



Mowing woes



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San Luis Valley
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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

JULY 14, 2020

\$1

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SLV Today

Alamosa Farmers Market

ALAMOSA—The Alamosa Farmers' Market welcomes locals and visitors to downtown Alamosa, Saturdays at the corner of 6th and State. From 8 am to 8:30 am, all immune compromised members of the community are welcome.

From 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM for all other patrons.

We will be enforcing social distancing so please wear and mask, limit the number of members of your household coming to the market, and be prepared to be efficient with your time at the market.

SDC BOE Meeting

MOSCA—The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday July 14th, 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.

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SLV WEATHER



Partly Cloudy 85 / 48

Wed: Sunny 84 / 48

Thur: Scattered Showers 82 / 50

INSIDE

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Virus complications take Lloyd Engen

ALAMOSA—Longtime Valley Courier sports editor Lloyd Luther Engen succumbed to COVID-19 related complications Sunday morning, July 12.

Engen had been in the coronavirus unit at San Luis Care Center until his condition forced a transfer to San Luis Valley Health where he passed just after 8 a.m. Sunday.

He was well known in the San Luis Valley sports community, both as Courier sports editor and a former sports information director at Adams State University where he was inducted into the athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Engen was able to attend the 2019 Hall of Fame banquet where he reconnected with a number of athletes that he had the honor of

covering over the years.

Lloyd worked at Adams State for 13 years where he was the Sports Information Director and Public Information Officer. During his time at Adams State he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1987.

He went on and became the sports editor at the Valley Courier for 12 years where he was a fixture on the sidelines at thousands of sporting events in the San Luis Valley. He made it a point to get to 10 or 15 every week.

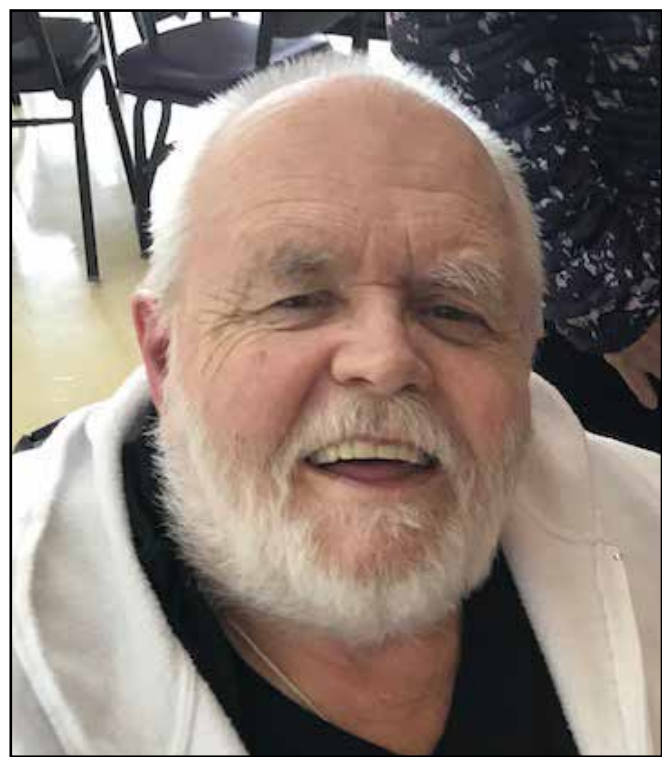
He served on several award committees including the All-Valley Football, All-Valley Cross Country and ASU Hall of Fame. Lloyd made many friends with his work especially Damon and Konnie Martin as Lloyd

drove cross-country on numerous occasions to cover the Grizzlies in their national title endeavors.

After suffering a career-ending accident doing what he loved, covering a football game, Lloyd spent ten years in Fort Collins with longtime friends Ron and Holly Dea.

His reach was larger than sports with his weekly column titled "Saturday's Soap Box" and occasional tributes titled "All the Heroes I Need" that moved readers across the Valley and beyond.

Cremation was chosen and a celebration of his life will be planned later as announced by Rogers Family Mortuary. See a complete obituary on page 2.



Alamosa County avoids new cases

SAN LUIS VALLEY—Five new cases for the SLV were reported since last Friday, 7/10: 1 from Rio Grande County, and 2 each from Conejos and Mineral Counties. The total number of cumulative cases was 456 as of Monday. There were currently 33 known active cases in our region. Alamosa County reported their 7th fatality Monday, bringing the total number of patients who have died with COVID-19 in the SLV to 11. Numbers are updated weekdays at <http://www.slvemergency.org/slv-covid-19/>

This pandemic has been stressful for everyone. One way to cope with COVID-related stress is to pay attention to nutrition as

part of self-care. Vitamin C, D, zinc, and other vitamins and minerals may boost the immune system's ability to fight off infection. The CDC recommends obtaining essential vitamins and minerals through the food you eat. See more here: <https://bit.ly/3iONzET>.

Testing: Antibody testing is now being offered by SLV Health. Call 719-274-6021 or 719-587-1226.

For testing of symptomatic individuals only, call: Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990

SLV Health Respiratory Clinic 719-589-2511 ext. 9

For symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19

Farmers' Market Receives Innovation Assistance award



Courier photo by Keith Cerny

Alamosa's Farmers' Market was recognized and will receive assistance to provide a COVID safe market.

ALAMOSA — Alamosa's Farmers' Market has received an Innovation Assistance Award from the First Southwest Bank Community Fund to cover expenses incurred in shifting business practices to provide a COVID-safe market this season.

"Making the changes is expensive to do and takes a lot of management. We weren't sure we could do it. The award from First Southwest Community Fund makes it possible. Their help not only covers many of the increased costs, it is an expression of their belief that not only is it possible to serve the public safely, our community needs it," said Market Board President Trudi Kretsinger.

Market Director Mandy Pittman, and Interim Market Director Crystal Benavidez, who has stepped in while Pittman is on maternity leave, have been attending virtual meetings with the Colorado Farmers' Market Association since mid-March. "Based on reports

from markets that have opened across the state, we've created a plan to promote physical distancing," Pittman said. "By decreasing our number of vendors and designating entry and exit points, we can better manage crowds and traffic flow."

"Farmers' markets around Colorado report record business this year. With shortages at the supermarket, people are suddenly aware of the fragility of our food delivery system. All at the same time, they're clamoring for nutritious, fresh food—which they can get at the farmers' market."

According to Pittman, who has managed the market for the past 7 seasons, it will be a very different shopping experience this year.

"There won't be music, kids' activities, or food prep demonstrations - just food and health products. There will be some prepared food at the MOKI and other food trucks - to go only." Acting Market Man-

ager Crystal Benavidez explained, "We know that usually the market means CROWDS! It's where we go to see everybody. But, this year we're going to have a crowd-free market. We request only one shopper per household and if you recognize someone behind their mask, you'll need to just wave from across the way."

So, it's not the same, but we are pulling it off for the health of our community and our local food system!"

The Alamosa Farmers' Market particulars for 2020:

July 11 - October 10th on the corner of 6th and State

8 AM - 8:30 AM for health-compromised folks

8:30- 1:30PM
Cash (small bills, please), SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks (for fresh produce), some vendors accept electronic funds

Remember:
Love thy neighbor - wear a mask

40,000 Unique Visitors Per Month
Shouldn't you be advertising on:
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Record

OBITUARIES

Maurice Weir Smith

SANFORD – Maurice Weir Smith, 94 of Glendale, passed away peacefully, Saturday, July 4, 2020, at home with his family by his side. He was born in Sanford CO on Oct. 24, 1925.

His early years were spent on The V Heart Ranch near Sanford. He talked of those years and putting up hay with teams of horses and the Mormon hay derricks that use to be a common sight around the southern part of the Valley. In 1939 his father bought the McKelvey Farm west of La Jara on the Capulin highway. He was very fond of those years, a much more mechanized period he and his siblings welcomed. He loved the farm and the life that it offered into his teen years. He also developed a passion for airplanes. His brother Thales talked about the many airplane models hanging from the ceiling in the bedroom they shared. Thales joked about how many times he got tangled up in "Those d—n Airplanes".

When he started driving and saved enough money he took flight instruction at Bergman Field in Alamosa and received his private pilot license in his late teens. After the war broke out and he graduated from high school in La Jara he enlisted in The Army Air Corps with dreams "like so many young men of the time" of becoming a fighter pilot. He spoke of the challenge of how many friends in the program got "washed out" and the constant threat of being next. Any minor slip up and you were gone!

He graduated from Advanced Fighter School and received his Wings Sept. 8, 1945. He had orders to a P51 Squadron in his hands, went on leave for a week after graduation and when he got back from leave all orders were cancelled. The war ended and they didn't need fighter pilots any longer. He never



got to fly a P51.

While on military active duty for two more years he continued to ferry military planes across the United States. He enrolled at Northern Arizona College into a Military Program to continue his education. While he was stationed at Williams Air Field in Mesa, AZ he met his future wife Sylvia Jean Hancock of Mesa AZ. He was discharged and they were married on June 5, 1947. After being discharged from active duty he continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve for 27 years when he retired as a Lt. Colonel.

Maurice and Sylvia made their home on the family farm partnering with his father. Four children were born to this union. After 14 years on the family farm, needing more production for their survival, Maurice bought a farm in the Carmel District where they farmed until the children finished school. They sold the Carmel farm in 1975 and moved to Alamosa. He began selling and appraising real estate until 1994 at which point he and Sylvia retired and moved to Glendale AZ. While in the valley he flew charter flights for the Alamosa airport. He had a commercial license with an instrument rating and flew for Coors for the weather modification program. During this time some farmers in the area gave him a lot of grief about how he was changing the



weather. He retained his pilot's license and passed his flight physicals into his early 70's.

Preceding him in death wife Sylvia, his father Weir, mother Annie, brother Thales, brother Kelly, sister JoAnne and son Michael. He is survived by his children, Vianne (Richard) Coleman of Council Bluffs IA, Michelle Smith of Glendale AZ, and Mark (Markie) Smith of Alamosa CO. His grandchildren Cari (Jordan) Harger of Overland Park KS, Andrew (Dana) Coleman of Papillon NE, Zachary (Aimee) Smith of Lakewood CO, Cheyenne (Tim) Whipple of Phoenix AZ. There are nine great-grandchildren. The family requests no flowers or donations, please. For those who would like to share a memory of offer condolences to the Smith Family, you can go to <https://www.meldrummortuary.com/obituaries/maurice-smith-16/>. A celebration of life in Alamosa will be held at a later date. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Maurice Weir Smith please visit our Sympathy Store.

Hoping there are airplanes in Heaven

Johnnie Gayle Flaget

Johnnie Gayle Flaget of Surprise, Ariz. passed away on June 10, 2020 after a 4 week, hard-fought, battle with COVID-19. Johnnie was born in Great Falls, MT July 8, 1943. He moved with his parents and younger brother from Cutbank, MT to Frenchtown, MT in 1956. The summer before his senior year he became employed with the US Forest Service, little did he know it would become his career. He graduated from Frenchtown High School in 1961. He served during the Vietnam War (1964-69) as a helicopter maintenance mechanic.

At the age of 29, Johnnie married Vera Fryday on July 8, 1972 (his birthday) and instantly became a father to Suzette and Bob. A year later John was born and completed their family.

Johnnie retired from the US Forest Service after working for more than 40 years. He loved being outdoors and took pride in the work he did protecting public lands, forests and mountain country. His final assignment was with San Dimas Technology and Development in California. He produced training videos and developed/tested forestry products. After living in Montana, Colorado and California he and his wife Vera settled in Surprise, AZ. They quickly made Happy Trails Retirement Community their home, where they made new friends and enjoyed nearby family.

Johnnie was an honest, loyal and kind man. He lived his life with integrity. He was a gentleman and considered a handshake his word. He was a family man in every sense of the word. His children fondly remember their



father being present for holidays, sporting events and school activities. Johnnie was also an involved grandparent and great grandparent who thoroughly enjoyed celebrating his grandchildren's milestones and activities. He kept the magic of Santa alive for his grandchildren one year by dressing up as Santa and pretending to fall from the rooftop. The family will never forget the excited eyes of the kids as they witnessed Santa, with his bag of toys, picking himself up off ground and yelling at Rudolph!

For those who knew Johnnie, no one will ever forget his sense of humor (he loved pranks) and his contagious laugh. He was a man of God, a loving husband, an involved father, a fun grandpa and a dedicated friend with many friendships spanning more than 50 years. He loved nothing more than getting together with

family and friends to play cards, drink a beer, watch sports, share a laugh or just visit. He will be greatly missed.

He leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Vera Flaget his daughter Suzette Dufresne and her husband Paul, his two sons Bob Fryday and John Flaget and his wife Brandie; nine grandchildren, Karissa, Dean, Wyatt and Grace Dufresne, Taylor Crusch, Jordan Fryday, Kennady Steele, Kassy Flaget and Maddie Braun; and four great-grandchildren, Joey, Leelynd, Emma and Bentley due in December 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Henrietta Flaget and brother Gary Flaget.

A funeral Mass was held July 11th at 10 am at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church in Surprise, Ariz. A Celebration of Life will be held in Montana once social distancing requirements are no longer necessary.

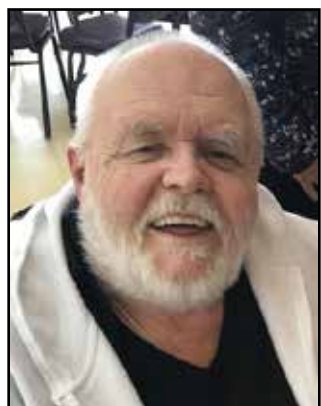
Mary "Ruth" Garcia

MONTE VISTA — Services for Mary "Ruth" Garcia will be July 17th at 10:00 am at the Grace Community Baptist Church, 403 Lincoln Ave, Monte Vista, CO 81144 with burial following at Workers Union Cemetery in Monte Vista. Lunch will be held immediately after at the Grace Community Baptist Church. All are welcome to come. Thank you.



Cremation was chosen and a celebration of his life will be planned for a later date. Condolences can be sent to Holly and Ron Dea, 1412 Salem St Fort Collins, Colo., 80525.

Lloyd Luther Engen



ALAMOSA—Longtime Valley Courier Sports Editor and Alamosa resident Lloyd Luther Engen, 79, succumbed to COVID-19 related complications peacefully at San Luis Valley Health on Sunday, July 12, 2020.

Engen was born on June 15, 1941, in Cavalier County, North Dakota to Chester Lloyd and Viola (Thormodsgaard) Engen. At a young age, Lloyd was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, "brittle bone disease," and was only expected to live to be 50. He outlived that with his active lifestyle.

Lloyd spent his childhood in Hatton, Northwood and Larimore, ND, and graduated from Larimore High School. His creative writing skills began to show clearly in high school. Lloyd had a beautiful tenor voice, was often in demand for a vocal performance and won awards in state vocal competitions.

He attended the University of North Dakota for

one year and then took a position as a men's clothing buyer with Johnson Store Co. in Larimore. He also started and edited a local newspaper, the Larimore Leader. Lloyd then moved to western North Dakota and started a chain of clothing stores before venturing to Colorado.

Lloyd worked at Adams State for 13 years where he was the Sports Information Director and Public Information Officer. During his time at Adams State, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1987. He was

a 2006 inductee into the Adams State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

He went on and became the sports editor at the Valley Courier for 12 years where he was a fixture on the sidelines at thousands of sporting events in the San Luis Valley. He made it a point to get to 10 or 15 every week. He worked 14 hours most days, 19 on some and all seven days plenty of weeks.

He served on several award committees including the All-Valley Football, All-Valley Cross Country and ASU Hall of Fame. Lloyd made many friends with his work especially Damon and Konnie Martin as Lloyd drove cross-country on numerous occasions to cover the Grizzlies in their national title endeavors.

After suffering a career-ending accident doing what he loved, covering a football game, Lloyd spent ten years in Fort Collins with longtime friends Ron and Holly

Dea. His reach was larger than sports with his weekly column titled "Saturday's Soap Box" and occasional tributes titled "All the Heroes I Need" that moved readers across the Valley and beyond.

He was a staple at nearly all holiday settings, from dressing up as Santa Claus and making deliveries to friends and family members at Christmas time to dressing up as Uncle Sam as he photographed and marched in the annual Fourth of July Parade and later in the evening celebrating the San Luis Valley Federal fireworks show at the Fairgrounds. He also dressed up and was known to many at Trinity Lutheran School as the Cookie Monster or Papa Smurf as he would make his yearly trip to read, hand out cookies or take a pie to the face.

When Lloyd found time, he loved to have family dinners with Joy, Anthony, Abby, Aubrey and Jarod

Lucero, family dinners with Lee, Mary, Kim, Kevin and Nicole Conner and Eric Flores and family. He was an avid storyteller that made every meal last hours because his unique narration produced tears and bellyaches of laughter. He loved attending movies in the theatre every week, loved any type of music but especially that of Elvis Presley, soaking in the warm water out at Sand Dunes Recreation in Hooper and was a proud supporter of the Minnesota Vikings and Colorado Rockies.

Lloyd is survived by his six children, Jill (Bill) Blickensderfer of Rapid City, S.D., Joan Stordalen (Randy Firchau) of St. James, Minn., Kari Thomas of Bismarck, S.D., Dia (Chris) Metz of Santa Monica, Calif., Fil Chavez of Durango, Colo., and Maria Elena (Dana) Saunders of Douglasville, Ga., brother Rick Engen and sister Karyn Conrad his 15 grandchildren and his extended friends and family.

– Obituaries continued on Page 3 –



San Luis Valley Federal Bank

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(Limits, restrictions, & block your card)

Person-to-Person Transfers using Zelle®

Mobile Deposits



GET STARTED
WWW.SLVFED.COM

Valley News

Chasing Excellence, now available at Narrow Gauge Bookstore

ALAMOSA – The first-ever authorized biography of Adams State University’s legendary coach Joe I. Vigil is now available at the Narrow Gauge Bookstore Coop, located off the corner of State and Main Streets in Alamosa.

The 320-page book, titled *Chasing Excellence: The Remarkable Life and Inspiring Vigilosophy of Coach Joe I. Vigil*, is an in-

timiate look at Vigil’s life, from his birth in Antonito to modest upbringing on the south side of Alamosa and eventual rise to the pinnacle of Olympic glory.

Vigil coached at Adams State from 1965 to 1993, amassing a record of 3,014-175 (a winning percentage of .942) and coached 19 national champion teams, 425 All Americans and 87 indi-

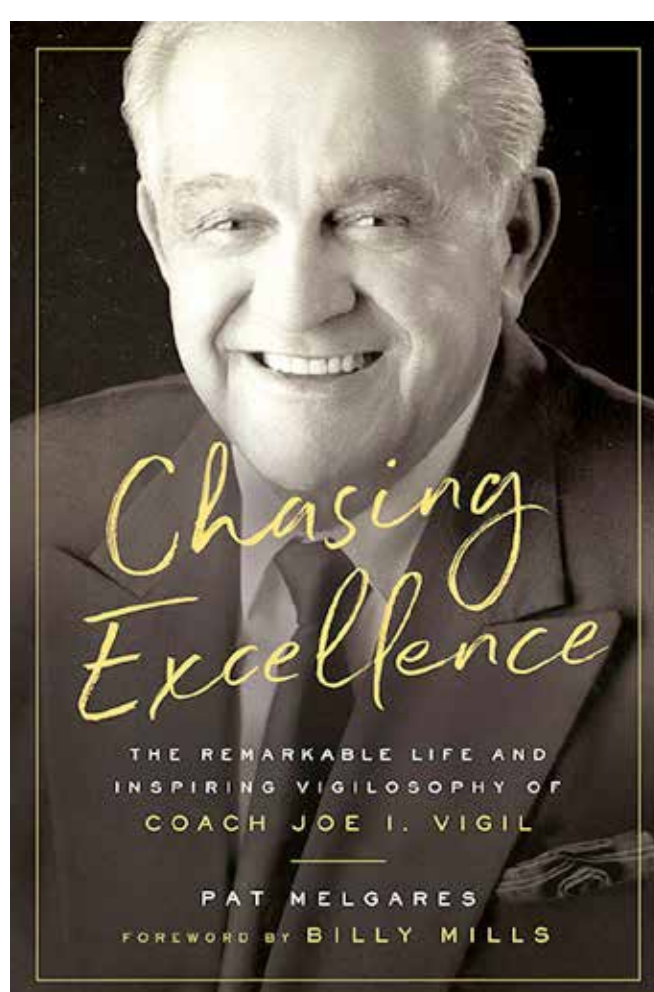
vidual national champions. He has also coached 22 Olympians during his career.

The book, written by former Valley Courier editor and Alamosa native Pat Melgares, sells for \$19.95. The Narrow Gauge Bookstore is the only retailer in the San Luis Valley currently selling the book.

“This book is not just

about remarkable athletic and coaching success,” Melgares said. “It’s about how Coach Vigil developed into a compassionate human being, dedicated to service and life-long learning. He credits his success to his upbringing in Alamosa, Adams State and the San Luis Valley.”

For more information, go to www.soulsticepublishing.com.



Valley-Wide receives grant

ALAMOSA — Another excellent USDA Rural Development project in Alamosa County has been awarded. A \$50,000 Community Facilities Grant was funded to Valley Wide Health Systems, Inc. for patient transportation assistance. This Rural Development investment will be used to purchase four new passenger vehicles to provide transportation services to patients that currently do not have access to public or private transportation. Valley-Wide serves a patient population that is economically disadvantaged, impoverished, and historically underserved at health centers located in the San Luis Valley, Arkansas Valley, and Canon City.

This is just one recent example of Rural Development’s investments in the rural Colorado economy through 45+ programs that provide grants, direct loans, and loan guarantees to constituents, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments. Find more information on programs available at www.rd.usda.gov/co.

“Valley-Wide truly appreciates the USDA’s continued investment in rural Colorado communities. Many of the programs that Valley-Wide has been able to implement have been due to the funding received from USDA Rural Development funds.” Said Valley-Wide’s Chief Financial Officer Javier Martinez.

“This particular

awarded grant funding will help Valley-Wide break down the transportation barrier to care and social determinants of health that many in our service area experience.”

USDA Rural Development is committed

to improving the quality of life and creating pathways to prosperity in rural Colorado by providing assistance that supports infrastructure, business development, housing, community facilities, and high-speed internet access.

Death investigation underway in Alamosa County

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a death occurring in the county.

Investigators responded to a property off Cty. Rd. 9 in Alamosa County in the morning hours of July 13, 2020. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has been requested to assist in the investigation.

Information will be released as it becomes available.

COVID meetings less frequent

ALAMOSA — The Board of County Commissioners for Alamosa County will no longer hold daily COVID-19 Special Emergency Meetings. COVID-19 Meetings will be scheduled for every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. located at 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101 beginning Tuesday, July 13, 2020.

Regularly scheduled Board meetings will continue as previously designated. A virtual conference room has been established for anyone who would like to listen in to comply with Colorado Open Meetings Law. You may call join in Zoom with Meeting ID: 270-314-6874 or call in 253-215-8782 or 669-900-6833 and use Meeting ID: 270-314-6874. Accessibility may be limited due to network capacity. Meetings may be cancelled when no business needs to be conducted.

Did you know?

It can be easy to forget to apply sunscreen when a sunny summer day beckons you to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors. But forgetting to apply sunscreen before spending time in the sun is a potentially deadly mistake. According to the World Health Organization, one in every three cancers diagnosed is a skin cancer. In addition, the Skin Cancer Foundation notes that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70. The discomfort of a sunburn might seem relatively harmless, but the relationship between sunburns and cancer risk is significant. The SCF notes that having five or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma, a type of skin cancer that often and quickly spreads to nearby lymph nodes. Perhaps that’s one reason why the American Cancer Society reports that the number of new invasive melanoma cases diagnosed annually increased by 47 percent between 2010 and 2020. Avoiding sunburn by applying and reapplying a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a minimum sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 should be a priority for anyone spending time outdoors. TF207111

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

SLV Health now offers antibody testing for COVID-19

ALAMOSA — The public are welcome to contact the labs at either RMC or CCH and get scheduled for COVID-19 antibodies, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The cost is \$50 and the results will be posted in the consumer’s SLVH Patient Portal. No insurance will be accepted. No fasting is required for this blood draw. The phone numbers are 719-587-1226 in Alamosa and 719-274-6021 in La Jara. The form can be downloaded from SLV Health’s website on the Direct to Consumer page: slvh.org/dtc

SLV HEALTH

Now Offers COVID Antibody Testing

Two locations: La Jara and Alamosa. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment

COVID ANTIBODY TESTING MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Download the form from www.slvh.org/dtc

\$50.00 Direct To Consumer (no insurance, credit cards accepted)

Results posted to the secure SLVH patient portal

No fasting required

Conejos County Hospital Lab: 719-274-6021

Regional Medical Center Lab: 719-587-1226

OBITUARIES

Francisco “Frank” Jose Medina Sr.



Cisneros, Matthew Medina, Michael Medina and Carlos Vialpando, 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren. He

is also survived by his sisters Ann Lee Martinez of Colorado Springs, CO; Anselma Montoya CSC, CO; Kathy Maestas of San Pablo, brother Ricky Medina of San Luis, CO; Frank was born in San Cristobal, New Mexico and grew up with his 7 siblings in San Luis. He graduated from Centennial High School in 1963. Soon thereafter he met the love of his life Ramoncita Cordova

of Garcia/Jaroso and together they reared five children in Colorado Springs, CO; Frank was a city fireman for Colorado Springs and retired after 30 years while still enjoying other jobs and professions. After the life of a civil servant and first responder, they returned to San Luis in 2000 and built his home in the Sangre De Cristo Ranches where he would spend the remainder of

his life in the San Luis Valley. Frank loved Jesus, and serving the Lord and devoted countless hours to helping others within his community. Vigil rosary will be held on Friday, July 17, 2020, at 7:00 PM at the Romero Funeral Chapel in San Luis. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2020, at 10:00 AM at Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis. Interment

will follow at the family plot at the Sangre De Cristo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations in his name to the Fireman’s Fund, his favorite charity, and the first responders of Costilla County. To leave online condolences please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of San Luis.

Lifestyle

Click It or Ticket enforcement has begun

STATEWIDE—Starting Sunday, July 12, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and local law enforcement agencies statewide has begun a weeklong Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement period.

The summer enforcement period also marks the launch of CDOT's latest seat belt safety campaign, Common Bond. The campaign features a variety of contrasting images that underscore that, even though Coloradans hold passionate opinions and may not agree on everything, we can all get behind seat belts.

As a state, Colorado's seat belt use rate currently sits at 88% — slightly below the national average of 90%. The Common Bond campaign highlights that despite our differences, the majority of Coloradans do buckle up.

In 2019, 196 unbuckled drivers and passengers were killed in crashes in the state, accounting for more than half of the 377 total passenger vehicle deaths. The counties that had the most unbuckled deaths in 2019 were Adams (25), Weld (23) and El Paso (15).

In 2018, eight of the 216 unrestrained occupant fatalities involved children ages 14 or younger.

“Choosing to wear a seat belt can be a life-saving decision. Drivers and passengers wearing seat belts are much more likely to survive a crash. It's an easy choice,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. “Please remember to buckle up and remind fellow drivers and passengers to do the same.” “Choosing to wear a seat belt can be a life-saving decision. Drivers and passengers wearing seat belts are much more likely to survive a crash. It's an easy choice,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew.

“Please remember to buckle up and remind fellow drivers and passengers to do the same.”

“Unfortunately, there are people who continue to believe they do not need to fasten their seat belt. Some drivers think that because there is less traffic or they are only traveling a short distance that seat belts are not always necessary,” said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the CSP. “That couldn't be further from the truth. The reality is, 52% of collisions occur within a 5-mile radius from home, and 69% occur within a 10-mile radius of home. We hope every citation issued is a reminder to always buckle up every time you enter a vehicle.”

In 2019, the top five counties with the lowest seat belt use in Colorado were all rural, according to a CDOT study. Those counties include:

- Moffat (71%)
- Cheyenne (74%)
- Pueblo (80%)
- Delta (81%)
- Weld (81%)

COLORADO'S SEAT BELT LAWS

• **Adults** — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

• **Teens** — Colorado's Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

• **Children** — Colorado's Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained

child under age 16 in the vehicle.

Fines for not buckling up in Colorado start at \$65, and parents or caregivers caught with an improperly restrained child can receive a minimum fine of \$82.

From 2013 to 2017, 30 children aged 0 to 8 were killed in passenger vehicle crashes in Colorado. Among these, more than half were in an improperly used or installed car seat — or no car seat at all. Parents and caregivers can learn more about Colorado child passenger safety laws, recommendations and recalls at CarSeatsColorado.com.

ABOUT CLICK IT OR TICKET

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide campaign from NHTSA. Since Click It or Ticket was introduced in Colorado in 2002, statewide seat belt use has increased from 72% to 86%. For more information about seat belt safety and enforcement citation numbers, visit codot.gov/safety/seatbelts-carseats.

COVID-19

Safe transportation infrastructure is essential for emergency first responders and freight drivers as Colorado navigates the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, road maintenance and construction continues on CDOT projects with social distancing and other health safety measures to reduce COVID-19 exposure on the worksite. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment announced guidelines for construction activities. The public is urged to join the campaign for #DoingMyPartCO by practicing social distancing, wearing face masks, staying at home when possible, and avoiding nonessential travel. With fewer vehicles on the roads, CDOT crews will be able to work more efficiently and safely.

WHOLE SYSTEM. WHOLE SAFETY.

To heighten safety awareness, CDOT recently announced its Whole System — Whole Safety initiative. This project takes a systematic statewide approach to safety combining the benefits of CDOT's programs that address driving behaviors, our built environment and the organization's operations. The goal is to improve the safety of Colorado's transportation network

by reducing the rate and severity of crashes and improving the safety of all transportation modes. The program has one simple mission—to get everyone home safely.

ABOUT CDOT
CDOT has approximately 3,000 employees located at its Denver headquarters and in regional offices throughout Colorado, and manages more than 23,000 lane miles of highway and

3,429 bridges. CDOT also manages grant partnerships with a range of other agencies, including metropolitan planning organizations, local governments and airports. It also administers Bustang, the state-owned and operated interregional express service. Governor Polis has charged CDOT to further build on the state's intermodal mobility options.



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How to recognize when you can stop mowing

Each weekend in spring, summer and fall, millions of homeowners fire up their mowers and cut the grass in their yards. A few hours spent mowing the lawn can be a great time to get some sun and some exercise in the great outdoors.

As fall gradually transitions to winter, homeowners may wonder when to stop mowing their lawns. Each lawn is different, and when to stop mowing may depend on a host of factors, including local climate and the type of turf. In addition to climate and turf, homeowners can keep an eye on these conditions to determine when the time is right to put their mowers away for the winter.

• **Frost:** Warm-season grasses typically go dormant after a couple of significant frosts. Homeowners can jot down each frost during fall. Frosts are most noticeable in the early morning hours, so be sure to check lawn conditions each morning as the weather begins to grow cold. Frost may be noticeable without even going outside, but homeowners may need to go outside to check on chilly mornings or on days when the previous night was especially cold. If you must go outside, stay off the grass to protect it. Two or three frosts might be enough to make warm-season



grasses go dormant for the winter. Cool-season grasses may keep growing and require mowing even after a few frosts, so it's imperative that homeowners determine which type of grass is in their yards.

• **Soil temperature:** If it's hard to determine if frosts have occurred, homeowners can try checking the temperature of their soil to decide if they need to keep mowing. The lawn care experts at Pennington recommend homeowners continue mowing warm-season grasses so long as they keep growing. Lawns may not grow as quickly in fall as they do in spring or summer, and growth may not be as visible to the naked eye during this time of year as it is in other times. Homeowners can routinely check soil temperature to determine if their grasses have stopped growing. Warm-season grasses tend to stop

growing once the soil temperature is consistently at 55 F or below, while cool-season grasses tend to stop when temperatures are 45 F or lower.

Falling leaves have long been a barometer used by homeowners to determine if they need to keep mowing their lawns. That's not necessarily a reliable metric, as grass can still keep growing even if leaves have been falling for weeks. In addition, using a mulching mower when leaves begin falling is a great way to provide the lawn with nutrients it can use throughout the winter. Some trees shed their leaves more quickly than others, but it's a good rule of thumb that lawns will need to keep being mowed if trees are still retaining more than half their leaves.

A host of factors can help homeowners determine when it's safe to put their mowers away for the winter. FH208147

9 Reasons to Shop Local

1 Shopping Local Creates Jobs: The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and helps create more jobs.

2 Local independent businesses invest more in our community: They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4 Shopping Local saves you money and time! Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.

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**
- 48 Lariat
 - 50 Lampoon
 - 52 Many oz.
 - 53 Estrada or Satie
 - 54 Formula
 - 59 Perpetually
 - 60 Recede
 - 61 Dubuque's state
 - 62 Red — — beet
 - 63 NNW opposite
 - 64 Ladder part
- DOWN**
- 1 Friar's title
 - 2 Water, on the Seine
 - 3 Morse signal
 - 4 Ski trail
 - 5 "Misery" co-star
 - 6 "Oh, gross!"
 - 7 Paying the kidnapper
 - 8 Customs charge
 - 9 Europe-Asia divider
 - 10 Less modern

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K	O	A		N	O	M	E		S	A	P				

- 14 Get fresh
- 16 Future tulip or onion
- 20 — kwon do
- 21 Muse of history
- 22 Verdi's princess
- 23 Vitamin D source
- 24 — Abdul-Jabbar
- 28 Workers
- 29 Double helix
- 31 That, to Jaime
- 34 Periods
- 35 Puts on the radio
- 36 Tex-Mex snack
- 41 Arith. term
- 42 Island near Corsica
- 44 Dueler's weapon
- 45 Cocoon dweller
- 46 Sautés
- 49 Up and about
- 51 Green pod
- 52 Grease job
- 55 Montana and Flutie
- 56 Unlucky gambler's note
- 57 Buy
- 58 Pester continuously

ALLEY OOP

DINNY, I'M SO HAPPY YOU FOUND LOVE. FRANCINE SEEMS LIKE A LOVELY DINOSAUR.

I'M WORRIED, THOUGH. DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE OUT AND LIVE WITH HER? START A FAMILY?

RAAAR!

WHAT DID HE SAY?

I DON'T SPEAK DINOSAUR, BUT I'M GUESSING HE SAID 'PUMP THE BRAKES, ALLEY! WE JUST STARTED DATING.'

ARLO & JANIS

FOR BASTILLE DAY, I'M PREPARING A BISTRO CLASSIC, 'STEAK AND FRITES!'

FRENCH FRITES!!

BUT IN FRANCE, THEY CALL THEM 'FRITES!'

AND THEY MAY HAVE ORIGINATED IN BELGIUM. NO ONE ACTUALLY KNOWS.

MAYBE SOMEDAY WE COULD REALLY GO TO FRANCE!

MIGHT BE CHEAPER THAN THESE STEAKS!

BIG NATE

RIDE THE RIP-SNORTER! ONLY THREE TICKETS!

SAY!

THOSE ARE SOME FINE-LOOKING TATTOOS YOU'VE GOT THERE, FELLA!

UH... THANKS.

THERE'S NOTHING I APPRECIATE MORE THAN A GOOD TATTOO!

WANNA SEE MINE?

THIS'LL JUST TAKE A MINUTE.

THE BORN LOSER

I THOUGHT YOU HAD VOWED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT?

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT AND DID LOSE A FEW POUNDS!

WELL, EVIDENTLY, THEY MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO FIND YOU AGAIN!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

MAYBE THIS TRIP WILL BE OK. FLYING TO WINNIPEG WILL BE COOL.

AT LEAST I'M GETTING AWAY FROM ELIZABETH AN' THE APE. YOU CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH FROM A 10-YEAR-OLD AN' A BABY!

YEAH... IT'S KINDA NEAT BEING ON MY OWN. — LET'S SEE... SEAT NUMBER 21 F.

FRANK & ERNEST

IF WE EVER PLAY HOCKEY IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER AGAIN, LET'S NOT HAVE ANY OUTDOOR STADIUM GAMES.

GARFIELD

GARFIELD! I SAID 'PINNER'!

YOU CAN'T WALK THE SIX FEET TO THE KITCHEN?

I PREFER DELIVERY

THE GRIZZWELLS

YUM! THIS WILDLIFE COOKBOOK HAS SOME VERY TASTY RECIPES

LIM, SAY, BUDDY, ABOUT HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SAY YOU WEIGH, BY THE WAY?

PEANUTS

I USED TO TRY TO TAKE EACH DAY AS IT CAME...

YOU KNOW, LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME...

MY PHILOSOPHY HAS CHANGED

I'M DOWN TO HALF-A-DAY AT A TIME!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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HERMAN

"They're \$12... but don't worry, I'll keep them in a vault and wear an imitation."

Woman fumes when man won't take time to phone

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with the same man for 15 years. For the last six, we have been living together. He's a machinist who owns his own business and works strict hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Sometimes he locks his doors at 5 and works an hour or two later, but he doesn't call to let me know he is working late. I have told him calling is common courtesy. Sometimes he does it, but more often he does not. He thinks it's "ridiculous" that I would wonder where he is, and if I want to know, I can call his shop.

Last Saturday morning he was up at 6 a.m. and told me he needed to drive 100 miles north of here to look at a "project" for a customer to see if he can fix it. When I asked what the project was, he said he didn't know. This guy is someone he has recently started a friendship with. It seemed odd that he wouldn't let me go along for the ride. He said he'd have his phone on him, and I could call anytime to see where he was.

When I didn't hear from him all day, I started calling around 7 p.m. and three times after that, but he didn't pick up. He pulled back into our driveway around 10 p.m. and told me he was helping the guy on move cows, and he would have called me on the way

home but his phone died. I'm upset. He had dinner with them, and they have a landline he could have used. I told him how hurt I was and that I feel disrespected. He says he deserved a day to himself. He thinks I'm being ridiculous. Am I? Do I not deserve a phone call? -- WAITING AND WAITING IN MONTANA

DEAR WAITING: You are not ridiculous. It was thoughtless of him not to call, but you said it doesn't happen all the time. You are his lady friend, not his keeper. If he needs a day to himself, it might benefit your relationship to cut him some slack. And when it happens again, schedule something fun for yourself so you aren't sitting by the phone.

DEAR ABBY: Our family and extended family are all highly educated individuals with advanced degrees. My son's wife didn't go to college, and while she is genuinely nice, she butchers the English language.

My granddaughter will be learning to talk soon, and I wonder what's the best way to approach the situation. I don't want to offend my daughter-in-law, but I also don't want my granddaughter learning improper grammar. What are your suggestions on how to handle this problem? -- UNSURE ON THE



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

WEST COAST

DEAR UNSURE: Because your family and extended family are well-educated and hold advanced degrees, the more time your grandchild spends with all of you, the better her chances of learning proper grammar. Do not talk "baby talk" with her. Read to her and give her books as gifts. If her mother reads them to her daughter, they both may have a better chance of learning good grammar. Being around her well-educated father will also help, and once she's in school, it will be reinforced.

The only thing you should NOT do is say anything that will make your son's wife self-conscious about her upbringing because if you do, you may be seeing a lot less of that little family.

Lifestyle

SLV Federal names new Chief Financial Officer

ALAMOSA — Joelle Boos of Alamosa, who has worked at the bank for 25 years, most recently as Vice President of Commercial Lending, will succeed long-time Chief Financial Officer Kellie Veneman, who recently retired from the bank. “Joelle has done an outstanding job for the bank in a variety of roles over the years, and we are confident she will follow in Kellie’s footsteps to ensure the bank’s financial affairs are managed with the highest degree of professionalism, said bank CEO, Duane Bussey. We look forward to the contributions she will make as a member of the bank’s senior leadership team.”

Joelle began her career at the bank as a part-time Installment Loan Secretary in 1995, then worked as a teller, loan processor, mortgage, consumer and commercial loan officer. She was promoted to Vice President of Commercial Lending in 2014, the position she held until her move to the CFO position. Quote from Joelle “I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to further my career as CFO at San Luis Valley Federal



Courtesy photo

Joelle Boos

Bank.”

She is a native of Alamosa and resides here with her two children Kayla and Xavier. She received both her Bachelor of Science in Management and MBA in Leadership from Adams State University.

She has been active in a variety of community organizations and events, including Alamosa Kids Wrestling, the Alamosa Wrestling Foundation, the Early Iron Club, the Alamosa Optimist Club, and the Cattails Golf Board.

New ambulance at SLV Health in Alamosa



ALAMOSA — There’s a new ride in town, complete with bells, whistles, and a siren. Alamosa County Ambulance District is proud to announce that a brand new Northstar Ambulance has been added to the fleet.

This 4-wheel-drive Ford F450 Chassis is ready to serve the needs of the community and comes with a lot of safety features. The board members, Helen Sigmond, Leslie Fleming, Dr. William Brinton, Dale Salazar, Jason McGinnis, and Javier Martinez, and the EMS team at San Luis Valley Health, are elated to have this new ambulance to transport patients and serve this deserving community. Ryan Daugherty, Chief

Paramedic and Director of EMS at SLV Health said, “Our patients and community are long overdue for such a great ambulance. The board members are a dedicated group of people who are looking out for the well-being of our community.”

Daugherty explained that the EMTS Colorado grant provided matching funding for this purchase, and the Alamosa district and hospitals will be well served with this new ambulance. “The call sign is MED101,” Daugherty continues. “Kyle Crawford from our EMS team created a video to introduce it, so I hope everyone gets a chance to see it and be proud.”

Did you know?

Basements may not be go-to hangouts during spring, summer and fall, when many homeowners spend more time on their patios and decks enjoying the great outdoors. But as winter approaches and the great outdoors becomes less welcoming, basements once again become popular places to relax and spend time with loved ones. That’s why fall is such an ideal time to address mold issues in a basement. According to WebMD, exposing to mold can irritate a person’s eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. That’s true whether a person is allergic to mold or not. Even people who are merely sensitive to mold can experience sneezing and runny nose, and some may even develop red eyes and skin rash if exposed to mold. Reactions are much more severe for people with mold aller-

gies, who may experience shortness of breath or suffer from asthma attacks if exposed to mold. Molds require moisture to grow, and basements may provide ideal growing conditions for mold. Mold spores cannot grow without moisture, so dehumidifiers can help homeowners effectively reduce the risk of mold growth in their basements. WebMD advises homeowners keep indoor humidity levels, which can be measured with an inexpensive instrument known as a hygrometer, below 60 percent. In lieu of wall-to-wall carpeting in basements, install concrete floors and area rugs to make mold growth less likely. Basement floors also should be routinely inspected for leaks, as leaks can promote mold growth. Address leaks promptly if any are found. FH208140

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