



Higher education a beneficial investment

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Adopt don't shop

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VOLUME 94, NO. 134

Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

AUGUST 4, 2020

\$1

Imagine Your Ad Here!

SLV Today

American Legion Bingo

ALAMOSA — Friday August 7th at 7 p.m. Doors open at 4 p.m. masks are required at all times. Welcome back. Enjoy yourselves and be careful and safe.

See you Friday at the Bingo.

Community Convening

ALAMOSA — SLV Health invites interested parties to participate in a community convening on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. This meeting provides an opportunity to review the health priorities established during SLVH's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Please call 719-589-1209 or email donna.wehe@slvrmc.org before August 7th for a link to the virtual meeting.



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SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny 86/ 48

Wed: Mostly Sunny 86/ 48

Thur: Afternoon showers 83 / 47

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Great Sand Dunes manages Lightning-caused Stupa Fire

MOSCA— A lightning-caused fire ignited within the northern boundary of Great Sand Dunes National Park on the afternoon of Friday, July 31. The Stupa Fire is estimated at thirty acres and burning at an approximate elevation of 8,000' in grassland vegetation.

The Baca Grande Subdivision Volunteer Fire Department were the first responders who arrived on location. The Volunteer Fire Department was able to control the growing fire to prevent threats to houses and spiritual buildings adjacent to the park. The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service assumed control of the fire on behalf of the National Park Service.

Air resources were requested by US Forest Service to assist with fighting the fire. The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control deployed a helicopter alongside the other aircraft to provide fire retardant drops. Wildland firefighters were able to contain the fire on the evening of July 31st. At this time, the fire is approximately 80% contained. Fire personnel will return to the site on Saturday, August 1 to address any hot spots.

Currently, there are no houses, natural or cultural resources at risk and there are only minimal impacts to visitors. Fire personnel will continue to track fire behavior throughout the weekend.

■ See STUPA page 3



Courtesy photo

The Stupa spark up began on Friday July 31st and is currently estimated to have consumed 30 acres.

San Luis Valley down to 8 known cases

SAN LUIS VALLEY —

As of Monday the Valley had 8 known active cases.

- Alamosa: 5
- Conejos: 0
- Costilla: 0
- Mineral: 0
- Rio Grande: 3
- Saguache: 0

See more data, here: slvemergency.org/slv-covid-19

To pursue testing for COVID-19, or for medical questions, call:

- Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990
- SLVHealth Respiratory Clinic 719-589-2511 ext. 9
- Valley-Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9 (M-F), 719-589-2562 (Sa/Su)

For general (non-medical) SLV COVID-19 related questions: slvepr@alamosacounty.org, 719-480-8719

Three Vehicle Hit and Run Crash

COSTILLA COUNTY— The Colorado State Patrol is investigating a three vehicle hit and run crash on Highway 160 at County Road 25.

Saturday morning, a hit and run vehicle described by a witness as a newer model silver Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck was traveling westbound on Colorado 160. A white 2015 Ford Explorer driven by Shirah Combs 32 of Palmer Lake, Colorado along with her passenger Matthew Davern 35 also of Palmer Lake, were stopped in traffic westbound on Colorado 160 attempting to make a left turn onto County Road 25. A third vehicle, a blue Hyundai Vera Cruz, driven by Frances Cisneros 71 from Antonito, along with her passenger, Sherry Labato 62 also from Antonito were traveling eastbound on Colorado 160.

The Chevrolet pickup truck collided with the rear of the Ford Explorer causing the Ford Explorer to travel broadside into the eastbound lane where it collided with the Hyundai Vera Cruz. Following impact, the Explorer traveled off the southeast side

of the intersection coming to rest on its wheels facing east. The Hyundai traveled from Colorado 160 onto the northbound lane of County Road 25 coming to rest facing south. The Chevrolet pickup truck after colliding with the Ford Explorer continued westbound on Colorado 160 leaving the scene of the crash.

All occupants from the Ford Explorer and Hyundai Vera Cruz were transported by ambulance to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center for their injuries. The Combs, Davern, and Labato party received moderate to minor injuries, where the Cisneros party received serious injury as a result of the crash. The use of seatbelts and airbag deployment likely saved the lives of the individuals involved in this crash. The crash is still under investigation at this time, and the Colorado State Patrol is seeking any information that might lead to the hit and run driver and vehicle. Please call Sergeant Kelly Rippe from the Colorado State Patrol to offer any information at 719-589-5809.

CDOT grant will help city reduce Main to two lanes



Courier photo

Alamosa to reduce Main Street to two lanes to alleviate restaurant and shop congestion parking congestion created by COVID safety precautions.

STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA— The City of Alamosa has received a \$50,000 grant through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) "Revitalizing Main Streets" program.

According to CDOT, the city will use the funds to reduce its one-way Main Street (U.S. 160) from three lanes to two, repurposing the closed lane for public use including dining and retail activities in downtown. It will provide permanent space that is more pedestrian friendly and accommodating for COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Alamosa was among six communities to receive a CDOT grant ranging between \$12,000 and \$50,000. The \$4.1 million initiative is providing financial assistance to communities seeking to make creative modifica-

tions to state roadways or other public spaces as a way of promoting social distancing and economic activity.

At a recent meeting, City Manager Heather Brooks said the city would not be replacing curbs, gutters and sidewalks to make the change as the cost would be prohibitive, rather some type of barricades will be placed to open up space on both sides of Main and parking will remain parallel.

Each entity is required to provide an additional 10 percent match to qualify for a grant.

"In the applications received thus far, we have seen creative examples ranging from expanding downtown business capacity to encouraging multi-modal access to a park in a small, rural community," said

CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "The program has additional capacity, so we encourage localities to take a look at other cities' solutions and explore how these funds could benefit their own community."

For awarded projects on the state's right-of-way, temporary special use permits will be required, including safety plans that address traffic flow for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, freight/delivery and detour plans.

This initiative is supporting the Can Do Community Challenge, as part of the Can Do Colorado campaign. Another CDOT "Can Do" initiative is the Community Telework program, which builds on the existing efforts to offer healthy and safe transportation options for employees who can work from home.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Rosemary Lounsbury

MONTE VISTA — Rosemary Lounsbury, 82, passed away peacefully July 29th at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte surrounded by family.

Rosemary was born in Monte Vista, Colorado on November 24, 1937, the daughter to Earnest and Doris Livingston Stiver. She married her husband of 60 years, Donald Lee Lounsbury at the Methodist Church in Monte Vista on July 5, 1959. They made their home in Monte Vista where she worked for the Monte Vista Hospital and later for the San Luis Valley Health as an X-Ray Technician. She completed more than 40 years in her trade. She loved her family and



friends!! Her greatest joys came from being a swimming and motorcycle Mom, jeeping, time spent at the cabin in Creede and time spent with friends in Arizona. Rosemary is survived by their children Mark (Gigi Dennis) Lounsbury and Leanne (Louie Gon-

zales) Lounsbury; her sister Cheryl (John) Goad-Buchheim; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosemary is preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her siblings Mitch Stiver and Jeanene Stiver Swaggerty.

Cremation was chosen and private services will be held at a later date. Contributions in her memory are suggested to the Monte Vista Ambulance and may be made through the funeral home office at 404 Morris Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances and remarks for Rosemary's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com

VALLEY COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Valley Courier charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices are run at no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on our web site, www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Andrew Lobato

ANTONITO — Pueblo former Antonito resident Andrew Lobato, 72, passed away peacefully August 1, 2020. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Antonito.

ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

ALAMOSA—The San Luis Valley Military Family Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Alamosa. For more info call Vicki Jones at 852-3123.

ALAMOSA — Sierra Blanca Chapter #43, Order of The Eastern Star, meets on the first and third Mondays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Alamosa Masonic Hall, 512 San Juan Ave. Call Sharon at 589-4320.

ALAMOSA—La Leche League of the San Luis Valley holds its monthly meetings on the fourth Saturday at 11 a.m. at Hospice del Valle, 524 Main St. in Alamosa. Pregnant and nursing women are welcome to attend with their children and babies. Please call 587-3657.

ALAMOSA—The Alamosa Kiwanis Club meets on the second, third and fourth Thursdays at noon at IHOP. Contact: Amanda Wilkinson, 719-589-2564 or email amanda@alamosastatebank.com

ALAMOSA—The Optimist Club of Alamosa meets at Nino's Restaurant in Alamosa the first and third Tuesdays at noon. Contact the club at alamosaoptimistclub@gmail.com or President Dawn Melgares at 719-580-0178. Visitors and

new members are welcome.

ALAMOSA—The Alamosa Rotary Club meets every Monday at noon at Juanitos in Alamosa. Contact Dean Swift, 589-3499 or dean@deanswiftseed.com

SOUTH FORK — Kiwanis meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Feelin' Good Coffeehouse in South Fork. Contact: Karen Miller, 719-873-5466 or email mkmiller-mink@aol.com

ALAMOSA — The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group meets on the second Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon. at the Alamosa Public Library, 300 Hunt Ave. Call the Southern Colorado office at 719-544-5720, ext. 304.

ALAMOSA — TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) CO 568, Alamosa, a non-profit weight loss organization, meets every Tuesday evening at the College Heights Baptist Church at 2035 Church Avenue in Alamosa. Weight is at 5:30 p.m. with an informative meeting at 6:15. Anyone interested in having weight loss support is welcome to attend a free meeting or call Doris at 589-6396 for more information.

ALAMOSA — Search and Rescue meetings are the fourth Tuesday at the

Alamosa County Sheriff Office, 1315 17th St., at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is welcome. Call Suzi at 719-588-9236.

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Photography Club meets the first Wednesday at the Alamosa Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Contact Stephen Jensen at 379-0001 or slvphotosteph@gmail.com

ALAMOSA — Families Healing Families is a community-based organization that provides support and resources for families affected by the impact of substance abuse. They meet on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center at 92 Rio Grande Ave. (on the north end of Cole Park) in Alamosa.

ALAMOSA—Peace Meditation at the Campus Ministry Office, Adam State University, Alamosa, is held on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. Everyone is invited. Contact Candace Knowlan 805-886-6959.

ALAMOSA — American Legion Auxiliary Unit #113, Alamosa, holds its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the American Legion Building at 514 Fourth Street, Alamosa. Call Evelyn Espinola at 719-313-1466 or Alice Robinson at 589-0543.

BIRTHS

Jade Elizabeth Ordoñez

DEL NORTE — Jade Elizabeth Ordoñez was born July, 26 2020 to Cecilia Ordoñez and David Ordoñez of Del Norte. Jade weighed 5 pounds 8 ounces and measured 19 inches. Jade joins sibling Sophia.

Maternal grandparent is Patti Medina of Monte Vista. Paternal grandparents are Laura Nixen of Pueblo and Luis Ordoñez of Mexico.

Great-grandparents are John Wayne and Grace Garcia of Hooper.

How to avoid dehydration in the great outdoors



Hiking, fishing and swimming are among the more popular ways to experience the great outdoors. Outdoor enthusiasts may find nothing better than a day on their favorite trail or an afternoon spent fishing or swimming in a nearby lake.

Nature can inspire a sense awe and wonder, and in such situations it can be easy to overlook safety. That's a potentially dangerous mistake but one that is easily avoided. Nature enthusiasts accustomed to spending long hours in the great outdoors are vulnerable to a host of potentially dangerous conditions, including dehydration. Avoiding dehydration involves learning to recognize its signs and symptoms and how to prevent it from occurring.

What is dehydration?

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, dehydration occurs when the body loses more fluids than it is taking in. When that happens, the body does not have enough fluids to function properly.

What causes dehydration?

Numerous things can cause someone to become dehydrated, including not drinking enough fluids. Diarrhea, vomiting, sweating too much, and urinating too much are some other factors that can cause someone to become dehydrated.

Why are outdoors enthusiasts at risk of dehydration?

Outdoor enthusiasts who spend ample time

outdoors during hot weather are at risk of dehydration if they do not drink enough fluids while outside. The risk of dehydration on hot days is higher because people are more likely to sweat a lot when the temperature rises. If those fluids are not replenished, and replenished often, dehydration can occur. In addition, the USNLM notes that outdoor exercise during hot days increases the risk of dehydration. Outdoor activities that are physically challenging, such as hiking, rock climbing and kayaking, are a form of exercise that can make participants more vulnerable to dehydration.

What are the symptoms of dehydration?

The Mayo Clinic notes that thirst is not always a reliable indicator that the body needs water. Older adults are more vulnerable to dehydration than others because they naturally have a lower volume of water in their bodies. Aging men and women also don't typically feel thirsty until they're already dehydrated.

So it benefits people of all ages, and especially the elderly, to learn these symptoms of dehydration.

- Extreme thirst
- Less frequent urination
- Dark-colored urine
- Dry mouth
- Less frequent sweating
- Feeling tired
- Dizziness
- Dry skin

Parents should know that infants and children may exhibit symptoms of dehydration

that differ from those experienced by adults. Such symptoms may include:

- Dry mouth and tongue
- Crying without tears
- No wet diaper for three hours or more
- High fever
- Being unusually sleepy or drowsy
- Irritability
- Eyes that appear sunken

Can dehydration be prevented?

Ensuring sufficient fluid intake can help people avoid dehydration. Drinking enough water each day and avoiding outdoor physical activity on hot days are some other ways to reduce dehydration risk. In addition, avoid sugary and/or caffeinated beverages to reduce risk for dehydration.

A perfect day outdoors involves drinking enough fluids to stay hydrated. TF209226

School Menu

Tuesday

August 4, 2020

NO SCHOOL



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Valley News

Alamosa School Board in talks for back to school

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Monday night the Alamosa Board of Education met to discuss the plan for the return to school amid coronavirus. At Monday's meeting, the Board moved to fill vacancies with Michael Mumper appointed to Board President. The vacancy at Vice President left by Mumper was filled by April Gonzales. The Board presented three possible options for the return to school. All three plans started with staff workdays from August 3-18th and continued with staff development on the 19th through the 21st. That's where the paths diverged. Plan 1 allowed for more 'Back-to-school' interviews spanning from the

24th-27th. While plans 2 and 3 interviews were allocated only for the 24th and 25th. From there plan 2 and 3 hit the ground running. Plan 2 offers a jumpstart for K-12 on August 26-28 for students to learn procedures and acclimate themselves to the new normal of in-person learning and is the first to cross starting line with in-person instruction beginning on August 31st. Option 3 plans for the jump starts on the 26th and 27th as well as the 30th and the 31st. It also offers a staggered start from September 1st to the 3rd with the first day of in-person learning slated for September 8th. The most popular option, night-of, was option 1 – garnering a near-unan-



animous approval rating from teachers and staff in the comment section of the Zoom meeting. Option 1 offered an optional K-6-9 orientation on August 28th, then a K-12 jumpstart from August 31st to

September 3rd. Testing is scheduled on the 4th and option 1 plans for the first day of In-Person instruction to be on September 8th. As they were still options there was plenty

of discussion as well as an inclination to gather more information before deciding. Things are looking up for the San Luis Valley and Colorado. Positive cases continue to fall locally as the daily update from SLV Emergency from Monday reported that the San Luis Valley is host to only 8 known active cases. Colorado currently has the 16th best 'Cases per 100,000' ranking in the nation according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Suggesting steps taken by healthcare professionals and state officials are paying big dividends. As the journey back is a marathon, not a sprint positive signs should be met with a renewed ad-

herence to what is working. Which doesn't seem to be lost on many. In Alamosa schools, 226 students have registered for online as opposed to in-person learning representing 45 percent of the student body across all grades. Local Nurse Practitioner Tiffanie Hoover spoke during public commenting consideration for masks for grades 3-5. Which the Board discussed further later in the meeting. Monday also saw the second reading of the new year's policies prioritizing Policies Related to Reopening Schools, Policies Reflecting Title IX Changes and Policies Reflecting State Legislative Changes.

Center to register students for virtual, on-site learning this week

CENTER — Schools has announced the registration deadlines for all returning students, including those who will be attending school online. Monday, Aug. 3, all returning students for all grades K-12 will register. On Tuesday, Aug. 4, new students for all grades K-12 will register.

Registration times:
 • 8-10 a.m. — last names A-I
 • 10 a.m. - noon — last names J-R
 • 1-3 p.m. — last names S-Z
 Haskin Elementary on-site registration individuals will enter from the elementary school entrance. Skoglund Middle School on-site registration individuals will enter from the middle/high school entrance

and Center High School on-site registration individuals from the cafeteria entrance. Those who register as 100 percent online students will proceed to on-site registration at the ARC building. The following information is needed to complete the registration process: New students must present a birth certifi-

cate, immunization records, previous school records, proof of residency, guardianship documentation and/or parenting plan, IEP paperwork and any RTI paperwork. Returning Students must submit immunization updates. All students will be required to pay device fees:
 • K-5t: \$10
 • 6-8: \$35

• 9-12: \$45
 Any outstanding balances from last year need to be paid off as well. Virtual registration Students/families can register online starting on Monday, August 3rd through the Parent Portal. Those who do not have a parent portal may come to the onsite registration to set one up.

For Virtual Registration for 100 percent online K-12, contact Joy Werner at 719-251-3336 or 719-754-2859. Or email her at jwerner@center.k12.co.us.

SKI-HI 6 SHOWTIMES
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Tues - Thurs: 5:15, 8:10

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 Rvar Ratings

Tues - Thurs: 5:00, 7:55

JUMANJI
 PG-13
 Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Kevin Hart

Mannerberg Graduates as Imaging Sonographer



Courtesy photo

SLV Health Employees: Front Row, from left, Robyn Williams, Imaging Supervisor; Daniela Mannerberg, Imaging Sonographer; Konnie Martin, CEO. Back Row, from left, Mandy Crockett, Human Resources Director, and Janet McGinnis, Imaging Director.

ALAMOSA — Daniela (Duran) Mannerberg graduated in July 2020 from the Washburn University General Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. After completing the program, she then took and

subsequently passed her Sonography Principles & Instrumentation (SPI) and OBGYN registries, which now allows her to officially work as a registered ultrasound technologist. She began working in her official

full-time ultrasound career on Monday, July 20, 2020. Janet McGinnis, Director of Radiology and Imaging at SLV Health, commented, "I am very proud of her accomplishments and I am extremely grate-

ful to have her on our team in the Imaging Department." This position of an Ultrasound Sonographer is one of the "hard to fill" positions. SLV Health leadership, under the direction of Konnie Martin, CEO, and Mandy Crockett, Director of Human Resources, helped Janet and Daniela with a unique "grow-your-own" plan that ended up being a perfect win-win for both the organization and for Daniela. Daniela was born and raised in the San Luis Valley and like most young people, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do when she grew up. But she was certain about one thing. She wanted to work in healthcare. "For some reason, even as a little girl, I knew I wanted to work in the medical field," reflected Daniela. She graduated with a biology degree from Adams State University and was still uncertain about her career path. In 2018, she was hired as a Radiology Assistant in SLVH's Imaging Department. McGinnis explains, "Daniela completed her hands-on training

under our supervision while attending the classes online." "I am so thankful and excited beyond words to become a Sonographer," said Daniela. "The struggles and effort have been well worth it, and I am thankful to all those who have helped me on this road to a successful and rewarding career in healthcare. I feel lucky to be a part of this team and am super excited to start this new journey."

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Crash victim flown out

SAGUACHE — The Alamosa Regional Communications Center received a 911 call Saturday morning concerning a vehicle and injured occupant that was located by a passerby. The crash was determined to have occurred at approximately 5:00 p.m. the previous day on Saguache County Road 14NN, 1.2 miles east of Saguache County Road 17FF.

An Air Life Helicopter assisted in locating the crash scene. Upon finding the scene, the helicopter transported the driver to a hospital out of the area for treatment. Investigation revealed the driver, 35 year old Salvador Bobadilla of Gunnison, was driving eastbound on County Road 14NN when his vehicle traveled off the left side of the road. Bobadilla overcor-

rected, sending his vehicle into a spin. The vehicle skidded off the right side of the roadway, down an embankment, rolling one time before coming to rest on its wheels. Bobadilla is missing a dog that ran from the scene after the crash. We currently have no description of the dog. The investigation is ongoing.

Stupa

Continued from Page 1

Management strategies will consider access to the area, safety of firefighters, available resources, as well as current and expected fire behavior. Great Sand Dunes National

Park and Preserve wishes to thank the fire personnel who responded and assisted in fighting the fire. Great Sand Dunes will provide updates on the Stupa Fire on the

park's website and social media channels. For more information on the Stupa Fire, contact Dale Culver, Chief Ranger, at 719-378-6321 or the Visitor Center at 719-378-6395.

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Lifestyle

Going to college or technical school remains a beneficial investment

DENVER—Obtaining a certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree is a wise investment for Coloradans wanting to earn a higher income, according to a report released today by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). Data in the report show that the number of students taking out loans and student loan debt totals are declining for most Colorado students. That, coupled with increased institutional, state and federal financial aid, puts college in reach for the families who benefit most from a postsecondary education. The report outlines the crucial importance of higher education and making college affordable and is broken down into four key pillars: Intentional Pathways, Affordability for All, the Equity Imperative, and Value.

This year's report considers the landscape of the Colorado economy and workforce amidst a global pandemic, and the impact COVID-19 will have on the demand for qualified and skilled Coloradans to enter the workforce. It also emphasizes the choices individual students can make to reduce costs and maximize the long-term value of their degree. In some instances, earning a two-year degree such as an Associate of Applied Science or a one-year certificate can yield a greater return than a four-year education.

Governor Jared Polis has cited this report as useful data that propels the state to prioritize making college affordable. Gov. Polis said, "The inaugural report helped us develop 'The Roadmap to Containing College Costs and Making College Affordable' which sets a bold vision for the future of higher education in our state. We're holding ourselves accountable as we look to reduce costs and increase the value of higher education."

Many short-term certificates or two-year degrees yield higher wages, especially in the short term, and they fill important in-demand Colorado jobs. The report shows projected earnings by credential type and academic field, and also provides important information on cost and debt to allow students to maximize the value of higher education.

"Our state, department and colleges and universities are working hard to reduce costs for our students," said Dr. Angie Paccione, executive director of CDHE. "By executing the short,

medium and long-term action steps contained in the Roadmap, we're on the path to making Colorado the best state for college success in the country."

Data show that earning concurrent enrollment, and the use of Prior Learning Assessments to get credit for previous academic, military or work experience can reduce time-to-degree and allow students to enter the workforce sooner—essentially earning higher wages and seeing a return on investment faster. One notable pattern is the impact of a bachelor's degree on postgraduation year-one and year-five incomes. In this analysis, which accounts for several demographic characteristics, the Department found that in the first year after graduation, holders of an associate of science, on average, earn more than bachelor's-degree holders, who, in turn, earn more than certificate holders.

Affordability is a key component of increasing attainment. The state's recent investments in higher education have helped tuition remain steady at its two-year colleges and to grow by less than two percent at its four-year institutions last year. Notably, the number of undergraduate students who take out loans and the amount of debt they incur is declining.

However, considering the current pandemic recession and resulting reduction in state funding, higher education institutions will need to contain costs and prioritize affordability to ensure that more Coloradans attain the postsecondary degree they need to help fuel Colorado's post-recession economy.

And Colorado's institutions are responding. In fact, this report shows that after including the average financial aid package, students with a family income of less than \$75,000 attend a two-year school tuition-free or with tuition and fees just over \$100. Simultaneously, the new Bridge to Bachelor's Degree Program launched this year then allows students that attend a two-year community college in Colorado to transfer seamlessly to a participating four-year institution.

Improving access and reducing costs of education and training is especially urgent for Colorado's economy, which boasts some of the most advanced workforce needs in the country. To help defray the costs, in 2018-19 students received

\$591.6 million in grant aid, designed to lower the cost of college. \$257.5 million came from the federal government, \$130 million was provided by the state and \$166.9 million was provided by the colleges and technical schools themselves.

For the first time, the report explores the role of higher education in contributing to Colorado's economy and the state's top jobs. In 2019, private-sector colleges, universities and professional schools provided 17,654 full- and part-time jobs in Colorado. About 75 percent of all Colorado jobs and 97 percent of top ones—those that pay a living wage and have high growth rates—require a postsecondary credential. To help meet these industry demands, CDHE aims to reach 66 percent educational attainment by 2025, up from 57.6 percent currently.

Dr. Paccione continued, "The impacts of coronavirus to the Colorado economy and workforce are only now beginning to surface. College graduates serve Colorado communities through critical research, essential care, and innovations to technology. It is imperative during our recovery that residents contribute to the economy by entering the workforce skilled and with a credential."

About the report To inform lawmakers, taxpayers and students on the value of postsecondary education in Colorado, H.B. 18-1226 directed CDHE to publish an annual return on investment report. The report provides statewide and credential-level median earnings for certificate, associate and bachelor's degree graduates. In addition to wage data, the report explores how tuition prices, debt, choice and value affect a student's overall trajectory.

The report was submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, pursuant to 23-1-135 C.R.S.

About the Colorado Department of Higher Education

Working with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, we support students, advocate and develop policies to maximize higher education opportunities for all. The Department believes every Coloradan should have an education beyond high school to pursue their dreams and improve our communities. Read the CDHE master plan Colorado Rises.



Courier file photo

Obtaining a certificate, associate's, or bachelor's degree remains a smart investment for Coloradans hoping to earn a higher income.



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- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 45 Teachers' org.
 - 1 Possessed
 - 4 Fleece
 - 8 Binding rule
 - 11 Depot info
 - 12 Speed
 - 13 — as it is
 - 14 Fish catcher
 - 15 Submission to authority
 - 17 Eat between meals
 - 19 Natural
 - 20 Dismiss
 - 22 Play part
 - 23 Invented a word
 - 26 Leafy recess
 - 30 Admin. head
 - 31 Mr. Clapton
 - 33 Luke Skywalker's guru
 - 34 He directed Marlon
 - 36 Norse king
 - 38 Dash partner
 - 39 Mine finds
 - 41 Pantry
 - 43 Outer edge
- DOWN**
- 1 Farm flappers
 - 2 Pharaoh's god
 - 3 Numbers to crunch
 - 4 Washington city
 - 5 Hack
 - 6 — in the hole
 - 7 Radio, TV, etc.
 - 8 Kind of moth
 - 9 S&L deposit
 - 10 Cry of delight



- 13 Lookout
- 16 Andes empire
- 18 201, to Claudius
- 21 Rome's fiddler
- 23 Denver's st.
- 24 Roman poet
- 25 Sour pickle
- 27 Foretold
- 28 Hound's trail
- 29 Hamelin pest
- 30 Hair styling goo
- 32 "Misery" co-star
- 35 Make bubbly
- 37 Wall paintings
- 40 Relieved sound
- 42 Morse syllable
- 44 Gets to know
- 46 Goodbye, to Gaius
- 47 Iridescent stone
- 48 Shaggy beasts
- 50 Ever's partner
- 51 Sound in body
- 52 Shoot forth
- 54 Break the record of
- 55 Wyo. neighbor

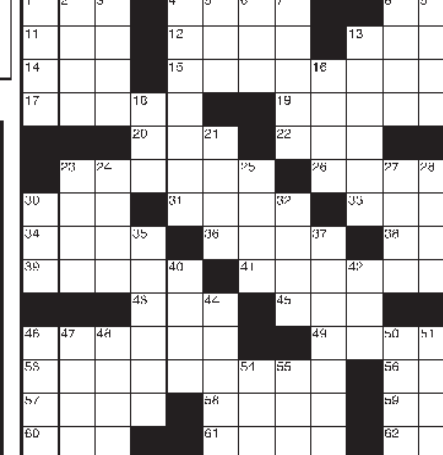
SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆

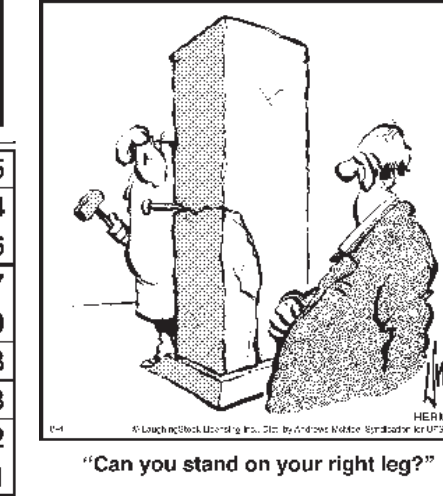
		8	3	4				2
					7	5	6	
9			2					3
		8	3			7	5	
			7	8	1			
7	1			2	8			
1			7					8
	7	9	4					
5			2	1	3			

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

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



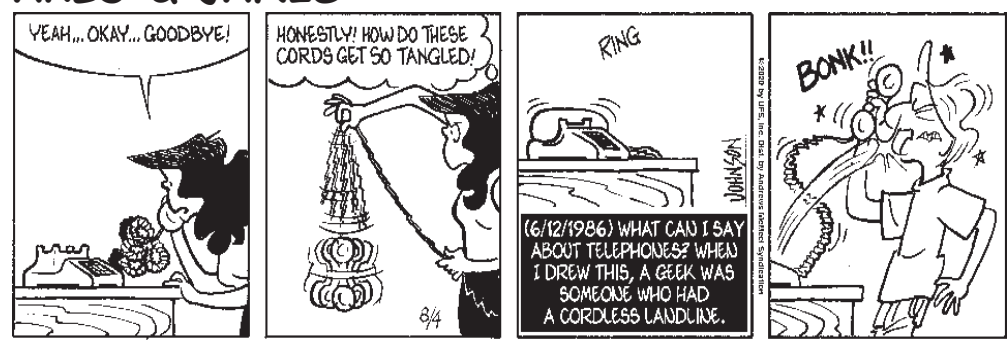
HERMAN



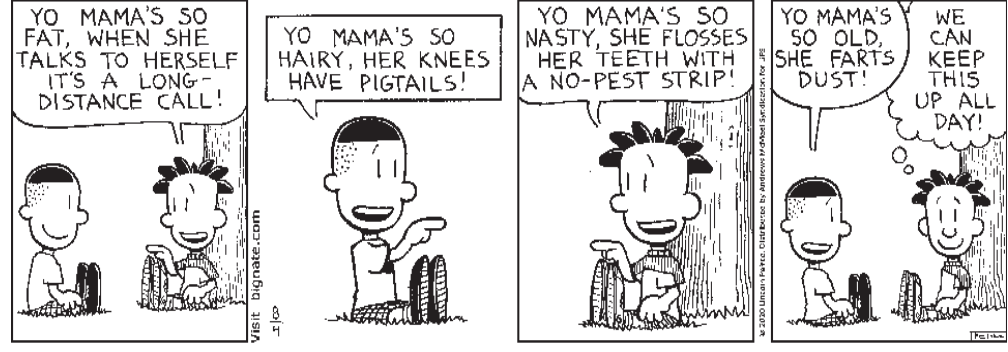
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



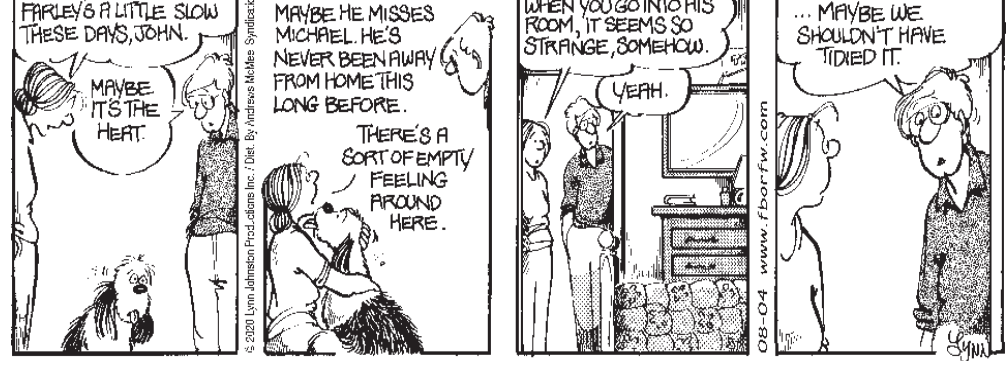
BIG NATE



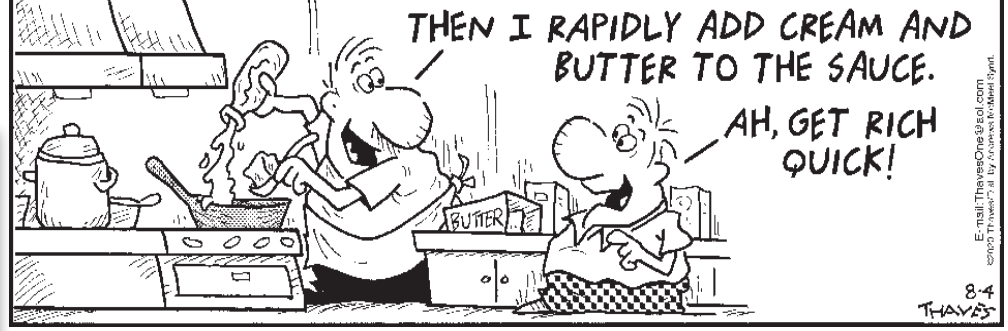
THE BORN LOSER



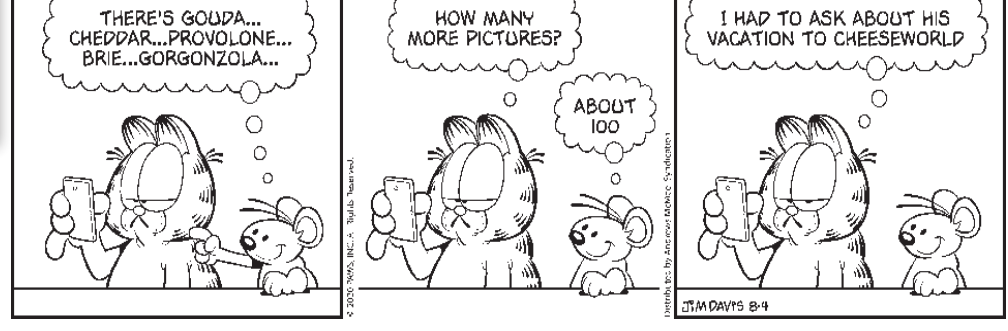
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



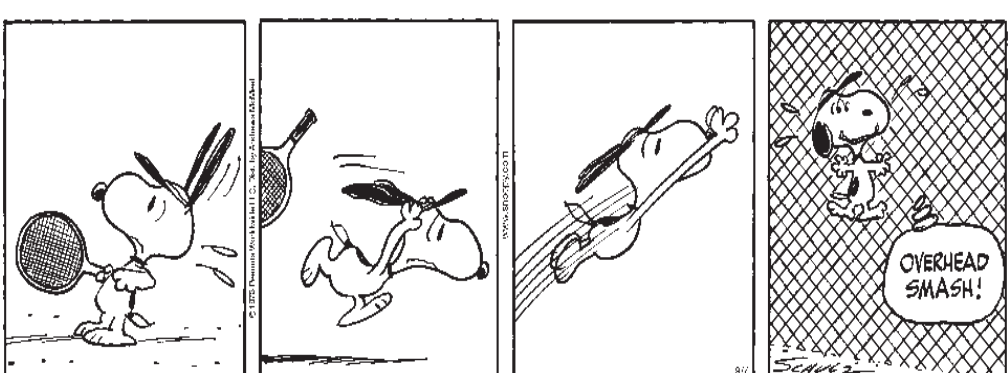
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Widow vows never to share her bed with another man

DEAR ABBY: I am a single man who recently met a widow who is nine years older. We connected via an online dating site. At the end of our three-hour conversation, she said, "No man will ever share my bed." This is because of her second husband, who died six years ago. She said if a man shared her bed, she felt it would be cheating on her late husband. When she said it, I was surprised and shocked. I hadn't asked her if she would share my (or another man's) bed. What are your thoughts on this, and do a lot of widows adhere to this practice? Should this be considered a deal-breaker in a potential relationship? And would replacing the bed with a new one help? -- SLEEPLESS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SLEEPLESS: Some widows -- and widowers -- become celibate after the death of their spouse. A phrase I have heard used is, "I've had the best, and no one can ever replace _____." I also know women and men who, after their grief has lessened, have gone on to have happy, successful second or third marriages. I could use some advice

What the woman you were talking with was doing was eradicating any expectation you might

have had about a sexual relationship with her. She should have specified on her profile that sex was off the table. Be glad she was honest. This would be a deal-breaker for any man who is interested in maintaining his sex life. While replacing her mattress might have been a helpful suggestion, I doubt she would have been receptive. According to the mail I receive, amorous couples make love in many places besides the bedroom.

DEAR ABBY: I read you every day. My daughter, the oldest of my children, and I had a falling-out because I paid for her education but she couldn't be thankful. She was very entitled as a child, but it was important to me that she graduated. She's a schoolteacher now. When she asked me to pay for her wedding, I said, "Will you be thankful this time?" She stomped out and said, "I'll do it myself!" I learned today that she went gown shopping with my mom and her fiance's mother and excluded me. I am so angry, hurt and sad that I don't even want to go to the wedding anymore. I could use some advice here. -- SAD IN ARKANSAS

DEAR SAD: I'm surprised you had to de-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

mand gratitude from your daughter. She may have not learned appreciation because she was always handed everything she wanted, so now she expects your role in her life to continue on that path. That she went gown shopping without inviting you was her way of punishing you for not forking over the money for her wedding. (I wonder if your mother and her fiance's mother are contributing.) I do not think you should skip her wedding, regardless of how tempted you may be. That said, it is important you realize a pattern has been established in your relationship with your daughter, and she may use your grandchildren as pawns to manipulate you, so be prepared.

Lifestyle

Patiently waiting

COLORADO—The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) posted the following to their website with the latest on their movement back to sports. “As we continue to patiently await a response to our resumption plans submitted to the state’s COVID-19 Response team, commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green tweeted the following on Friday:”

 **Rhonda BlanfordGreen**
@RhondaCHSAA

We appreciate the many state, health and educational officials doing their due diligence for the safe return of the 26 remaining HS activities and athletics for the 2020-2021 competitive season! We patiently and respectfully await your decisions.

4:06 PM · Jul 31, 2020

205 likes 95 people are Tweeting about this

Lori Schubert Animal Shelter is No-Kill

The San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society is a nonprofit (501c3) all volunteer organization (only 1 person paid to clean shelter). The primary mission is to improve the well being of animals (primarily dogs and cats) in the San Luis Valley (SLV).

The San Luis Valley is the largest alpine valley in the world (roughly

the size of Connecticut). It is also the poorest region of Colorado (1/3 of the residents in the county live below the poverty level. Their extensive spay/neuter program has reduced the number of homeless animals in the valley. And they have provided many many families with fine companion animals.



Courtesy photo by Diana Wenzel.

Adopter, retired veteran Diane H. in the photo brings Sara home from the San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society near San Luis, CO.

How to effectively and safely sanitize a car

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way people live. One readily felt effect was spending more time at home. Vehicles sat idle in driveways and even some automotive insurance providers reduced rates because people were driving much less.

Even with stay-at-home measures in place, people still need to leave their homes to stock up on essentials, such as food or medicine. In other cases, people may have been essential workers who drive for a living, including delivery drivers or health care personnel who were incapable of working from home. Any time a person goes out in public, he or she runs the risk of contracting viruses. Bacteria and germs may reside on various surfaces, including those inside vehicles.

People want to protect themselves and now are more aware of the importance of frequently cleaning and sanitizing their cars. Keeping a vehicle safe to drive without affecting its upholstery or electronic components is paramount.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention makes a distinction between cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but can lower their numbers. Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. The following are some ways to deeply clean and sanitize a car.

- Wash hands. First and foremost, it is crucial to wash your hands before and after using the car. This can reduce the likelihood of growing ill because of transferred viruses or bacteria.
- Use rubbing alcohol. Solutions that

contain 70 percent alcohol are effective against many viruses and bacteria, including coronaviruses, says the CDC. Furthermore, Jeff Stout, Executive Director of Global Innovation at Yanfeng Automotive Interiors, says that, for the most part, nearly every interior surface of a vehicle can be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol. Plastic to painted chrome to imitation leather have been tested to ensure they don't degrade when exposed to pure isopropyl alcohol.

• Avoid bleach or hydrogen peroxide. While bleach and peroxide are very effective cleaners and sanitizers, they are likely to damage a car's upholstery, according to Consumer Reports.

• Use soap and water: Experts say that vigorous washing with a soap-and-water solution can be effective against many contaminants because it breaks down the protective envelope that surrounds coronaviruses and other germs to disarm them. Friction also can help to break down germ cells during cleaning.

“You want to do the best with what you have, so even soap and water can chip away at the risk,” says Stephen Thomas, M.D., Chief of Infectious Diseases and Director of Global Health at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY.

• Address frequently touched surfaces. Pay attention to the steering wheel, door handles, buttons, touch-screen displays, shift lever, and more when sanitizing. Each of these items can harbor germs.

Deep-cleaning a vehicle has become a necessity since COVID-19 emerged. Frequently cleaning and sanitizing can help make vehicles safer to operate. FC209212

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