF LOT 26, ALL IN BLOCK 22,

WESTSIDE ADDITION, CITY OF MONTE VISTA, COUNTY OF RIO GRANDE, STATE OF COLORADO.

TOGETHER WITH ANY AND ALL WELLS, WELL RIGHTS, PUMPS, MOTORS AND WELL EQUIPMENT. ANY AND ALL WELL AND WATER RIGHTS AND DITCH AND DITCH RIGHTS.

Purported common address: 227 S Broadway, Monte, CO 81144.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 08/12/2026, at Public Trustee Office, 925 6th St. Rm. 103, Del Norte, CO 81132, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication: 6/17/2026

Last Publication: 7/15/2026

Name of Publication: Valley Courier

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 04/13/2026

Caricia Johnston, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado

/s/ By: Caricia Johnston, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Hall Estill, Attorneys at Law 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8665 (405) 283-4277

Attorney File #

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

No. 5236

Published in the Valley Courier June 17 and 24, and July 1, 8 and 15, 2026.

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging for Region 8 is accepting Request for Proposals (RFP) from both the public and private sectors representing both nonprofit and for profit entities interested in providing services to people age 60 and older for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Services include: Transportation, Nutrition Program, Home-Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals, In-Home Homemaker and Chore Services, National Family Caregiver Program. Other avenues of services to older adults will also be considered. Area Agency on Aging, Region 8 service area includes the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache.

RFP packets and instructions are available at South-Central Colorado Seniors, 1116 3rd Street, P.O. Box 639, Alamosa, CO 81101. Completed proposals are due to South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Administrative office, 1116 3rd Street, Alamosa, CO by 5:00 p.m. July 2, 2026. For more information, please call Terri Shea, Director, 719-589-4511. No. 5208

Published in the Valley Courier on June 10, 17 and 24, and July 1, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED**26-1121**

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on April 21, 2026, the Treasurer of Rio Grande County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to JERICHO HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER"):

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SUBDIVISION HIDDEN VALLEY ESTATES TRACT 10

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 680 YUND DR, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2024-2023. The property was assessed in the name of ALLEN & VIRGINIA MOLES ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On April 21, 2026, JERICHO HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificate holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 6/17/2026

Last Publication: 7/1/2026

Published in: Valley Courier

You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website: riograndecounty.colorado.gov

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: June 10, 2026

/s/ By: Caricia Johnston

Treasurer of Rio Grande County, Colorado

No. 5210

Published in the Valley Courier June 17 and 24, and July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

District Court, Rio Grande County, Colorado

925 6th Street

Room 204

Del Norte, CO 81132

(719) 657-3394

Case No. 2026CV030013

Date filed: June 22, 2026

Plaintiff: THE PLAZA OF DEL NORTE LLC, a

Colorado limited liability company,

v.

Defendants: CORA ARCHULETA; GLORIA

TRUJILLO a/k/a GLORIA HISDAHL;

SHIRLEY REYNOLDS a/k/a SHIRLEY

JARAMILLO; ANTHONY

ARCHULETA; ALL UNKNOWN

HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF DENNIS

ARCHULETA a/k/a JOSEPH DENNIS

ARCHULETA, DECEASED; and all

unknown persons claiming an interest in

the subject matter of this action.

Attorneys for Plaintiff:

Amy L. West (Atty. Reg. #: 59055)

Johnson Dauster & Thorson, PC

323 South College Avenue, Suite 1

Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

Telephone: (970) 482-4846;

FAX: (970) 482-3038

Email: awest@nocolawgroup.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action by filing with the clerk of this Court an Answer or other response. You are required to file your Answer or other response within 35 days after service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your Answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without any further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Rio Grande County, Colorado, legally described as follows:

The North 30 feet of Lot 10, and all of Lots 11 and 12, Block 85, Town of Del Norte, County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado.

also known as: 353 Pine Street, Del Norte, CO 81132.

Published in the Valley Courier: (1 day for 5 consecutive weeks).

DATED this 19th day of June, 2026.

JOHNSON DAUSTER & THORSON, PC

/s/ Amy L. West

Amy L. West (Atty. Reg. #: 59055)

Attorney for Plaintiff

No. 5244

Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29,

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Board of Adjustments will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 6:15 PM. The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Conejos County Courthouse, in Conejos. The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application for a Variance to the County setback requirements. The applicant is Lupita Sandoval. The property is zoned rural and is legally described as: Tract 1 of the Candido R Sandoval Division of Land located in Section 24, Township 32, Range 8 E, NMPM, Conejos County, Colorado. Parcel #613524400010.

The full details of this application are available for public inspection in the Office of the Land Use Administrator at the Conejos County Courthouse during regular office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Interested persons may appear to be heard at the public hearing.

No. 5257
Published in the Valley Courier July 1 and July 22, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be advised that the Town of Hooper, Colorado adopted: Ordinance No. 3-2026 - An Ordinance Establishing Standards of Conduct for Town Employees.

This Ordinance may be enforced as set forth in Section 2-8-109(a), which provides: "Violations of this Chapter may result in corrective action or discipline, up to and including termination of employment, consistent with applicable Town policies and procedures."

No. 5255
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be advised that the Town of Hooper, Colorado adopted: Ordinance No. 3-2026 - An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code to Add Rules for Civility and Decorum in Town Board Meetings.

This Ordinance may be enforced as set forth in Section 4.1 of the Civility Rules adopted therein. This Section 4.1 provides: "The presiding officer is responsible for maintaining order and decorum throughout the meeting. The presiding officer has the authority to: (a) Remind participants of this plan's standards; or (b) Issue a formal warning to a disruptive individual; or (c) Request that an individual leave the meeting; or (d) Reject the meeting until order is restored; or (e) Adjourn the meeting in cases of sustained disruption. Instead of or in addition to these actions, the presiding officer may inform the speaker that they may address the Board during public comment; they may submit written correspondence to the Town Board; or they may request that a matter be placed on a future agenda. (The contents of the agenda is subject to the presiding officer's and Board's approval and discretion.)"

No. 5254
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM and a hearing before the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of these hearings is to consider an application for a Special Use Review for a Multifamily Generational Family Homestead.

The property is owned by Mountain Ranch LLC and is zoned rural. It is legally described as 1113.7 Acres, located in Sections 15 & 22, Township 32 North, Range 5 East, NMPM, Conejos County Colorado. Parcel #614114300003. The details of this application are available for public inspection in the Land Use Office in Conejos during regular office hours M-F between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Call 719-376-2014 for an appointment. Anyone interested may appear to be heard at the public meeting.

Linda DeHerrera, Land Use Administrator
No. 5256
Published in the Valley Courier July 1 and July 22, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

District Court
Rio Grande County, Colorado
Court Address: 925 6th Street, Room 204
Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone: 719-657-3394
Case Number: 2026PR30015
In the Matter of the Estate of:
JAMES J. SIMMONS aka JAMES JACKSON SIMMONS aka JAMES SIMMONS, Deceased
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
Seth M. Katz #34888
Arthur T. DiMeo #24171
Katz, Look & Onorato, P.C.
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1100
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone Number: 303-832-1900
FAX Number: 303-863-0412
Email: mkatz@thedenverlawyers.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of James J. Simmons aka James Jackson Simmons aka James Simmons, Deceased
Case Number: 2026PR30015
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to X District Court of Rio Grande, County, Colorado on or before November 1, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

Sandra A. Simmons, Personal Representative
c/o KATZ, LOOK & ONORATO, P.C.
120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1100
Denver, Colorado 80203
No. 5259
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 8 and 15, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

District Court
District Court of Alamosa County, Colorado
Court Address:
8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Alice L. Ruybal, a/k/a Alice Lucero Ruybal, Deceased.
NOTICE OF HEARING WITHOUT APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO C.R.P.P. 24 and §15-10-401, C.R.S.

Case Number:
2026 PR 30016, Div.: D
Attendance at this hearing is not required or expected.
To: Possible Additional Unknown Heirs
Last Known Address, if any: Unknown
A hearing on Petition for Formal Appointment of Special Administrator will be held at the following time and location or at a later date to which the hearing may be continued:
Date: July 30, 2026
Time: 8:00 am
Courtroom or Division: D Address: 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any interested person wishing to object to the requested action set forth in the motion/petition and proposed order must file a written objection with the court on or before the hearing and must furnish a copy of the objection to the person requesting the court order.
JDF 722 (Objection form) is available on the Colorado Judicial Branch website (www.courts.state.co.us).
If no objection is filed, the court may take action on the motion/petition without further notice or hearing.
If any objection is filed, the objecting party must, within 14 days after filing the objection, contact the court to set the objection for an appearance hearing. Failure to timely set the objection for an appearance hearing as required will result in further action as the court deems appropriate.

James A. Kaplan
5500 South Quebec Street, Suite 260
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
JKaplan@rauschsturm.com
(303) 630-1055
No. 5248
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 8, and 15, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

District Court
District Court of Alamosa County, Colorado
Court Address:
8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Alice L. Ruybal, a/k/a Alice Lucero Ruybal, Deceased.
NOTICE OF HEARING WITHOUT APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO C.R.P.P. 24 and §15-10-401, C.R.S.

Case Number:
2026 PR 30016, Div.: D
Attendance at this hearing is not required or expected.
To: Possible Additional Unknown Heirs
Last Known Address, if any: Unknown
A hearing on Petition for Formal Appointment of Special Administrator will be held at the following time and location or at a later date to which the hearing may be continued:
Date: July 30, 2026
Time: 8:00 am
Courtroom or Division: D Address: 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any interested person wishing to object to the requested action set forth in the motion/petition and proposed order must file a written objection with the court on or before the hearing and must furnish a copy of the objection to the person requesting the court order.
JDF 722 (Objection form) is available on the Colorado Judicial Branch website (www.courts.state.co.us).
If no objection is filed, the court may take action on the motion/petition without further notice or hearing.
If any objection is filed, the objecting party must, within 14 days after filing the objection, contact the court to set the objection for an appearance hearing. Failure to timely set the objection for an appearance hearing as required will result in further action as the court deems appropriate.

James A. Kaplan
5500 South Quebec Street, Suite 260
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
JKaplan@rauschsturm.com
(303) 630-1055
No. 5248
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 8, and 15, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM and a hearing before the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of these hearings is to consider an application for a Special Use Permit for a Food Service/Special Events Establishment, 6819 County Rd D5, Canon/Antonito CO.

The property is owned by Allen Abeyta and is zoned rural. It is legally described as 3.5088 Tract 6-6 Al Abeyta Minor Subdivision located in the North Half of Section 6, Township 32 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, Conejos County Colorado. Parcel #613506100028.

The details of this application are available for public inspection in the Land Use Office in Conejos during regular office hours M-F between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Call 719-376-2014 for an appointment. Anyone interested may appear to be heard at the public meeting.

Linda DeHerrera, Land Use Administrator
No. 5250
Published in the Valley Courier July 1 and July 22, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The hearing before the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of these hearings is to consider an application for a Minor Subdivision submitted by Jorge Morales, 10480 County Rd 13, Antonito CO. The applicants are requesting to create six lots of land from two parcels.

The property is zoned rural and is legally described as 80 acres of land located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 34, Range 9 East, NMPM, Conejos County, Colorado. Parcel 586732300282 and 586732300172.

The details of this application are available for public inspection in the Office of the Land Use Administrator at the Conejos County Courthouse during regular office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public meeting.

Linda DeHerrera, Conejos Land Use Administrator
No. 5258
Published in the Valley Courier July 1 and July 22, 2026.

TOWN OF SOUTH FORK

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OR PROCESSING OF CERTAIN PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPLICATIONS WHERE DATA CENTER IS INCLUDED AS A PROPOSED PRIMARY USE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, there is considerable interest and concern among residents within the Town of South Fork that data centers have the potential to create an unmanageable burden on critical energy and water resources; and WHEREAS, revisions may be needed to regulate and establish standards for distance, noise and other ancillary impacts of data centers on surrounding properties; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that Data Centers may affect the character of the surrounding area and that all applications for Data Centers be considered consistently within the purpose and intent of the town's master plan and general well-being of the community as a whole; and WHEREAS, there are currently no data center-specific zoning regulations that adequately address all these issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board must take immediate and responsive action to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the town; and WHEREAS, because of the possible effects of data centers on the surrounding community, the Town Board intends to consider revisions to the South Fork Zoning Code, the South Fork Revised Municipal Code, and other standards designed to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Town Board to establish a reasonable period of time during which site development plans, site development plan amendments, and zoning permits for new or expanded data centers will not be approved in order to survey current data centers as they may be applicable to the surrounding community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK:

Section 1. A moratorium is hereby authorized on the acceptance, processing, or approval of any permits and site development plan applications beginning on the effective date of this ordinance that propose to establish as a primary use any new data center. The purpose of this moratorium is to provide time for the Town to consider and construct regulations for potential data centers.

Section 2. During the duration of the moratorium the Town shall charge the Planning and Zoning Commission to conduct a public engagement process, including the formation of a working group of community members, city staff, Trustees, industry stakeholders and subject matter experts that will address issues related to the impacts of data center development and craft policy recommendations, paying special attention to vulnerable and adversely impacted communities, creating guardrails around the use of energy and water, with attention to potential noise and air quality impacts, appropriate placement of data centers and a plan that engages community voices in any future data center development.

Section 3. For the purposes of this moratorium, "data center" is defined as a facility where the primary use is the storage, processing, management and transmission of digital data and/or support for the delivery of cloud computing services.

Section 4. This moratorium shall expire the earlier of:

a. One year from the effective date of this ordinance, or

b. The effective date of any amendments to the South Fork Revised Municipal Code regarding data centers and any amendments to the South Fork Zoning Code regarding data centers, whichever occurs later.

Introduced as an ordinance at a regular meeting of the board of trustees of the Town of Center, Colorado, on June 18, 2026, and determined by a majority of the vote of the trustees as follows:

Motion made by Trustee: Biggerstaff and seconded by Trustee: Cruse
Mayor Stickens: yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Iten: Yes
Trustee Miller:
Trustee Hicks: Yes
Trustee Cruze: Yes
Trustee Biggerstaff: Yes
Trustee Devlin: Yes
Ordinance No. 2026-03 Passes
Done and signed this 18th day of June, 2026.
/s/ Kevin Stickens, Town Mayor
Attest: /s/ Hank Weber, Town Manager
Approved as to form: /s/ Gene Farish, Town Attorney
No. 5252
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority

Announcement of Public Hearing
for the 2027-2028 Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan
Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) will hold three public hearings in Colorado regarding the 2027-2028 Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (the QAP). The purpose of the public hearings is to receive input on the QAP for 2027-2028. A draft of the 2027-2028 QAP and Summary of Changes are available on CHFA's website: chfa.info.com/qap. The first hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 11:00am via Zoom. The second hearing will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 1:00pm via Zoom. The third hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 10:00am via Zoom.

To attend the hearings, please visit chfa.info.com/qap-hearing to access Zoom registration links.

If you are unable to attend the hearings, written comments will be accepted up to August 14, 2026, and should be submitted to Kathryn Grosscup at kgrosscup@chfa.info.com.

This meeting will be recorded by the presenter. If you do not want to participate in a recorded presentation, please log off of the call.

With respect to its programs, services, activities, and employment practices, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority prohibits unlawful discrimination against applicants or employees on the basis of age 40 years and over, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, creed, religion, marital status, ancestry, disability, military status, genetic information, marital status or any other status protected by applicable federal, state or local law. Requests for reasonable accommodation, the provision of auxiliary aids, or any complaints alleging violation of this nondiscrimination policy should be directed to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, 1.800.877.2432, TDD/TTY 800.659.2656, CHFA, 1981 Blake Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1272, available weekdays 8:00am to 5:00pm MT.

No. 5249
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

Public Notice

District Court
Alamosa County, Colorado
8955 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-4996
Case Number: 2026PR30014
In the Matter of the Estate of
Ronald Gene Simpson aka Ronald G. Simpson
Deceased
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
John M. Montgomery, Attorney
660 Grande Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone Number: 719-657-3333
E-mail: john@montgomery-law.net
FAX Number: 719-657-9999
Atty. Reg. #: 19385
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Ronald Gene Simpson, Deceased
Case Number: 2026PR30014
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Alamosa, County, Colorado, on or before October 19, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

Person giving notice:_____
John M. Montgomery
60 Grande Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132
No. 5235
Published in the Valley Courier June 17 and 24, and July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be advised that the Town of Hooper, Colorado adopted: Ordinance No. 1-2026 - An Ordinance Amending Provisions Addressing Public Nuisances. This Ordinance may be enforced by the following penalties to the Town of Hooper Municipal Code:

Section 6-1-204(a)(7): "Any violation of any injunction or order issued by the Municipal Court in an action to abate a public nuisance may be punished as a contempt of court or by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Unless the violation by its nature cannot be corrected, each day's failure to comply with an injunction or order to abate shall constitute a separate violation for which an additional penalty may be imposed."

Section 6-1-303: "Any person in the Town who violates this Chapter 1 of Title VI shall, in addition to the civil remedies and costs provided herein be subject to a fine in an amount not exceeding Three Hundred (\$300.00). Every person violating or contributing in any way to the violation of any provision of this Chapter 1 of Title VI shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each day during which such violation continues and may be punished for each such violation as provided in this Section."

No. 5253
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Colorado State Statute No. 83-21-1, Storage Units having given proper notice to the parties of the storage unit herein stated at their last known address, shall dispose of all property in said unit. Said disposal shall be any time after the 07/8/2026. Contents of storage units H & H Storage to disposed. #6 Johanna Lucero; Majestic Storage #B32 Adam Marcinkowski, #B2 Steven Ortiz. Century Property Management & Sales LLC
823 Main ST.
Alamosa, Co. 81101
719-589-5744
No. 5246
Published in the Valley Courier July 1 and 8, 2026.

ALAMOSA COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Planning Commission on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM and again before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application for a Major Site Plan submitted by John Turner on property currently addressed as 2528 S County Rd 100 (Parcel 52871820021). The applicant is proposing to operate a shipping and packing facility similar to warehouse and freight movement described in Section 2.4.4.P of the LUDC. This property is in the Industrial (I) zone district.

The legal description of the property is: Tract 2, Pure Water Division of Land, according to the plat recorded July 29, 2013 under Reception No. 353546, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.

Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or at (719) 589-3812.

Darcy Barraclough
Alamosa County Planner
No. 5251
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTRAY: #1742: One Black Gelding, Star, LH & RH Pastern, No Brand. Livestock must be claimed by legal owner within 10 days or will be sold by Colorado Brand Board.

For information call 719-936-5400 or 303-869-9160.

No. 5247
Published in the Valley Courier July 1, 2026.

www.alamosanews.com

PLACING A CLASSIFIED Ad

Call 719-589-2553

Email circ@alamosanews.com

12 Noon Deadline
Monday & Thursday

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. All copy must be approved by the newspaper, which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval. *Payment for all Garage/Rummage Sales is due when the ad is placed. All Garage/Rummage Sale ads must be placed in person at the Valley Courier Office, 2205 State Avenue, Alamosa.*

FINDING AN AD: Valley Courier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

065 - Personals
099 - Announcements
101 - Memorials
102 - Card Of Thanks
106 - Novenas

JOBS

112 - Business Opportunity
221 - Help Wanted
267 - Work Wanted

AUTO

322 - Dump Trucks
701 - Autos For Sale
710 - Classic Autos
713 - Pick-up Trucks
715 - 4x4 Vehicles
717 - Water Shares
720 - Heavy Equipment
727 - Import Autos
737 - Recreational Vehicles
742 - Trucks & Trailers
748 - Vans Conversions
750 - Vehicles For Rent/Lease
755 - Vehicles Wanted

MERCHANDISE

303 - Antiques
307 - Appliances
310 - Building Materials
314 - Clothing
315 - Computers
345 - Wood

347 - Household Goods
357 - Machinery & Tools
360 - Miscellaneous For Sale
361 - Musical Merchandise
362 - Home Furnishings
378 - Store & Equipment
525 - Guns
356 - Meat & Produce

RENTAL

601 - Apartments For Rent
606 - Business Property For Rent
608 - Garages For Rent
611 - Homes For Rent
614 - Mobile Homes For Rent
620 - Storage Units
630 - Rooms For Rent
634 - Roommate Wanted
640 - Wanted To Rent

FARM

353 - Farm & Livestock Services
351 - Livestock
350 - Farm Equipment
324 - Feed & Seed

RECREATION

501 - Bicycles
507 - Boats & Marine Equipment
520 - Camping Equipment
524 - Fishing & Hunting
527 - Hobbies & Toys
532 - Snowmobiles
536 - Sports Equipment

540 - Travel
736 - ATVs/Motorcycles

REAL ESTATE

401 - Business Properties
409 - Farm & Ranch Land
415 - Homes For Sale
420 - Lots & Acreages
426 - Mobile Homes For Sale
436 - Real Estate Wanted
639 - Vacation Property
612 - Mobile Homes Lots

SERVICES

108 - Beauty Services
120 - Child Care
125 - Counseling
173 - Professional Services
185 - Services & Businesses
186 - Snow Removal
344 - Heating & Air Conditioning
410 - Auction
705 - Auto Repair & Parts

MISCELLANEOUS

163 - Lost & Found
165 - Personals
184 - Rewards
330 - Free
341 - Garage Sales
348 - Windows
387 - Wanted To Buy
390 - Let's Trade
368 - Pets & Supplies

Classified Rates:

BUSINESS RATES

2-days \$14.80 98¢ per word over 15
4-days \$20.80 \$1.40 per word over 15
6-days \$30.60 \$2.04 per word over 15
8-days \$40.24 \$2.72 per word over 15

PRIVATE RATES

2-days \$14.00 \$0.94 per word over 15
4-days \$20.00 \$1.32 per word over 15

6-days \$29.76 \$1.98 per word over 15
8-days \$39.20 \$2.60 per word over 15

GARAGE SALES

3-days \$13.20
2-days \$11.00
1-day \$9.00
40¢ per word over 15



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circ@alamosanews.com

99 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SARGENT COMMUNITY CHURCH'S Back-to-School Festival August 8, 2026, 9 AM to Noon. Outdoors in church's parking lot at 6985 North County Road 2 East, Monte Vista. Drawings, Dunk tank, games and more. No admission cost. Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies and Drink all free.

RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE RIO GRANDE COUNTY AND TOWN OF DEL NORTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE. Sealed proposals are due to the Rio Grande County Administration office by 4:00pm (MT), Friday, August 7, 2026. The project is to update the Rio Grande County and Town of Del Norte Comprehensive Plan to include addressing statutory requirements related to the Water Supply Element and Strategic Growth Element,

consistent with guidance provided by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Digital copies of the bid documents are available at www.riograndecounty.org. Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. RIO GRANDE COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities in the bids and bidding deemed to be in the best interests of RIO GRANDE COUNTY, and to reject nonconforming, nonresponsive, or conditional bids. (7/15/26)

THE TOWN OF Del Norte Board of Trustees are accepting letters of interest for an appointed position on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission takes part in charting the course of growth and development within Town limits while learning more about local planning. The Planning Commission members are appointed by the Del Norte Town Board

with a term of two years and they meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. to review and make recommendations on subdivision proposals, zoning, conditional use applications. If you are interested in serving on the Del Norte Planning Commission. Applicants MUST BE qualified electors and live within Town limits. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please call Town Hall at 719-657-2708 to receive an application or email/mail letters of interest with application to Del Norte Town Hall at 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Colorado 81132, or email to delnorte1860@outlook.com. Deadline for letters of interest and application is July 15, 2026. (7/8/26)

THE TOWN OF Del Norte Board of Trustees are accepting letters of interest to serve on the newly formed Del Norte Public Arts Commission. Del

Classifieds

Norte Board of Trustee will appoint three to seven members to serve as the Del Norte Public Arts Commission. The Del Norte Public Arts Commission was created with the purpose of creating a climate and atmosphere in which the arts and culture can thrive and develop with reasonable rules and regulations concerning the display and placement of artistic creations. The commission will be responsible of developing a public arts and cultural development plan for the Town. The term shall be a three-year term and open to SLV residents. The Del Norte Public Arts Commission once appointed will hold meetings on an as needed basis. If you are interested in serving on the Del Norte Public Arts Commission, please call Town Hall at 719-657-2708 to receive an application or email/mail letters of interest with application to Del Norte Town Hall at 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Colorado 81132, or email delnorte1860@outlook.com. Deadline for letters of interest and application is July 15, 2026. (7/8/26)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Town of Hooper, Colorado - Hearing Officer Services. Issue Date: June 20 2026. Proposal due (must be received by): July 7, 2026, 5:00 PM. Submit proposals to: Town of Hooper, Attn: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 1, Hooper, CO 81136 or tcclerk.hooper@gmail.com. The Town solicits proposals from qualified individuals to provide hearing officer services on an as-needed basis. A hearing officer will review appeals of administrative citations related to livestock, animal control, zoning, public nuisances, and other matters, and complete other tasks. For a copy of the job description, necessary and preferred qualifications, requirements for proposal and more information, contact the Town Clerk. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to select the proposal that best meets the Town's needs consistent with this RFP. The Town is an equal opportunity employer and will consider all qualified applicants without regard to protected characteristics.

BEAVER CREEK CHRISTIAN Camp. Helping 1st Grade through high schoolers discover how Jesus' life and his teachings are examples of how to live in today's world. www.beavercreekcamp.org 719-588-7627 (6/25/26)

IT'S THAT TIME again! CCCSP (Christian Community Service Projects) is taking applications for home repair/yard work projects. If you or anyone you know is in need of some help at their home, please call for an application! Call Katie at 719-589-2330.

173 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
LICENSED PLUMBER
DOES all types of plumb-

ing & plumbing repairs. Quick Service! Call anytime, also on weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (7/15/26)

RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-PLUS years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

NEED BEAUTIFUL WINDOW blinds at the best prices? Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)

221 HELP WANTED POSITION AVAILABLE FOR mature, experienced barber and hairdresser, full or part-time hours with daily rent. Great location, downtown, Alamosa, 719-580-7122 (7/22/26)

SAN LUIS VALLEY Rural Electric Cooperative/Ciello in Monte Vista currently has an open position for a Distribution Engineer. Work hours are Monday – Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 40 hours/week plus additional time as duties require. Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering plus 3-years equivalent work experience in this field. Duties: support electric system operations, work with engineering designs ensuring all industry and regulatory standards are met, support GIS mapping of electric and broadband systems, lead special projects, and work on electric system data analysis and modeling. Strong attention to detail & organizational skills necessary. Additional testing will be required. View the job description and complete the job application online at <https://www.slvrec.com/career-opportunities> Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

COLORADO ROCK & Dirt Excavation, located in Pagosa Springs is seeking a qualified Diesel Mechanic to diagnose, repair and maintain diesel engines and related equipment. Applicant to provide their own tools. We offer competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package, including 401K and paid time off (PTO) . Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact 970-264-3478 for additional information. (7/8/26)

COLORADO ROCK & Dirt Excavation in Pagosa Springs, is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced CDL Drivers-local driving only. This is a full-time position, offering competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact the 970-264-3478. (7/8/26)

EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL NEEDED for maintenance services with responsibility for maintenance of Saguache County facilities. This is a Full-time position working 32 to 40 hours a week, with variable hours which include evening and/or early

morning work times. Starting salary will be \$18.35/hr. Depending on experience. The County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. To view the job description and an application they are available at Saguache County Administration Office 505 3rd Street, Saguache or printable at <https://saguachecounty.colorado.gov/employment-opportunities> Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Position open until filled. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Valid Driver's License, Drug testing which includes marijuana, and a background check will be required also a physical exam may be required for final applicants. (7/29/26)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Transportation Director. This is a full-time 12-month position with benefits. A complete list of duties and qualifications for this position may be viewed on the district website. The district operates on a 4-day week (Monday – Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Transportation Director Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website – Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at the time of hiring. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities> by July 9, 2026, or until the position is filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (7/8/26)

SLV RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc./Ciello, located at 3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista, Colorado currently has an open position for a Director of Engineering. Work hours are Monday – Thursday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., 40 hours/week plus additional time as duties require. The responsibilities include managing substations and distribution operations, leading SCADA and system control technologies, overseeing engineering design and construction planning, system mapping and modeling oversight, reliability performance and supporting multi-department collaboration. Education requirements include a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from an accredited institution and 5 years' relevant work experience in electric power systems. Additional testing will be required as well as pre-employment drug screening and background check. Visit our website at <https://slvrec.com/career-opportunities> to view the job description in full and to complete the job application. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and this position will remain open until filled. EOE. (7/1/26)

THE TOWN OF Del Norte is accepting applications or resumes for finance officer/town treasurer. The finance officer is also responsible for maintaining the accounting records as well as the Town's accounting system. It is the responsibility of the finance officer to implement best practices and ensure the Town is following local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Appointed position by Town Board of Trustees. Position is responsible for overseeing all aspects budgeting, financial planning, accounting, reporting, and with the primary goal of ensuring the Town's long-term financial health, with analysts to produce accurate financial information for decision-making. Applicant must have knowledge of municipal accounting and grant financing administration, on the job training will be available. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or public administration from an accredited col-

lege or university, five (5) years of direct, progressive, responsible financial management, three (3) of which must be in municipal accounting and include three (3) years of supervisory experience. Will take into consideration bookkeeping experience. Salary range \$27.25 - \$30.25 pr/ hr, DOQ. Please send application and resumes to Del Norte Town Hall P.O. Box 249, Del Norte, Colorado 81132, or email to delnorte1860@outlook.com. EOE (7/15/26)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for an INSTRUCTIONAL COACH for the 26-27 school year. Qualified candidates must possess a Colorado Teaching License and a minimum of three years of successful classroom teaching experience. Additional qualifications: Strong knowledge of evidence-based instructional practices, curriculum, assessment, and data-driven instruction, and must have the ability to build positive relationships with staff, students, and families. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>.

POSITION AVAILABLE FOR mature, experienced barber or hairdresser, flexible hours, booth rent, great location downtown Alamosa. 719-580-7122 Ana.

HELP WANTED HOUSEKEEPER/SECRETARY full- or part-time in South Fork. Call 719-850-3472 or email gruntplace@icloud.com (7/8/26)

RAINBOW'S END THRIFT Store in Monte Vista is hiring a full-time Thrift Store Manager. Salary: \$45,000–\$48,000 DOE. Responsibilities include staff supervision, store operations, merchandising, donations, customer service, and reporting. Benefits include health insurance, PTO, retirement plan, and employee discount. Apply at DES@lapuente.net or call 719-589-5909.

THE TOWN OF South Fork is accepting resumes and applications to fill a part-time position as an Administrative Office Assistant. Expected hourly wages is \$16.00. Necessary skills include but are not limited to the ability to interact with citizens in a professional manner, General office practices, general proficiency with computers including Microsoft Office, Google

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285										
Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		Shown (in./day)				From 6/28 (inches)				
		6/28	6/27	6/26	6/25	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
Moravian 69	05/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
Early Wheat	04/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
Early Wheat	05/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
White Wheat	04/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
White Wheat	05/05	0.29	0.27	0.22	0.18	0.56	0.77	0.95	1.11	1.66
WinterWheat	10/01	0.26	0.24	0.20	0.17	0.51	0.71	0.88	1.03	1.59
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.29	0.26	0.20	0.16	0.55	0.75	0.90	1.03	1.46
Centennial	05/05	0.13	0.11	0.08	0.06	0.23	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.55
Nugget	05/05	0.15	0.13	0.10	0.08	0.28	0.38	0.46	0.52	0.72
Alfalfa	Est.	0.33	0.30	0.25	0.20	0.64	0.88	1.09	1.26	1.90
Lawngrass	Est.	0.28	0.25	0.21	0.17	0.53	0.74	0.91	1.05	1.58

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this up/June 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>
This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: andrew.houser@colostate.edu



Newspapers are an important teaching tool, sharpening reading and critical thinking skills while encouraging kids to become more engaged citizens by learning about the world around them. Here's how you can help our community's students benefit from the newspaper as a living textbook:

Encourage kids to read the newspaper daily.
Make a donation to support your local newspaper.
Donate a classroom subscription.

NEWSPAPERS
Build Literacy
Expand Minds
Educate Students
Inspire Achievement

Valley Courier
719-589-2553
www.alamosanews.com

Classifieds

Drive, Google Calendar, and Facebook. The Town of South Fork is an equal opportunity employer. Interested parties can pick up an application and job description at the South Fork Town Hall, 0100 Silver Thread Lane, South Fork, Colorado (719)873-0152 or go online at www.town-of-southfork.colorado.gov. The position will remain open until filled. (6/24/26)

GUADALUPE PARISH CREDIT Union has an opening for a full time Member Service Representative (Teller) in their La Jara Branch Office. Banking experience (or working with money), excellent communication and computer skills required. Bilingual preferred. Please submit a resume and three professional references to Guadalupe Parish Credit Union, Attention: Robert A. Chavez, President/CEO, P.O. Box 97, Antonito, CO 81120 or drop off at a branch office in Antonito, La Jara or San Luis. Application deadline is Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5pm. For more information please contact Robert A. Chavez, President/CEO at 719-376-5413. (7/1/26)

RIO GRANDE COUNTY Public Health is hiring a PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE. 40 hours/week \$31.39 to \$33.31/hr DOE. Registered Nurse license required. Pre-employment drug testing. Application and job description available online at www.riogrande-county.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Receiving applications until filled.

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE Department Position The Town of Sanford is accepting applications for a Public Works position. Responsibilities include: Water/Wastewater Operator. Class S certification or equivalent preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Pay: \$20.00 - \$25.00 per hour (DOE) Benefits: IRA, sick time, vacation time, and training support. Duties include: operation and maintenance of water systems, water testing, equipment repair, park maintenance, road work, and emergency response. Requirements: High school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, ability to perform outdoor physical work. Must have Class S

Water Operator Certification or be able to obtain required certifications if not currently licensed. Pick up an application at Sanford Town Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8-4. Or reach out via email sanfordclerk@outlook.com.

THE TOWN OF Sanford is accepting applications for Police Chief. The successful candidate shall plan and administer the law enforcement program and activities of the town. Minimum qualifications include Colorado POST Certification, and extensive and responsible experience in law enforcement work including supervisory experience. Thorough knowledge of the principles, problems and techniques of municipal police administration; thorough knowledge of the technical and operating practices and methods of law enforcement and crime prevention. Must have ability to handle firearms and maintain certification and firearms proficiency in accordance with Colorado POST regulations. Applicants must complete a background check, drug screening, physical, and a psychological evaluation. Applications will be ac-

cepted until the position is filled. (TFN)

LOOKING FOR A job that is anything but boring, Wolf Creek Broadcasting in Alamosa is on the hunt for a fun, motivated salesperson to join our team. If you love connecting with people, supporting local businesses, and making money while doing it, this could be your perfect fit. Call 970-264-5983 or email wolfradio12345@gmail.com. (6/24/26)

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE Arts Teacher Position for 2026-2027. Please see the website for further details. You can also contact Dave Crews at 719-420-1422. (6/24/26)

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY School is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a Special Education ParaEducator. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, K-12 Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick

up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (6/24/26)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS/LONG TERM Subs needed at the Upper Rio Grande School District in Del Norte! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000@urtigers.co for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education).

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED for the Upper Rio Grande School District, CDL and Non-CDL drivers. Will pay for CDL license and training with contract. Must be able to pass a background and pre-employment drug test. If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (6/24/26)

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH Wrestling Coach needed at Del Norte Jr. High

School. Experience as a wrestling coach or assistant coach at the middle school and or high school level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, strategies, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Austin McDonald, Athletic Director, at: amcdonald@urtigers.co 719-657-4020.

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at Upper Rio Grande School District. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Mayah Dominguez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at mayah.dominguez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (6/24/26)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a Middle School ELA Teacher for the 26-27 school year. Applicants

Local Professionals & Services

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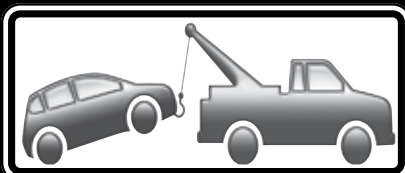
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must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (6/24/26)

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324 FEED & SEED

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341 GARAGE SALE

ESTATE SALE JULY 9, 10, 11 8am - 6pm 3270 Sherman Ave. Monte Vista. Horse tack, furniture, quilts. (7/8/26)

345 FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache.

360

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE 2 lawn mowers, 1 riding lawn mower, 1 up-right freezer, 1 toolbox with

tools, 1 snow blower. This is a moving sale; I'll make a good deal. Call 719-588-7999 (6/24/26)

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5-YEAR-OLD WELSH CORGI female, tri-colored. Very friendly, would make a good companion. \$200. 719-937-1599 (7/22/26)

409 FARM & RANCH LAND

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415 HOMES FOR SALE

CABIN FOR SALE by owner, Creede, Colorado, Moonshine Mesa, 117, Antelope Rd. Call 796-994-3667 for information and appointment for showing. (7/22/26)

524 FISHING & HUNTING

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Antonito, Colo.
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Sangre de Cristo Apartments
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West View Villas
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Comics & Puzzles

NEA CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 A —, skip and a jump

4 Charity

8 Speedy steed

12 “To — is human ...”

13 Watery trench

14 Judge’s garment

15 “Norma —”

16 Skirt for a ballet dancer

17 Strong wind

18 Concludes

20 Tummy

22 “The — With the Dragon Tattoo”

24 Trash can

25 Stout horse

26 Small dog

27 Honest —

30 Toward the stern

32 Mark from injury

34 Holiday drink

35 Shelter

36 Clue

38 Pester

39 Showed the way

40 Prohibit

41 “Horton Hears a —!”

43 “— Town”

44 Feedbag filler

46 Concert performance

50 Shopping center

52 Flattened circle

53 Recipe amount

56 Foot digit

57 Nip

58 Beige

59 Clean-air org.

60 Winter fun item

61 Playlet

62 Lair

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

5 Body-builder —

6 — Hari

7 Mulish

8 Noble gas

9 Go from place to place

10 Competent

11 “— there, done that”

19 B’way sold-out sign

21 Shadowy

23 Scale abbr.

26 Ache

27 Containing commen-tary

28 Snake

29 — and dart

30 Totality

31 Charge

33 Party game

37 “One if by land, — ...”

40 Slowly — surely

42 Showy actor

43 Anointed

45 Incline

46 Steals from

47 Very bad

48 Actress —

49 Be without

51 Spare

54 — Lanka

55 Simple dwelling

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		
60					61					62		

6-19

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

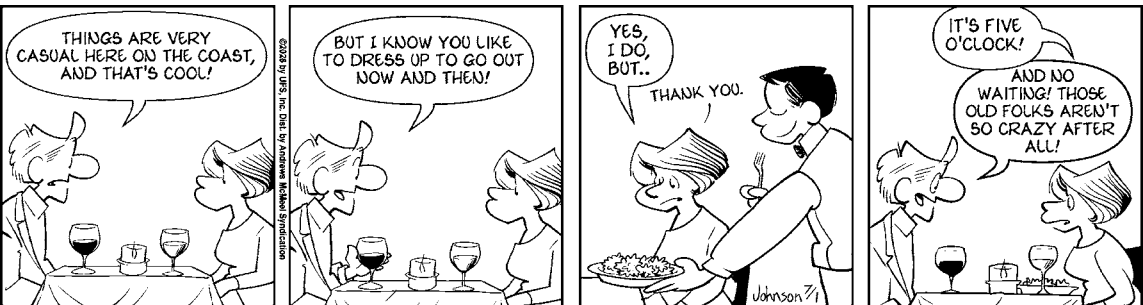
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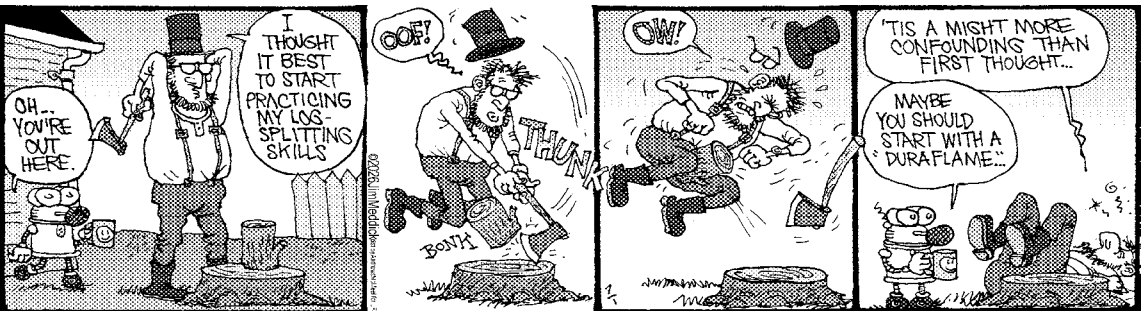
HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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

ARLO & JANIS



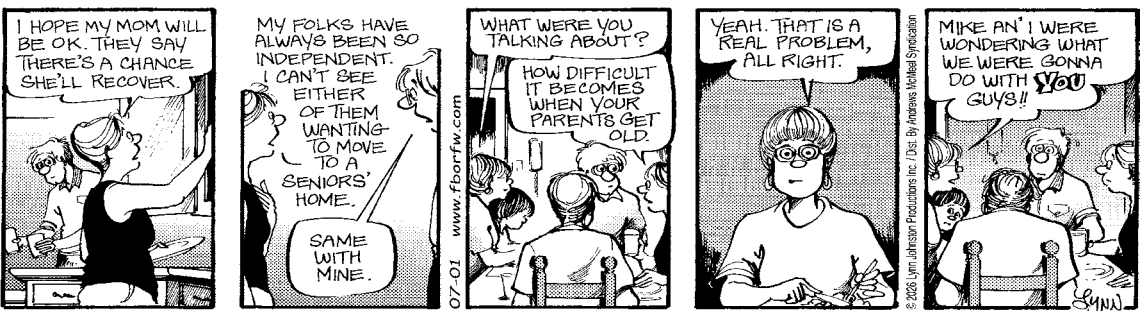
MONTE



THE BORN LOSER



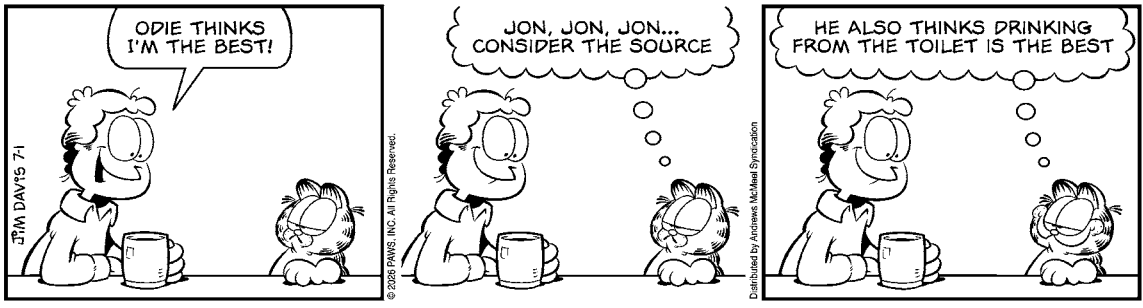
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



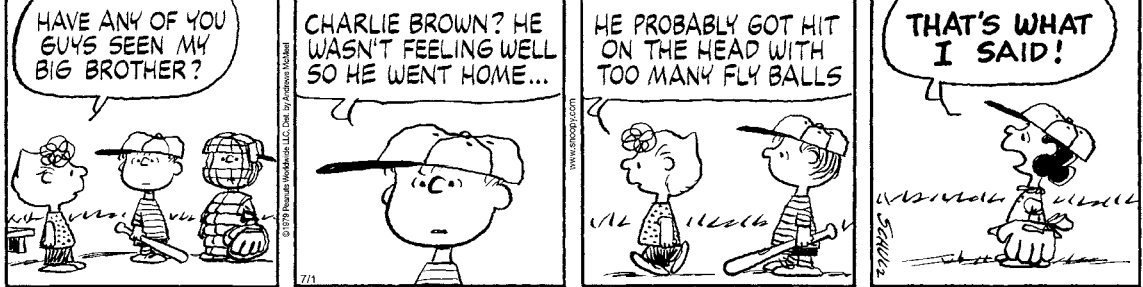
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