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Laundry room renovation ideas

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# Valley Courier

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JULY 24, 2020

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SLV Today

## Firehouse BBQ

MOSCA — The Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their annual BBQ, July 25 at 6pm at the fire house. Donations appreciated.

## Rolling Deep Car Show

ALAMOSA — The Rolling Deep Car Show will renew its tradition for 2020 hosting its 25th annual show on Sunday July 26 at Cole Park. The Show will take place from 12-5 p.m.

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SLV WEATHER



Afternoon showers 79/ 54

Sat: Partly Cloudy 78/ 54

Sun: Afternoon showers 78/ 52

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## Postcards arriving before Census takers visit homes

ALAMOSA — The U.S. Census Bureau is sending reminder postcards this week to an estimated 34.3 million households, including homes in the San Luis Valley. This will be the final mailing before census takers begin visiting nonresponding households across the nation in mid-August.

According to the Census Bureau, more than 92 million households in the country (or 62.3 percent of households) have already responded online, by phone or by mail.

In the San Luis Valley, response rates vary by county. Alamosa County has the highest response

rate with 52.5 percent of households having responded to the 2020 Census. Mineral County has the lowest response rate with 22.8 percent, however the large number of second or vacation homes in the county may skew the rate lower. The response rates from other counties in the Valley are Conejos County 40.4 percent, Costilla County 25.6 percent, Rio Grande County 48.2 percent, and Saguache County 37.7 percent. The statewide response rate for Colorado is 65.5 percent.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the nationwide start of census taker visits from mid-May to mid-August, giving the Census Bureau the chance to send one more

reminder to households encouraging them to respond on their own. The postcard is one reminder in a series of reminders that the Census Bureau has mailed to nonresponding households since mid-March urging them to respond.

See COUNT page 3



## Endangered equine



Courier photo by Meg Colwell

ALAMOSA — On June 24, it was brought to the City of Alamosa's attention that two mares and one colt were being kept on Alamosa Fairgrounds. City Manager, Heather Brooks said: "At this point, we began working to figure out who the horses belonged to and ensure the owner took the appropriate steps to obtain these accommodations."

Before June 24, it is unclear just how long the horses have been kept on the fairgrounds. However, many community members took note of the horses' poor health — suggesting they have been there for quite some time. All three were emaciated and exuding colored mucus. Thankfully, the horses have received food and attention and seem to be on the road to recovery.

## Valley keeps COVID in decline

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Since Wednesday, Costilla County reported 1 new COVID-19 case. There were 21 known active cases in our region as of Thursday. For more information about COVID-19 in Colorado, see the Colorado Covid-19 website at https://covid19.colorado.gov/.

For testing of symptomatic individuals only, call:
• Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990
• SLVHealth Respiratory Clinic 719-589-2511 ext. 9

For symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual, call Valley-Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9 (M-F), 719-589-2562 (Sa/Su)

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

## SLV COVID-19

These cases have been identified by public health agencies as of 2:00 p.m. on July 17, 2020. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers are cumulative. If there are discrepancies between these numbers and those showing on the state's data website, use these local numbers.

### 463 SLV POSITIVE CASES

(New cases: 1 since 7/16)

- Alamosa County - 211 (+1)
Conejos County - 24
Costilla County - 22
Mineral County - 17
Rio Grande County - 83 (-1)
Saguache County - 106 (+1)

### 24 ACTIVE CASES

(Under isolation guidance)

### 45 HOSPITALIZED

### 428 COMPLETED ISOLATION

(+1 since 7/17)

### 11 DEATHS

## Alamosa BOE rolls out restart plan for 2020-21

### STAFF REPORT

The Alamosa Board of Education met on July 22 at 6 p.m. to introduce the fall 20-21 Restart plan for schools.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and Governor's Office have worked together, to develop guidance for Local Public Health agencies and districts as they make plans to reopen. This guidance is what the Alamosa School Board has used to develop their Re-start plan.

Due to the ongoing research surrounding COVID, guidance is ever-changing. Thus, Superintendent Rob Alejo and Assistant Superintendent, Marsha Cody, stressed the re-start plan is a "living document," which will be revisited and revised appropriately. The Courier will report updates as they become available.

For the 20-21 school year, the Colorado Department of Education has provided districts with flexibility regarding instruction and attendance. In order to quell concerns of reopening during this pandemic, the CDE has updated policies regarding the prevention of disease, school closings and cancellations, workplace health and safety protection, staff health, student absences and excuses, and visitors to schools. The CDE will host a Special Policy Update webinar on Mon. July 27, at 3 p.m.; where Colorado Association of School Board's legal staff will review these policies and answer questions. To sign up, visit https://www.casb.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=498:casb-



webinars&catid=26:news-information&Itemid=199.

The Re-Start plan includes the education options available, outlined procedures for each of those options, and information surrounding a critical family interview.

For grades K-12, the Alamosa school district will offer either in-person or remote learning options.

In-person learning In-person health precautions include screening all students before entering school. There was some conflict surrounding who has the screening responsibility: parents or teachers? Many teachers did not feel comfortable leaving screening responsibilities up to parents. However, Ms. Cody admitted the district does not currently have enough thermometers for each teacher. "Right now we only have one thermometer for every two teachers." Cody will look into obtaining more thermometers and the issue will be revisited during the next BOE meeting.

Once students pass the symptom screening, they will go to their classrooms and have breakfast.

See ABOE page 3

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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Dawn Michelle Baiotto

**ALAMOSA** — Dawn Michelle Baiotto, 52, passed away on July 18, 2020. She was born on January 28, 1968, in Yankton, South Dakota to Dwayne and Suzy (Kludt) Friedel. Dawn was a carefree animal lover who had an open heart to anyone she came into contact with. She was the type of person who would give you the coat off of her back. She enjoyed laughing and socializing. Her giggle was contagious and she had the ability to find humor in all situations. She definitely was a social butterfly. Above



all else, she enjoyed spending time with the people and the animals she loved.

Especially her new puppy Rocky II.

She loved to cook, camp

and travel.

She is survived by her husband Kenny Garmaker of Alamosa, her children, Jesse James Baiotto, Tabatha Amber Baiotto and Brittany Sterling Garmaker as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dawn was preceded in death by her parents and half-sister.

Cremation selected and services are pending. To express condolences to the family, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com)

Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.

### Vinnia Lou (Eagle) Brinegar

08/04/1939 - 07/20/2020

**BLANCA**—Vinnia Lou (Eagle) Brinegar was born in Blanca, CO August 4, 1939, where she spent most of her younger years. While she forever honored her Coloradan roots, she chose to follow the love of her life, George Lee Brinegar, to Texas after a whirlwind courtship to begin a marriage that would last 61 years.

Lou had an intense passion for learning and after earning a Master of Arts from Baylor University, she dedicated her life to spreading knowledge. She spent many years as an educator for Waco ISD, ultimately retiring as the Vice Principal at Providence Heights Elementary. She even authored several successful children's books which included multiple adventures of "Granny" and "Brillo the Armydillo", an homage to her love of the Military, sports, and her family. These were only a few of the many deeply interesting facets of the diamond that Lou was.

Lou and George Brinegar made their life together in Waco, TX raising two children and making their ranch home a welcome place for friends and family. While Lou had Colorado in her veins, she was immediately adopted as a full-fledged Texan for her quick wit and unyielding love; she never met a stranger. Lou was well known for her smile, and her kind, loving, and selfless heart which impacted many lives beyond the



reach of her family. She set an incredible example for four generations of her family, showing the power of compassion, forgiveness, and determination. She had a knack for making each person she met feel special and like they were the only ones in the world she wanted to speak to at that time. When Lou spoke, her words were always encouraging and hopeful. She refused to see the negative in life and would instead point out the blessings and lessons that could be gleaned from any situation. Whether it was sneaking shoes from her children's closets to give to her students at Providence Heights Elementary School or making each grandchild feel as though they were the favorite; the compassion and love she showed to all was unmatched.

Lou's faith and devotion to her Lord and Savior flowed into all aspects of her life. There is no doubt she's home with Him now. Just as she began her life; she is now soaring like an

Eagle watching over us.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bertha Mae Sartain and Omer Herbert Eagle; sisters, Thurmma Brown and Eurmma Lee Hart.

She is survived by her husband, George Lee Brinegar; sisters, Durmma Seiber and Sabrie Brown, daughter, Terri (Jon Searles); son, George A. (Christine Laffitte); grandchildren, Jeremy, Tifani (Brian McGovern), Jared, Ashley (Trevor Miller), and Jaelyn (Michael Norris); and great-grandson, Logan. She was also a beloved aunt and cousin to her Colorado family.

The family would like to thank Baylor Scott & White doctors and nurses and specifically the hospital's trauma and palliative care teams.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Shriners Hospital for Children by calling 713-793-3931 or <https://lovetothescue.org/>.

Due to the current global pandemic, there will be a funeral service for family 10 AM Friday, July 24 at Lake Shore Funeral Home Chapel followed by burial at Oakwood Cemetery; however, friends are welcome to watch the service via Live Stream at [www.LakeShoreFuneralHome.com/Live](http://www.LakeShoreFuneralHome.com/Live). A celebration of life will occur at a future date.

Thoughts and memories may be shared at [www.LakeShoreFH.com](http://www.LakeShoreFH.com)

### Debra L. Neal

Debra L. Neal born Debra L. Horton on January 24, 1954, to Ralph and Alice Horton, left us for a higher calling on July 21, 2020. She was an exceptional wife, mother and grandmother. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years John Neal, her children Darrel (Sarah), Jacob, Jedidiah (Ami), Patricia (Ryan) and Alice (Bobby), her grandchildren, Kaci, Tristan, Paul, Vorian and Ayanna

as well as her sister, Wanda as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Debra was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and one sister.

Cremation was selected, in lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the donor's favorite charity and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit [www.Rogers-Funerals.com](http://www.Rogers-Funerals.com)

Rogers Family Mortu-



ary is in care of the arrangements.

### David Arthur Spangler

**ALAMOSA** — David Arthur Spangler, 68, of Fernandina Beach, Florida passed away July 14, 2020, due to COVID-19.

David was a true hero and patriot, serving his country with pride and honor for 32 years as a submariner and nuclear specialist in the United States Navy. He rose to the rank of Commander before his well-deserved and well-timed retirement.

David was born in Littleton, Colorado and grew up in Alamosa, Colorado. He was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Brenau University. Commander Spangler married Rebecca Spangler on Oct. 11, 1997. During their time in the US Navy, they resided in St. Marys, Washington D.C. and Honolulu. They spent every minute together watching sports, traveling and cooking. He adored spending time on the beach and hunting shark teeth with Becky.

David is survived by his wife, Rebecca Spangler, and his four children — Danielle Walton of Kingsland, Georgia, Joshua Spangler (Analee) of San Diego, California, Megan Freeman (Allen) and Kelcy López Freeman (Ivette) of Atlanta, Georgia. David is also survived by his four grandchildren — Michael Walton of Kingsland, Georgia, Makayla Spangler, Evan Spangler and Lucas Spangler of San Diego, California.

He was predeceased by his grandson, Logan Spangler of San Diego, California. David is also survived by siblings Chris Spangler of Denver, Colorado, Diane Miller of Citrus County, Florida, and John Spangler of Pueblo, Colorado.

To honor his life and career, Commander Spangler will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Military Officers Association of America scholarship fund at [moaa.org/donate](http://moaa.org/donate).



Please share your memories and condolences at [www.oxleyheard.com](http://www.oxleyheard.com)  
OXLEY-HEARD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

### VALLEY COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Valley Courier charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Electronic copies are preferred. 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](http://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.

### ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

**ALAMOSA**—The Optimist Club of Alamosa meets at Nino's Restaurant in Alamosa the first and third Tuesdays at noon. Contact the club at [alamosaoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:alamosaoptimistclub@gmail.com) or President Dawn Melgares at 719-580-0178. Visitors and new members are welcome.

**ALAMOSA**—The Alamosa Rotary Club meets every Monday at noon at Juanitos in Alamosa. Contact Dean Swift, 589-3499 or [dean@deanswiftseed.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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 [slv-photostephen@gmail.com](mailto:slv-photostephen@gmail.com)

**ALAMOSA** — Families Healing Families is a community-based or-

ganization 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.

### 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

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 Citizens 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  
12 p.m. Crestone Baptist Church, County Rd. T, Crestone  
7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede  
7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara.  
7:30 p.m. Ables/Dis-

ables, Baptist Church at 751 Lincoln St., Monte Vista

**FRIDAY**  
7 p.m. Sacred Heart School at 3rd and Edison, Alamosa.

**SATURDAY**  
5:30 pm. at 929 State Ave., Alamosa

6 p.m. Senior Citizens Building at 710 Main St., Antonito.  
8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

For schedule changes, please contact your group service representative (GSR)

**AL-ANON**  
**TUESDAY**  
8 p.m. 15 Country Club Dr. Monte Vista  
**WEDNESDAY**  
5:30 p.m. SLV Behavior Health Group at 8745 CR 9S., Alamosa

**THURSDAY**  
5:30 p.m. First Christian Church at 518 1st St., Alamosa  
7 p.m. Crestone Town Hall, downtown Crestone (second and fourth Thursdays)

**School Menu - Friday July 24, 2020**

**NO SCHOOL**

**SUMMER VACATION**

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

# Valley News

## New Grant and Loan Fund To Assist Small Businesses

**ALAMOSA** — The San Luis Valley Development Resources Group (SLV-DRG) is partnering with Energize Colorado to administer a new hybrid grant and loan fund available to Colorado small businesses and non-profits. The Energize Colorado Gap Fund will provide over \$25 million in total funding to boost businesses impacted by

COVID-19. Sole proprietors, businesses, and nonprofits with less than 25 full-time employees can apply for up to a \$15,000 grant and a \$20,000 loan, for a possible combined total of \$35,000 in financial assistance. Applicants must be able to show evidence of the economic hardship their

business faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Potential applicants are advised to gather documents such as bank records, profit and loss statements, tax filings and expense receipts, in preparation for their application. Application for the Energize Colorado Gap Fund is scheduled to begin August

1, 2020. For more information, contact SLV-DRG at (719) 589-6099 or visit the Energize Colorado website at <https://energizecolorado.com/gap-fund/>. Interested businesses or non-profits may also sign up for email updates at the same website in order stay up to date with program information and development.



## Meza suspected of burglary

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — In the early morning hours of July 22, 2020, the Monte Vista Police Department responded to an alarm at Valley Gun, located on the eastside of Monte Vista. Upon arrival officers found a vehicle had been driven through the east wall, to gain access to the business. The vehicle fled prior to officers arriving on scene. After an intensive investigation, Martin Meza, 40, with a last known address in Monte Vista was identified as a suspect in the burglary.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Meza for burglary and numerous other charges. Meza should be considered armed and dangerous. If you know Meza's whereabouts, please contact the Monte Vista Police Department through dispatch at 719-589-5807 or call your local law enforcement. Attached is a photo of Meza who has ties to the San Luis Valley and Pueblo areas.



Courtesy photo  
**Martin Meza, 40, is wanted in connection to a smash-and-grab at Valley Gun in Monte Vista. Meza should be considered armed and dangerous**

The Monte Vista Police Department was assisted by the Bureau of Al-

cohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in identifying Meza as the suspect in this burglary.

## Sheriff's office accepts donations



Three members of the San Luis Valley Quilt Guild presented Sheriff Robert Jackson, Victim Response Unit Director Reyna Y. Martinez, and Victim Advocate Assistant Coordinator Latoya Ocana, with 30 quilts. Those delivering the quilts were Harriet DeFreece and Cynthia Moore, co-chairman of the guild's Helping Hands Committee and Charlene Fonk, member. One quilt was given to Sheriff 10-78 for a fund-raiser in order to support first responders in the San Luis Valley. Six more quilts will be delivered to the Saguache County Victim's Response Unit.

## Count

Continued from Page 1

Households that have already responded may disregard the reminder postcard if they receive it. A small number of households that have already responded will receive a census taker visit as part of 2020 Census quality checks.

Census takers will begin interviewing households in the San Luis Valley and southern Colorado on August 11. Households can continue to respond on their own until these visits conclude on October 31, which is the deadline for self-responding to the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau

strongly encourages the public to respond online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). Households can also respond by phone at 844-330-2020, or by mail using the paper questionnaire mailed in April to most nonresponding addresses.

Census takers can be easily identified by a valid government ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date on the badge. They are required to wear a mask while conducting their work and they will follow CDC and local public health guidelines when they visit.

## ABOE

Students will be assigned to a class or cohort that they will remain in for most of the day. Teachers will rotate to students, to prevent intermingling. State-issued devices will be given to all students—in case the classroom has to switch to remote learning suddenly. K-2nd will receive iPads, 3rd-8th will receive Chromebooks (beginning in the second quarter), and AHS students will receive laptops.

Transportation and Entering School

Bussing capacity has been reduced by 66%, so private transportation is highly recommended. For those who have to ride the bus, students will sit one per seat, in a zig-zag manner to achieve social distancing guidelines.

Regarding entering the school, the Board has proposed a schedule in which students will enter at an assigned time (based on grade level) and through an assigned entrance (based on classroom).

-7:30 a.m.: 2nd grade, 5th grade, 8th grade and seniors

-7:45 a.m.: 1st grade, 4th grade, 7th grade, and juniors/ sophomore

-8:00 a.m.: Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 6th grade, and sophomores/ freshman

School meals will be staggered and in a grab-and-go format. Classes will then take their meals socially distanced in the gym, cafeteria, or atrium. Recess will be staggered. Students will use their own school supplies. No visitors will be allowed past the front office.

For all in-person learning families, an interview must be scheduled. Each teacher will reach out to families in his/ her classroom to schedule these and they can take place virtually or outside. During this interview, these items will be discussed: a screening process (including the student's classroom entrance and arrival time), health precautions, transportation plan, how to work state-issued device, and the best form of communication.

Regarding what to expect if someone tests positive for COVID

If there is 1 positive test in a classroom (23 students + teacher), the classroom will be shut down for 1-5 days and sanitized. Some students may need to be quarantined, which will be determined by public health. If there are 2 positive tests in a

classroom, the classroom will be shut down for 14 days, with the same procedures taking place.

Online School/ Remote Learning

Remote learning will consist of a curriculum entirely online, administered by a teacher or director. That teacher/director will communicate weekly supportive messages and provide daily check-ins with students. The student will still be required to take any necessary summative tests. An online teacher will set up online orientation dates and times with students.

Orientations will discuss: zoom classroom meetings, best form of communication, how to

work state-issued device, and how to meet family needs. Additionally, K-2 students will need to identify a "coach," who will be an in-home support to the student's online learning.

Families and schools are entering a school year unlike any other. There will be lots of unknowns and adjustments. Parents should attend the virtual listening tour during the week of Aug. 3-Aug. 7, with any questions. Parents should also see the family interview as a critical opportunity to solidify a plan for the fall semester. The school board and staff are working tirelessly to develop comprehensive and effective plans for the fall.

## Water main line break



**ALAMOSA**—There was a water main line break on first street due to construction. The water will be brown in the all of the surrounding areas until the line is fixed. Crews are working to get these repairs fixed immediately. We will keep everyone updated as soon as we have more information.

EST. 2018

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# Opinion

## God Bless America...

**HOLLYWOOD**— God Bless America, and how's everybody?

The White House press conference Wednesday opened with some welcome and long hoped-for news from the pharmaceutical industry. We knew it had to happen eventually. Baby Boomers at Pfizer Lab finally invented the vaccine for Covid-19, after giving up trying to figure out how to go on Zoom.

The Wall Street Journal reported the U.S. faces a population decline as the number of babies now born in the U.S. isn't enough to replace the previous generation. It was reported Friday that Kentucky's birth rate just hit an all-time low. Apparently Covid-19 has put an end to family reunions.

Harvard University proceeded with plans to hold classes online while still charging students' families fifty thousand dollars tuition this fall. I can't think of a more demoralizing college-age experience. The homecoming party consists of going to the refrigerator and drinking your dad's beer.

Kanye West tweeted out a campaign statement Wednesday that was pure Kanye. He referred to his mother-in-law as Kris Jung Un, he accused his wife Kim of cheating on Kanye, and said his family tried to have him committed. Kanye hasn't lost all his marbles, but there's definitely a hole in the bag.

Senator Chuck Schumer cracked the whip Thursday to try to get Republicans and Democrats to extend the Covid emergency relief bill before it expires next week. We took a big chance sending these guys to Congress. What's the point of the Gambler's Hot Line if they won't give you any money?

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shut down China's consulate in Houston as a nest of spies on Wednesday. In other news about U.S. policy in Asia, the president learned about President Trump's secret plan to destroy North Korea. It involves removing Kim Jung Un and installing the Mayor of Portland.

President Trump acknowledged Tuesday that relations with China were tense over spying allegations lodged by the U.S., Britain and Canada. We're all safe for now. According to the rules of engagement, Trump cannot start World War III until after we have finished fighting the Civil War.

President Trump began hosting daily press conferences updating the nation on the progress of the virus response Tuesday, including news on the imminent release of vaccines. The same day, Joe Biden spoke to reporters. He maintained that Trump has responded too slowly to the polio epidemic.

President Trump disclosed a market-cornering deal with Pfizer to provide one hundred million doses of Covid vaccine to the U.S. They also make Viagra. Twenty years ago Trump cornered the market on Viagra, and nobody was able to date a super-model for five years until his contract ran out.

Joe Biden called President Trump America's first racist president. That's one way of vouching for the early presidential slave owners. Trump responded by comparing himself to Lincoln, which reminded the Secret Service to tell Trump NEVER go to the theater and sit in front of Robert de Niro.

The Hollywood Reporter reported that adult film star Ron Jeremy last week pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles Superior Court to charges that he sexually assaulted four women. They try hard to give celebrities a fair trial in L.A. If the trial winds up with a hung jury at least it will be a jury of his peers.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti braced for a new shutdown order from the governor Tuesday yet asked Trump for federal help with the city's homeless. Just remember this about Los Angeles. When the Apocalypse happens and Zombies roam the face of the earth, we were WAY ahead of you.



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**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](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."



**Argus Hamilton**

### LETTERS

## Water in Agriculture:

My whole life I have been involved with agriculture in one way or another. I believe, like many of you, that water is the lifeblood of our communities and our farms. Here in the San Luis Valley we have the first water right of 1852 in the State of Colorado; the People's Ditch was the first irrigation ditch in Colorado and is still in operation today. In addition, the acequia's irrigation system was put in to place in Costilla and Conejos counties early on from Spanish settlers and some of my ancestors whom we still utilize this system to water crops and surrounding land.

Based on a 1 to 4 scale, 4 being the worst. We are currently in a D3 drought this year and are in a major need of moisture. The data analyzed by the US Drought monitor further identifies the need. As such, the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado is currently suffering from the effects of this severe drought. During this time the drought has made it more difficult for agriculture farmers whom

are in need of moisture in order to support their crops for harvest.

Many of us farmers have relied on the surface water run off for water in past years. However, our reservoirs are low, water is scarce and we are in need of moisture to keep going. This year the river water has been depleted due to lack of snow pack in the mountains and many individuals are utilizing their irrigation wells to supply water to the crops through center pivot irrigation.

The farms in our communities are now struggling to keep crops alive.

While a lot of the state does not understand why this is important, this struggle could lead to a domino effect for the state. For example, if the farmers are unable to keep their crops alive then they would be unable to harvest and sell their produce. This could lead to not only higher prices in produce, but could stop the farmer from stimulating the local economy by buying the things needed to maintain the farm. If they are unable to buy

more for their farm they cannot produce more crops and the businesses they buy from would not have the revenue they need to be sustainable.

This is an ongoing cycle. The drought leads to more issues than simply not enough water. It could lead to a loss of economic development and business.

In short, the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado are a huge agriculture area where we depend greatly on our water and need to continue to keep our water in the basin. Please join me and continue to buy local and help the local farmers in our area.

I remain committed to advocating for agriculture and for you in this important time of food insecurity and our precious resource, our water and the communities we call home!

Thank you,  
State Representative Donald Valdez  
[Donald.Valdez.house@state.co.us](mailto:Donald.Valdez.house@state.co.us)

## Lopez for Senate

Dear Editor:

I was very excited when Carlos Lopez told me he was considering running for the Colorado State Senate in 2020, not only because he'll make a great Senator, but also because I know he is passionate about southern Colorado and its future. As a fellow city council member, I knew

first-hand of the many things he'd done to advance Trinidad while serving on city council for 3 1/2 years. He is an advocate for our youth, having single-handedly brought the Youth Club of Trinidad to fruition. I saw him in action as the community came together to address homelessness with sustainable housing. He was in from the start for the

development of Space to Create, a huge economic opportunity for Trinidad. In fact, he has had a hand in quite a few advancements in our community. I have no doubt he will do for Southern Colorado what he has done for Trinidad.

Pat Fletcher

## "Runners and Cyclists, Be smart and safe"

A few days ago, I was approaching the corner of Weber and Carroll St. Carroll has a stop sign, and Weber is a through street. Two young women (Jr. High age) were running along Carroll St. They never paused, but ran right across Weber with never a sideways glance. It was fortunate that I saw them, or I might have hit them. I have seen other runners and cyclists do the same around

town. I have also seen groups of runners spread out into the street, blocking lanes of traffic. We all want our streets to be safe for everyone who uses them, but everyone must obey the same rules. Cyclists and runners, please remember to stop at stop signs, and be aware of the traffic around you. Be smart and safe!

Nancy Mead

## TSJC ready for 2020

Trinidad State is preparing for a face-to-face fall semester opening on August 17. In fact, some hands-on classes are back in session at the Valley Campus. Here, student Hunter Dyer practices his welding skills in the welding classroom

at Trinidad State's downtown campus.



**Keith R Cerny**  
Publisher

**Valley Courier**  
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# Lifestyles

## Update regarding sports and activities in 2020-2021

**COLORADO** — CHSAA commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green provided the following update last Thursday regarding sports and activities in 2020-21: "Our office supports and respects the time taken at the state level to evaluate our proposed options for resuming athletics and activities for the 2020-2021 school year. Their timeline is our timeline, and we will be ready to play, with planned modifications, once approved. "We are appreciative of the guidance and leadership from the CHSAA Board of Directors and

the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as we look to the 2020-2021 school year. "The CHSAA staff will continue to advocate within our submitted proposals to conduct all programs within the Governor's safety guidelines, phases and requirements. "We will keep our school communities informed and we will provide definitive answers and timelines once they are approved by the Governor's office. "State, educational and athletic leaders are all working together in these fluid times to get our students, coaches,



officials and support staff fields, stages, pools, and safely back to the courts, classrooms."

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## Gov. Polis Provides Update on Colorado COVID-19 Response

**DENVER**— Governor Jared Polis provided an update on testing in Colorado on Thursday. "Testing continues to be a critical part of Colorado's strategy to combat this virus and I'm proud of the incredible work our state lab has done over these past few months to increase capacity. There is still a lot of work to do to ensure that every Coloradan can get tested and receive results in a timely manner and we will continue working with private partners to ensure those goals are met," said Governor Jared Polis. "I want to thank our front line health care workers across the state who are serving their communities and supporting our response to this pandemic. Coloradans can support them by wearing masks when we leave the house, washing our hands, and following social distancing protocol and reducing social interactions as much as possible."

are expected by the end of September. Colorado is also working to expand and diversify testing capacity as much as possible through innovation, introducing new and more efficient testing methods. That's why the state lab has invoked the authority from the Federal Drug Administration to approve novel tests for use in Colorado. Over the next few weeks, the state will be evaluating an innovative saliva test that has the potential to significantly expand surveillance testing capabilities. Over time, academic and private lab partners will be expanding the types of samples that can be collected for testing, including working with Curative to introduce a cheek swab test in Colorado, in settings where repeated testing is appropriate. Contract tracing is another key element of how Colorado will reach its goals. Thanks to the 115 full-time COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers Colorado's Department of Public Health & Environment, Colorado has been able to reach out to 96% of positive cases within a 48 hour window, where 72% have responded. Last month, Gov. Polis announced that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) would be mobilizing more than 800 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members to support the State of Colorado's COVID-19 response through contact tracing and other associated work. To date, 423 contact tracers have started working, and an additional 300 AmeriCorps NCCC members, 350 VISTA Summer Associates, and 100-200 Senior Corps volunteers will be joining them over the course of the next year.

Colorado remains committed to the following three goals in the approach to maintaining COVID-19: Acquiring more PPE, including masks, gloves, gowns, face shields, and testing equipment; Expanding testing, tracking, and tracing capacity; Ensuring hospitals and local public health agencies can meet the need if we do have another surge of cases. The Governor announced that as a result of state lab expansion and partnerships with the private sector, Colorado has increased testing from 160 Coloradans per day back in March to administering over 10,000 tests per day on average and exceeding 12,000 tests a day in recent days. On July 19, the state lab processed an all time high of 3,803 tests. That day, Colorado also hit our overall combined high between the state lab and private labs with 12,413 tests processed. Colorado's 7-day average is 10,317 tests per day total, and more than 3,000 for the state lab. The state lab has also added a third, overnight shift to process more tests and keep turn around time low. The state has also worked to increase supplies. Since April, Colorado has purchased 300,000 tests and 450,000 swab kits through international suppliers, and is expecting 300,000 more tests plus 800,000 swab kits over the next eight weeks. Another 300,000 swabs have been purchased and delivered from United States suppliers, and 500,000 kits

The Governor released an update to the Executive Order today requiring a cease in alcohol beverage sales to end consumers at 10:00 p.m. MDT each day. Rather than applying to all who are licensed to sell alcohol, the Executive Order has been amended to apply to only those who are licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption. Alcohol may still be delivered and grocery and liquor stores may continue alcohol sales after 10:00 p.m. Last call for sales for on-premise alcohol consumption or takeout alcohol orders is at 10:00 p.m. This takes effect at 10:00 p.m. today, July 23, 2020. Gov. Polis also extended an Executive Order allowing voluntary or elective surgeries.

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# House and Garden

## Laundry room renovations you'll love

Does it seem like your hamper is always full and the washing machine is running constantly? You may not be imagining it. Laundry Butler for You, a wash, dry and fold service, says the average household washes 50 pounds of laundry a week and 6,000 articles of clothing every year. Families with children at home are doing laundry most often, and those with pets may find there is ample laundry to wash as well.

With so much laundry being generated, homeowners may want to consider paying extra attention to the space in the house where their clothing is being cleaned. Laundry room renovations may not top homeowners' priority lists, but it may be time to give these rooms another look.

Figure out your room needs

A laundry room need not be limited to laundry only. Many homeowners make large laundry rooms catch-all spaces that can serve as utility or mud rooms, pantry overflows, or off-season storage areas. Consider the functions you want the room to serve and include those ideas in your designs.

Add some natural light

If possible, include a window in your laundry room. Natural light can help make the room more enjoyable. It also can help you identify stains on clothes that need to be addressed and make it easier to fold matching items like socks.

Think about a utility sink

Many washing machines drain out directly to waste pipes in the floor or wall, but you also can opt to have them empty into a utility sink. This sink also provides a convenient place to handwash items, clean tools or paintbrushes, or store items that perhaps you do not want to bring into a bathroom or kitchen sink.

Include some flair

This utilitarian space need not be boring or bereft of design elements.



Courtesy photo

Laundry room renovations may not top homeowners' priority lists, but it may be time to give these rooms another look.

Mirror your home's style in the laundry room, and include wall hangings, plants, accent items, and even task lighting. Play up certain features with a bold floor tile or brightly colored walls.

Updating laundry rooms can be a great way to make doing laundry more enjoyable and efficient. FH208138

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## What to do to prepare your garden for winter

Gardens provide an idyllic escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In fact, many gardening enthusiasts typically cannot wait for the spring thaw so they can spend the next several months tending to their plants under the warm sun. But a gardener's work is never truly done, and the work to make gardens stun in the spring actually begins during the preceding fall.

Preparing gardens for winter is an important step that can help homeowners ensure their gardens return to full strength in the spring. The tasks necessary to prepare gardens for winter may depend on what homeowners are planting, but the following are some general maintenance suggestions that can keep gardens safe this winter.

- Remove weeds and debris. Weeds and debris are unsightly and detrimental to plant life in spring, but they also can be harmful in the winter. Weeds and debris left to linger in gardens through the winter

provide overwintering spots for insects and can contribute to disease. So it's imperative that weeds and debris are removed before the ground hardens in winter. Don't wait until the ground hardens, as that can make it hard to remove the roots of weeds, adversely affecting the garden as a result.

- Prepare the soil. The Farmer's Almanac advises homeowners to gently till the soil in their gardens so they can expose any insects before they settle in for the winter. Once garden soil is exposed, add a layer of compost, leaves, aged manure, and, if necessary, lime, gently tilling it into the soil. According to the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, the only accurate way to determine if lawn or garden soil needs lime is to test it. Lime makes soil less acidic and reduces soil pH. Low soil pH makes it hard for certain plants to grow, but acidic soil is ideal when growing blueberries. Test the soil for lime and amend it de-

pending on what you hope to grow in the spring so it's ready to thrive when winter ends.

- Remove dead or diseased plants. Dead or diseased plants should not be left in the garden through the winter. These plants can attract insects and are vulnerable to disease, which can make it hard for the garden to thrive in the spring.

- Protect fruit trees. If you have fruit trees, install mouse guards around the base to prevent mice and voles from killing the trees over the winter. If left to their own devices over the winter, mice and voles may eat the bark of fruit trees, killing the trees as a result. The Farmer's Almanac notes that mouse guards made of fine mesh hardware cloth can effectively protect fruit trees from hungry mice and voles over the winter.

A gardener's work is never done, and the work to create beautiful spring gardens begins in the fall. FH208143



Courtesy photo

A gardener's work is never truly done, and the work to make gardens stun in the spring actually begins during the preceding fall.

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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sharp tool
  - 4 Not owing
  - 8 Complaint
  - 12 French king
  - 13 Bronte's "Jane —"
  - 14 Nonsense writer
  - 15 Revolver
  - 16 Bell's sound
  - 17 "Born Free" lioness
  - 18 Fierce whales
  - 20 Adjust a watch
  - 21 Library sect.
  - 23 Alley from Moo
  - 24 Clink or cooler
  - 27 Equinox mo.
  - 29 RV rest stop
  - 32 Realty unit
  - 33 Land in "la mer"
  - 34 Mischief-maker
  - 35 Prizm maker
  - 36 Was up for election
- DOWN**
- 1 Cornstarch brand
  - 2 Unsmiling
  - 3 Trace mineral
  - 4 Coke rival
  - 5 Sub assent
  - 6 401(k) kin
  - 7 Dolores — Rio

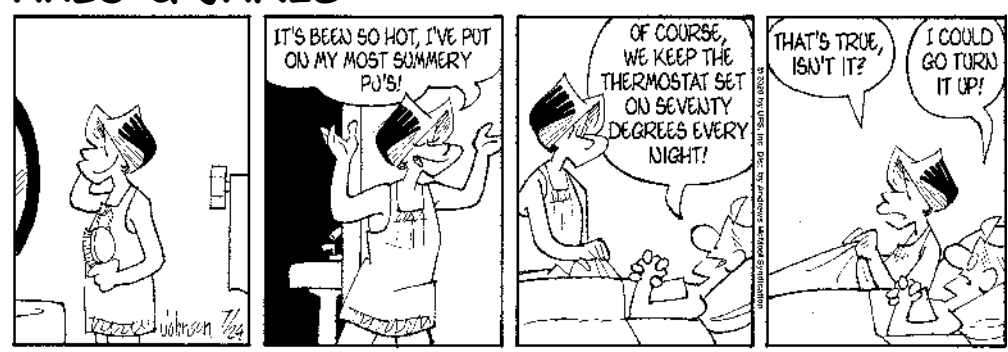


- 37 "Woe is me!"
  - 38 9-digit ID
  - 39 Trig function
  - 40 Folk wisdom
  - 41 "Mayday!"
  - 42 Tulip color
  - 44 Super
  - 47 Not as strict
  - 51 Water, in Tijuana
  - 52 Door frame part
  - 55 Narrow inlet
  - 56 Big pet
  - 57 Layered cookie
  - 58 Pound sound
  - 59 Clumsy vessels
  - 60 Nibble
  - 61 Even so
- 8 Censor's sound**
- 9 Fish without scales**
- 10 Relieve**
- 11 College grp.**
- 19 Well-suited**
- 20 Compost**
- 22 Father of Horus**
- 23 Ballpark event**
- 24 Binges**
- 25 Breezes through**
- 26 Spinach is rich in it**
- 28 Joie de vivre**
- 29 2.2 lbs.**
- 30 Mr. Sharif**
- 31 Altar end**
- 37 Swit co-star**
- 39 Sauce in a wok**
- 41 Sits tight**
- 43 Pipe joint**
- 44 Wine valley**
- 45 Operatic prince**
- 46 Bad mood**
- 48 Dental photo (hyph.)**
- 49 Limerick locale**
- 50 River floater**
- 52 Slow trot**
- 53 Comic strip prince**
- 54 Call — cab**

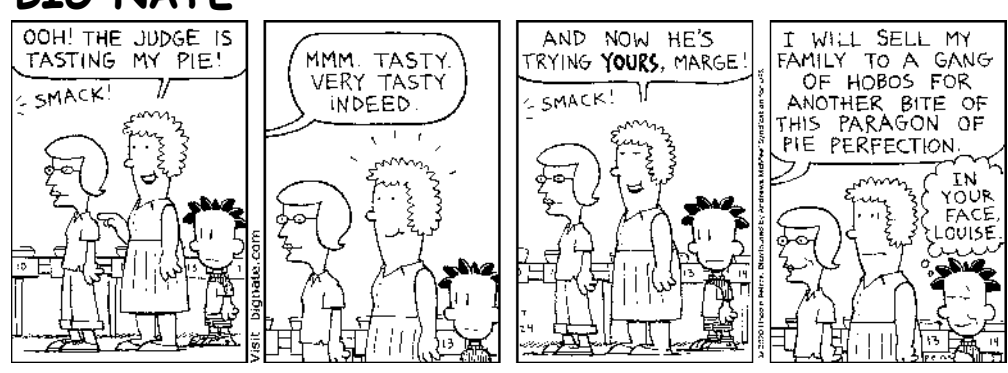
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



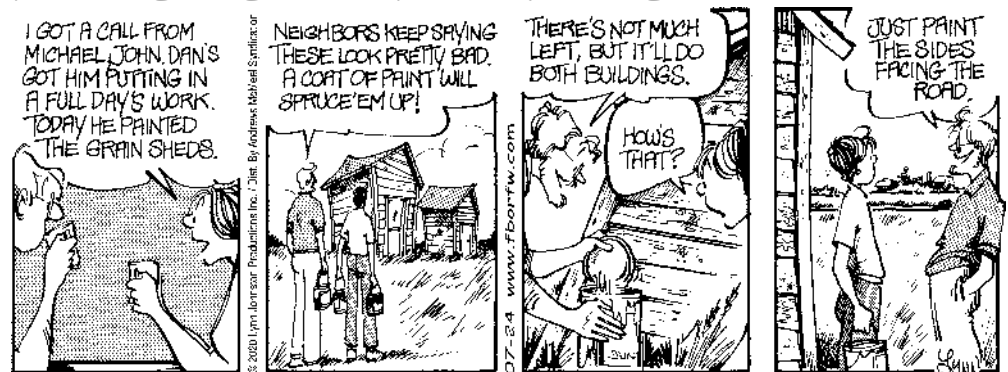
## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



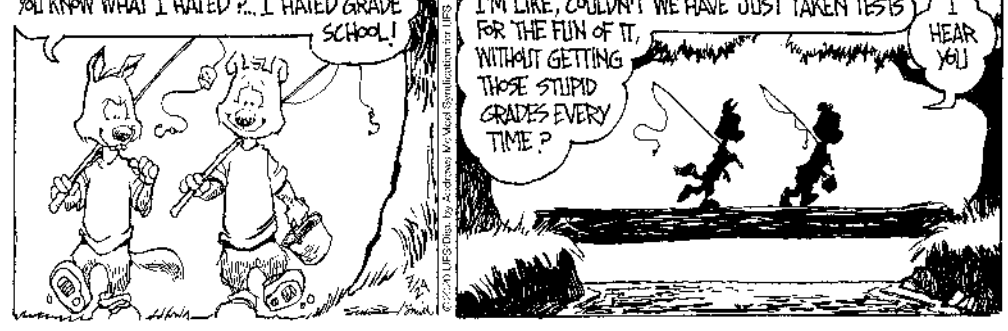
## FRANK & ERNEST



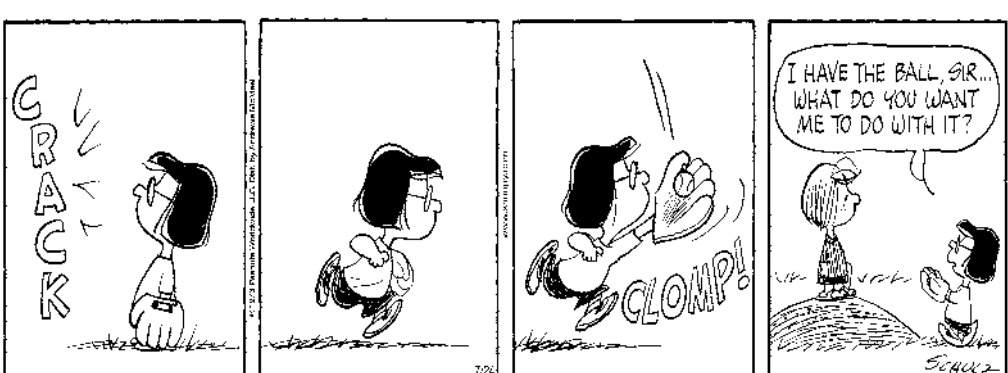
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



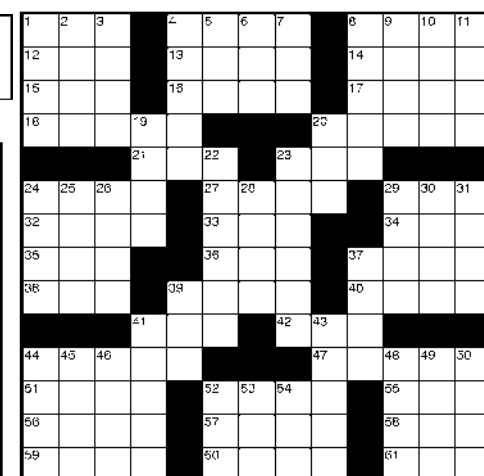
## PEANUTS



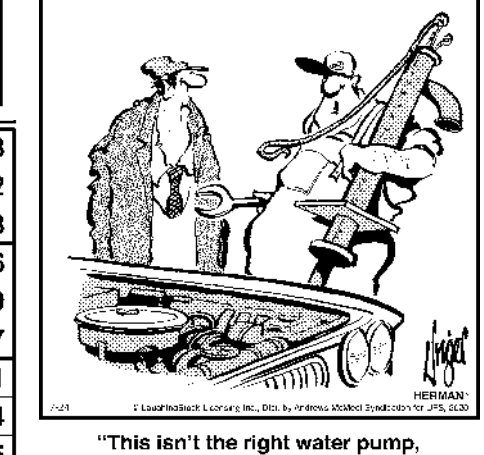
## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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



## HERMAN



"This isn't the right water pump, but I'll make it fit."

# Wife tries to coax opinions from man aiming to please

DEAR ABBY: This may seem strange, but my husband is too nice. His late mother, a domineering woman who always got her way, trained him not to have an opinion. Almost everything he says is crafted to be neutral so that nobody can possibly take issue with him.

If I ask, "What do you want for dinner?" his reply is, "Whatever you want." If I ask, "What make of car should we buy?" his reply is, "What kind would you like?" When I give him several choices, he tries to guess what I would prefer. He is a wonderful, kind, sweet man who will do anything for me.

We both have professional degrees and are in our early 30s. He lived with his parents through college. I have been on my own longer than he. I've told him I'm not like his mother was, and it's safe for him to express his opinions. After two years of marriage, although I continue to solicit his opinion, not much has changed.

Abby, I am tired of being in charge of everything. I'm afraid I'll become like his mother and just do what I want because consulting him is a waste of time, and hearing another "whatever" answer irritates me. I feel like I'm raising a very obedient child. I wanted an equal partner in marriage. My mother is perfectly happy with all of our decisions. WIFE, NOT MOTHER

guessing you have had more than one conversation with your husband about this. There is a saying, "Give me a child 'til the age of 7, and he's mine for life," which references indoctrination. Your late mother-in-law had her son under her roof for about 25 years, so his personality traits are pretty well cemented in. You might have better luck if you start phrasing your questions differently. ("Do you want chicken or fish tonight?" "Do you want to decide or should I punch you in the nose?") But if that doesn't work, you may have to accept the man you married just the way his mother made him.

DEAR ABBY: I am currently living with my fiancée, "Josie." That we are a same-sex couple was hard for our families to come to terms with. (Mainly Josie's mother.)

We are now planning a small courthouse wedding with a family dinner to follow a week later. We have made this clear to family and close friends, and nobody has taken issue with it. However, Josie's mother thinks it "isn't right" that we are inviting only parents to the ceremony and not siblings (Josie has one; I have three). She also called Josie crying because Josie and I went dress shopping on our own (spontaneously). My mother is perfectly happy with all of our decisions. WIFE, NOT MOTHER



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

can we get my fiancée's mother to be more supportive? -- WEDDING DRAMA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WEDDING DRAMA: It might be helpful to recognize that while your family is more accepting, Josie's mother appears to be struggling on a couple of fronts. As many mothers do, she may have fantasized about a church wedding, helping her daughter select her bridal gown, and having a son-in-law. In a sense, she is grieving the death of her fantasy. Frankly, I feel sorry for the woman. With time, I am sure she will become more accepting and supportive. You and Josie are about to embark on your lives together. Let your happiness be the beacon that guides her mother to acceptance, although it may not happen as quickly as you would wish.