



Jorgensen Case



Maverick joins Center Police



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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

JUNE 13, 2020

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Imagine Your Ad Here!

SLV Today

ASU Trustees will conduct meeting on June 15

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Board of Trustees will meet from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday, June 15, via Zoom.

REC directors to serve another four years

MONTE VISTA — SLV Rural Electric Cooperative's unopposed incumbents K. Cole Wakasugi, Costilla County (district 2) and Scott Wolfe, Alamosa County (district 4) will both serve another four-year term.



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Isolated Showers 80 / 50

Sun: Windy 82 / 47

Mon: Partly Cloudy 83 / 46

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## House passes Law Enforcement Integrity Act, sending it to the Governor's desk



Courtesy photo

The House Chamber standing as Representative Herod speaks

DENVER — Senate Bill 217, The Law Enforcement Integrity Act passed 52-13 in the Colorado House.

"This is a historic day," said Representative Leslie Herod. "In response to the protests and outcry from the community, today, we took action that will correct the ways in which law enforcement interacts with the public."

She continues, "It shouldn't have taken this long. The community has been pleading for law enforcement reform for generations now, and today we answered their plea. This bill is a cultivation of so many people's hard work and I am honored to have taken it over the finish line with Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez. This long-fought struggle for true justice has been going on for generations, and although this is a great victory for the movement, our work is nowhere near done."

SB20-217, the Law Enforcement Integrity Act, enacts several provisions that will prevent police brutality and increase transparency and accountability in Colorado's law enforcement system. Outlined below are among the bill's key provisions:

Mandate body cameras, make video of police misconduct publicly available, and hold officers accountable when they fail to record. Officers will have to record interactions with the public and, when they turn off their camera, they will be held accountable. When officers are accused of misconduct, the body cam footage must be released to the public within 21 days, and ensures the victim of the officer misconduct and the victim's family receive the footage 72 hours prior to public release.

Require data collection and public reporting on policing. All law enforcement agencies will be required to track demographic data of individuals they encounter. This data will include any use of force (both the type and severity), civilian searches, forced entries into homes, and the unholstering and discharge of a firearm.

See LEI ACT page 3

## Local law enforcement responds to Law Enforcement Integrity bill

By LYNDSIE FERRELL DEL NORTE

Law enforcement officials from all over the Valley met at the Rio Grande County Sheriff's office in Del Norte Monday, June 8, to discuss a new bill that has passed the Senate Committee and the House and will be presented to the Governor to be signed into law.

Colorado Bill SB 20-217, titled Law Enforcement Integrity, was a result of the recent controversy that has rocked the Nation in the after math of George Floyd's murder by a peace officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota two weeks ago. Local law enforcement from the entire Valley have voiced their unwavering support for peaceful protests throughout the Valley and have, in recent days, allowed demonstrations to occur in the communities of Creede, Del Norte, Monte Vista and Alamosa.

During the meeting, local law enforcement officials stated their support for the bill but also stated their concerns. Two main concerns of the group of law enforcement members for the bill were stated, "Our main concerns here in Rio Grande County are the privacy of our community and how the departments in rural communities will be able to afford the cameras in time for this bill to be put into effect. This doesn't just affect the law enforcement officials. This effects the public as well."

One point made by Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder, "What will happen if we respond to an elderly woman who fell in the bathtub and the footage has to be submitted to the public within 21 days? How does that protect her privacy? What stops that footage from being posted on every social media platform out there?"

The other question posed by the group was how the departments would be able to afford the equipment needed. Most law enforcement agencies have the body or dash cams in place from previous regulations that were passed several years ago, but departments would need to upgrade in order to meet the data storage requirements highlighted in the bill.

"I am all for having body cams on and I am also for releasing specific footage to the public, but I do not think this bill was written well and it needs to be amended in several areas. We really should be putting our efforts into making a better database that can help us track bad peace officers. Right now, we could hire someone with a violent past and never even know it even though we did a thorough background search," stated Dingfelder.

Everyone in attendance agreed that the privacy issue was going to cause concern in departments throughout the state and only for the fact that certain footage should not be released to the public not only for their safety but also for victims' mental health. The bill also relates to any employee who deals with the public which includes the victim advocates who depend on the trust of a victim in order to help them.

"If I go to some of the people I help wearing a camera, they will just shut down and refuse to talk. Not to mention, if footage of a terrible accident is released to the public and the family or friends of that victim see it? I cannot imagine the repercussions of that," said Rio Grande County Victim Advocate Courtney Author.

Other concerns pertained to HIPAA violations when officers respond to specific calls. Names, addresses and other pertinent information would be recorded on the body cameras and according to the bill, the footage that is released to the public has to remain unedited at all times.

"No one is above the law and everyone should be held accountable, including officers of the law, especially officers of the law, but this bill needs to be reviewed," said Rio Grande Sheriff Don McDonald.

According to House Representative for District 62 Donald Valdez, the bill is being modified to consider the privacy of the public and to consider the cost of the devices. "There are some things in this bill that I do like, and there are some things that I don't like. The things that I do like, are that it requires independent investigations. It makes sure there is accountability in that aspect." Valdez stated that he did not like that the departments would be responsible for the cost of the new units and that he will be advocating for a change in the bill to allow for some state funding.

Colorado Senator Larry Crowder also spoke on the bill stating, "The bill is constantly changing at this point. It is a much better bill coming out of the Senate. In my opinion it was written by someone using crayons at the beginning, but I think we now have it to a place we can actually work with it and it can benefit everyone involved."

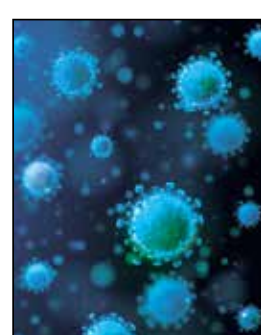
## COVID-19 Q & A

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Seven new cases for the SLV have been reported since yesterday, 2 each for Alamosa, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties, and 1 for Costilla. The total number of cumulative cases is now 288. Twenty-five total people have been hospitalized, and 202 have completed isolation. There have been 5 fatalities of individuals with COVID-19. Numbers are updated weekdays at slvemergency.org/slv-covid-19/.

A: Monitor your health for COVID-19 symptoms, practice social distancing from people who don't live with you, avoid in-person contact with older people and those with underlying symptoms, wear a mask when you run errands and at work around other people, and wash your hands frequently. If you start to feel sick, stay home, and pursue testing.

Q: I heard that if you got two negative tests for COVID-19, that means you're definitely infection-free. Is this true?

A: This is not true. A negative test is only a "snapshot" in time. You can con-



tract COVID-19 and still test negative since the tests may not detect enough viral material early in the incubation period to properly diagnose you. Even if you do not have COVID-19 and test negative the first time, you can still contract the virus between the first test and the second test.

See COVID-19 page 3

## Virtual Storytelling June 17

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Public Library is pleased to announce a live virtual performance for all ages by Emmy-winning songwriter and multi-instrumentalist David Williams! Join us on Wednesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. via Zoom as part of the Library's Summer Reading Program (SRP). Williams will present Oh, The Animals!, featuring songs about animals of all stripes with cartoon animations and various instruments. Visit alamosalibrary.org/summer on the morning of the event to click the link and join.

The theme for this year's SRP is "Imagine Your Story," and centers around fables, fairytales, folklore, and legends. While many may be staying close to home this summer, readers can go anywhere using their imagination!

Programming in June and July includes:

- Read-for-Beads!
- Find Larry the Library Gnome
- Weekly Literacy Enrichment Challenges & Project Packs
- Raffle Prizes
- Virtual performances from beloved past performers as well as new
- Imagine Your Puppet Show video submissions
- Storytime Online
- Teen challenges and raffles

Full details are available on the library's website at www.alamosalibrary.org/summer. This page is updated weekly regarding the week's programming, so it is a one-stop-shop for all things SRP. Alternatively, call the library for more details! (719) 589-6592

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# Record

## BIRTHS

### Xyrie Chicago King Romero

**DEL NORTE** — Xyrie Chicago King Romero was born June 4, 2020, at the San Luis Valley Health Center of Alamosa to Krista Stephanie Trujillo of Del Norte and Anfernee Juwan Jordan Romero of Monte Vista. Xyrie weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Maggie and Steve Trujillo of Del Norte. Paternal grandparents are Jayce and Ryan Paulson of Monte Vista. Great-grandparents are Gloria and James Romero, George McDonald and Emiliana Huzar.

## OBITUARIES

### Michael Angelo Lester



**ALAMOSA** — Michael Angelo Lester passed away on June 5, 2020, he was born in Baluxi, Mississippi to Jerry Lester and Linda Ford on July 12, 1970. He spent a chunk of his life in Salinas, California, and then moved to the San Luis Valley, Alamosa, Colorado, once his mom passed away from breast cancer, to be with family, and settled in Fort Collins, where he found a special Father (Fader Williams). Michael was a car enthusiast, that took special pride in his BMW, whether detailing it or just taking care of it. He was an avid sports fan that cheered for his 49'ers and San Francisco Giants. Michael really had an exquisite relationship with the students at CSU when he worked as a custodian, he had a magnetic energy and

His aunts: Anita Colon, Phyllis (Jimmy) Mascareñas, Judy (Lawrence) Martinez, Pearl Ford; one uncle, Jimmy Ford; a niece; several nephews and numerous cousins. He is preceded in death by his mother, Linda Cortez; father, Jerry Lester; step-father, who raised him like his own, Carlos Cortez; maternal grandparents: Otilia and Alex Ford; uncles: Bernie Ford, Leonel Ford, Deanie Ford, Johnny (Mongo) Ford. Please visit [www.allnutloveland.com](http://www.allnutloveland.com) to share your memories and condolences. Memorials in Michael's name are suggested to Hope Community Church, P.O. Box 272854, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2854 [www.hopecommunity.org](http://www.hopecommunity.org).

personality that touched all that knew him. He was taken in by a Pastor (Pastor Dan) who took Michael into his church and under his wing at Hope Community Church. Michael was survived by his only brother, Johnny Arellano and one sister, Malissia Angela Baroz;

### VALLEY COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Valley Courier charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices are run at no charge. This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on our web site, [www.alamosanews.com](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.

## ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

- Kevin Martea Salazar, 33, of Monte Vista was cited with driving under restrained license on Hwy. 285.
- Steven Doyle, 49, of Alamosa was cited with driving under restraint on Hwy. 160.
- Paul Wolfram, 71, of Alamosa was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign on Hwy. 160.
- Natalia Molina, 22, of Alamosa was cited with speeding on Hwy. 160.
- Oscar Martinez, 21, of Alamosa was cited with speeding on Hwy. 160.
- Mary Salazar, 44, of Wheat Ridge was cited with speeding on Hwy. 17.
- Ron Napier, 70, of Austin was cited with speeding on Hwy. 160.
- Randy Maxey, of San Luis, was cited with displaying fictitious plates on Main and West.
- Vanessa Aguilar, 18, of Alamosa was cited with speeding on Hwy. 285.
- Michael Skladzien, 57, of Wichita was cited with speeding on Hwy. 160.

## ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

- Mary Townsend, 28, Monte Vista, Shoplifting
- Sydney Gutierrez, 24, Monte Vista, Shoplifting, Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, Resisting Or Obstructing An Officer
- Erik Sisneros, 40, Alamosa, Harassment
- Adam Trodick, 34, Alamosa, Trespassing
- Nathan Cisneros, 35, Alamosa, Shoplifting
- Patricia Rodriguez, 66, Alamosa, Careless Driving Causing Bodily Injury
- Nicholas Montoya 38 Alamosa Open Container
- Nicholas Montoya, 38, Alamosa, Criminal Mischief
- Garron Espinoza, 42, Denver, Domestic Violence, 3rd Degree Assault, Child Abuse
- Cameron Carr, 29, Alamosa, Driving While Denied, Operated Unregistered Vehicle
- Shane McKibben, 46, Alamosa, Violation Of Restraining Order
- Vincent Compos, 42, Alamosa, Violation Of Restraining Order
- Kimberly Essary, 54, Alamosa, Domestic Violence, Harassment
- Desideria Romero, 37, Alamosa, Unlawful Possession Of A Controlled Substance
- Louis Fair, 36, Alamosa, 2nd Degree Burglary, Theft
- George Muff, 55, Alamosa, Unlawful Possession Of Controlled Substance, Displayed Fictitious Plate, Operated An Uninsured Motor Vehicle On A Public Roadway, Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia
- James Marshall, 27, Alamosa, Criminal Attempt To 2nd Degree Murder, 1st Degree Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Felony Menacing, Criminal Mischief, Illegal Discharge Of A Weapon, Prohibited Use Of A Weapon.

### San Luis Valley Crimestoppers

If you have information about an unreported or unsolved crime in the San Luis Valley, Crimestoppers pays for information that leads to the arrest of criminal offenders. Citizens may report crimes anonymously and remain eligible for rewards.

Call San Luis Valley Crimestoppers at 589-4111.

## First Southwest Bank secures grants for eight small businesses

**ALAMOSA** — First Southwest Bank (FSWB) proudly announced Wednesday that they are have secured grants for eight of their small business customers through the National Community Investment Fund (NCIF) Cares Initiative, a grant program designed to help small business customers of Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. "As a CDFI, we're always looking for relevant and innovative ways to serve our customers," said Kent Curtis, First Southwest Bank CEO. "We recognized that many of our small business customers need assistance beyond the

PPP. We are extremely thankful that the National Community Investment Fund created this opportunity to help small businesses in our community." "CDFI and Minority Banks act as anchors in underserved communities nationally with knowledge of the needs of the local communities. The NCIF Cares Initiative leverages this knowledge to quickly deliver grants to small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very impressed with the speed at which First Southwest Bank identified grantees — a clear demonstration of their market position," said Saurabh Narain, President and CEO of National Community In-

vestment Fund (NCIF). Each awardee will receive a \$1,250 grant. Awardees include:

- Colorado Catch a fish production facility in Sanford.
- Elevated Dental a dentist in Telluride.
- Alpine Medical & Specialty Practices a single service provider located in Pagosa Springs.
- Saguache Works a health food store and thrift store in Saguache.
- Purple Pig Pizzeria & Pub a restaurant in Alamosa.
- Three Guys Freight a hauling operation located in Monte Vista but serving the lower 48.
- Clearnetworx an internet provider based out of Montrose.

## Rio Grande Basin to Assist in Colorado Water Plan Update

In 2015, then-Governor John Hickenlooper signed a momentous document into being — the Colorado Water Plan. At the time, decades of analysis concluded that a gap was widening between the limited supply of water and an increasing demand from users. This gap in water supply and demand would only grow worse and more insurmountable without decisive action. Simply conserving water wasn't enough. The drought of 2002 drove home the fact that a decreasing and erratic snowpack would become the norm, wreaking havoc on communities and river systems across the state. Lawmakers, farmers, water managers, and others saw the writing on the wall and determined to be strategic and proactive. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the government agency tasked with overseeing water supply and management and utilizing technical data and analysis to assist decision making, were key partners in spearheading the unprecedented strategy. They couldn't undertake the entire process on their own and looked to the Roundtables for on the ground planning. The Roundtables, one for each major river basin plus an additional Roundtable serving the Denver metro population, were created in 2004 as a regional answer to address water needs as identified by a variety of stakeholders. All of these partners were needed to become the task force which created the first ever Colorado Water Plan.

These five hundred plus pages of graphs, data, photos, and text combined to tell the story of each of Colorado's major river basins. But more than that, it creates a compass for Colorado's basins to identify and implement projects in their region that addressed a multitude of issues such as stream flows, reservoir storage capacity, agricultural sustainability, environmental needs, water administration, and even education and outreach on water topics. The Colorado Water Plan includes five major areas of water use: Municipal & Industrial, Agriculture, Environment & Recreation, Water Administration and Education & Outreach. Each of these areas affects all the river basins; however, water leaders recognize that the plan could not be a one size fits all effort. Geography, population, tourism, and other factors affect each region differently, so state officials decided to utilize the leadership of local roundtables.

The resulting comprehensive state plan was made possible by thousands of hours of donated time from people in each basin who created an individual plan outlining the needs of their region and highlighting potential projects to address those needs. This basin implementation plan process, or BIP, allowed each basin to prioritize projects and informed the larger Water Plan's goals and objectives. With many projects completed and numerous goals met over the past five years, new ones are needed to answer the increasingly pressing question of how to adequately meet diverse water needs with an ever-dwindling supply. To that end, the Colorado Water Plan is in its first iteration of updates, scheduled for completion in 2021.

For the past two years, CWCB staff has worked with stakeholders in all basins, as well as engineering firms, to complete data analysis through Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) using updated data and the most up to date modeling tools available. These teams created five potential future scenarios facing Coloradans in the next 20-50 years. Each scenario incorporates existing data from the basins regarding current water use coupled with projected water use, population and economic growth, and, in some scenarios, potential impacts of climate change on water supply and use.

The current Colorado Water Plan can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/> and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan is online at <http://rgbrt.org/rgbip-update/>. To get involved or receive information about the current Rio Grande BIP process, please contact Daniel Boyes at [daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org](mailto:daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org). Any community member from the six counties of the San Luis Valley is encouraged to attend Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's monthly meetings (currently held virtually, with agenda and meeting information available at [www.riograndeheadwaters.org](http://www.riograndeheadwaters.org)), visit the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's Facebook page, or sign up for the quarterly Roundtable newsletter at [info@riograndeheadwaters.org](mailto:info@riograndeheadwaters.org) to learn more about upcoming BIP meetings and timelines.

These technical updates necessitate an updated Basin Implementation Plan incorporating the modeling and identifying where other data gaps exist. In addition, projects which will address the gaps and meet Basin goals and objectives need to be prioritized for the next five years. Just as in the first BIP process, stakeholders from the Rio Grande Basin are encouraged to participate in subcommittees on each of the five target areas. This update process will be facilitated by a Local Expert who has been trained in coordination with Local Experts from other basins by the state's general contractor for the 2021 Water Plan. The Rio Grande Local Expert is the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) staff, with Daniel Boyes as lead expert. The RGHRP was involved in the first BIP and works to improve the health of streams and riparian areas across the San Luis Valley and recently completed Stream Management Plans for the Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek. Boyes and the other RGHRP staff have begun holding meetings to determine project possibilities and data gaps within the five key areas with community members providing valuable input. These meetings will determine what projects, goals, and objectives represent the Rio Grande Basin's priorities for each of the key areas, providing once again valuable input to the overall state water plan.

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June 15, 2020

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# Valley News

## The San Juan Mountains Association and the idea of enjoying responsibly

By HELEN SMITH

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is now an official interpretive and educational partner of the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF). Following a recent agreement with the Rio Grande National Forest, SJMA is now offering Visitor Information Services at the Divide Ranger District Office in Del Norte along with the RGNF Supervisors' Office in Monte Vista. This new agreement is expected to be a step forward allowing SJMA to bring the mission of "Explore, Learn, Protect," to the San Luis Valley.

regulars. Bringing these services to a new area has the potential to create a new set of opportunities for the RGNF.

Based in Durango, Colo., the San Juan Mountains Association was established in 1988 for the purpose of assisting the San Juan National Forest in providing education and interpretation of public lands across Southwest Colorado. Since that time, SJMA has continued to advocate for the stewardship of public lands. Education is also a key component of the work that SJMA participates in. This includes summer camps, teacher workshops, and interpretive hikes.

SJMA currently operates under a participating agreement with the San Juan National Forest for the development of educational programs, publications and volunteer projects, as well as

providing interpretive services. The partnerships that have been forged have allowed the SJMA staff to serve in a supporting role for the National Forests.

In addition, SJMA develops and conducts a variety of activities through its Cultural Program. This program provides education and interpretation of the numerous cultural resources on public land and adjacent properties, including prehistoric and historic archaeological remains, ethnographic resources, and the records and data associated with these resources.

SJMA's new partnership with the Rio Grande National Forest seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of the unique natural resources contained within the Rio Grande National Forest. The Rio Grande National Forest contains over 1.8 million acres of

public lands, including portions of Colorado's largest wilderness area, the Weminuche Wilderness, which contains the headwaters of the Rio Grande River, a critical watershed for millions of Americans throughout the West. According to SJMA Executive Director, Brent Schoradt, "SJMA is thrilled to partner with the local community and the U.S. Forest Service to help educate the public on the irreplaceable forests, watersheds, and recreational resources of the Rio Grande National Forest."

While the current situation has proven to be challenging for the RGNF team, good work is still being done. For example, plans to hold a regional Visitor Information Services training later in the year, including the design of an outreach program for area school districts

and students, is in progress. Additionally, SJMA provides online resources such as maps and other materials to help locals and visitors alike learn more about the vast public areas that surround them.

Each of these new opportunities are expected to raise awareness of SJMA. New possibilities to shape the conversation around the responsible enjoyment of the Rio Grande National Forest lie ahead. The hope is that future generations can be impacted and gain an appreciation for all the outdoors has to offer through these comprehensive and immersive learning experiences for students through high school ages. SJMA seeks to "inspire the next generation of conservationists." The implementation of these programs in the San Luis Valley have the potential to shape the future of the Rio Grande

National Forest by investing in efforts to positively influence the way in which students interact with the landscape.

In these challenging times, there seems to be a renewed focus placed on the value of public land. It could be argued they offer an escape of sorts. As a result, spreading the message about the need to take care of these assets has reached an essential level. The SJMA team is working diligently, with our national forest partners, to help spread the message of Explore, Learn, and Protect. It is more important than ever to remember that the use of these lands is a privilege to be enjoyed responsibly.

Helen Smith is the SJMA Visitor Information Specialist at the Rio Grande National Forest in Monte Vista. She is a native of the San Luis Valley.

## Help fund ASD's student meal distribution



By MEG COLWELL

*Courier Reporter*  
**ALAMOSA —** COVID-19 has resulted in many catastrophes, significantly: both food shortages and lack of access to food. The San Luis Valley has been doubly impacted

by this catastrophe, as it is considered a food desert. Food deserts are made up of two components: the food available is not fresh or nutritious and residents must travel many miles to access it.

The pandemic has com-

pounded these access problems. Due to complications with imports, exports and food producers in general; many foods just are not available, at all — especially in food deserts. Additionally, nation-wide schools have had to shut down; resulting in an unforeseen consequence: kids are not guaranteed those two meals a day.

Often, in rural places like the SLV, school meals are the only food kids are provided. Thus, schools being closed is a big problem, especially during this pandemic.

Alamosa should be proud of the Alamosa School District (ASD) for facing this problem head-on. Due to lack of funding and staff, some SLV schools stopped feeding kids as soon as the pandemic hit. ASD took a different approach.

The ASD transportation and nutrition departments partnered up and began serving students, 18 and under, meals 7 days a week. ASD also developed partnerships with local agencies, which has enabled the distribution of food boxes, diapers, formula and baby wipes, as well.

Jeremy Silva, an ASD employee explained: "We have 2 routes that stop throughout the city and county of Alamosa. We engage at 15 stops with the students in the most populated vulnerable neighborhoods ... Our program is a no questions asked, simply show up and ask for a meal and you got it."

The need is certainly present. Silva notes, in April, ASD provided 40,377 meals. Over the past weekend (Fri., Sat.

and Sun.), ASD handed out 5,424 meals.

ASD will not be able to

continue this essential service without financial support.

South Fork, Colorado  
**Kids' Fishing Clinic 2020**  
Saturday June 20th, 8:00am  
Location: Tucker Ponds, Rio Grande National Forest  
Celebrate Father's Day Weekend in the South Fork sun. Grab your poles and rods and go fishing at Tucker Ponds. Vacationers or locals alike are welcome to enjoy the day with us. Lunch provided afterwards in the great outdoors.

- For children 15 and under
- Hours of Event: 8:00 am - 8:30 Registration, 8:30 to 11:30 Clinic and fish. 11:30 to 12:30 hot dogs and Frito chili pie
- Admission: Free, open to the public. Donations welcome.
- There will be a drawing for fishing poles and equipment
- Please bring your own fishing equipment
- There will be NO free rods and reels this year, but still plenty of fish, fun and food.

To reach Tucker Ponds from Pagosa Springs take US-160 East for 28 miles, then turn Right onto Forest Service Rd. 390 (Pass Creek Rd) and proceed 2.5 miles to the campground.

## COVID

Continued from Page 1

And you can contract the virus anytime between the second test and the day you return to work.

**Q:** I live or work with someone who received a positive COVID-19 test, but I'm not sick. When should I get tested?

**A:** You should wait seven days after coming into contact with the COVID-positive person before getting tested to make sure there is enough viral material, if any, for the test to be accurate.

**Q:** I'm sick, but I'm afraid to get tested because if I have to stay home, I will lose my job. What should I do?

**A:** State and Federal

laws have been put into place to support employers and employees and allow for proper quarantine and isolation to take place. More here: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/covid-19/return-to-work>

**Q:** I'm sick, but I'm afraid to get tested because if I have to stay home, I will not be paid. What should I do?

**A:** If your employer does not provide sick leave directly, you may be eligible for paid leave through The Colorado Health Emergency Leave with Pay Rules ("Colorado HELP Rules"). More here: <https://bit.ly/2XWRdUU>. For those not covered under the Colorado HELP

Rules or other government funding, you can apply for help from the Left Behind Workers Fund here: <https://airtable.com/shrz7k10xu9sttFDA>

If you wish to pursue testing for COVID-19, please contact your primary care doctor or call one of the numbers below to start the screening process:

For 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 positive individual, call:

Valley Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9 (M-F only)

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

More resources:  
For employers: How to keep your employees safe during the pandemic: <https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/coronavirus>

People who lost their health insurance through work can now apply: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/hereforyou>

**ALONZO PAYNE**  
FOR  
**COLORADO JD12**  
"CHANGE THE NARRATIVE"  
COLORADO STATE PRIMARY JUNE 30TH  
I commit to fight for all the people of the SLV as your next District Attorney

**MAKE A REAL CHANGE TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

- LOWER UNNECESSARY INCARCERATION RATES •
- PREVENT JAILS FROM OVERCROWDING •
- PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH •
- STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY •

Alonzo Payne for Colorado @alonzopayneCO  
<https://AlonzoForColorado.com>

**Bernie endorses Alonzo Payne**  
FOR COLORADO JD 12 DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Bernie Sanders @BernieSanders  
@alonzopayneCO is a criminal justice reformer, advocating for measures to reduce incarceration and stop the criminalization of poverty in Southern Colorado. He has advocated for economic justice measures, including raising the minimum wage and Medicare for All.

**WORKING FAMILIES COLORADO WORKING FAMILIES PARTY**  
Paid for by Alonzo Payne for Colorado

## LEI Act

Continued from Page 1

Rein in use of deadly force by officers. Changes use of force standard to (1) outlaw chokeholds; (2) outlaw deadly force against someone fleeing the police who does not pose an immediate risk; (3) outlaw the use of deadly force to arrest people for minor offenses and non-violent offenses; and (3) require officers to use non-violent means before resorting to any force.

Require Officers to Intervene to Stop Excessive Force. Creates a duty for officers to intervene and stop excessive force and makes failure to intervene by an officer a criminal offense.

Decertify bad officers. If a court or internal investigations finds that an officer used unlawful force or officer is convicted of a violent offense, tampered with body camera

footage to cover up misconduct, or failed to intervene to stop unlawful use of force that results in serious bodily injury or death, the officer will lose POST certification, thus stopping bad police officers from continuing to put the public at risk.

Public Database to Prevent Rehiring of bad officers. Officers who are found untruthful, terminated for cause, or decertified would be listed in a publicly-available database to prevent them from moving from one agency to another.

Justice for Victims of Police Violence by Ending Qualified Immunity. The bills allows victims of police misconduct to bring a lawsuit for the violation of their constitutional rights. Officers found liable will no longer be shielded by the doctrine of qualified im-

munity which has served to protect bad officers from accountability and denied justice to victims.

Protect protesters from police use of tear gas and projectiles. In response to incidents at recent protests, this bill prohibits law enforcement officers from shooting rubber bullets indiscriminately into a crowd and prohibits targeting rubber bullets at someone's head, torso, or back. It also prohibits using tear gas without first warning the crowd, and giving people time and a route to disperse.

Attorney General Lawsuits Against Bad Police Departments. Authorizes the Attorney General to bring lawsuits to force bad police departments to change and to bring criminal charges against officers for violations of POST standards.

Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, co-sponsor of Senate Bill 217, states, "It's not every day we have the opportunity to vote on a true life and death issue in the legislature, but that's exactly what we did today," said Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez, D-Denver.

She goes on to say, "The bill we passed today will make lasting, overdue change to our law enforcement system and will hopefully prevent the deaths of Black and Brown people at the hands of police in Colorado. I am honored to have accomplished this work with another woman of color, Representative Herod."

Senate Bill 217 will now be sent to the Governor's Desk to be signed into law.

**Republican Candidate Alamosa County Commissioner District 1 Rusty Johnson**

- Over 30 years' experience in Local Government
- Experienced Policy Maker
- Experienced in every aspect of Local Government
- Long history of Community Involvement
- Small Business Owner

"I would be honored to continue serving our community as your Alamosa County Commissioner."

Paid for by the Candidate

# Opinion

## Knockoffs are not counterfeits

Knockoffs are not always equal to the original they imitate. Sometimes counterfeits would have a stronger market if they were knockoffs and not counterfeits. (Nelda Curtiss is a former substance-prevention media specialist, journalist, and retired college professor who enjoys writing and fine arts. Contact her at [columnsbynellie@gmail.com](mailto:columnsbynellie@gmail.com))

Knockoffs take the prototype and scale it up, so to speak, and make it anew. While a counterfeit of a product is illegal, its main goal is to capture the thing itself—ugly for business, ugly for the counterfeit-er, too.

### Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss

Staying within the professor's assignment parameters, I did a 45-minute study of Van Gogh's painting titled *The Rocks* (original here <https://www.mfah.org/calendar/van-goghs-rocks-in-context>) when I was in Graduate School some 30 years ago. I still love it and how I captured the broad, almost Japanese-like strokes around the landscape and tree. I like how the energy seems to capture the wind that must have arrested Van Gogh's hurried style that day in 1888. He painted the oil in 45 minutes in the countryside near Arles, France. My effort may have been a knockoff, but I didn't make his masterpiece better; I gained a better understanding, however, of the creative process he maneuvered through.

Children are not supposed to be flat copies, counterfeits of their parents. Although they may be knockoffs, apples off the old tree, or a chip off the old block, they are not doubles of their parents and are created as beings all their own. Artistic expression stands apart from the creator, too. The Tesla could be a knockoff of the Ford Model T that made capital T 'travel more possible for the middle class,' according to a blurb on Wikipedia. What's clear however, is that 100 years later consumers would rather travel in cushiony comfort of a Tesla than in the rough Victorian interior of that earlier tinier horseless carriage. So, Tesla took what was and made it better; and Ford the manufacturer in 2020 did that too, many would argue especially since like so many, they pitched in to make personal protective equipment for our frontline COVID-19 workers.

Phil Donahue was an original daytime talk show host. Then there was Jerry Springer, Star Jones, Wayne Brady, Bonnie Hunt, Joy Behar, Whoopi Goldberg, until along came Oprah Winfrey who introduced Dr. Oz and Dr. Phil.

Now, Oprah has her own network, Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), but has left her talk show behind. However, since Phil Donahue days, the talk show has evolved and developed into a more fortifying hour of entertainment and psychological and sociological education.

We may be seeing the swift pulling of overbearing knockoff cop shows like "Live PD" on A&E and "COPS" from Paramount; but we have the opportunity to make our knockoff patrolling better without all the brute force, or fatal force, that seems rampant across cities in the U.S., television reality shows and make-believe series where racial inequality seems all but erased. Reforming police departments might be in order to take away the systemic racism. Star Trek, sci-fi not reality, has no racial divide that follows from episode to episode and I hope that we, over here on the planet earth, learn that we are all one race; we are all one knockoff; and we are all works in progress; and beautiful the way we are with hoodies or not, with afro or kinks or not, with melatonin or not, with blue or brown eyes, with deep mahogany skin or not, with long hair or short fingers, with round or square jaws, with working legs or working wheels, and with laughing or serious eyes.

We are not counterfeit humans to be rounded up, bundled, bunched, handcuffed, mobbed into a pen, or taken a knee upon as if we are prey; instead, we are all knockoffs of the Great Big Block known as God who made us in like image.



**To submit news, email:**  
[news@alamosanews.com](mailto:news@alamosanews.com)  
**To submit sports, email:**  
[sjiron@alamosanews.com](mailto:sjiron@alamosanews.com)

### Letters policy

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

## Valley Stuff

Last week I told you that Larry and I had a very sick grandson. Our entire week was a roller coaster of hope and then worry, more hope and more worry, ending with a trip, by my daughter and family, to Denver Children's Hospital.

We have been blessed and we can say he has started the road to recovering. After being tested for a number of illnesses, and then more testing, a diagnosis, and then a different diagnosis, we have settled on mono. How in the heck a little 3 year old gets mono, who knows, but at least we now know what to expect. As he starts to feel better, does anyone out there have any ideas on how to keep him happy and mellow for a month? Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated! And thanks to the over 225 people who sent your prayers on Facebook!

Larry was able to get chain link panels from Garrison Fence this past week to fence in our back garage door. Isn't it sad that we have to fence ourselves in so that folks can't 'do their business' on the side of our building? (That was the way my granddaughter, Peyton, described it—I was a little more graphic and pissed)! It is so disgusting and violating to have to deal with this kind of behavior. I almost asked the City of Alamosa for a port-a-john, since they are putting them everywhere else but....

This last week or so a press release was put out by the City, about how they and the County and the Airport board (or somebody) had gotten together and figured out how to trim some Blue Spruce that were in violation

of the FAA and runway approaches. The trees were maybe 100 years old, etc. and it would be a shame to cut them down, etc. I just have to wonder where these same folks were when the Rocky Mountain Junipers were cut down by the airport entrance. For no reason that I know of other than they didn't fit in with the new landscaping plan. Still sad about the lack of appreciation for living trees in that situation!

I didn't get all my planting done last weekend because of the wind! I don't know that wind has ever bothered me so much as it has this year. Maybe it's because it is blowing when I wake up in the morning (early), gets stronger in the afternoon and doesn't even quit in the evening! It just wears me out. I should be thankful because we aren't in a tornado area, or floods, or hurricanes.

Before I forget, wasn't that rain absolutely a little bit of heaven this week?

Here's some good news...in my little mind, anyways.

For 2-3 years I was going to send an anonymous letter to the owners of the little strip mall in front of Safeway.

I was going to tell them how awful their property looked. I even went to the City website last year and made a complaint. How many visitors/tourists drove into the Safeway parking lot and got a 'no pride' impression from all the weeds—green and dead?

I was talking to one of my customers about how the crew at Safeway had swept their driveway, and how wonderful it looked—except for the one pile they forgot, that I will

Ruthie Brown

Valley Stuff

## Candidate Response Letter

By District Attorney Robert S. Willett

In reading the recent advertisement by my opponent, Mr. Payne misstates information on the jail populations in the San Luis Valley. I believe it is important to give you factual information on the jail populations by county as of noon on June 12, 2020:

- Alamosa County-present jail population 39/Max Capacity 160
- Conejos County-present population 13/Max capacity 83
- Costilla County-present population 6/Max capacity 12
- Mineral County-no jail
- Rio Grande County-present population 27/Max capacity 62
- Saguache County-present population 11/Max capacity 21

Pueblo Youth Center-our authorized beds 1-1 juvenile being held for 1st Degree Murder.

These figures are easily obtained by simple on-line search or phone call to the jail. If my opponent is misleading you on these figures, it is fair to ask, "What else is he misleading me on?"

Experience, honesty, compassion, and competence matter. Your vote matters.

Choose wisely.  
 Robert S. Willett  
 District Attorney

## How to be an Ally

By CHELSEA HENDERSON  
 MA, LPCC, NCC

First of all, we want to say Happy Pride Month to all those who identify within the LGBTQ+ community or have yet to figure out where they fit on the spectrum of gender and/or sexual identity. We see you and we are here for you. We acknowledge this pride month may be extra difficult for the community as we don't get to celebrate in crowds. The San Luis Behavioral Health Group has been in existence for over 50 years and is committed to providing quality services and support for historically underserved and underrepresented communities. Research suggests that LGBTQ+ individuals face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights. Discrimination against LGBT persons has been associated with high rates of psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, and suicide. LGBTQ+ adults are more than twice as likely as heterosexual adults to experience a mental health condition. The LGBTQ+ community is at a higher risk than the general population for suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. High school students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide compared to their heterosexual peers. 48% of all transgender adults report that they have considered suicide in the past 12 months, compared to 4% of the overall US population. Acceptance by our immediate social groups and of one's sexual orientation and gender identity affects the mental health and personal safety of LGBTQ+ individuals.

This year marks 51 years since the original Stonewall riots and the fight for equal rights and social justice are heating up again. Thus this is an important time to know how to be an ally in the LGBTQ+ community and advocate for those voices that are silenced or quieted.

Before we talk about advocacy, it's important as an ally to educate yourself on the terms involving the LGBTQ+ community. It can be overwhelming at times with the many different sexual and gender identities, so let's start at what LGBTQ+ stands for.

the person, as not all folk will be comfortable with being called queer. The "+" symbol is meant to be inclusive of those genders and identities that aren't given a letter. In other words, the "LGB" is meant to be representative of sexualities and "T" of the gender identities; folks will sometimes use queer for being representative of all identities, but again not everyone will feel comfortable with that term, so please ask before using it on a case by case basis due to the word's historical negative use. Again, please ask before using the word "queer". Also note that we want to use more of these terms as an adjective instead of a label, i.e. using phrases like "he identifies as gay" instead of "that gay guy".

In addition to having knowledge of the terms used in the LGBTQ+ community, it is important to know the difference between sexual and gender identities. The best way to visualize this is what "The SafeZone Project" calls the gender-bread man. Basically, gender identity is who we know ourselves to be psychologically and how we align/don't align with the options for gender. Attraction is how we feel drawn to other people, most often linked to our gender; this category is often referred to as sexual orientation. "Sex" is referring to anatomical sex, what we are born with and the physical makeup of our bodies. "Expression" refers to the whole person and how one presents through actions, clothing, demeanor, and socially. Basically saying Identity ≠ Expression ≠ Sex, and Gender ≠ Sexual Orientation.

Now, let's talk about support. How do I best support my friends or family that may not have "come out" to me or are scared to? The best thing to do is to continue to educate yourself and bring supportive speech into everyday conversations. This includes standing your ground on pronouns (if you know them, use them), correcting and rephrasing common mistakes like "fireman" to "firefighter" and moving towards more inclusive language like using "folks" and "everyone" when speaking to a group.

Once someone feels safe to speak to you about identifying with one or multiple terms regarding LGBTQ+, there are some "do's" and "don't" with this process. First of all, recognize that "coming out" is a sign of trust and addressing

this by thanking them in some way, as simple as "I love and support you no matter what" or "Thank you for trusting me enough with this part of you, this must have been scary to bring up". Check-in with the person one who else they have "come out" to, making sure they are safe and you are keeping them safe after the conversation with the information. Remember that their sexuality and gender identity are just one piece of what makes them the person you know. The most important thing you can do for your friend is to ask them how to best support them and ask questions about their process in coming to this point. Also good things to have on hand are crisis lines if the person who is talking to you is feeling overwhelmed and requires professional intervention and offering to stay with them while speaking to a crisis professional.

Finally, in terms of advocacy, there are many ways to support the greater LGBTQ+ community. Local, we can try our best to vote for changes for our communities, joining an LGBTQ+ social group, joining and engaging in a local pride festival, and supporting LGBTQ+ families the best you can. On a state or national level, we can vote for leaders who are allies or who are in support of legislation for more inclusive changes (healthcare, housing, adoption, etc). There are many advocacy groups that you can donate to or share movement on your social media of choice. In our SLV communities, there is an ally in the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group, if you are experiencing behavioral distress and you need to talk to someone do not hesitate to reach out. We have trained compassionate staff ready to help.

If you are experiencing a crisis, please call 719-589-3671 or call the crisis hotline 1 (844) 493-TALK (8255). For after business hours assistance, please call 911 or the crisis hotline 1 (844) 493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255 to receive mental health crisis support. The Trevor Project Support Line 1-866-488-7386 or text "START" to 678678. Translife Line 877-565-8860.

View additional resources on our website [www.slvbhg.org/how-to-be-an-ally/](http://www.slvbhg.org/how-to-be-an-ally/) Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @slvbhg



# Lifestyle

## City Council tries to help local restaurants get back on their feet

By REBECCA COPLEY

**MONTE VISTA** - For the first time in months the Monte Vista City Council was able to meet in person. At the meeting more developments were discussed as everyone begins to return to more normalcy after the COVID-19 shutdown.

At the meeting there was the presentation of Resolution 2020-01: A resolution amending the approval process for an application requesting change of location of premises to allow outdoor dining and outdoor service of liquor under an existing liquor license for use during the pandemic of COVID-19. "What this would allow is for businesses to bring forward an application to serve alcohol outside of their current premises," City Clerk Unita Vance told the council.

The new resolution will allow for the applications to be handled administratively versus bringing it to the liquor authority board. It is hoped this will help businesses be able to move forward more quickly. "It still has to go through a process with the state. The state is requiring a \$150 fee and then they do have to fill out the application for the modification. I was notified that within the last two weeks since they were going to do this that they have been turning them around within seven hours," said Vance. City council passed the resolution.

Vance spoke more about the subject during her report telling the council, "As directed by you at our last meeting you asked me to go ahead and get information out to our local restaurants about outdoor dining. When that all came down it also

came down the liquor division allowing some temporary modifications. What I did is I put together a letter, and I hand delivered it to each and every restaurant within our community. With that letter are the guidelines from the Governor's office. And also tips from the restaurant association." Vance shared that the restaurants will need to have a sketch of their outdoor plan and where they're going to seat customers, and the location of tables. If the establishment plans on serving liquor then in the sketch they will also have to show where it is roped off or have barricades or something to show where they're going to serve the liquor.

"Liquor division said that they're even OK with planters. If they want to set 6 planters out, or 4 planters up to show the location of where they're going to be able to serve the alcohol. I kind of went off the same thing that the liquor division did. They just need to show a sketch of where they're going to have it. Then the second step was a letter of permission from the owner if they can't have it on their own property," said Vance sharing that property will still have to be somewhat adjacent to the restaurants because of their liquor licensing. If they plan on having an outdoor tent they will also need to ask for that in their written request for outdoor dining.

"Currently the state Governor's guidelines is 50 percent capacity, by allowing all of our local restaurants to do outdoor dining we'll allow them to bring that capacity hopefully up to 100 percent," said Vance.

## Unique ways to support workers who have been laid off or furloughed

Small businesses have been hit especially hard by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. According to a survey of more than 500 small businesses conducted by the Small and Medium Business Group in late March, companies with fewer than 20 employees were the most adversely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The survey also found that businesses within the personal service, hospitality and retail industries were most affected by the economic fallout of the outbreak.

Small businesses do not have the financial might of their larger competitors, making it especially difficult for such companies to weather economic storms. As a result, when the economy suffers, many small businesses don't have the financial cushion necessary to safeguard their employees from layoffs or furloughs.

When social distancing guidelines were implemented, forcing non-essential businesses to close their facilities to customers, millions of small business employees were suddenly out of work. Those men and women are friends and neighbors, so it's understandable that people want to find ways to help them make it through such difficult times. The following are some ways to do just that.

• Support local fundraising efforts. In response to the financial fallout of the COVID-19 outbreak, many small business owners urged community members to support their staff. For example, in New Jersey, where Gov. Phil Murphy ordered the closure of all restaurant dining rooms in mid-March, local restaurant owners organized The Great Jersey Shore Take-out, an effort in which

the proceeds of all food and beverage sales on a designated day were given to participating restaurants' employees, including waitresses, managers, bartenders, chefs, and kitchen staff. Participating in such efforts is a great way to support local workers who have been laid off or furloughed as a result of the outbreak.

• Offer discounted services to laid off or furloughed workers. Local professionals can help laid off or furloughed workers by offering certain services at discounted rates. For example, tax filing deadlines have now been extended in many areas. Accountants can pitch in and help laid off or furloughed workers by discounting their tax preparation services. Local financial planners can offer free or discounted consultations to such workers who may need financial advice, including how to spend or invest their financial stimulus money.

• Patronize small businesses. One of the most effective ways to help laid off or furloughed workers is to continue to support their employers. Many areas have begun to discuss reopening strategies, and businesses that can withstand the economic challenges of social distancing are more likely to bring laid off and furloughed workers back when they reopen. Continuing to support local businesses, even those that have scaled back their offerings, is vital to ensuring the jobs those businesses provide return when the economy reopens.

Laid off and furloughed workers are facing financial challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Communities can join together in unique ways to support these workers until the economy reopens. TF207089

## 3 ways to respond to

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If you received an invitation with an ID number, great, use it. If you don't have an ID number, that's fine. Just follow the instructions to enter your address.

Phone - call 844-330-2020  
(en español 844-468-2020)

Mail - if you do not respond online or by phone, you may receive a paper questionnaire in the mail or one may be delivered to your home by a Census worker. Fill it out and drop it in the mail.



[2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)

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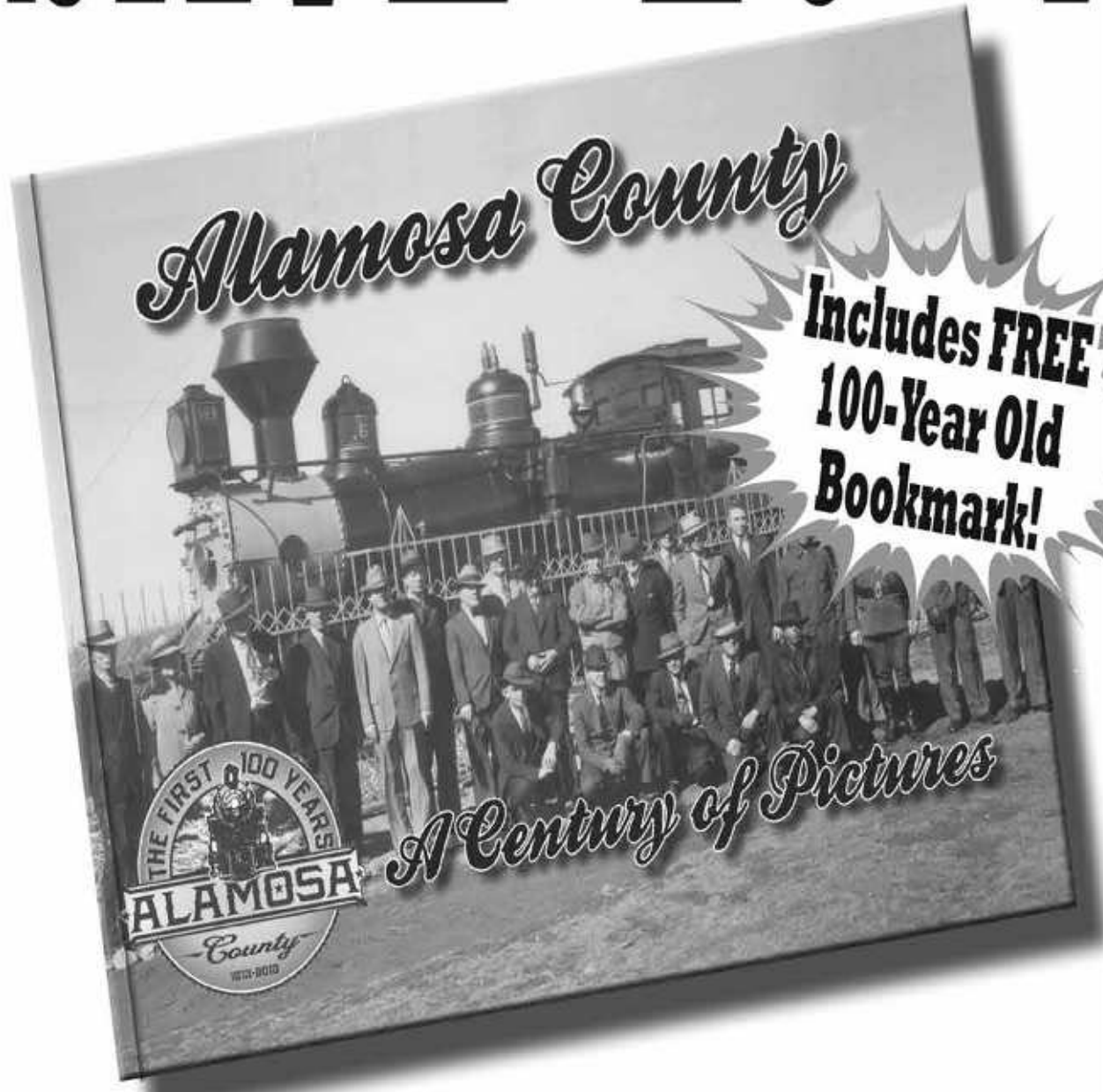


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Alamosa

# Lifestyle

## Jorgensen case

**SAN LUIS** — The Spring Fire, allegedly started June 27, 2017, 5 miles east of Fort Garland by 52-year-old Jesper Joergensen, reportedly exceeded 107,000 acres and destroyed more than 141 homes.

Joergensen has yet to stand trial. A hearing was set at 10 a.m. July 13 and 12th Judicial District Attorney Robert Willett said the hearing was likely on the determination of the defendant's competency. He has been conflicted out of the case since he owned property in the burn area.

Joergensen is in custody facing 141 counts of first-degree arson, as well as a hold by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since he is a Danish National with an expired visa.

Retired 6th Judicial District Judge Gregory G. Lyman of Durango has been presiding to determine the nature of charges against Joergensen.

Lyman is presiding since all of the 12th Judicial District judges recused themselves after it was learned that a fellow court employee lost a cabin in the fire.

There was no debate at the hearing whether Joergensen started a fire at his home; a fire that devastated parts of two counties. The question is whether someone



Jesper Joergensen,

Courier file photo

can be charged with felonious first-degree arson if he intentionally started a small fire at his residence; a fire that eventually became the third-largest wildfire in Colorado history. Joergensen denied knowing a fire ban was in place.

Joergensen claimed he was burning some trash that spread to nearby bushes but changed his story to say he had cooked some meat in an underground burn pit, he thought the fire was out and went to sleep in a camper awakening to the smell of smoke. He lost his camper home

as the fire progressed. Joergensen said in an interview that he knew it was dangerous to start the fire with a Level One Fire Ban in place forbidding all open burning. "He knowingly set a fire he knew he shouldn't have set" and watched its rapid spread.

The defendant was eventually arrested while sitting in his pickup truck at the south side of Mountain Home Reservoir playing with his dog and watching the fire. He has been in custody since then and will be turned over to ICE when the case has been settled.

# Newspaper Readers

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**HELP MAKE ALAMOSA A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**



**H.O.P.E.** (Helping Others & Promoting Equity) is a team of young adults focused on increasing the health and well-being of their peers in Alamosa. The team is **surveying 18- to 30-year-olds who live, work or attend school in Alamosa**, to get their opinions about life, well-being and opportunity in the region. All 18- to 30-year-olds in Alamosa are encouraged to fill out the survey; those who do will have an opportunity to enter a drawing to win one of multiple gift cards in varying amounts, up to \$75.

**ACCESS SURVEY HERE:**

(Enter to win a gift card up to \$75 in value!)

**Direct survey link:** <https://tinyurl.com/HOPEinAlamosa>

**QR Code:**



**Via any of the H.O.P.E. team's social media channels:**

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hopeinalamosa](http://www.facebook.com/hopeinalamosa)

**Instagram:** @hope\_in\_alamosa

**Twitter:** @HopelnAlamosa

**Via email:** Tori Martinez, [Tori@coloradotrust.org](mailto:Tori@coloradotrust.org)

**Print versions:** Available at Treasure Alley on Main St. in Alamosa

The results of this survey will inform the team's work, current and future funding, and areas of focus for the next several years, so your input is essential.

**The deadline to complete the survey and be entered into the gift card drawing is June 17, 2020.**

*Let your voice be heard and help make Alamosa a better place to live, work and play!*

**AYUDA A QUE ALAMOSA SEA UN MEJOR LUGAR PARA LA GENTE JOVEN**



**H.O.P.E.** (Helping Others & Promoting Equity o Ayudando a Otros y Promoviendo la Equidad, en español) es un equipo de adultos jóvenes enfocados en aumentar la salud y el bienestar de otros jóvenes en Alamosa. **El equipo está realizando una encuesta entre gente de 18 a 30 años de edad que vive, trabaja o estudia en Alamosa** para saber qué opina sobre la vida, el bienestar y las oportunidades que hay en la región. Animamos a todos los jóvenes de 18 a 30 años en Alamosa para que completen la encuesta. Quienes la completen tendrán la oportunidad de participar en un sorteo para ganar una de varias tarjetas de regalo de diferentes cantidades, hasta \$75.

**INGRESA A LA ENCUESTA AQUÍ:**

(¡y participa en un sorteo para ganar hasta \$75!)

**Enlace directo a la encuesta:**

<https://tinyurl.com/EsperanzaenAlamosa>

**Código QR:**



**A través de cualquiera de las redes sociales del equipo H.O.P.E.:**

**Instagram:** @hope\_in\_alamosa

**Twitter:** @HopelnAlamosa

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hopeinalamosa](http://www.facebook.com/hopeinalamosa)

**Por correo electrónico:** Tori Martinez, [Tori@coloradotrust.org](mailto:Tori@coloradotrust.org)

**Versión impresa:** Habrá copias impresas disponibles en Treasure Alley en Main St. de Alamosa

Los resultados de esta encuesta ayudarán a diseñar el trabajo del equipo, los fondos actuales y futuros y las áreas de enfoque de los próximos años. Tus ideas y comentarios son esenciales.

**La fecha límite para contestar la encuesta y que tu nombre se incluya en el sorteo para una tarjeta de regalo es el 17 de junio.**

*¡Hazte escuchar y ayuda a que Alamosa sea un mejor lugar para vivir, trabajar y divertirse!*



# Classifieds

<b>221 HELP WANTED</b> <b>MONTE VISTA ESTATES</b> is currently seeking a full-time dietary Cook to add to our amazing team! The Cook is an essential role in the overall dining services offered to our residents and tenants. The cook assists in the preparation and service of meals and snacks in accordance with facility policies and procedures. Monte Vista Estates is a skilled five star rated nursing home - we take great pride in the food we serve our residents. If you love working with the elderly and enjoy making a difference in the lives of our seniors, please contact us. Interested individuals may respond to this ad or you may contact Otilia at 719-852-5138. The shift(s) for this position are as follows: Days, Evenings Job Type: Full-Time Salary: Based on experience <b>JOB REQUIREMENTS:</b> Must be able to learn specific food preparation procedures, follow recipes and menus, and operate all equipment in a safe manner. Knowledge of nursing home or assisted living food service is preferred. Must be able to maintain a clean, organized work area. Must be able to work well with all department staff. (6/16)	<b>221 HELP WANTED</b> <b>MECHANIC NEEDED, MUST</b> have basic hand tools, must have valid driver's license. Offers, 404k, and competitive wage DOE. Apply at Asphalt Constructors Inc. 7040 W Hwy 160, Alamosa, CO 81101. Ph. 719-589-6671.(6/19)	<b>267 WORK WANTED</b> <b>AVAILABLE: EXPERIENCED PRIVATE</b> personal care provider. Light housework, baths, toileting, dressing, meals, geriatric exercises. 719-587-9442.(7/1)	<b>351 LIVESTOCK</b> <b>SALE REGISTERED BLACK</b> Angus Bulls and semen sales Brink Livestock Services admin@brinklvestock.net www.brinklvestock.net 88-641-3750 / 719-480-3932.(7/15)	<b>369 - PETS &amp; SUPPLIES</b> <b>NEED CATS FOR</b> mousers? Want to adopt kittens? Help trap/neuter/release efforts? Donate food/litter/supplies? Low cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. http://www.catsaliveslv.com 719-298-7028. (TFN)	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. <b>Casita del Sol</b> 1405 W. 11th Street Alamosa, CO <b>589-8663</b> Rental assistance available to qualified households. TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units. Family living at an affordable price. <b>Valley Grande Apartments</b> 2256 East Drive Monte Vista, CO <b>852-4302</b> Rental assistance available to qualified households. TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>702 - AUTOS FOR SALE</b> <b>2011 FORD SHELB</b> Y Cobra, glass roof. 15,000 miles. \$48,500/obo. Call 719-588-5198. (6/17)
<b>221 HELP WANTED</b> <b>SWEET TOOTH ALAMOSA</b> is seeking a full-time dental assistant. Experienced preferred not required. Willing to train the right candidate. Bi Lingual a plus. Individual must have great customer service, dependable, able to multi task. Please submit resumes to: sweettoothdental89@gmail.com.(6/17)	<b>324 - FEED &amp; SEED</b> <b>NATIVE GRASS HAY</b> for sale. Small bales, horse hay quality. Come cow hay. Certified USDA. Call Ed 719-852-3069.(7/14)	<b>360 - MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE</b> <b>NEW / STILL</b> in Box Swimming pool for Sale. 15ft diameter. Paid \$700 will take \$500. Call 719-480-9893.(6/30)	<b>369 - PETS &amp; SUPPLIES</b> <b>ZACH'S EUROPEAN MOUNTS.</b> Professional work, low prices. 719-580-0398. (TFN)	<b>387 - WANTED TO BUY</b> <b>LOOKING FOR A</b> 2 or 3 bedroom Mobile Home 1981 or higher for \$15,000 or under. Call or text 719-580-9525(TFN-E)	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 Bedroom Apartments - Handicap Units Available. Rent based on income for qualified households. <b>Gateway Villa Apartments</b> 929 Spruce St. Del Norte, CO <b>657-3654</b> TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom family units. Handicap accessible units available. <b>West View Villas</b> 510 Dunham Monte Vista, CO <b>852-3949</b> TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>737 RVS</b> <b>1987 NOMAD TRAVEL</b> trailer. 25th fifth wheel. 1-owner original. \$5,000 obo. Call 719-580-2290.(6/26)
<b>341 - GARAGE SALES</b> <b>16TH ANNUAL YARD</b> Sale! Dewalt and Milwaukee power tools, misc tools, hunting, fishing, camping, luggage, adult and kids clothes, toys, books, DVD's, household and xmas items! Well worth the drive, more items that we can sell in 3 days! Don't Miss!! We are Following CDC Guidelines! 6/11 7am-7pm 6/12 & 6/13 7am-3pm. 0230 County Road 10 S, Alamosa. (Waverly Road to almost the CR 100).(6/13)	<b>369 - PETS &amp; SUPPLIES</b> <b>ALL DOGS ADOPTED</b> FROM THE VALLEY HUMANE LEAGUE HAVE TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE GOING TO THEIR NEW HOME. (TFN)	<b>369 - PETS &amp; SUPPLIES</b> <b>OOPS! GOT PUPPIES</b> who need a home? San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society is a nonprofit animal rescue dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets. Having pets altered is the number one way to stop pet overpopulation. If your pet has had puppies contact us. We will take the puppies into our rescue and spay the mama dog for free after the puppies are weaned. If needed we will also provide dog food & gas money to get the dogs to us to help in this situation. Spay/neuter is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family and your community. We have found good responsible homes for over 8,000 animals. Contact 719-587-9663 (WOOF); email: woof@slvaws.org. (TFN)	<b>525 GUNS</b> <b>ZACH'S EUROPEAN MOUNTS.</b> Professional work, low prices. 719-580-0398. (TFN)	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. <b>Century Property Management &amp; Sales, LLC</b> Alamosa • 589-5744 <b>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE</b> For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101 www.alamosarentals.com	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 Bedroom Apartments. Newly remodeled Units Immediate Availability <b>Valle Vista Apartments</b> 58 E. Central Ave. Center, CO <b>754-2608</b> Rental assistance available to qualified households. TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT</b> Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. <b>Casita del Sol</b> 1405 W. 11th Street Alamosa, CO <b>589-8663</b> Rental assistance available to qualified households. TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider	<b>606 - BUS. PROP. FOR RENT</b> <b>OFFICE SPACE</b> FOR rent. Completely renovated. New electrical, plumbing, and thermal windows. Classic 1800sq.ft. style faced located on high visibility lot on Grande Ave., Del Norte. 719-657-0776 for appointment. (6/30)
<b>341 - GARAGE SALES</b> <b>MONTE VISTA ESTATES</b> Nursing Home is seeking a full time night shift CNA. Shift is 10:00pm-0600am. If you love working with the elderly and enjoy making a difference in the lives of our residents, please contact us and or drop by for an application. We look forward to having you join our team.(6/16)	<b>351 LIVESTOCK</b> <b>HERITAGE BREED TURKEY</b> POULTS - Bourbon Reds from free range parents. \$20 each or \$35 for 2. Limited number available. Ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832. (TFN-E)	<b>351 LIVESTOCK</b> <b>PIGS FOR SALE</b> \$1.00 lb. live weight. 570-395-0184 (TFN)	<b>611 - HOMES FOR RENT</b> <b>BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM,</b> 2 bath country home with fireplace will be available June 1, 2020. 1st, last, security & utility deposit. 1-year lease. References. Monthly rent is \$800 plus utilities. Contact Cheryl 719-480-0502. Leave a message. (6/13)	<b>NEWLY REMODELED APARTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW</b> Rent starts at \$680 a month. Vouchers accepted <b>Mt. Blanca View Apts.</b> 201 Market Street Alamosa, CO <b>589-2850</b> *Qualified Applicants (62 years of age or older, disabled regardless of age) *On-site Laundry *Community Room for Activities *Handicapped Accessible This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider	<b>RENT 1 BEDROOM</b> Apt Alamosa some utilities included 800-641-3750 / 719-480-3932. (7/15)	<b>RENT 1 BEDROOM</b> Apt Alamosa some utilities included 800-641-3750 / 719-480-3932. (7/15)	<b>Do You Feel the Need to Read?</b> Satisfy your curiosity by reading the newspaper every day. You'll find something interesting in the newspaper. In fact, the paper is such a reliable source for the information you want, it can even be used by students as a homework and school research tool. Valley Courier Subscribe Today! 719-589-2553.

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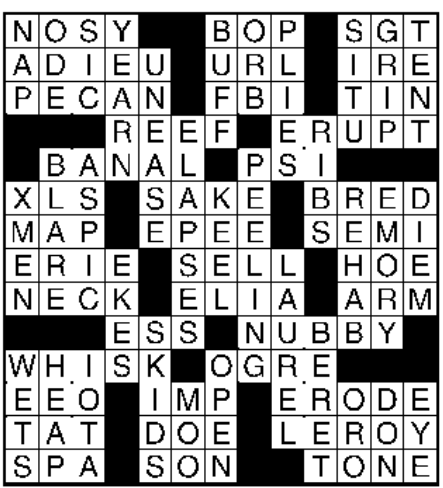
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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

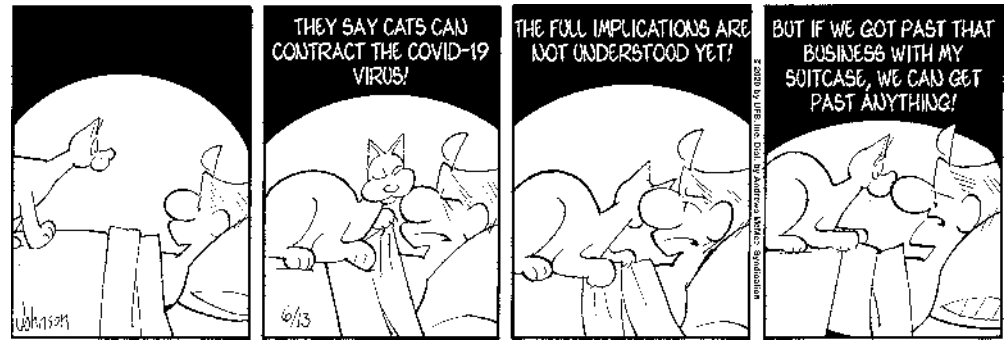
- ACROSS**
- 1 Symphony or tome
  - 5 It runs on runners
  - 9 Cooler
  - 12 House feature
  - 13 "The Galloping Gourmet"
  - 14 Bullring yell
  - 15 Sundance Kid's wife
  - 16 Nostalgic time
  - 17 Literary collection
  - 18 Gives forth
  - 20 Sub detector
  - 22 Popular cookie
  - 23 Poisonous snake
  - 24 Not taut
  - 27 Chore
  - 31 Plant sci.
  - 34 Sheik colleague
  - 35 Blackthorn fruit
  - 36 Brenda and Bruce
  - 38 Ion source
  - 40 Enjoyment
- DOWN**
- 1 Submit
  - 2 Cookout locale
  - 3 Unmitigated
  - 4 Sedimentary rocks
  - 5 The — the limit!
  - 6 Mr. Tolstoy
  - 7 Be mistaken
  - 8 Gown
  - 9 Ms. Fontaine of old films
  - 10 Radius's companion
  - 11 Power train part
  - 19 Allot
  - 21 Chooses
  - 23 Ohio city
  - 25 Surprise greatly
  - 26 Quote from
  - 28 Chatty alien of TV
  - 29 —'wester
  - 30 Howard or Berry
  - 31 Deli order
  - 32 Poet's contraction
  - 33 Golf peg
  - 37 Transmitted
  - 39 Inventory wd.
  - 43 Curly-tailed dogs
  - 45 icicle sites
  - 47 Unsuitable
  - 48 Brief
  - 49 Do a personnel job
  - 50 China's place
  - 51 RBI or ERA
  - 52 Smell strongly
  - 53 View as
  - 56 MacGraw of the movies
  - 57 W-2 info



## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



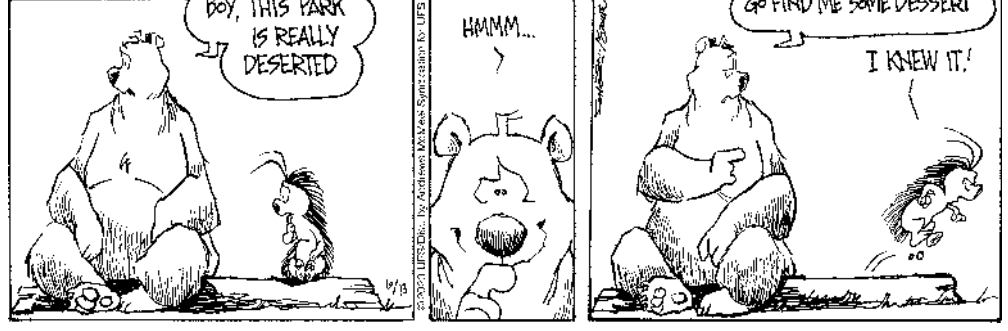
## FRANK & ERNEST



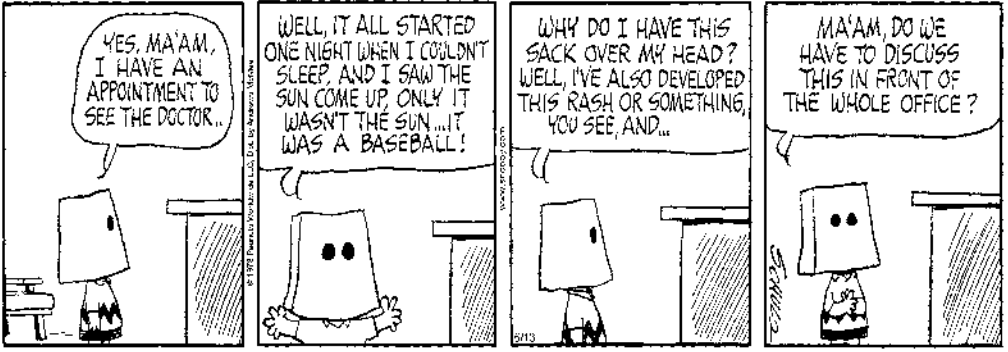
## GARFIELD



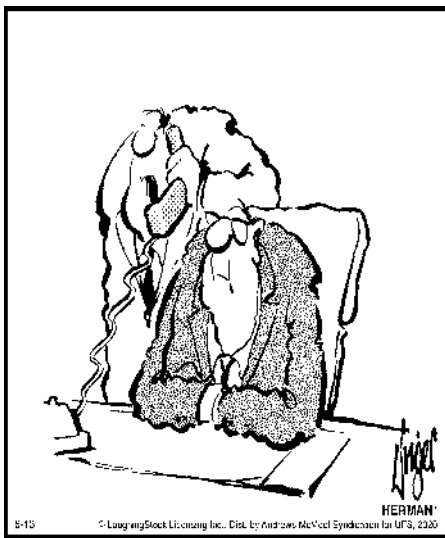
## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



## HERMAN



"I think I'm gonna get the job. Call me back in five minutes."

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

“BCU AYHE NX PBI SCXI BPM BA JHPD TBYNINVHY TBNPIX BA LNMF. UHIKMU IKM AYHE NX H XDJWBY BA BCU PHINBPHY CPNID.” — HOUNHP

Previous Solution: "I can't think of anything I'd rather do less than have to continuously share details of my everyday life." — Scarlett Johansson

## Granddaughter wants wedding with no family in attendance

DEAR ABBY: Our first granddaughter is getting married in six months and has told her parents that no one from either family is invited to the wedding. They want to get married by themselves because they are both shy and don't want to be the center of attention.

At first I was OK with it, but the more I thought about it, the more hurt I felt. The confusing part about this is she wants a pre-wedding party for both families to attend. So I asked her to keep an open mind and think about having the party right after the marriage ceremony. Now she won't talk to me! Was I wrong to suggest an idea? My husband is now saying he doesn't want to attend any party they will have.

I can't stop thinking about our daughter and how she feels about not being able to see her daughter get married. I'm afraid I may have made things worse, and I'm very depressed. I just want to fix it so everyone is happy. Help! -- DEPRESSED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DEPRESSED: So you have appointed yourself the official family fixer? Your "shy" granddaughter and her fiancé appear to be confirmed introverts. If they prefer to take their vows privately, it's their privilege, and you shouldn't personalize it. That was your mistake.

While I don't think you

have committed a cardinal sin and do think your granddaughter overreacted, you shouldn't feel the need to mend any fences. As to how your daughter will feel about not seeing her daughter get married, that is not your problem. Take a step back and let the bride and groom celebrate their day as they wish.

P.S. I find it odd the bride and groom would want ANY party, feeling the way they do about the ceremony.

DEAR ABBY: Why do people feel compelled to ask if my dog was adopted or rescued? I have wanted a dog for at least five years. Because I was in nursing school, I waited until I graduated, and then my partner and I researched extensively.

While I love the idea of adopting, sheltering or rescuing, we wanted a purebred German shepherd puppy. My son and I both have mental health issues, and our dog has been a huge help and an antidepressant all in one.

It is unfair that people ask these questions, or have the audacity to make faces and comments when I say no. I have neither the desire nor the capacity to mend or train a potentially broken dog. How I got her is no one's business but ours and our vet's.

The best response I have heard when someone asks if a dog is adopted or rescued is, "No, she's biological."



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I've used it only once, but it got my point across. Please remind your readers that asking these questions is rude. -- MYOB IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MYOB: I'm willing to remind them, but whether they'll pay attention is anyone's guess. What these people are doing is expressing the idea that animals who are in need of a good home should take priority. That said, there is nothing wrong with having a purebred animal if that is your preference.

P.S. I hear a lot lately about people adopting dogs during this quarantine period because they are desperate for company. I sincerely hope the animals will not be forgotten or discarded once the quarantine is lifted and folks return to their (some-what) normal lives.

# Lifestyle

## Center Board approves drug dog

By TERESA L. BENNS

**CENTER** — In a unanimous vote, the Center Town Board approved a resolution to fund a drug dog for the town, something all members agreed is greatly needed and is desired by most Center residents.

The dog will be handled by Officer Aaron Fresquez, who has advocated for the K-9 since 2014. Fresquez will be responsible for the dog as long as he is with the town. The dog will only be used in suspected drug cases, not other police operations.

The approval will be supplemented by reports regarding the handling of seizures during a drug raid and liability issues with the town's insurance provider, CIRSA. A lively discussion regarding the seizures and who would benefit from them was held by the board before the dog's approval. Town attorney Michael Trujillo said he would look into the issues and advise the town.

Fresquez said in an email following the meeting that his dog Maverick is a three-year-old Belgian Malinois imported from Germany. "He was originally owned by an Aurora police officer who used him for personal protection so is already trained; it's just a matter of making sure he still knows it, and we can and go from there."

"We just have to get him certified by the state and federal guidelines and he is active," Fresquez explained. "I work with him right now even before the approval. He still has an amazing drive and will be a great addition to the team. This program will be very beneficial to the town of Center."

**COVID-19 update**  
Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan gave an update on the COVID-19 situation in the town reporting that as of Tuesday there are 104 positive cases in Center and Rio Grande County. "I don't know if any of these have cleared quarantine," he noted. Police Chief



Courtesy photo  
**Officer Aaron Fresquez will be policing Center streets soon with his drug dog Maverick.**

Gene Meek is the Incident Commander to contact during the outbreak, he told the board.

The board discussed the difficulty in getting accurate numbers for the testing and hospitalizations, but they are doing better with updating and double counts. Trustee Bill McClure said he has heard there were 17 people in the hospital. Lujan told him four people were hospitalized at Rio Grande Hospital as of Monday.

Lujan said the numbers can be doubly counted if some test positive for COVID then go back. Trustee Peggy Martinez said that those wishing to be retested for the virus cannot be retested without a doctor's order. Janet Beiriger is working on a map to help track Center cases, Lujan added.

**Other business**  
Police Chief Gene Meek told the board there was one burglary last month and several citations for people driving without their licenses. Otherwise, things have been quiet, he said, mainly because of the stay-at-home order for COVID. Center police cadets

will graduate June 19, he reported, and will start working for the town shortly thereafter.

• Utility director David MeHaffie reported that water meter installation is going slowly and "they are doing the hard ones now." Lujan and MeHaffie discussed the need to meet the Dept. of Local Affairs deadline for use of grant funds. Lujan noted the deadline could be extended but said he hopes this will not be necessary.

• County Attorney Michael Trujillo discussed a lawsuit against the town for an injury that occurred to a resident during water meter installation. Other defendants will probably be joining the suit, he informed the board. The town's insurance carrier CIRSA has assigned an attorney to the case.

• The board approved resolutions to replant trees in Casa Blanca Park that died over the winter and hire someone to tend to flower beds at the park.

• Lujan said Community Park is being sprayed for weed control after some citizens complained about the park's appearance.

## How to support local police

Local and national law enforcement officers across various disciplines put their lives on the line to keep others safe. Police make many sacrifices, often putting their physical and mental well-being on the line to protect and serve.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund says there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States. Since the first recorded police death in 1786, more than 21,000 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty. A Statistics Canada study released in 2010 found that, with the exception of taxi drivers, police are the most likely Canadians to die on the job.

Unfortunately, hateful and violent crimes against police continue to make the news. In recent years, a California University student painted cops as pigs for an art project, while an Atlanta gym and a Brooklyn doughnut shop refused to serve police. As recently as January of 2020, anti-cop protesters vandalized New York City subways and elsewhere to bring attention to supposed over-policing.

Communities can turn the tides and help the world focus on all the ways individuals can support and thank law enforcement. Here are some ways to give back.

department or courthouse and say "Thank you" or "I appreciate your work" to any law enforcement agents you come across.

• Wear blue in solidarity with police.

• Campaign for local commemoration of Tuesday Blue's Day, which encourages people to wear blue on Tuesdays in support of police officers.

• Become a citizen volunteer to help supplement and support officers in many ways, such as clerical tasks, assisting with search and rescue, writing parking citations, and providing additional patrol and visibility to neighborhoods.

• Serve on a citizen advisory board to help implement effective crime reduction strategies, advises the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

• Assemble gift baskets (with school children, if desired) and deliver them to your local police department. Items to include are gift cards to nearby coffee shops, gyms, restaurants, and more.

• Local businesses can be supportive of law enforcement by offering a daily discount with proof of ID or setting aside a day of the week for a police discount.

Police can use community support and gratitude to help them feel appreciated as they work one of the toughest jobs around. TF205928

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