



Cell Phone Distraction



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—Section Editor—

Walking through the halls at Alamosa High School eighty percent of students have their phones out. Students have their phones on them all day, every day.

Teens are in a way addicted to their phones. Think about it, we have so many forms of social media, in a way we have to keep up with our social life.

Social media's limits are endless. On social media we are able to do so much like talk to our friends, people we have never met before, post videos on TikTok, see how many likes we got on Instagram, and sometimes, portray a whole different version of ourselves.

Throughout the summer teenagers are consumed by their phones. Constantly making plans, taking pictures, and making TikTok.

As we transition back to school full time, phones have been very distracting and a huge problem at AHS.

I know myself, when I hear my phone buzz, my instinct is to pick it up and see what noti-

fication I just received. In a way social media has become a bad addiction in my life and many others.

At the begging of the year, teachers enforced their own personal rules on cell phones, as they do every year. But this year it was not taken seriously.

I believe that with COVID it has become easier to have real raw conversations through snapchat rather than talk to someone face to face.

Through COVID we all lost so many communication skills it has become easier to communicate through social media.

When a teacher is in the middle of a lesson and students are on their phones and after he/she finishes the instructions or lesson and that student asks what they need to be doing, that would definitely get annoying.

At Alamosa High School they have enforced a new system called a "Phone Caddy".

These phone caddies are in every classroom hanging on the wall and when you walk into class you put your phone into the caddy.

This is trying to help students not be distracted and actu-

ally learn something within their classes. Most students do not like this idea.

There are multiple reasons that these phone caddy's came to be. A few being the fighting problem, the grade problem, and all of the pointless drama.

Their has been multiple fights solely to be posted around the valley and to get their video seen.

Grades have dropped like crazy because students are more focused on how many views and likes they are getting rather than getting their school work done.

Freshman Presley Gonzales chimed in saying "I think phones are a problem only because we rely on them but I also think people are the problem, I think the phone rules at our school are to try to avoid us cheating but I also think its because they don't know how to control people not being on their phones, and its to much of a temptation to cheat. But it really is just certain people."

Presley's statement is true. It is not everyone in the school that is glued to their phones, it is certain people. Some students at Alamosa High School believe that "It's just a matter of per-

spective.". And to "Take a look at the kids that are struggling academically and how much they use their phones".

Eliana Heredia a Senior believes that "It gets blown into a bigger deal then it should be."

On the opposing some students don't even think we have a phone problem.

Junior Kailyn Vigil voiced her opinion saying "No I dont see phones as a problem at AHS because phones can be used as a learning tool, and its a main way of communication between us and our parents/guardians while we are at school."

Although Kailyn is correct, we have everything we need right at our finger tips at all times. But we can not forget about the negative aspects it has taken on students.

More students then ever have been to distracted and caught up in their phones they are missing real life encounters, opportunities, and experiences.

As a student I know how tempting it is to sit back and watch TikTok when I should be doing other things.. Remember there are real raw experiences waiting to happen. So look up and get off of your phone!!

Things That Are a Distraction for Students At School!

-Many Instagram Pages

-Tik-Tok

-Snapchat

-Fight Pages

-Twitter

-Imessage games

-Facebook

-Retro Bowl

-Other Games

Society in the San Luis Valley



Jaymi Gile
—Staff Writer—

When one lives in the San Luis Valley, and they simply take a trip to the grocery store, it is likely they will recognize multiple people they happen to.

It is also likely that this said person will know an absurd amount of information about the people they recognize, like who their parents are, where they go to school, who they have dated, who their friends are, and in many cases, rumors about them.

Living in the San Luis Valley, oftentimes, acts as a curse, but also as a blessing. It is easy to have negative feelings about the valley because of the close-knit culture. Despite all the negative aspects of the valley, there are many positive aspects of living in the valley.

One positive trait of living in the San Luis Valley is that none of the schools have an excess amount of students. It is a good thing the population of students is small because a small student to teacher ratio allows students to connect and learn better.

This is due to the fact that their voice is less suppressed and it allows teachers to focus more

on individual students. In larger cities, kids have a harder time learning and connecting with their teachers because it is difficult for teachers to connect with an excess amount of students. Kids are also more prioritized and known better by teachers in smaller school districts.

The valley is very close knit, which ultimately allows the community to build a strong bond. This bond makes citizens of the San Luis Valley feel like they are a part of something and prevents people from feeling astray and lonely.

When one lives in a big city, it can be hard to connect with people and feel involved in the community. A closer knit community allows one to connect with others and develop everlasting relationships than those living in big cities.

Due to the close knit culture in the valley, people have a lot more say in their school, and their community, than they would in a larger city.

As a result of being a part of a small school, it is easy to get one's voice heard. Schools in the San Luis Valley prioritize the opinions of the public. Different ways students, parents, and teachers can voice their opinion include talking to the school

board, talking to the administration of the Alamosa School District, the city council, and just communication with staff as a whole. In larger cities, it can be difficult to voice one's opinion because it is not as easy to get connections in a community with such a high population.

Yes, the connections can also be positive, however, a negative aspect of the valley is the connections in themselves. Lots of connections are derived from who one is and what their last name is. If one does not come from a well-known family it

can be harder for them to obtain those special connections.

This gives certain citizens of the San Luis Valley an unfair advantage which suppresses the voices of many people who are not as well known as others.

Many people do not condone the way in which the society of the valley allows certain people to gain certain advantages over others solely based on who their family is.

Being well known in the valley can provide one with many advantages, but if one is not well known it can be hard-

er to gain those said advantages. Many citizens of the San Luis Valley have either received advantages or disadvantages due to the prevalent social hierarchy.

Essentially, the close-minded society makes it hard for new progressive opinions to arise, thus, making the valley rather traditional.

Yes, it is easy to be pessimistic and only recognize the cons of society in the valley, but, why don't we recognize the positive aspects and the authenticity of the valley? Always acknowledge the good.



San Luis Valley- Sandhill Cranes and Mt. Blanca are depicted in the background. You can find Cranes in the air all day in the right season.