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Potency in dabbing and vaping

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VOLUME 94, NO. 136

# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

AUGUST 7, 2020

\$1

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SLV Today SDC Board of Education Meeting

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday August 11th, 2020 in the school library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca CO with an Executive Session from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and an Open Session starting at 6:30 p.m. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

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.

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SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny 86/ 48

Sat: Sunny 83/ 45

Sun: Sunny 82 / 45

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## Round-UP moves off city property

STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA - Following state guidelines and more stringent requests from the City of Alamosa and Public Health, the Honeycutt family has announced it will move the 2020 Alamosa Round-UP to their farm eight miles north of town off the Stanley Road.

In an email announcement Wednesday, Dawn Honeycutt said the rodeo organizers "came to a bit of a standstill with the City of Alamosa and the public health director.

"We are willing to abide by the Governor's guidelines to educate, encourage and promote mask-wearing at the Round-UP this year," she said. "We even have a family that has purchased masks so we can

have them available at the gate for those who forgot theirs. We of course want to keep people safe and have a safe event."

Honeycutt said City Manager Heather Brooks and the public health director wanted the rodeo to take it a step further by enforcing mask-wearing and asking people to leave if they would not comply, as well as notifying police, and possibly shutting the event down.

"We were not willing to do that," she said, "so we have decided to move the Round-UP off Alamosa city property."

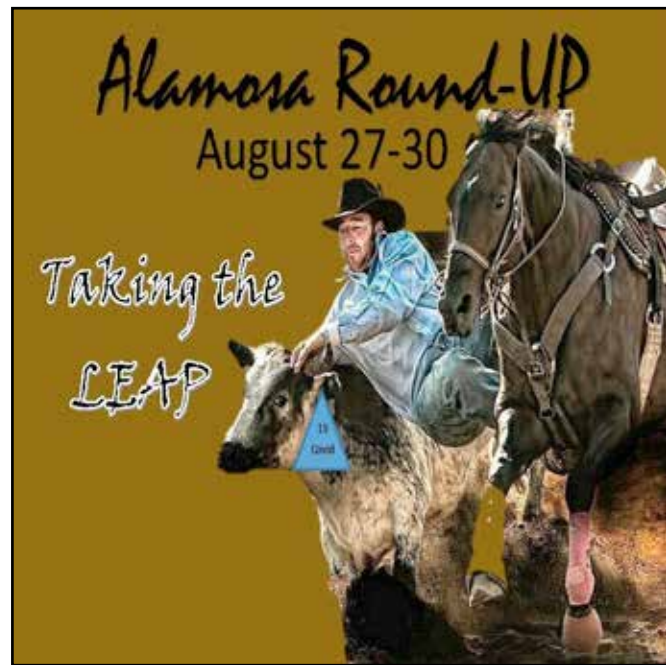
The 2020 event will be held on the Honeycutt property in the south corner of a pivot irrigation circle. Parking and bleachers

will be available, and plans include maintaining separate seating sections, vendors, social distancing and mask wearing.

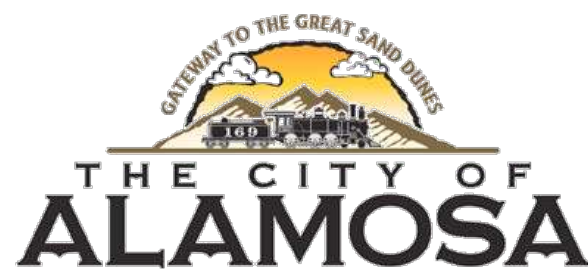
Some event times and locations have been moved to avoid losing daylight. The new schedule includes:

- Tuesday 8/25- 5:30pm Local Barrel Race
Thursday- 8/27 Mutton Bustin 5:30 pm
Friday- 8/28 PRCA Rodeo 5:00pm
Saturday- 8/29 Cowboy Church 8:30am
Saturday- 8/29 PRCA Rodeo 4:00pm
Saturday- 8/29 Chancey Williams Concert 9:00pm
Sunday- 8/30 Demolition Derby 2:00pm

See RODEO page 3



## Special Event Guidance



ALAMOSA — Discussions with recent event organizers have highlighted the need to share guidance regarding holding a special event during this time in a manner that complies with the Governor's Executive Orders and Orders issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). Guidance on the requirements can be found at https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/outdoor-events.

Staff with the City of Alamosa and the County Public Health Department have worked hard to help event organizers understand the orders and to explore creative ideas to help comply. The City recognizes that the ability to have a safe event during this time is valuable and something that we all want. Through discussions with organizers for the Alamosa Round-Up, it became clear that the requirement for face coverings was something that would prevent the event from happening at the City Fairgrounds.

Heather Brooks, City Manager, shared, "We love working with Dawn and her team for the Alamosa Round-Up, which is a key event for our community every year. I greatly appreciate the time Dawn spent on thinking through the different ways to change operations in order to comply and their willingness to still put the event on with dramatically lower ticket sales. Today, Dawn shared that she was not comfortable having to potentially ask attendees to leave

if they were not complying with the face covering requirement. Knowing that we have some in our community who do not agree with the public health orders and who have refused to wear face coverings means that organizers must be willing to ask them to leave in order to ensure compliance. If an organizer is not comfortable enforcing the mask requirement, we simply cannot grant the special event permit or rental of the facility."

As a long-time sponsor for the event, the City remains a supporter of the Alamosa Round-Up and looks forward to future years where restrictions will not prevent the event at the Fairgrounds. We are appreciative of the effort that organizers put into trying to meet the State requirements, but their choice to not enforce the face covering requirement in a manner that would comply with orders designed to protect public health prevented the event from moving forward at the Fairgrounds. The City did not have any further requirements beyond compliance with the Governor's and CDPHE's Orders.

Ms. Brooks also shared, "I think as our local organizers are thinking of their events, they are most likely not realizing that one of the requirements is the use of face coverings, especially if the event is outdoors. Given the current climate, some organizers may not want to organize an event knowing that ensuring compliance from the public will be challenging."

## A beautiful graduation for 27 Center High School graduates



Courtesy photo Attendees listen to Class President Jose Villagomez during Center's graduation on August 1.

By CARRIE ZIMMERMAN CENTER — It was a beautiful Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, evening and a great celebration for 27 Center High School graduates. The class chose the motto by Walt Disney, "Why worry? If you've done the very best you can, ... worrying won't make it better." The 2020 Class Valedictorian, Kristine Hoffner, and Salutatorian Dolores Estrada Hernandez both delivered moving messages. Class president, Jose Villagomez, also spoke to his fellow graduates and led the tassel exchange.

Graduates wore matching masks with the Class of 2020 logo, and COVID-19 safety guidelines were strictly followed. Each family of a graduate was given a 20x20 foot chalk marked box where up to nine immediate family members could sit. The box was divided into three equal

parts to maintain social distancing with each part of the box able to accommodate up to three people who live in a household together. Families provided their own lawn chairs. Extended family members were able to watch from their cars as the ceremony was broadcast over the radio and live streamed. Families and friends could also watch from the stadium seats that were marked off to honor social distancing guidelines.

The ceremony ended with an awesome fireworks show that was organized by High School principal Kevin Jones.

The class sponsors were Jan Vigil, John Noriega, Stephanie Archuleta and Garret Myer. They did a great job putting everything for the event and its COVID-19 planning together that was approved by the Saguache County Health department.

## Air Life Helicopter locates crash scene

SAGUACHE COUNTY - The Alamosa Regional Communications Center received a 911 call at approximately 8:15 a.m. Aug. 1 concerning a vehicle and injured occupant that was located by a passerby. The crash was determined to have occurred at approximately 5 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 overcorrected, 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.

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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Harry Fred “Bill” Miles



**GUNNISON** — Harry Fred “Bill” Miles passed away peacefully in his Gunnison home surrounded by family on July 8, 2020. He was born on February 28, 1933, to Wallace “Wally” and Dorothy “Dot” Miles in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was one of six Miles boys: Richard “Dicky”, John “Jack”, Stanley “Stan”, George “Don” and Bert “Tatman”. Growing up in the years following the

Great Depression, the son of a welder, instilled in him the value of hard honest work, frugality, and immense generosity.

Bill attended Fountain High School in Fountain, Colorado and it was there that he met the love of his life, constant companion, and most formidable sparring partner—a witty and beautiful young woman: Billie Jean “Jeanne” Williams. Bill and Jeanne, two young lovebirds, eloped to Raton, New Mexico 70 years ago on August 16, 1950, just before the start of their senior year in high school, to cement their love and commit to their life together. And they were back in their respective homes by curfew.

Bill was a star basketball player at Fountain High, and still holds the school record for the most points scored in a game—43. Of course, his own boys didn’t share his passion for basketball, and they all became wrestlers, but his grandsons took up the sport and chased his records. But he’d often remind them that they had a big advantage that he lacked in his time—the three-point line. So as far as he was concerned, his records can never be broken. Bill was a superfan of Mountain Valley School athletics, and rarely missed his grandkids’ games.

After high school, Bill enlisted in the US Army and proudly served our country for 8 years, including a stint stationed at Chelveston Air Force Base in England. After his service, he and Jeanne

returned to Fountain where he drove school busses and big rigs for E.U. Williams Trucking and worked for the local fire department.

While Bill was never a stranger to hard work and had immense respect for a full day of manual labor, it was the back-breaking toil on the construction crew of the Airforce Academy—digging the trenches for water and sewer lines—that inspired Bill to go to college. In 1957 Bill and Jeanne moved their family to Gunnison, Colorado where Bill enrolled at Western State College. In addition to being a full-time student, Bill worked more than 40 hours a week to support his family. He built houses and worked as the night janitor at the Gunnison Post Office. Bill achieved his degree—a double major in Business and Accounting—in 1961, with three kids and a fourth on the way. He was a savvy business owner of local businesses Trio Propane and Holden Village. He was a Life Member of the Gunnison Elks Lodge #1623 and a dedicated member of the Gunnison American Legion Post 54. Bill was enthusiastic about giving back to his community that he loved so dearly: he sat on the Board of Directors of Gunnison Valley Hospital and retired from the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department in 1984 after 21 years of dedicated service.

Bill and Jeanne had four children: Tena, William “Billy,” Richard and James “Jim.”

He is survived by his wife Jeanne, his children Tena and Jim, his brothers Don Miles and Bert Tatman, son-in-law

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 mkmillermink@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. Weigh-in 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’s 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 slvphotostephen@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.

**ALAMOSA** — Open drop-in meditation for health, stress management and spiritual growth, is held at 10:45 a.m. the second Sunday of the month at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Hall, 607 Fourth St., Alamosa, with Mountain Institute, A Kriya, Meditation & Lamplighting School. Contact Martin at 575-758-5876 or talentolocal@live.com

### Donald Michael Gallegos



**ALAMOSA** — Donald Michael Gallegos has moved on to his heavenly home and will join loved ones who left before him.

He gracefully departed on April 24, 2020, and blessed all since he came into the world on 9/29/1935

He was a devoted Son to entrepreneur’s Pete and Benita Gallegos of Alamosa Colorado, Owners of the Alamosa Taxi Service and the La Linda Vista Hotel on State Street. Donald started a career with the US Post Office and retired after 35 years. He was passionate about life and his humor and fables were beyond real. He loved telling stories and pretending. He enjoyed going to the Horse and Dog races with his brother Charles. He never told his true age because he created a game of adding the digits of your age to get your true age

so, instead of being 84 he would say he just turned 11 yrs. old (8+4)

Donald married Mary A Garcia (deceased) of Alamosa and they had 5 Children together, Debbie Gallegos Kelley, Michael J Gallegos (deceased) married to Georgette Gallegos, Donald M Gallegos (Jerome) married to Caroline Guerrero Gallegos, Charles C Gallegos married to Angelie Rulano Gallegos, Mark Anthony Gallegos (deceased) Don-

ald later Married Viola Martinez (deceased) and earned the love of her 5 children, Marcus Bernal, Louie Bernal, Debbie Jamieson, Emily Wythe and Louise Fuentes, and Grandchildren.

Donald along with his Surviving Brother, Charles Gallegos and wife Sherry have left a beautiful Legacy. He left a loving family that included 12 Grandchildren and 35 Great Grandchildren. Dad, Pops, Grandpa, Gramps, GG, Big Papa were some of the sweetest and most endearing names he was known by. He will be missed but thoughts of him will forever bring a smile to our faces.

There will be a graveside celebration of life on August 8th, 2020 at the Alamosa Municipal Cemetery at 2:30 PM.

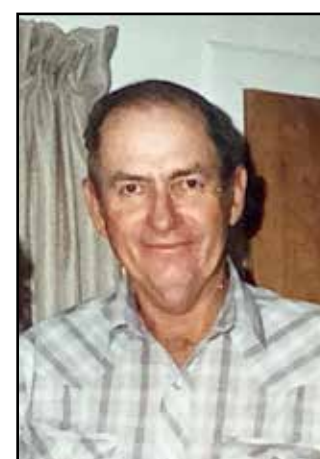
### VALLEY COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

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.

### Harold L. Ziegler



**ALAMOSA** — Lifelong Alamosa Rancher and Farmer Harold L. Ziegler, 88, died August 4, 2020, at the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

Harold was born in Alamosa, Colorado to Frank and Mabel Anderson Ziegler on July 12, 1932. He married Elaine White in Alamosa on February 11, 1956. They enjoyed more than 45 years together until her death in 2002.

Harold loved working as a Farmer and Rancher and enjoyed every aspect, especially his cows. He was active in water resources for the San Luis Valley and was instrumental in his assistance with the Closed Basin Project.

He was named Water Manager of the year for Division III of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, served on the Commonwealth Irrigation Company Board for 31 years, and as president for 15 years, served on the Colorado Water and Power Authority, received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award through the United States Jaycees, and was baptized in and a lifelong member of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church. Harold also served on the Mosca/Hooper Fire Board. He de-

veloped many new friendships throughout his years serving the community on the various boards and ventures he participated in.

Harold’s grandchildren were the highlight of his life. He never knew a stranger and often struck up a conversation with whomever he came in contact with, whether he knew them or not. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing cards.

Harold is survived by his children Debra Ziegler of Denver, CO, Lori Ann (Martin) Reynolds of Alamosa, CO, Gerald (Jeri Young) Ziegler of Alamosa, CO, and Brenda (Peter) Costner of Elizabeth, CO; his grandchildren Brandon Ziegler, Amy (Travis) Garoutte, Sara (Mitch) Miller, Kenneth Reynolds, Christy (Kip) McCormick,

Lisa Ziegler (Chris McMann), Aaron (Taylor Eschelman) Ziegler, Kinsley Costner and Katie Costner; 11 great-grandchildren; his sister Dorothy Jean Ziegler of Alamosa and his brother Donald Ziegler of Golden, CO; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his infant children Venda and Darrell Ziegler, his wife Elaine, his sister Mary Ellen Lanzone, his brothers Aaron Ziegler and Delmer Ziegler.

A Funeral Service will be held 10 a.m. Monday, August 10, 2020, at the Living Water Bible Fellowship in Alamosa. Interment with military honors will follow services in the Alamosa Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested in his memory to Children’s Hospital Colorado at: [https://secure.childrenscoloradofoundation.org/site/Donation2?dfid=1660&1660.donation=form1&utm\\_source=hospital&utm\\_medium=donatepage](https://secure.childrenscoloradofoundation.org/site/Donation2?dfid=1660&1660.donation=form1&utm_source=hospital&utm_medium=donatepage)

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of strength, remarks and condolences for Harold’s family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com)

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

A.A. members’ primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Following are District 3 San Luis Valley AA 12-Step Meetings. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083.

**SUNDAY**  
5:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Center at 3rd and Edison, Alamosa  
7 p.m. Town Hall at 108 W Galena Ave., Crestone

**MONDAY**  
12 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Hall at 607 4th St., Alamosa

5 p.m. Women’s Meeting at Masonic Hall, 598 Spruce St., Del Norte  
7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede  
7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara.

**TUESDAY**  
12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa  
8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

**WEDNESDAY**  
12 p.m. First United Methodist Church at 2005 Mullens, Alamosa  
6 p.m. Senior Citizen’s Building at 710 Main St., Antonito

6 p.m. Amistad of San Luis at 403 Main St., San Luis  
7:15 p.m. RV Park in Blanca  
7:30 p.m. Masonic Hall at 598 Spruce, Del Norte.

8 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 607 4th St., Alamosa.

**THURSDAY**  
12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa

School Menu

Friday

August 7, 2020

**NO SCHOOL**



**SUMMER VACATION**

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

# Valley News

## City looks to streamline health safety response

**STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA** — At Wednesday's meeting, the Alamosa City Council took a step to create an avenue to ensure public health. The Council voted for approval on first reading Ordinance No. 19-2020. An ordinance designed to make a public health violation a local ordinance violation rather than rely on trespassing or reckless endangerment.

In Alamosa, the City's response to noncompliance has been education first, looking to correct non-compliance without excessive punishment. Under the current code, the first offense of reckless endangerment could carry jail time. Ordinance 19-2020 would make the willful violation of a local, state or federal order that has been issued for the protection of the public health, unlawful.

As explained by City Attorney Erich Schwiesow, it would allow for a clean and concise response without having to resort to a 'hammer' such as reckless endangerment.

"The jurisdiction of Alamosa's municipal court is limited to ordinance violations." Explained Schwiesow. "So, we don't have an ordinance violation that addresses the violation of public health orders and therefore cannot write simple straightforward 'violation of a public health order' into Alamosa municipal court, currently, we have to write in trespass(ing) or reckless endangerment, violations of those municipal ordinances"

The ordinance was set forth as an emergency ordinance with staff seeking to have it passed on first reading. The response to

the possibility of a more direct response to perceived public health risks was varied. The rush on Wednesday's ordinance created apprehension among the council as well as the attending public.

Councilor Michael Carson was uneasy with a reference to Code 6 of the existing Alamosa Code that was enacted during the City's emergency declaration from March 18th which runs concurrently with the state's own declaration. Chapter 6 granted emergency powers to the Mayor such as the discontinuance of the selling, distributing or giving away of gasoline, the discontinuance of the selling, distributing, or giving away of any firearms or ammunition and designating certain areas of the city as being restricted.

Public comment was in

favor of waiting "Yes we understand the guidelines you have to follow but nobody knows about this and so I would strongly support and suggest that you continue this to a second meeting so the public can actually

have time to read this ordinance."

Rather than approve the ordinance as an emergency, the council passed it 6-1 with Councilor Carson casting the no vote. The second reading with a public hearing will be

set for August 19th's City Council Meeting.

Interested parties can view the prospective ordinance by visiting <https://alamosa.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/> and checking the online agenda for 8/5.

## Hensley recognized for CML service



Courtesy photo City Councilor Liz Hensley was recognized during Wednesday's City Council meeting for her service to the Colorado Municipal League (CML).

## Farm stand opens at the Rio Grande Farm Park

**ALAMOSA**— Monday, August 3rd was the "soft-opening" of the new farm stand at the Rio Grande Farm Park (RGFP). The RGFP farmer's cooperative, comprised of 7 farmers with budding businesses who rent plots on-site to grow market produce, is now selling products three days a week to customers.

Located just north of the junction of Highways 160 and 17 on Highway 17, visitors will see feather signs when the stand is open—every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3 to 7 PM. It is possible that, as the season goes on, the stand may be open additional hours if there is enough community interest.

So far products like onions, beets, snap peas, green beans, tomatoes,

carrots, peaches, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, pinnon, and honey have been available. Available products will change as the season progresses. Follow the Farm Park's Facebook or Instagram pages for photo updates of what is available each day. Facebook users can find them at facebook.com/riograndefarmpark and they are @riograndefarmpark on Instagram.

The stand is set up for one-way, socially-distanced walking traffic. For safety, those working the stand will be enforcing distancing and the wearing of masks. Additionally, we are asking that customers not touch any of the products. One of two staff members working the stand will handle and bag products for customers and a second worker will

take customers' payment. At this time we are only able to accept cash.



Courtesy photo Farm Park Vendors sell an array of fresh and locally sourced produce at August 3's soft opening.

## Shady Burro Enduro race this weekend

**SOUTH FORK** — Shady Burro Enduro in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Enduro Racers will be taking place in South Fork this weekend for their fourth annual motor dirt bike race in South Fork. Enduro Coordinator and Director Scott Bright and his team have spent countless hours planning with several agencies to ensure

the safety of both the riders and the community of South Fork.

The race will take place on the south side of Highway 160 on Rio Grande National Forest roads Saturday and the north side of the road Sunday. Travelers in the area should expect a rise in traffic in the mornings from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. as racers head out to the

trails and from around 4 p.m. until dark in the evenings on both Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8, and 9.

The race is made to test the endurance of any rider regardless of age or ability. Participants will be riding the trails located

north of town in the Rio Grande Forest between South Fork and Del Norte. Riders travel anywhere from 50 to 90 miles of trails per day and undergo rigorous skills tests throughout the race.

To contact Bright, please

visit [www.shadyburro.com](http://www.shadyburro.com), visit their Facebook page at Shady Burro Enduro or email Bright at [scott@scottbright.net](mailto:scott@scottbright.net) for more information or to participate in the business endorsement.



## Rodeo

Continued from Page 1

"This will be same great rodeo, same great contestants, just a different location," Honeycutt said. "The current ticket holder's tickets will still be valid." Tickets will continue to be offered online at [alamosaroundup.com](http://alamosaroundup.com).

"We are of course still working closely with the health department to

ensure the safety of this event," she said. "Our goal is not to be disrespectful, nor rebellious to authority in our decision. We just don't feel morally right about what they were asking us to do."

She added that the rodeo organizers are thankful to their friends and sponsors who are helping make the event happen.

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 Fri. 5:15, 8:00  
 I Still BELIEVE  
 PG  
 One love can change your life

# Opinion

## Rural Colorado Kids Deserve Better

Dr. MAYLING SIMPSON

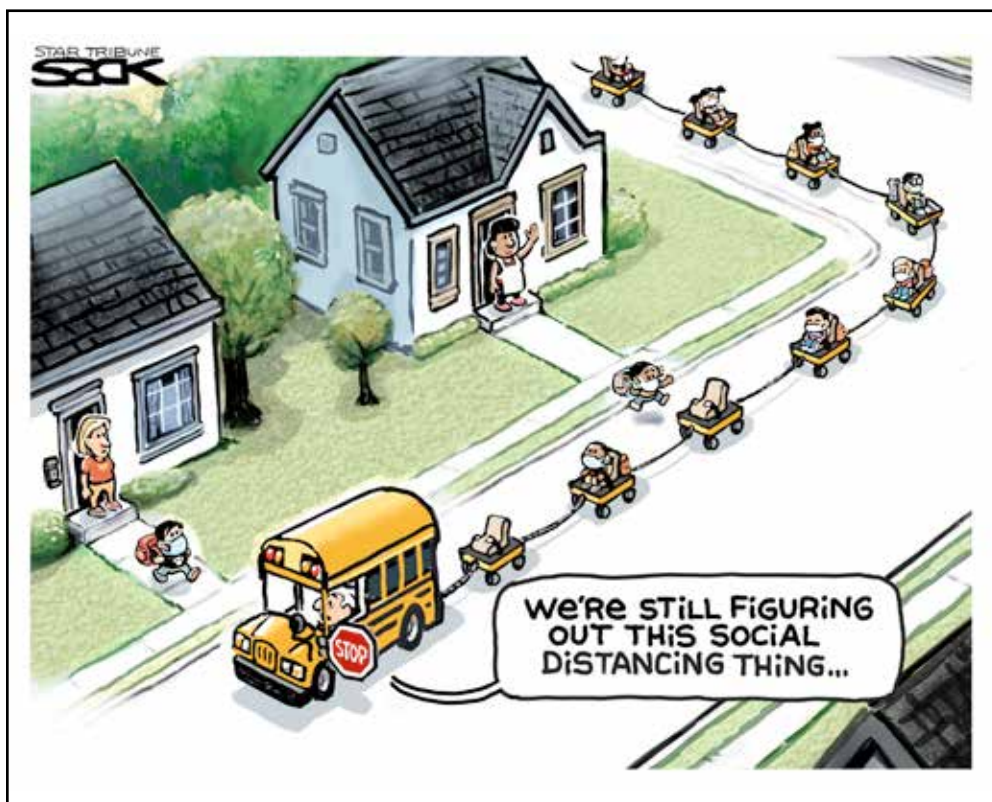
Candidate State Board of Education, CD-3

For decades, rural Colorado's kids, teachers, and schools have been getting the short end of the stick from the State. Colorado is sixth from the bottom of all states in school funding and near the bottom for teacher pay, even though we are one of the wealthiest states in the country.

I am running for State Board of Education because as a former educator and School Board member, with three decades of experience in public health and rural educational development, I have a deep understanding of the unique, diverse issues our kids, teachers, and districts face across Western and Southern Colorado.

We deserve elected leaders who believe in local control and will work with districts to improve their schools and instruction.

Funding shortages aren't the only threat. Today, because of the novel coronavirus, our kids, parents, and teachers face the greatest challenge ever bestowed upon public education. Yet many state legislators are calling for a special session to propose diverting hundreds of millions out of public school funding. This is



unacceptable, and as a member of our State Board of Education, I'll be the voice Rural Colorado needs to increase funding to rural schools by expanding Colorado's Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program and the matching funding it provides to districts for capital projects. I will also provide a knowledgeable voice regarding school operation in this time of coronavirus, which is most likely to continue as a major concern

into 2021 and beyond.

It is imperative that we solve the growing rural teacher shortage, expand our mental health programs, and focus on building safer, stronger schools in rural Colorado. Our kids, teachers, and parents deserve a State Board of Education with leadership, expertise, and urgency needed to tackle this crisis.

Politics have no place in our schools. I urge readers with partisan leanings to disregard political affiliation in this

To submit news, email:

news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:

sjiron@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

## National Health Center Week

Across the country, the exceptional work of Community Health Centers will be recognized, work sustained while fighting on the front lines of COVID-19 to keep our communities healthy and safe. This celebration will demonstrate that not only is it possible to move beyond the partisan divide over health care, but to support and agree on a program vital to our communities.

Community Health Centers provide preventive and primary care services to almost 30 million people and continue to do so while facing a global pandemic. We provide care to people who disproportionately suffer from chronic diseases and lack access to affordable, quality care. While our approach is community-based and local, collectively we are the backbone of the nation's primary care system. Community Health Centers lower health care costs by 24 billion dollars a year, reduce rates chronic

diseases, and stimulate local economies.

At Valley-Wide Health Systems, we provide primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health and pharmacy services, along with case management and care coordination services to help patients navigate the health care system. In our mission, we commit to providing high-quality, safe, effective and integrated health services in a respectful and inclusive manner for all with special consideration for underserved populations.

Community Health Centers look beyond medical charts to address the factors that may cause poor health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, lack of nutrition, and unemployment. We are a critical piece of the health care system and we collaborate with hospitals, local and state governments, social, health and business organizations to improve

health outcomes. We have pivoted to serving our communities through telehealth and COVID-19 testing, while still helping to ensure our patients can access necessities like food and housing resources.

While COVID-19 continues to exacerbate social and medical inequities across the country, Community Health Centers have stretched themselves to reconfigure services for those in need. As unemployment rates rise and more people lose their employee-sponsored health insurance, Community Health Centers must remain open to provide care for all, regardless of insurance status.

The mission of Community Health Centers remains crucial today because access to basic care remains a challenge in many parts of the United States. Many people live in remote and underserved communities where there is a

shortage of providers. In many cases, the nearest doctor or hospital can be as far as a 50-mile drive in another county.

Congress must act immediately for Community Health Centers to continue to serve as health care homes. Emergency and long-term, stable funding will ensure we can keep our doors open and close the growing access gap for medically vulnerable communities. Without the action of Congress, Community Health Center funding will expire on November 30, 2020. I am grateful that our Colorado state and national legislators have shown leadership in protecting Community Health Centers from losing a major part of our funding.

Show your advocacy during National Health Center Week by supporting the Valley-Wide Health Systems clinic in your community. We will be there when you need us.

### LETTERS

## Lauren Boebert Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:  
Sadly, Diane Mitsch Bush has chosen to start this general election by lying about her healthcare position and by lying about mine, too.

Diane's lies are bright and clear without room for the benefit of the doubt.

On April 21, 2018 at 1:50pm Diane sent a tweet to the world: "I absolutely support Medicare for

All". She followed that on May 3, 2018 at 1:23 am writing, "the majority of Americans...are looking for more government intervention in their healthcare" and advocated for "universal, single-payer healthcare".

The lies? Diane is on the campaign trail telling reporters she doesn't support Medicare for All and doubles down by try-

ing to scare people into falsely claiming that I would somehow take away health insurance from Coloradans.

This is precisely what people hate about politics and career politicians. Can you hear Diane's pollsters and political hacks explaining to her she can't win on her socialized medicine scheme, so she had better just lie about her position and try to scare people about me?

I'm heading to Washington, D.C. to put a stop to this insanity.

People with pre-existing conditions must be protected. We need to make sure care is affordable and that prices are transparent. We need to increase access across our rural district. And as I have stated repeatedly throughout my campaign and in my Contract with Colo-

rado, we need healthcare to be personal and portable.

I will never vote for legislation that will leave Coloradans without health care coverage.

Please remember that the next time Diane Mitsch Bush lies to you about her policies or tries to scare you about mine.

Lauren Boebert  
Silt, Colorado  
Republican Candidate  
U.S. House of Representatives, CO-3

Note: For reference purposes, copies of Diane Mitsch Bush's tweets on this subject are attached. Among other places, Diane Mitsch Bush's claim to not be for Medicare for All can be found at approximately 1:57 of this KREX-TV

interview from 7/29/20:

<https://www.westernsloopenow.com/news/local-news/diane-mitsch-bush-speaks-out-about-opponentattacks-healthcare-environment/>

## Write them

### GOVERNOR

**Governor Jared Polis (D)**, State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax: (303) 866-2003.

### STATE HOUSE

**Donald Valdez (D)**, Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email: Donald.valdez.house@state.co.us

### STATE SENATE

**Larry Crowder (R)**, Colorado State Senator, District 35, 200 E Colfax, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-4875 capitol, 719-850-2459 cell; email: larry.crowder.senate@state.co.us

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Scott Tipton (R)** Regional Office — 719-587-5105; 719-587-5137 (fax); Washington, DC — 326 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4761; 202-226-9669 (fax); <http://tipton.house.gov>

### U.S. SENATE

**Michael Bennet (D)** SLV Regional Office, 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098; Washington office — 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852; bennet.senate.gov

**Cory Gardner (R)**, Regional Office, 503 N Main Street, Ste, 426, Pueblo, 719-543-1324, fax: 202-228-7174; Washington office: 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; 202-224-5941

## Keeping Noffske

Dear Editor,

Rio Grande County citizens are learning this week of an effort to gather signatures for a petition to recall Commissioner John Noffske.

That's very sad, but not surprising; many of us supported Mr. Noffske because we were certain that he would be an agent of much-needed major change in RGC administration, management and, most importantly, in the policies and future outlook of the County. And major changes in policy and personnel often involve difficult and unpopular measures.

Sponsors of the recall effort will be asking for citizens' signatures over the next several days. I expect that they may be successful, based primarily on a negative emotional appeal, in gathering enough signatures to put the recall issue on the November ballot. But those of you who are asked to sign should remember these three factors:

1. An objective review of the voluntary and requested personnel changes which appear to be a major reason for the recall effort will show that, although these changes were stressful for the individuals involved, they were, on balance, beneficial to County operations.

2. A fair assessment of Mr Noffske and the other Commissioners will show

that their performance has been, for the most part, of considerable benefit to the County — worthy of praise, not condemnation.

3. The recall instigators are likely to maintain, in their defense, that their effort is "democracy in action." A recall is the antithesis of democracy. A small group of people intending to void the result of a valid, fair, and democratic election is about as undemocratic as you can get. This probably is a basic reason why a 2018 study showed that almost 2/3

of recall efforts of state and local officials either didn't make it to the ballot, or were defeated by vote.

I urge all Rio Grande County citizens to think and act much more on the basis of objectivity and reason and very much less on emotion. A fair evaluation will show that we have in Mr. Noffske a good public servant. Let's keep him in place.

Charles Spielman  
Monte Vista

**Keith R Cerny**  
Publisher

# Valley Courier

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Editor's Note: The views



# Back to School

## How to clean and sanitize a backpack

Backpacks are useful tools for students and adults alike. From hiking supplies to school books to sports equipment, backpacks can store just about anything. As veritable workhorses, they're bound to get dirty and can benefit from periodic cleaning.

While it may be tempting to simply throw a backpack into the washing machine, it is important to check the care instructions first. Some canvas, nylon and fabric backpacks can go in the wash, but those made of leather or those with intricate details should not. Backpack manufacturers also advise against putting backpacks in a dryer.

Here are steps to cleaning a backpack.

1. To get started, begin by removing any items from the backpack, including all of the pockets. If necessary, use a vacuum to get crumbs out of the backpack.

2. Check the care label to see if there are washing instructions. This will determine if you should wash it by hand or if it can be put in the machine.

3. If the bag can be machine-washed, turn it inside out first or place it in a pillowcase so that the straps and zippers will not be caught. Then wash it on a gentle setting with a mild detergent and lukewarm water. If the bag should



Courtesy photo

Here are steps to cleaning a backpack.

be hand-washed, use lukewarm water and a soft sponge or a gentle bristle brush. The outdoor retailer REI says you do not want to harm any protective coatings on the pack.

4. Zippers need occasional cleaning to remove dirt, sand or crumbs. Many zippers have water-resistant coatings so do not scrub them. Use a lubricant made for zippers to help them slide smoothly.

5. Hang the bag to air dry upside down. It likely will dry more quickly outdoors, but avoid direct sunlight, which can compromise the integrity of the fabric or discolor the

backpack.

6. Do not store or use the backpack until it is completely dry.

7. Sometimes a backpack may need to be disinfected to prevent the growth of fungus or bacteria. Athlete's foot fungus can easily transfer from socks and shoes to the backpack if gym clothes are left in the bag. The Spruce says to skip chlorine bleach and use a pine oil or phenolic disinfectant or a disinfectant wipe, such as Pine Sol or Spic-n-Span. Lysol brand disinfectant also can be used and is available in liquid formula or spray.

If a backpack is waterproof, only wash it

once or twice per year; otherwise, you may reduce the pack's ability to repel water. Use cleansing wipes to spot clean when necessary.

Backpacks can get grimy quickly. Routine washing can freshen them right up. TF209315

## How to support scholastic athletes

The 2020-21 school year promises to be one unlike any other today's students, and even their parents and grandparents, have ever known. In March 2020, many schools were forced to abruptly cancel in-person instruction as government officials tried to prevent the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus. As the 2019-20 school year wound down and summer approached, school officials remained uncertain if they would reopen for in-person instruction in the fall, leaving student-athletes to wonder what would happen to fall sports seasons.

The cancellation of in-person school sessions and extracurricular activities was hard on every student, and athletes have proven no exception. Many graduating seniors did not get a chance to compete alongside their teammates during spring sports season, bringing their scholastic athletic careers to an abrupt end. With the upcoming 2020-21 scholastic sports season in similar limbo, student-athletes in the class of 2021 might be worried that their own chances to compete are in jeopardy as well. In light of that, local communities can take steps to support scholastic athletes during an uncertain time.

• Make a show of your support. Stay-at-home measures prevented many schools from hosting traditional graduation ceremonies for graduating seniors. However,

many communities found ways to honor their grads, and they can do the same for scholastic athletes who are unsure about what the future holds. Purchase signs and/or T-shirts from school-based support organizations, erecting the signs in your yard so local athletes know they're still supported, even if they can't play.

• Create highlight videos. Smartphones have made it possible to record nearly every one of life's special moments and milestones, so chances are coaches, parents and neighbors have footage of local athletes competing in their sports. Parents, coaches and other fans can work together to create highlight videos for local scholastic sports teams, sharing the finished products via social media. These videos can make for great and lasting memories for student-athletes and even lift their spirits at a time when everyone can use a boost.

• Host pep rallies. If social distancing measures have been relaxed in your community and large or mid-sized gatherings are now allowed, organize a pep rally to honor and show support for local athletes. Work with school officials to ensure everyone celebrates safely. Such events are integral to student-athletes' experience during typical sports seasons, so they can be a great way for communities to offer some semblance of normalcy to athletes who have worked hard to make

the team.

Student-athletes face uncertainty in regard to the 2020-21 scholastic sports season. But there are many ways for local communities to support their student-athletes, even if the games are postponed or canceled. BS208157



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**Conejos County Department of Social Services**

would like to wish all of our students a safe and healthy school year!!

**Conejos County will be distributing backpacks and school supplies at the following locations:**

- Knights of Columbus Hall (La Jara)
- Conejos Parish Hall



When: August 7, 2020  
Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

A B C D E F

\*You must meet the following eligibility criteria to participate:

- Family Income < \$75,000
- Dependent Children living in home, and Conejos County resident
- US citizen or Legal Resident

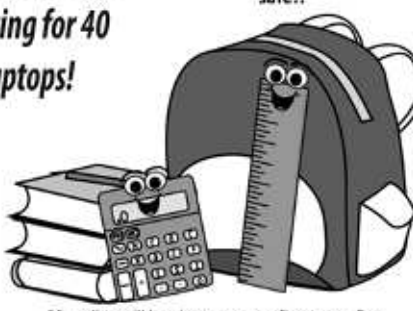
We all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

1-844-CO-4-KIDS

Please contact Conejos County Department of Social Services to also learn about our programs and services we offer such as our Youth-To-Work Programs! (719) 376-5455 Attn: Nicholas Barela

*This year we will be having a drawing for 40 Laptops!*



\*Supplies will be given out on a first come first serve basis or until supplies run out  
\*One care package for each school aged child in the home  
\*One entry per family for the Laptop giveaway

## Tasha Alexis, MD

joins

 **San Luis Valley HEALTH**



Tasha Alexis, MD, MHA, has joined San Luis Valley Health as an occupational medicine physician and brings extensive experience as well as a patient-first attitude.

Welcome, Dr. Alexis, to the San Luis Valley!

719-589-8110

# Lifestyle

## ALMA, Viaero Wireless present Ol' Scratch livestreaming on Aug. 9

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) welcomes local favorite, Ol' Scratch, for a special Sundays at Six performance on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM, to be live streamed from ALMA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic>. This Sundays at Six concert is

free and open to the public. Ol' Scratch is a sinfully good five-piece band out of Southern Colorado with a passion for Funk, Blues, Rock and exploration. Ol' Scratch consists of Andrew "Naughty" Naughton (Percussion), Marc Albion (Guitar, Vocals), Gabe "Maestro" Swanson (Piano, Vocals), Chris

"The Man" Spears (Bass), and Alonna Younger (Vocals). Explore their music and story at their website: <http://www.olscratchmusic.com/>

ALMA "Builds Community through Quality Live Music." For more information like ALMA on Facebook or go to [www.almaonline.org](http://www.almaonline.org).

**SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH @ 6PM**  
STREAMING LIVE ON [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALMALIVEMUSIC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALMALIVEMUSIC)  
[ALMAONLINE.ORG](http://ALMAONLINE.ORG)



## Prodigal daughter returns, hosts Aug. 13 Alzheimer's open house

PUEBLO— The granddaughter of several well-entrenched Pueblo families, Debra Antista-Bianchi has come to Southern Colorado to lead the Alzheimer's Association office based in Pueblo. The former director of the Association's office in Grand Junction, Antista-Bianchi is hosting a virtual Open House to kick off her arrival in Pueblo on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 5 to 6 p.m.

Relatives on both sides of Antista-Bianchi's family settled in the Pueblo region in the late 1800 and early 1900s, including two sets of great-grandparents. She learned of her family's connection to Pueblo from her great uncle and godfather, Anthony Capozzolo, whose name adorns the University of Colorado at Pueblo's Capozzolo Center for the Arts and the Capps Capozzolo Student Art Gallery. "My mother, sister, and other family members now call Pueblo home," said Antista-Bianchi. "Even though I grew up in California, this is a great opportunity to return to my roots and to continue the great work the Association has done in this region."

To meet Antista-Bianchi and other members of



Debra Antista-Bianchi

the Southern Colorado Alzheimer's Association team, please RSVP to Charlotte Long, Regional Development manager for the Alzheimer's Association, at [clong@alz.org](mailto:clong@alz.org).

The Alzheimer's Association provides a broad range of information, education, and programs and services at no charge to the more than 76,000 Coloradans living

with Alzheimer's disease and their loved ones. The Association operates a 24/7 toll-free Helpline (800-272-3900), staffed by trained professionals, to help families with questions about the disease or real-time counsel. The Association also is the largest non-profit funder of Alzheimer's research in the world.

## Aviation groups conducting statewide FEMA face mask airlift

DENVER— The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) and Angel Flight West (AFW), with the assistance of Denver International Airport and the Colorado Division of Aeronautics, will host a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mask Airlift on Saturday, Aug. 8, from Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport located in Englewood.

The airlift mission will be carried out by volunteer pilots, and will deliver over 300,000 masks to airports around the state. Masks were provided by FEMA to Denver International Airport for distribution to Colorado's public-use airports. The masks will be used by air-

port staff, tenants, pilots, and passengers, to help in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

"This is a unique opportunity for general aviation pilots to come together in a coordinated response to this pandemic" said Chris Swathwood, chairman of CABA. "We hope it will also help to highlight the critical role aviation plays in our state during times of need, as well as the important role Colorado's smaller airports play in their local communities."

"Since the end of March, our volunteer pilots, in collaboration with the Colorado Hospital Association, have been flying PPE to hospitals all over the state," said Cheri Cimarrusti, AFW's associate

executive director. "Now we're proud to continue our work by partnering with CABA, and other aviation organizations to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by providing PPE to Colorado's airports."

Volunteers will be on hand at Signature Flight Support on Friday morning, Aug. 7, to sort the packages of masks for delivery to the individual airports. Then early Saturday morning, pilots donating both their time and aircraft will make the flight to over 30 Colorado airports to deliver the FEMA provided masks as part of the COVID-19 response.

For more information, contact Kelly Sloan, 970-424-6615 email: [kvsloan@gmail.com](mailto:kvsloan@gmail.com).

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# Lifestyle

## Take your cell phone into the backcountry; but know the limitations

By MARK RACKAY

These days, most of us are dependent, to some extent, on our cell phones. While service can be non-existent or, at best, sketchy in remote areas, emergency rescue experts suggest that hunters carry their phones with them in the field.

Cell phones have become the most important tool for finding people who are lost or injured in the backcountry. Cell phones have changed the face of search and rescue missions. Hours and days have been shaved off response times and because of the GPS in phones, locating lost and injured people has become easier. The quality, battery life and features of the new phones are constantly improving.

Here are some tips on the use of cell phones in the backcountry.

Start your trip with the phone fully charged. You can always top off the charge in your vehicle on the way to your starting point. Also, turn on the phone's automatic location setting. This allows emergency services to get a "ping" and calculate your position using GPS. Then, keep the phone turned off. When phones are on they are constantly searching for a signal which drains the battery. Try to store the phone close to your body - keeping it warm also helps conserve battery power.

Turn your phone on at least once each day for about five minutes. When powered up the phone will search for, and hopefully find, the nearest tower. Even though there might not be enough signal to make a call, it can be enough to leave an electronic trail that can be used later in an emergency.

Cell phones, like radios, work off of a line of sight. This means that land features such as mountains, heavy tree cover and rock formations can block signals. If you are going to make an emergency call, find the highest and most open location search for a signal. Hold the phone in the air at arm's length and rotate around until you find reception.

I was on an elk hunting trip some years ago where the only service I would find was in a spot about 50 feet from camp, next to a fence line. I would power up the phone and check in twice daily from that location. If you do not have enough



reception to make a call, or if reception is spotty, it's possible you can send a text message. As soon as the phone locates a tower, the message will be sent. The emergency 911 people can receive a text. If they receive the text from you, they can usually answer. If you can't text 911, your contact at home might be the next choice. Send them the emergency text about where you are and the problem that you have. The person can then contact 911 and get help coming.

Given that cell phone service is becoming available in more and more remote places, it's a good idea to carry your cell phone with you in the backcountry. I remind everyone to carry an extra power source for his or her phone. These little portable battery packs will hold a charge for months and power up your phone when you need it. The pack is very small and compact, so taking it with you is no problem. I buy the 4000mAh size and it will charge your phone twice. You can buy one for around ten bucks and it is money well spent.

Conserve battery power by turning off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and other apps running in the background. Lower the brightness setting and turn off roaming. You won't need any of that on your trip or in an emergency.

I usually keep the cell phone turned off when I want to escape the world and head outdoors. It can always be turned on when I need it. The cell phone has become quite a lifesaving device for outdoor people and I don't leave home without it.

*Mark Rackay, an avid hunter, is director for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. He can be contacted at info@mcspi.org.*

## Update: USDA provides information on where to send unsolicited seeds

**BROOMFIELD, Colo.** - Following numerous reports in Colorado and nationwide of unsolicited seed mailings, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released state-specific guidance on how and where to send the seeds.

Instructions for mailing seed packets to USDA:

\* Place the unopened seed packet and any packaging, including the mailing label in a mailing envelope. If the seed packets are open, first place the seeds and their packaging into a zip-lock style bag, seal it, and then place everything into a mailing envelope.

\* Mail the envelope to: USDA APHIS PPQ, 3950 North Lewiston Street, Suite 104, Aurora, Colorado 80011-1561

\* Please include your name, address, and phone number so that a State or Federal agriculture official can contact you for additional information, if needed.

\* If you are unable to mail the package to one of

the locations below, please contact your APHIS State plant health director or call 303-373-6645 to arrange a no-contact pick up or to determine a convenient drop-off location.

Do not plant seeds from unknown origins, and do not put the seeds in the trash, which could ultimately end up in the landfill and then sprout. Contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Seed Reporting Hotline at 303-869-9081 or email the Plants Division at cda\_nursery@state.co.us with additional questions.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is continuing to work closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Service, and State departments of agriculture to prevent the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protect U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds.

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NEW 2020 FORD  
**ECOSPORT**  
SE 4WD  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$20,995.99**

MSRP **\$26,045**  
PER MONTH **\$285**  
#FT0319



NEW 2020 FORD  
**FUSION**  
SE AWD  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$23,995.99**

MSRP **\$28,085**  
PER MONTH **\$326**  
#FC2267



NEW 2020 FORD  
**ESCAPE**  
SE AWD  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$26,995.99**

MSRP **\$30,485**  
PER MONTH **\$367**  
#FT7633



NEW 2020 FORD  
**TRANSIT CONNECT**  
XLT  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$28,995.99**

MSRP **\$31,995**  
PER MONTH **\$394**  
#FT0911



NEW 2020 FORD  
**EDGE**  
SEL AWD  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$33,995.99**

MSRP **\$40,215**  
PER MONTH **\$462**  
#FT1682



NEW 2020 FORD  
**F-150**  
XLT SUPERCAB 4X4  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$37,495.99**

MSRP **\$43,935**  
PER MONTH **\$509**  
#FT7918



NEW 2020 FORD  
**RANGER**  
XLT CREW 4X4  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$37,995.99**

MSRP **\$40,870**  
PER MONTH **\$516**  
#FT1725



NEW 2020 FORD  
**EXPLORER**  
LIMITED 4WD  
AUTOMALL PRICE  
**\$47,595.99**

MSRP **\$52,650**  
PER MONTH **\$647**  
#FT7979



**TownAndCountryAlamosa.com**  
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Monday - Saturday - 8:30 am - 6 pm

All prices exclude tax, tags and title. Price includes delivery and handling fee of \$359.99. Artwork used for illustration purposes only. All offers valid on in stock units only. Finance 3.9% for 75 months with 10% down. Must qualify for all applicable factory offered rebates. Must qualify for Factory Conquest Bonus on certain vehicles. Must be financed with Ford Credit. See dealer for details. Offers expire on 8/31/2020.







# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 — Mahal  
 4 Indecent  
 8 22nd Greek letter  
 11 Part of summer  
 12 Moffo solo  
 13 Concealed  
 14 Signs  
 15 Nitpicks  
 16 Website addr.  
 17 1960s foursome  
 19 Snug  
 21 Sister of Helios  
 22 Farm doc  
 23 Coronet  
 26 Common antiseptic  
 29 Motor lodge  
 30 Saturated  
 32 Overindulge  
 34 Kind of bus  
 36 Require  
 38 Senate response  
 39 Racquet game  
 41 Let up  
 43 Office machine  
 44 Ms. Hagen

45 Committee type (2 wds.)  
 48 Went downhill  
 52 To's opposite  
 53 Search for  
 55 Pastrami place  
 56 Carioca's home  
 57 — Khayyam  
 58 Prof.  
 59 Choose  
 60 Literary story  
 61 Cousteau's summer

**DOWN**

1 Ditty  
 2 "Diana" singer  
 3 Medieval clown  
 4 Bowling alleys  
 5 Ages in history  
 6 Clown's getup  
 7 Rushed off  
 8 Buddy  
 9 Do a personnel job



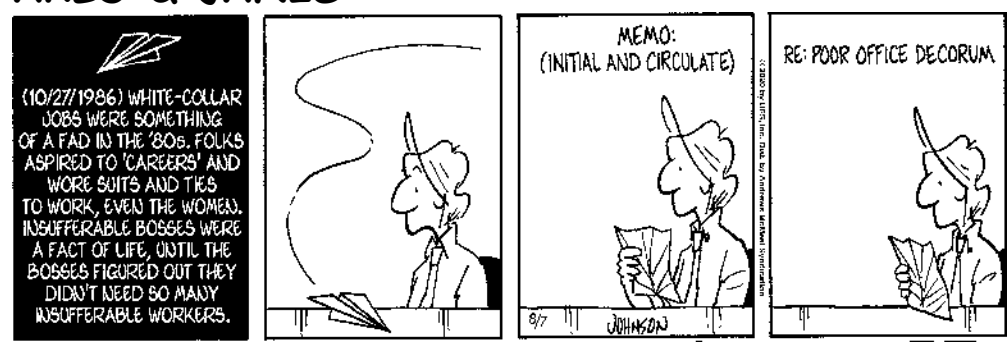
10 Lazily  
 11 Derrick arm  
 18 Idle away time  
 20 Elevator inventor  
 22 Field mouse  
 23 Bob Cratchit's son  
 24 Monogram pt.  
 25 Writer — Rice  
 26 Dots in the Seine  
 27 Grandma  
 28 Iowa, to Jacques  
 31 Computer system

33 Needle hole  
 35 Hard facts  
 37 Rendezvous  
 40 Cheesy snacks  
 42 Villain  
 44 Extreme  
 45 Hendrix hairdo  
 46 Tap defect  
 47 Catcall  
 48 Obstacle  
 49 Auto mishap  
 50 What — can I do?  
 51 Morse signal  
 54 Actress — Thurman

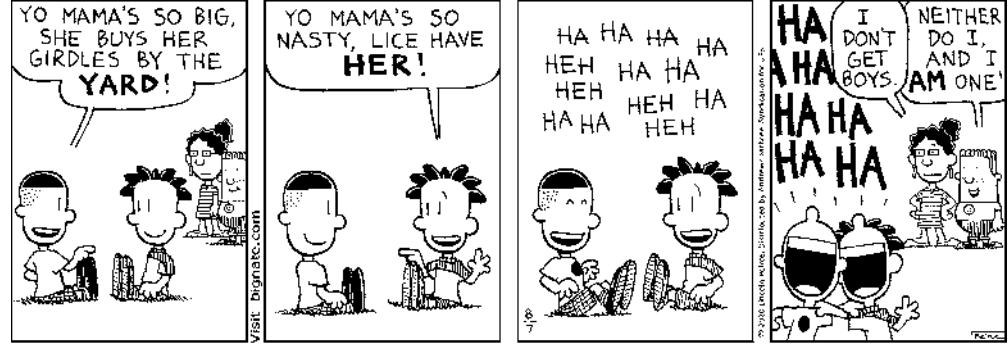
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



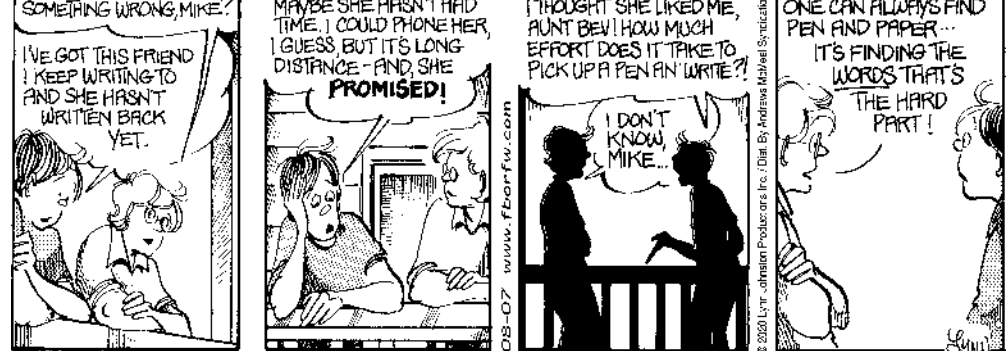
## BIG NATE



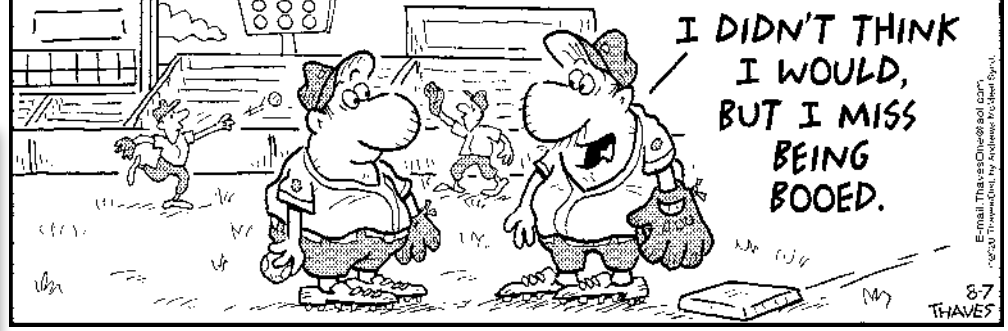
## THE BORN LOSER



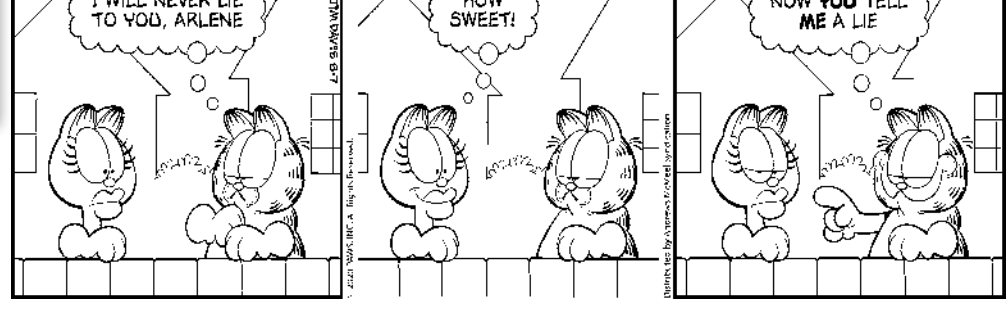
## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



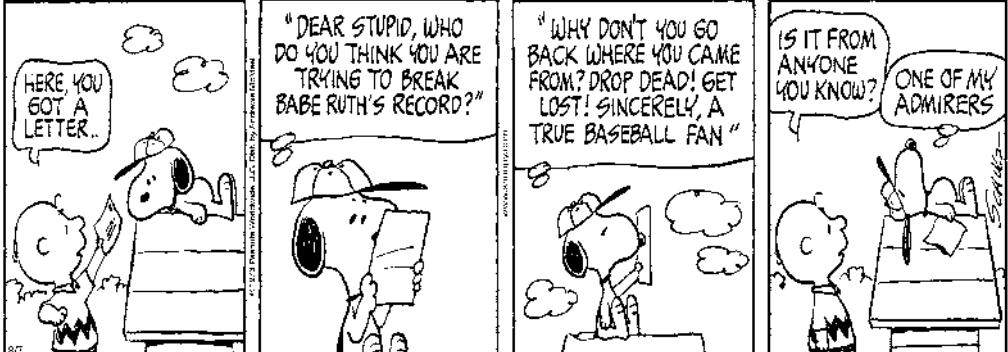
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS

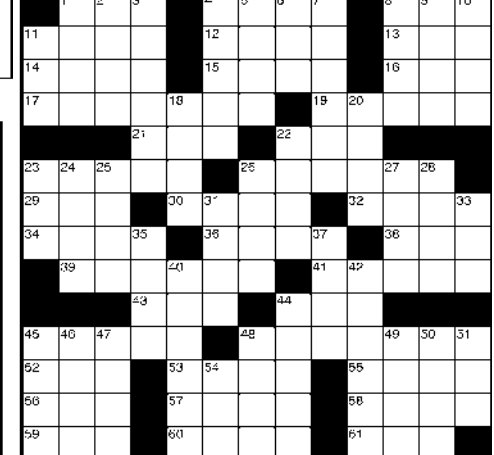


## SUDOKU

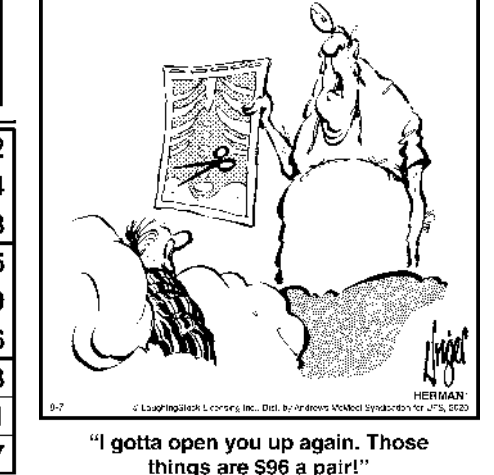
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

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



## HERMAN



# Guilt remains 40 years after job reference was withheld

DEAR ABBY: About 40 years ago, I did someone an injustice, and I have felt guilty ever since. I worked for a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that fired an accounting clerk who was in my small office. I didn't know why she was fired, and I never heard a cross word exchanged between her and her supervisor. She seemed to be capable and friendly.

A prospective employer called me for a reference, and because my company told me that it did not respond to requests for references, I didn't give her one. Ever since, I have wished I had shared what I knew about her. If I was allowed a do-over, I would have told the employer about my positive experience with her and my belief that she was capable and friendly. Her being Black and not having my reference may have increased her difficulty in finding a job. I am sharing this with your readers so they may avoid making a similar mistake.

-- GUILT-RIDDEN IN TEXAS

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: Some companies, on the advice of their legal counsel, strictly adhere to a policy of disclosing only dates of hire and discharge of employees. This has nothing to do with race or ethnicity. It was not a mistake to do as your employers instructed, and

you should not feel guilty for having done so.

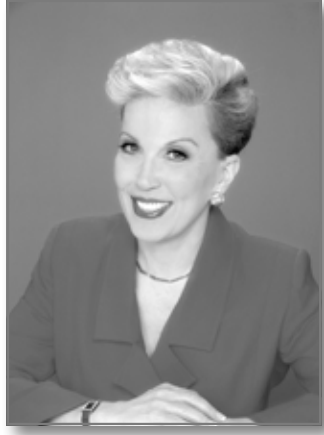
DEAR ABBY: My heart is heavy as I write this. Since the pandemic started, my father-in-law has called us every couple of weeks to ask if we are safe and OK. I have heard nothing from my own father.

I finally called him, mentioning that I thought he would call to check on us. His response was, "I'm the adult; you should be checking on me." (I have two grown children and two grandchildren, so I was taken aback by the thought that I was not an "adult.") I mentioned that because he is not in a nursing home, in jail or has to go to work, I figured he was much safer than my husband and me, who still must go out to work every day and be in contact with hundreds of people.

I feel like my father doesn't care about us like my father-in-law does. What do you think? -- DISAPPOINTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I agree that your father doesn't care about you the same way your father-in-law does. He appears to be so centered upon himself that there's little room to worry about his "children's" welfare.

What do I think? I think that if you love your father, an occasional call, but when



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

you do, expect nothing in return. And you should thank your lucky stars you have a darling father-in-law who takes up the slack.

DEAR ABBY: I have two close, dear friends. They're my inner circle. Both are extroverts and quite talkative. I'm an introvert and quieter. My problem is, I can't get a word in edgewise when we're together. I'm not sure how to tactfully address this subject with them. Any ideas? -- INTROVERT IN THE SOUTH-WEST

DEAR INTROVERT: Yes. Speak up and say exactly what you told me -- "Hey, folks, I can't get a word in edgewise!" If you say it with a smile, it shouldn't be regarded as insulting because it's the truth.

# Lifestyle

## Colorado, teens report an alarming increase in use of ultra-potent marijuana

**COLORADO** — Six years after adult-use marijuana commercialization began in Colorado, teens report an alarming increase in their use of ultra-potent pot products in the form of dabs and vapes, according to official state data released today (Aug. 3, 2020).

More than half of high school students who use marijuana reported that they dab marijuana to get high. Among students who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, 52 percent said they dabbled it, up from 34.4 percent just two years ago—a 50 percent increase, according to the new bi-annual Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results, based on surveys of over 53,000 middle and high school students statewide last year.

“Dabbing” is a method of inhaling highly concentrated THC (commonly referred to as hash oil, wax or shatter) using a blow torch-heated delivery system commonly referred to as a dab rig. THC is the main high-inducing chemical in marijuana. (To download high-quality, free-to-publish photos of marijuana concentrates bought in Colorado, go to [THCphotos.org](http://THCphotos.org).)

The survey results also show a 69 percent increase in students vaping marijuana in two years. Among high school students who used mari-



Photo courtesy of Max Pixel

juana in the past 30 days, 34.3 percent reported vaping it, up from 20.3 percent in 2017.

Denver, the epicenter of commercialization in the state, likewise experienced dramatic increases. High school dabbing increased over 80 percent in two years and vaping increased almost 50 percent.

Colorado has no limits on marijuana potency and has seen levels of THC steadily rise in commercial products. Some concentrates, which make up an increasingly large share of the market, can exceed 90 percent THC. Those potency increases have been documented in a state funded study.

At the request of the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado department of public health and Environment just completed a comprehensive analysis of the health effects of marijuana potency that acknowledged that almost 93 percent of products sold in Colorado are greater than 15 per-

cent THC.

In the early 1990s, the average THC content in confiscated marijuana samples was less than 4 percent. Marijuana potency has accelerated in the past decade as marijuana commercialization expanded.

Rachel O’Bryan, one of Smart Colorado’s co-

founders and an expert in the field of marijuana commercialization and the impacts on kids, said, “It’s no surprise that kids are switching to easily concealed ultra-potent pot when they are bombarded with images and marketing for these high-THC products that have proliferated since legalization. This is not the much milder marijuana of their parents’ generation.”

Peer-reviewed scientific studies show that marijuana harms developing brains yet researchers haven’t been able to fully explore the effects of these new ultra-potent products. A recent study found a significant association between using marijuana concentrates and progressing to more frequent use among adolescents. The study found that the rate of persistence of use and progression of use is greater with concentrated THC than with other marijuana products.

When nationwide high school use of e-cigarettes

soared by 78 percent in a single year and 26 percent of Colorado students, twice the national average, reported current e-cigarette use, then-Gov. John Hickenlooper and public health officials sounded the alarm, laws to ban flavored nicotine vaping liquid were passed and states, including Colorado, sued the e-cigarette manufacturer Juul for illegally marketing to children.

O’Bryan said she hopes these latest figures will finally shock the state into action.

“Commercialized marijuana in Colorado, and the way our state has chosen to leave the industry largely unregulated, is setting our children up for future addiction,” she said. “I hope this news is a wake-up call to policymakers that a serious discussion and immediate action on rampant pot potency is needed. Our children have only one chance to grow up and we as a community are failing them.”

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