



How Alamosa Celebrates The New Year



Paloma Zahringer
—Staff Writer—

Traditionally the new year marks the beginning of a period of improvement. Many people set resolutions for themselves and make it a goal to improve or change old habits. The City of Alamosa also plans on making positive changes this coming year.

According to City Manager, Heather Sanchez Alamosa has around 12 million dollars budgeted to put towards capital projects and facility improvements. The city has plans to reconstruct from Main Street all the way to Sixth Street, which will unfortunately cause some minor disruptions in businesses around that area but will lead to long term improvements.

The city also plans to reconstruct a bigger and better Soup Kitchen and Emergency Shelter which will become the relocation of the current Soup Kitchen run by La Puente. Another huge project for Alamosa this year

will be new engineering for Alamosa's water treatment. Many of the local lift stations have reached their capacity and will be replaced, by replacing them we will be able to prevent them from failing which would cause wastewater to become backed up into homes and businesses. In addition to this, the lack of childcare has become a significant issue in our community. With that being said, the Boys and Girls Club is working to open a new early childhood care center.

This will be a huge weight lifted off the shoulders of many. Alamosa City Council has been very concerned about the housing crisis and has been working endlessly to break ground on new homes. The main goal for the new housing developments is for the homes to be affordable to families making minimum wage up to \$75,000 a year, this will greatly impact a large number of families by providing affordable housing opportunities. Our community is blessed to have such patient and caring city council mem-

bers. Ty Coleman, Mayor of Alamosa expressed his excitement for the upcoming Rio Frio festival stating that "It is one of Alamosa's biggest events".

This festival took place through the weekend of January 27th this year, and consists of talented ice carvers from all over the United States coming to Down-

town Mainstreet to create beautiful ice sculptures. On Friday, people gathered at Blanca Vista Park located near Cattails Golf Course to cross country ski and take part in a marathon. Saturday on Mainstreet, there will be a bonfire in which they lit up the ice sculptures with blocks of wood. Finally on Sunday, at Blanca Vista Park

a large chunk of ice was cut from the lake and people will have the opportunity to jump in the freezing water.

Mayor Ty Coleman typically starts the event off by getting in the frigid water first, this year he was dressed as a penguin. People from all over came to Alamosa to take part in this three day long event.



Photo by: Ty Coleman

TY COL(D)MAN- Alamosa Mayor poses before he gets ready to jump in the water.

Small Town Connection to The Supreme Court



Sienna Gallegos
—Section Editor—

When it comes to producing successful graduates, Alamosa High School is no stranger.

Kenzo Kawanbe is a proud fourth-generation Coloradan who grew up in the San Luis Valley and graduated from Alamosa High School.

He is also a founding member of a small firm in Denver, Colorado which is currently involved with the Supreme Court Case involving former president, Donald Trump and his eligibility on the 2024 ballot.

On the topic of the firm, Kawanbe states, "Last September, I helped form the law firm of Olson Grimsley Kawanabe Hinchcliff & Murray LLC, which we created to hold the powerful to account.

Our mission is to advance the public interest through groundbreaking litigation that tackles the biggest issues of the day while maintaining an unwavering commitment to integrity, quality, professionalism. My colleagues represent plaintiffs, including

prominent Republicans such as Senator Norma Anderson, who seek to enforce the U.S. Constitution in keeping Donald Trump off the ballot."

To contextualize, for the current election year, the Colorado Supreme Court made a groundbreaking decision.

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled the former president's candidacy in the state's primary election to be prohibited under constitutional grounds.

Lawyer Kawanbe explains, "Section 3 of the 14th Amendment prohibits anyone who has taken an oath of office from holding public office if they have engaged in insurrection against the United States government."

Specifically, the section within the U.S. Constitution states, "No person shall ... hold any office, civil or military, under the United States ... who, having previously taken an oath ... as an officer of the United States ... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

Three years ago, on January 6th, the Capital of the

United States was attacked by a pro-Trump mob that attempted to stop Congress from counting the Electoral College votes and solidifying Joe Biden as the next president. This is considered an insurrection as the mob was violent and defiant against the government's authority.

"Our clients believe that Donald Trump engaged in the January 6 insurrection, and therefore cannot serve as President. In other words, our clients are simply trying to enforce the Constitution," says Kenzo Kawanbe.

After the ruling was made by Colorado Supreme Court justices, Donald Trump, with the support of the Colorado Republican Party, wrote a petition to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Supreme Court is urged to move and act quickly on the case by all parties involved.

Until the Supreme Court of the United States rules otherwise, Trump will continue to be on the Colorado primary ballot.

As Colorado is the origin of this constitutional question, other states followed suit. Other voting petitioners in Maine

and Oregon sought to have Trump taken off of their ballot as well.

However, judges in Maine have decided to wait on a decision until after the Supreme Court makes its ruling and the Oregon Supreme Court has allowed Trump to stay on the primary ballot.

The Supreme Court's ruling will be influential for this election year and many to come.

The first oral argument is scheduled for February 8th, 2024. Hailing from Kawanbe's firm, Jason Murray will present arguments to the United States Supreme Court on the date of the first oral argument, representing the party that seeks to take Donald Trump off the Ballot.

Many judges who sit on the Supreme Court are skeptical of the Colorado Supreme Court's decision. After February 8th, it seems that the court is likely to rule in Donald Trump's favor.

Some concerns regarding the decision revolve around the unruly chaos and lack of democracy that may erupt as a result. Justice Brett Kavanaugh asked lawyer Jason Murray whether the position that Donald Trump can-

not be president again would be harmful for democracy since it would effectively disenfranchise people seeking to vote for him.

Mr. Murray replied that the purpose of the constitutional safeguard is to protect democracy not just for the next cycle but for generations to come.

"The reason we're here is that President Trump tried to disenfranchise 80 million Americans who voted against him, and the Constitution doesn't require that he be given another chance," he said.

Another question brought into place was the implicit nature of the amendment. Within the 14th amendment, it states that officers are unable to hold office if they have engaged in an insurrection. Seeing as the word "president" is not explicitly mentioned, Justices may feel as the amendment does not relate.

After the events on February 8th, the court was on clear on time in which they would issue a decision. However, it is an extremely important issue that cradles the very future of the voting process in the United States.