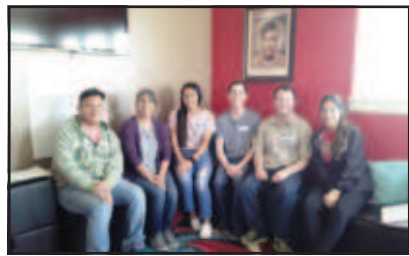




Cactus Hill Farm project

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HOPE in Southern Colorado

— Page 8



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS MAY 16, 2020 \$1

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SLV Today

Readers make leaders

ALAMOSA — Join Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman for a children's story about the power of civic engagement and Emmy nominated 9News journalist Sonia Gutierrez for an "impossible not to giggle" story.

SCSD kindergarten

ANTONITO — South Conejos School District will have preschool and kindergarten registration on May 20th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at 13099 County RD G in Antonito.



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SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny 78/40 Sun: Mostly Sunny 84/43 Mon: Sunny 86/44

INSIDE

Record... Page 2 Valley News... Page 3 Opinion... Page 4 Lifestyle... Pages 5, 7 and 8 Comics... Page 6 Public Notice... Page 9 Classified... Page 10

Great Sand Dunes to begin phased reopening on June 3

MOSCA — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will increase recreational access through a phased approach following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities.

Dunes continues to follow the State of Colorado "Safer at Home" guidance and to work with county and local officials as these changes are implemented.

- Beginning June 3, Great Sand Dunes will implement Phase 1 and reopen access to:
- Main park road
- Dunes parking area and dune field
- Medano Pass Primitive Road (if road conditions allow), including established campsites on a first-come, first-served basis
- All trails: Mosca Pass, Montville Nature, Sand Sheet Loop, Wellington Ditch, Dunes Overlook, Sand Ramp, Medano Lake, and Music Pass



Courtesy photo The Great Sand Dunes will begin their reopening in phases to protect the public.

Pair rescued above Conejos Canyon

By KEITH R. CERNY Courier Publisher CONEJOS — What started out as a day trip into Duck Lake above the Conejos Canyon turned into a nightmare for two 30-year-old Alamosa natives.

sheriff said. They ended up in the third meadows of Elk Creek which generally sees swift water this time of year and Crowther said he was sincerely concerned about their welfare in those conditions.

Tyler Haynie, Alamosa, and Marcus Newell, Santa Fe, were both rescued Friday afternoon by the Conejos County Sheriff's Office and others after getting disoriented and ending up in the third meadows of Elk Creek.

"I was worried it wasn't going to be a happy ending," Crowther said after searching for the pair for four days.

Newell suffered a severe twisted ankle and had to be airlifted out by helicopter but didn't require hospitalization, nor did Haynie who walked out most of the way, according to Crowther.

Crowther thanked the many agencies that helped with the search including the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control with a search airplane, Flight for Life, search dog assistance from Alamosa and Pueblo counties, plus assistance from Mineral County, Custer County, Colorado State Patrol and Colorado Search and Rescue.

The two apparently left Tuesday morning for a day hike into Duck Lake but got turned around and lost their way back, the

He also thanked the VanBerkum family from Rainbow Trout Lodge for spending days on horseback searching for the missing men, as well as many family members and friends of the pair.

Friday Flyover



ALAMOSA — The Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing performed a second F-16 Fighting Falcon flyover Friday, May 15. The flight included Alamosa's own SLV Regional Medical Center According to the news release, "This second flyover is also part of the U.S. Air Force's Operation American Resolve, which is boosting morale during this time of severe health and economic impacts resulting from the pandemic."

Coronavirus Friday FAQ

Rio Grande County adds a positive case.

SAN LUIS VALLEY - There are no new cases today for Alamosa County. Rio Grande County confirmed one positive, bringing our total number of cumulative positive cases in the SLV to 76. Fourteen of the total positive cases have been hospitalized. Twenty-five have completed isolation, and there have been two deaths. Numbers are updated weekdays at slvemergency.org/slv-covid-19.

far, there have been at least five positive individuals identified who work at Mountain King Spud Growers in Center (Rio Grande County). Some of the affected warehouse workers reside in Saguache County and are part of this week's increase in Saguache County cases.

outbreaks which indicates that there is still community spread in the Valley. Because COVID-19 is still present in the greater community, it is still important for everyone to continue to follow public health orders and take common-sense actions to protect themselves and others while we get back to business.

correctly identifying the virus that it is looking for, and not confusing it with another type of virus. Specificity is high with the COVID-19 diagnostic test. Sensitivity means the likelihood that the test will detect the presence of the virus in a sample.

have been tested so far? We are updated on these numbers weekly. As of today, there have been 627 total diagnostic test samples taken in the San Luis Valley, which is less than 1% of our population.

Friday FAQs:

How accurate is Diagnostic Testing (PCR test)?

Testing seems to be most accurate during the first few days after symptoms appear. Accuracy depends on the specificity as well as the sensitivity of the test. Specificity means how good the test is at

Can I get an Antibody test?

Currently, Valley providers do not offer these tests, but they may be doing antibody testing in the future. Antibody tests are reported to be less accurate, however. Also, these tests are not used to diagnose whether someone is or was sick with COVID-19, but rather for research purposes.

How long is the turn around between testing and the result?

This depends on the laboratory that the samples are shipped to, and the time the specimen was picked up for shipping per courier schedules. According to local providers, it varies from 24 to 48 hours.

If I'm sick, am I required to go get tested?

No one is required to get tested, it is voluntary.

How many people

See COVID page 3

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OBITUARIES

Anna Lee Davis Hathcock

MONTE VISTA — Born to Loren Armand Davis and Mamie Blanche Dozier Davis on April 24, 1924, and was the second of their children. She had a sister, Mary Lorena Davis (Weller) nearly 6 years older.



She was born at home, 11 miles south and 3 miles east of Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, Colorado. She attended Bowen Community School 1st through 8th grade and then went to Rio Grande County High in Monte Vista where she graduated in 1941, Salutatorian of her class.

to the Dairy Queen nearly every week for 25 years. She also enjoyed going to the mountains, but most of all she enjoyed being with her family. Anna Lee had a lifelong desire to learn and a passion for the simple pleasures in life.

She went to the County spelling bee and later was awarded a certificate in 8th grade for her elegant penmanship. In 1936 she entered a white cake she baked in the 4H fair and got to go to Pueblo for the state fair.

In August 1942 she and a friend went to Denver where she attended a business college and then found employment at Lowery Air Force Base. That's where she met her future husband Virgil Marion Hathcock. On her birthday, 1943, she met President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the Base. On May 16, 1943, she was married in Denver, Colorado. Later that year she was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On June 3, 1947, she was sealed to her husband in the Idaho Falls Temple. She was a stay at home mom and was blessed with 7 children.

Anna Lee and her dad played for neighborhood dances in people's homes, she on the piano (she played by ear) and her dad on the fiddle. She also played the harmonica and guitar. She was an excellent seamstress and made many of her children's clothes. Painting and drawing were some of her talents too. She also enjoyed crocheting afghans and little animals. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, walking around Chapman Park and going

She has served many

and varied callings in the Church, her favorite being a name extractor from old Spanish records on microfiche, a big help to those doing family history research.

Anna Lee is survived by her children. Larry (Margaret) Hathcock, Columbia, LA; Karol (Roy) Van Horn, Alamosa; Marian Hart, Monte Vista; Nolan (Cindy) Hathcock, South Jordan, Utah; Lola (Mark) Brimhall, Monte Vista; her son-in-law Bob Morgan of Alamosa and her daughter-in-law Suzy Hathcock Winder of St. George, Utah as well as numerous posterity.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son Gaylon Hathcock and her daughter Kathleen Morgan as well as her sister.

Among some of the teachings to her family were to be honest, modest, pray, do things right the first time and tell the truth!

She was a noble example of sacrifice in motherhood. She kept her grandkids many times. Her life indeed was a life of service. She will be truly missed by all her family and many, many friends.

A Graveside Service will be held at the Monte Vista Cemetery.

Arrangements are in care of Rogers Family Mortuary of Monte Vista. To

Frank Lee Trujillo

MONTE VISTA — Frank Lee Trujillo 59, of Monte Vista, Colorado, passed away May 13, 2020.



Frank is survived by his sisters Ramona Dordan (David Montoya) and Bernadette Trujillo-McLeod (Sam McLeod), and his brothers Mike Trujillo (Connie Trujillo) and Joe (JR) Trujillo, as well as his nieces and nephews.

sense of humor, his stories, and his laughter. Frank was a champion boxer and his ability to fight was not just in the ring but in his life. He also held a cross

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Vivian Martinez, his mother Betty Cardenas, his father Joe Frank Trujillo, and his siblings Andrea Melendez and Joel (JD) Trujillo. Frank was known for his

country record his sophomore year at Ben Lomand High School. Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the fall of 2018, Frank was told he may not make 6 months, being the fighter he was, he made it three times that number. Frank enjoyed sharing his testimony, his faith, and his journey with others and was an inspiration to all.

Cremation was chosen and a celebration of life will be held Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 11:00 am, at the Del Norte Cemetery.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home

VALLEY COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

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

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

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

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

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

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 — Veterans Therapeutic/Support Group meets every Monday from 5-6:30 p.m. at 315 State Ave. Ste 101, Alamosa. Call 588-8885 to register or email d.counselingservices@hotmail.com

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

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 mkmillerr

mink@aol.com

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

ALAMOSA — TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) CO 568, Alamosa, a non-profit weight loss organization, meets every Tuesday evening at the College Heights Baptist Church at 2035 Church Avenue in Alamosa. 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.

Memorial Day 2020

The American Legion opted to send a speech to the Valley Courier in place of a public address due to the proximity complications presented by the Coronavirus. The speech follows.

Every crisis has new heroes. During the 9/11 attacks, they were the first responders running into burning and crumbling buildings as others ran out. Now, during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most visible heroes are the health care professionals, who are saving others and risking their own lives while doing so.

These heroes have much in common with the people that we honor today — America's fallen veterans. They are men and women who have sacrificed their own lives so others could live. They are both elite and ordinary. They are elite in the sense of character. Giving your life so others could live is the ultimate definition of selfless.

They are ordinary in the fact that they represent the diverse fabric of our country. They are rich and poor, black and white, male and female. They come from every ethnicity and background. In short, they looked like anyone of us.

As we celebrate the selfless and untiring performances of the healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, it brings to mind the military medics, doctors and nurses who sacrificed their lives while treating others on the battlefield.

One such hero was Pharmacist Mate Third Class Jack Williams. The Navy Reserve corpsman was only 20 years old when he landed on Iwo Jima 75 years ago.

On March 3, 1945, James Naughton, a Marine in Williams' unit, was wounded by a grenade. While under intense enemy fire, Williams dragged Naughton to a shallow depression and treated his wounds. Williams used his own body as a screen and was shot four times. Yet he continued.

After he treated Naughton, Williams dressed his own wounds. He then proceeded to treat another Marine, despite his own immense pain. While heading to the rear, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and killed. For his actions, Petty Officer Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor.

We also remember Army veterans like Lieutenant Sharon Lane.

According to her biographer, Philip Bigler, Lt. Lane threw herself into her work as a nurse. While serving in Colorado, she requested a transfer to Vietnam.

"There, at least, you are busy 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week," she said in a 1968 letter to her parents.

Her dedication was obvious, even as she treated enemy Viet Cong soldiers who would return the favor by kicking, cursing and spitting at their American captors.

In the early morning of June 8, 1969, Sharon's tour of duty ended. A Soviet-built rocket struck the hospital. Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane was killed in action at age 25.

If she were still here, her skills as a nurse might still be benefiting us during the current crisis. But not all of the heroes working during the COVID-19 pandemic are in the healthcare industry. Grocers, first responders, delivery workers and drive-through restaurant employees are just a few of the many people that we rely on to provide vital services for society while risking their own safety.

The military also has heroes in every occupational field. Truck drivers, cooks and administrative clerks have all paid

the ultimate price. At sea, on land or in the air — military service requires great risk.

Roy Knight, Jr. was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. On May 19, 1967, he was shot down while attacking a target on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. He was posthumously promoted to colonel. Last year, a joint team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency discovered and later identified Col. Knight's remains.

When his remains arrived at Dallas's Love Field, a crowd had gathered to witness the dignified transfer of the flag-draped casket from the Southwest Airlines jet into the receptive arms of the military honor guard. One observer reported that the entire crowd fell silent.

The Southwest flight was piloted by another Air Force veteran, Col. Knight's son, Bryan. Bryan Knight was only five-years-old when he said goodbye to his father as the elder Knight left for Vietnam.

This is yet another legacy that these heroes leave behind. A legacy that includes their sons, daughters, grieving parents, grandparents and friends.

Their heroic acts are sometimes performed to protect those with whom they serve. Corporal Jason Dunham was a squad leader with the Third Battalion, 7th Marines in Iraq.

On April 14, 2004, his squad approached a Toyota Land Cruiser. After his squad discovered AK-47s in the vehicle, the enemy insurgent exited and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the unit. The driver dropped a grenade.

To save his fellow Marines, Corporal Dunham made the ultimate sacrifice. He threw himself on the grenade and tried to use his helmet to shield the blast. Severely wounded by the grenade's fragments, Cpl. Dunham was taken off life-support eight days later.

Corporal Dunham died so other Marines could live. He, too, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Approximately one million men and women of the U.S. military have lost their lives in defense of our nation since the founding of this great Republic.

Not all have died from enemy fire. Some have died from diseases that have too often festered around war zones. Often times, deaths from disease and accidents outnumbered casualties caused by enemy weapons.

During the Spanish American War, 60 soldiers of the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment volunteered to serve as nurses. Thirty-six of them would later die of yellow fever or malaria.

A generation later, the flu would kill nearly 16,000 U.S. soldiers in France during World War I. Another 30,000 American servicemembers died in state-side camps. These men and women could have isolated safely in their homes. But they knew they had an important job to do. A mission to accomplish. They were all on a mission to serve.

Even when the enemy is an invisible virus or a microscopic germ, the sacrifices made are just as meaningful. The U.S. military has already lost servicemembers to COVID-19.

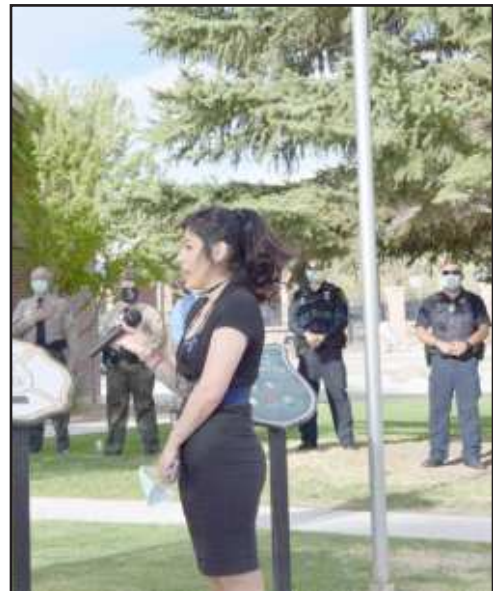
This Memorial Day as we continue to honor those who fell for us in battle, let's also pause to remember those who have also sacrificed their lives while serving others.

May God bless them and may God bless you for remembering them here today. Thank you.

Police Memorial



Alamosa's Police Department held a memorial. Bottom left, Chief Robert Jackson reads from the names of the fallen. Bottom right Reyna Martinez sings, Martinez performed the National Anthem and Amazing Grace.



Valley News

Call for volunteers

By MEG COLWELL

Courier Reporter & La Puente
AmeriCorps volunteer

ALAMOSA — La Puente has been working hard to continue providing services amidst this pandemic. Our essential services, like the Alamosa Food Bank, are especially needed during this time. COVID-19 has resulted in many being unemployed and a serious lack of food access. Consequentially, the Food Bank has seen a serious influx of new and existing clients.

Already, the community support has made it possible for the Food Bank to continue providing food to those who need it most. Thanks to volunteers and donors, the Food Bank has been able

to purchase food and staff the Bank as needed. Unfortunately, resources are running low — particularly with regard to volunteers.

Thus, La Puente is calling for Food Bank volunteers! Of course, COVID complicates this call — as La Puente wants to keep both clients and volunteers safe. First, know that the Food Bank procedure has been modified. Instead of allowing clients to come inside the facility to “shop,” volunteers pre-package food boxes and distribute them one at a time. This significantly reduces any volunteer-client interaction.

The Food Bank is also working to make home deliveries, for folks who are not able to physically visit the facility. The

volunteer packs food boxes into a vehicle and drops them on the porch of clients. This way, there is no interaction, or opportunity for infection.

For more details on the Food Bank volunteer processes, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNRC7AhTmo0&list=PLzoCwTKFTyer7MzBLBM7BOoqU2G-SRPID&index=7>.

The Food Bank also has to modify the volunteer requirements, to ensure everyone's safety. In order to reduce the number of people coming in and out of the Food Bank; the ideal volunteer would commit to a regular, weekly shift (e.g. every Mon.) or multiple, weekly shifts (e.g. every Mon., Wed. and Fri.). Additionally,

the Food Bank requires volunteers to be symptom-free (of any symptoms, not just COVID-related) for 72 hours, before volunteering. Finally, the Food Bank will be taking the temperature of volunteers, before entering the facility.

The available shifts are as follows:
Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
Mon.-Fri., 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

In normal circumstances, La Puente could not operate without the community's support. This continues to be true during this pandemic. Please join La Puente in providing hunger relief for those struggling in our community. Those interested can call: (719) 345-7554 or message La Puente on Facebook.

Please report bear sightings and problems

MONTEVISTA—Bears are out of their winter dens in Southwest Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking residents to help in making sure bears live as long and as wild as possible. Please, report bear issues to CPW as soon as you see them.

Some bear sightings have been reported in Del Norte recently.

Besides securing trash and taking down bird feeders, residents should call CPW office as soon as they see bears knocking over trash cans, getting into bird feeders or hanging around an area for more than 15 minutes. Unfortunately, many people ignore what they might consider “minor” problems. Reporting problems early provides wildlife officers flexibility in dealing with the situation. But when a bear becomes aggressive CPW officers have few options.

“We know that a lot of people don't call CPW when a bear is causing problems in a neighborhood because they think our only course of action is to euthanize the bear,” said Rick Basagoitia, area wildlife manager in the San Luis Valley. “But if we hear early about minor problems, wildlife officers have a menu of options on how to handle the issue and can take action that will have a better outcome for the bear and for the neighborhood.”

If a bear is causing prob-

lems it's most likely because some type of food source is available bird feeders, improperly stored garbage, garbage cans being left out or being put out the night before pick-up, pet food being left outside, etc. Often, the food source can be found at one residence in a neighborhood. So when CPW receives a report, for example, of a bear hanging too long around an area, a wildlife officer can go there and attempt to determine the source of the problem.

“Early reports help us to approach a situation with a lot of options available,” Basagoitia explained. “Many times it's easy to find the food source and talk to a resident about that. We can make suggestions to the neighborhood or a homeowners' association, work with the trash hauler, or even decide to trap and move a bear.”

But CPW needs cooperation from residents to make an early intervention.

“The last thing a CPW officer wants to do is put down a bear. Every wildlife officer absolutely hates to do that,” Basagoitia said. “But if a bear moves from causing minor problems to acting aggressively and causing major problems, like breaking into houses or vehicles, we have no options. At that point we are required, by law to euthanize the bear. Human safety always comes first.”

The best solutions come

when residents choose to work with CPW.

“So please, give us a call when you see problems,” Basagoitia said.

Bear sightings and problems should be reported to CPW's Monte Vista office at 719-587-6900.

Following are simple and effective tips to keep bears wild:

Keep garbage in a well-secured location;

Only put out garbage on the morning of pick-up.

Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free.

Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster; available from your trash hauler or on the Internet.

If you don't have secure storage, put items that might become smelly into the freezer until trash day.

Don't leave pet food or stock feed outside.

Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.

If you must have bird feeders: clean up beneath them every day, bring them in at night, and hang them high so that they're completely inaccessible to bears.

Do not attract other wildlife by feeding them, such as deer, turkeys or

small mammals.

Don't allow bears to become comfortable around your house. If you see one, yell at them, throw things at them, make noise to scare them off.

Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food -- and they'll eat anything.

Bears have good memories and will return to places they've found food.

Allow grills to burn for a couple of minutes after cooking to burn off grease and to eliminate odors. Clean the grill after each use.

Clean-up thoroughly after picnics in the yard or on the deck. Don't allow food odors to linger.

If you have fruit trees, pick fruit before it gets too ripe. Don't allow fruit to rot on the ground.

Keep garage doors closed.

Lock your doors when you're away from home and at night.

Keep the bottom floor windows of your house closed when you're not at home.

Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.

When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle after you've eaten.

Keep a clean camp, whether you're in a campground or in the back-country.

When camping in the back-country, hang food 100 feet or more from campsite; don't bring any food into your tent

Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

If you keep small livestock, such as chickens, keep animals in a fully covered enclosure that is

electrified. Don't store stock food outside, keep enclosures clean to minimize odors, hang rags soaked in ammonia and/or Pine-Sol around the enclosure.

If you have beehives, install electric fencing where allowed.

For more information go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web site: cpw.state.co.us.

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For both Friday intensives and weekend workshops: **\$419**

Go to somostaos.org/taos-writers-conference/#about for a full schedule of workshops, intensives, faculty bios and to register

For further information contact SOMOS:
575-758-0081 • somos@somostaos.org • www.somostaos.org

Dunes

Continued from Page 1

All picnic areas: Mosca Creek, Sand Pit, and Castle Creek Entrance Station, including the collection of fees if authorized

With public health in mind, the following facilities or areas remain closed until further notice:

- Visitor Center
- South Ramada group picnic site in the Mosca Creek Picnic Area
- Pinon Flats Campground
- Overnight backcountry access in the National Park, including the dune field and sites along the Sand Ramp Trail

While the visitor center remains closed, park rangers will provide information outside at the visitor center.

Great Sand Dunes plans to reopen the Pinon Flats Campground and begin issuing backcountry permits for both the Park and Preserve in mid-June as part of Phase 2; however, Phase 2 is contingent upon successful implementation of Phase 1, sufficient staff capacity and supplies, and current local and state guidance.

“We are excited to welcome visitors back to the park and support our local communities,” said Park Superintendent Pamela Rice. “As the public

returns to the park, we ask that they practice social distancing and follow national and state guidelines to keep park staff, local residents and the general public safe.”

Alamosa County Public Health Director Della Cox-Vieira stated, “I have confidence in the plan for reopening the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The Park has done a great job balancing the public health needs of their visitors and staff as they increase public access to the national treasure in our backyard. I remind all visitors to practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, and face-covering in the common areas of the Park.”

Upon re-opening, business practices will be put into place to ensure the safety of visitors and staff when interacting at the entrance station, campground, visitor center and public restroom facilities. When recreating, we encourage the public to follow local area health orders, practice Leave No Trace principles, avoid crowding, practice proper hand washing, avoid high-risk outdoor activities, and wear cloth face masks in crowded areas, especially around the visitor center

and restroom facilities.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. At Great Sand Dunes, our operational approach will be to examine each facility function and service provided to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance and will be regularly monitored. We continue to work closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public facilities and staff workspaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners, and volunteers.

The CDC has offered guidance to help people recreating in parks and open spaces to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will continue to monitor all park functions to ensure that visitors adhere to CDC guidance for mitigating risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and take any additional steps necessary to protect public health.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on our website, www.nps.gov/grsa, and social media channels. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus.

COVID

Continued from Page 1

How does increasing testing help with the virus?

Testing is a tool to identify who currently has the virus and needs to isolate. It enables Public Health to identify people who may have had contact with them during the infectious period (contact tracing). Public Health can then advise contacts to either self-quarantine to see if symptoms develop, and/or be tested if testing is available. This is a very important part of the process, given that some infected people never show symptoms but can still pass the virus to others. Testing helps us slow the spread of illness. Without testing, we end up with alternatives like keeping everyone home, which we all agree is not a viable long term solution.

Is the SLV doing enough

testing?

About 22% of local tests have been positive. This indicates that we need more testing. Experts suggest that if positives are 10% or less of the total number of tests, the rate of testing is about right in a community. Higher than that means a lot of active infections are probably being missed. This is why continuing to increase testing is a high priority right now.

Does “isolation completed” mean the same thing as “recovered?”

We don't know enough about COVID-19 right now to say when someone has recovered. People may have lingering health effects in some cases, so we don't use the term “recovered.” “Isolation completed” means that at least 10

days have passed since a person's symptoms began, and more than 72 hours have passed since their symptoms ended (without any fever-reducing medication). When this happens, they no longer need to isolate.

ALL symptomatic individuals are now encouraged to pursue testing. Please call one of the nurse-lines below to start the screening process.

- Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990
- SLV Health Nurse Line 719-589-2511 ext. 9
- Valley Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9

SLV COVID general questions 719-480-8719. You may also email your questions to slevepr@alamoacounty.org.


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Opinion

Valley Stuff

All is good in the neighborhood, right?! We can all sleep better knowing that there is a 'temporary' homeless camp, out by the Recreation Center. I have been told by one elected official that this camp is indeed temporary and the other official adamantly said it was permanent. If it is permanent, I'm thinking the camp should have a name and the names that have been suggested to me (really) include, Camp Coleman, Camp Carson, and Camp Babbling Brook. I really don't care—I just don't want it, period! Still polling folks on the change of name to Alarocka or Rockamosa, as long as we are naming things.

Ruthie Brown
Valley Stuff

Here's the latest rumor...the City wasn't going to do this camp thing, but the manager of La Puente called the Governor, and the Governor called the city and said "you WILL do this camp". Someone out there in the public sector should be able to tell us if there is any truth in this rumor.

One of the main things I told these officials was that I did not want to pay for the camp—any part of it. I don't want to pay for the hours and hours of meetings, I don't want to pay for the road grader, or the dumpster, or the handwashing station, or the water, or the porta-johns! As someone who works 7 days a week (thank goodness I love my store and my customers), I do not believe that one cent of the money I pay should go towards a camp for folks who have decided not to work for a living.

Feeling this way does not make me a bad person! At the Green Spot, we have always, for 20 years helped folks with special needs—mentally and physically. I just can't help those who won't work. It's kind of sad that some of the folks who are closest to us, with disabilities, WANT to work, but can't. How sad is that? I am just tired of the low-lives. I am tired of folks not taking personal responsibility for their living conditions. My personal belief is that the giveaway programs have got to stop. Programs need to be self-sustaining or discontinued (I'm sure there are exceptions). The 'free lunch' program has got to stop. Why do folks who write and receive grants for everything they do, think that money is free? I better stop here, before I really make some folks angry.

During this virus timeframe, Larry and I are certainly thankful that we have been able to stay open. Can't even imagine what would have happened to the Green Spot if we had had to close. I do want my business friends to be able to open, fully open with guidelines. It's hard to understand hundreds of people going into the big box stores, but I can't go for a beer at Square Peg, or the Colorado Farm Brewery. I can't go to My Brother's Place or Woody Q's Shack for supper. It just doesn't make sense! I have always offered to meet folks early in the morning or in the evenings or other times if their health is at risk by being around other people—I understand. But likewise, I have to respect my customers who choose not to wear a mask. I'm thinking there is no way we can protect ourselves from this virus—not if you ever touch money—so use your common sense, wherever you go. Be nice, be kind, be patient. And...stay home, if your fear is that huge. Give me a call and I will try and help you get what you need.

Meanwhile...get out in the dirt! Dirt has been proven to be healthy. Maybe it's the physical exercise—that we all need. Maybe it's the mental exercise—that we all need. It's just good!

It is time to plant beans and corn and squash from seed. You want these seeds barely germinating, as the last frost comes. If you plants get bigger, cover them with a sheet, not plastic. All the cold crops should be planted by now, whether you plant seeds or plants. Do remember if you are planting salad crops, carrots, beets to plant 18-24" at a time. You want to have just the right amounts maturing at a time, so as not to waste.

And don't forget, when I advise you, also remember that gardening and farming are legalized gambling. You gotta take a chance to reap the rewards—said the gambler who just lost everything—really...I just made that up! If you have questions, please come by and see me. Mornings or late afternoons are the best to get my more or less undivided attention.



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sjiron@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

Artists of the San Luis Valley

This week's artist is Mettje Swift, a Colorado native known for her banner art. Having lived most of her life in the American West, Swift was heavily influenced by Native American art – note her "love of patterns and the adornment of simple structures."

Meg Colwell She described her style as: "Jewelry for architectural spaces. I seek the elegant line and use contemporary colors in fabric architecture. My style is characterized with free-flowing lines and organic forms."

Swift began making and designing fabric art banners in 1978; opening her workshop, Banner Day Studio, in 1984. She is largely a commission artist; as her biography explains:

"In 1995, Mettje relocated her banner production studio to Del Norte, Colorado where she has sufficient space with high ceilings in a 120-year-old adobe warehouse. Here she is free to investigate and develop new ideas. She employs from three to eight craftswomen at Banner Art Studio. New technology has brought the world to her and her commissions come in through the internet, allowing her to market to the world."

Swift's work is an example of her passion for community building – as much of her work is used to: "unify urban spaces, for celebrations and neighborhoods."

Swift described the focus of her work as: "interior, architectural, fabric commissions." Yet her most recent (and intriguing) works include: "large, landscape tapestries and balanced, floating mobiles – suspended sculptures."

Swift doesn't restrict herself, though – always looking to expand the boundaries



of her creativity. For example, she has experimented with animal sculptures and costumes.

Swift stated: "Through the years, I have adopted new forms and structures for interior decoration, corporate work-space design and architectural spaces. I focus on balanced and kinetic suspended works. The installations are creatively adapted to the location. The use of natural and artificial light brings out the jewelry-like translucence of the fabric."

What I find most enjoyable about Swift is her curiosity, perseverance and variety – she is testing the limits of the impact her art can have on communities. Swift described: "a whole new and joyous playground: the effect of outdoor light poles on community identity."

Her clients include corporations, public spaces, universities, medical clinics and children's hospitals.

When I asked Swift what she would consider to be highlights of her career,



she responded: "I'm in the mature phase of being an artist."

"Carving the huge Monument stones in between Del Norte and Monte Vista -- for the BLM, as an Old Spanish Trail Marker -- was definitely a highlight and a heartbreak, in so many ways. That was from 1999 through 2002."

When I asked where Swift and her career were headed; she gave me a poignant, raw response: "I'm just going to keep on working because it makes me happy even when I hate it, or I'm broke, or I'm stuck in creativity mud or whatever. I'm 69 and still surprised by the journey."

That is perhaps the best advice for myself, and other aspiring artists: continue forward, undaunted and hopeful. It is the journey that matters, not the destination!

To see more of Swift's art, and her creative process, visit: <https://www.>

Locked down

Being in self-isolation since early March has given me a lot of time to think about how lucky I am at age 92 to still be reasonably healthy. I intend to remain safely in lockdown until it is advisable to change. Meanwhile, I am grateful for up-to-date news services, suppliers of necessities and their delivery trucks, my family and friends who have stayed in touch with email, and especially the heroic nurses and doctors and emergency services who have been caring for everyone out there.

In January of 2019 I decided to retire after writing this column for about 35 years and intended to spend more time birdwatching and improving my cooking and housecleaning. But although the cooking and housecleaning quickly got too boring to persist, I still fire up the old Honda occasionally despite the pandemic and drive around, safely inside the car, to see what how birds are doing.

During this time of year, the migratory and breeding season, the birds are always interesting, but especially so

now because climate change has been bringing species that we have rarely or never seen in the Valley in the past. A brilliant Scarlet Tanager has been seen over at Home Lake east of Monte Vista, for instance; backyard feeders have had many visitors, both feathered and human; and I was lucky enough to see a Bobolink that perched briefly at my place in town on its way to a field out in the countryside.

Those of us who get excited about such events are lucky to have a way to share our information, out there, even if most of the time we remain in lockdown. For the past several years there has been a network of birders around the Valley who report what is happening to a fellow named John Rawinski, a retired Forest Service scientist who then shares the information and often photos too. He and his fellow enthusiasts are still at it, pandemic or not.

For several years Rawinski has been tallying our birds and hosting his network that has grown to include about 600 enthusiasts. In the past he published

a very helpful guide called "Birding Hotspots of South-Central Colorado," and it sounds as if he is working on another one that will later on update his information.

Not only are there more birders out there reporting birds, but the species and their habits also have been altered due to climate change. Remember when the Monte Vista Crane Festival was scheduled during Spring Break in the latter part of March to coincide with the arrival of our throngs of Sandhill Cranes? The Festival now happens in early March, and it most likely will have to continue to happen earlier. Meanwhile, many species of life are becoming extinct largely because of habitat loss.

The Festival is only one example of changes that are taking place around us. And the San Luis Valley is just one part of Colorado, which in turn is just one part of North America and the rest of the globe.

As we are learning now during this pandemic, we live in a world where everything and everyone is connected. Let's hope we choose to make it a better place for everyone and everything.

Rabbitbrush Rambler



Virginia Simmons

a retired Forest Service scientist who then shares the information and often photos too. He and his fellow enthusiasts are still at it, pandemic or not.

For several years Rawinski has been tallying our birds and hosting his network that has grown to include about 600 enthusiasts. In the past he published

Treat Osteoporosis with Vitamin D

I wasn't sure what to expect when my physician scheduled me for a bone scan, an x-ray to see if osteoporosis is present. A reminder for the appointment landed in my columns-by-nellie@gmail.com account. I also answered a phone call confirming the appointment. After I asked and learned the appointment should last just under an hour, the receptionist added that I should come wearing my mask, as well.

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss

On the day of the appointment and after being checked for temperature and completing front desk registration, I was escorted to the radiology department. The radiology technician greeted me, and I was ushered into

the exam room. After some difficulty positioning on the steel bed, I rested as the machine completed several passes across the targeted area. After about 45 minutes, the diagnostic x-ray was over.

Later, I checked the Mayo Clinic's website to learn more about what Osteoporosis was. I had known women who had smoked and who had osteoporosis. Consequently, they were super careful walking or participating in activities so as not to break bones. Osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a condition that causes bones to become brittle and so easily break.

The National Institutes of Health

shares "Osteoporosis can often be prevented. It is known as a "silent" disease because, if undetected, bone loss can progress for many years without symptoms until a fracture occurs. It has been called a childhood disease with old age consequences because building healthy bones in youth can help prevent osteoporosis and fractures later in life. However, it is never too late to adopt new habits for healthy bones."

The NIH site also addressed smoking and osteoporosis. As I learned during my time as a substance-prevention media specialist with Alamosa County Public Health, studies conclude that smoking causes bones not to heal rapidly, and after a lifelong smoking or chewing habit, bones often develop osteoporosis.

A small-framed Texas mother of three who was a lifelong smoker and had early

menopause as a result of a hysterectomy was diagnosed with osteoporosis. The Southern mother's own childhood included times of food insecurity during her bone growth years and a time in quarantine due to family members having tuberculosis. However, the doctors confirmed that another variable for brittle bones was her smoking since the age of ten and being exposed to second-hand smoke early in life. Genetic connections are also a part of the equation.

May is Osteoporosis Awareness Month. When someone has the skeletal disease, they can break wrists, ankles and other bones more easily when they fall. Thus, it is important for children and all people to get Vitamin D rich diets and Vitamin D from sunlight. For more information about Osteoporosis and how to prevent it, visit mayoclinic.org or bones.nih.gov.

Lifestyle

Cactus Hill Farm is a Win-Win-Win

CAPULIN — Two years ago, no one had probably ever heard of Cactus Hill Farm or el Viejo Ditch. If one did, it was likely only due to driving through Capulin a couple of times ... probably by accident.

Yet, getting to know this special place is highly recommended. The land has a rich history of agriculture and stream restoration; a beautiful stretch of the Alamosa River with cold, clean springs and deep pools; an awesome family working it; and a very, very important water right.

Cactus Hill is RiGHT's first project that includes a wet water "alternative transfer method," and it's also RiGHT's first conservation easement on the Alamosa River. All involved brought so much creativity and energy to secure a balanced water future for the people of Alamosa, farmers and ranchers in Conejos County and the Alamosa River. The hope was that this project would serve as an inspiration and model for other land trusts, landowners, and water agencies; as RiGHT continues to make progress on the goal to provide alternatives to agricultural "buy-and-dry" in Colorado's Water Plan.

Helping the City of Alamosa, Capulin, and the Alamosa River

When the new Groundwater Rules and Regulations go into effect, groundwater wells in the San Luis Valley

will need to "replace depletions." Deep and reliable wells, like those that supply the City of Alamosa, draw a small amount of water from the environment for many miles when they pump. The easiest way to follow the new rules is to put that missing water back into the stream. To do that, one either needs a reservoir or an extremely good water right.

Cactus Hill Farm has the #1 water right on the Alamosa River, el Viejo Ditch. The City of Alamosa needed part of that water to keep people's faucets running. Rather than "buy-and-dry" any of Cactus Hill, the City, the landowners, RiGHT -- and the Colorado Water Conservation Board -- worked together to develop a lease agreement diverting five to ten percent of the farm's irrigation water back into the river.

With this agreement, the City will follow the new groundwater rules. Farmers and ranchers in Capulin will receive their full water rights - with no injury - for the first time in a long time. Cactus Hill can move the unirrigated acres around the farm, keeping their land healthy and productive. The Alamosa River and its wildlife will benefit from increased flows.

Supporting the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers

It's no great secret that America doesn't have enough young people in

agriculture. Why not? In large part because land is so expensive. Whether land is staying in the family, like at Cactus Hill, or is for sale, conservation easements can be a powerful and positive tool to help young farmers and ranchers access land.

Conservation may provide income for improvements that will make the family farm more sustainable, clarify an estate plan, or jumpstart a retirement. Conserved land is also usually much more affordable to buy. RiGHT is excited to be working on three more conservation easements with young ranchers in 2020.

So Many Thank You's! First, RiGHT has to thank the Colorado Water Conservation Board, LOR Foundation, and Gates Family Foundation; for their financial support of this innovative project.

Thank you to the City of Alamosa and MillerterKuile family for their dedication to making this project a true win-win-win.

And, of course, thanks to all who donated to RiGHT during their 2018 Save the Ranch Campaign, which featured Cactus Hill Farm. RiGHT couldn't do this work without support from the great organizations and people in the San Luis Valley conservation community.

Finally, thanks to Christi Bode at Moxiecran Media for the awesome photos!



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Health resort

4 Periodical, briefly

7 Rum cake

11 Prince Val's son

12 Anger

13 Nomad dwelling

14 Landed

15 Mild cheese

16 Metric unit

17 Terra —

19 Frog cousins

20 Intend

21 Coffee break treat

22 Ozone and radon

25 Rope parts

28 Foreman foe

29 Blunt end

31 Ltd. relative

33 Be overdue

34 Scholarly org.

36 Varnish ingredient

37 Having an awning

40 Pound sounds

42 Edmund Hillary's title

43 Skilled combat pilot

44 Sheath or sack

47 Nudged

50 Lighten up

51 Orchid-loving Wolfe

53 Razz

55 Drinks slowly

56 Like — of bricks

57 Broad st.

58 Quaint lodgings

59 Desk item

60 Gloomy

DOWN

1 Sink down

2 Univ. staffer

3 Not "pro"

4 Lady's title

5 Turkish official

6 Mineral find

7 Of yore

8 Distinctive air

9 Thin nail

10 Cash dispensers, for short

12 Careless

18 Funny Charlotte —

19 Popcorn buy

21 Lobster eaters' needs

22 Pump abbr.

23 Cry of despair

24 Show relief

25 Bankroll

26 Tiny stream

27 Purse closer

30 Layer

32 ICU units

35 Magnate

38 Impose taxes

39 Negative prefix

41 Reaction to a mouse

43 Protective garment

44 — Arnaz

45 Picnic spoiler

46 Athletics channel

48 Hurlers' stats

49 Met celeb

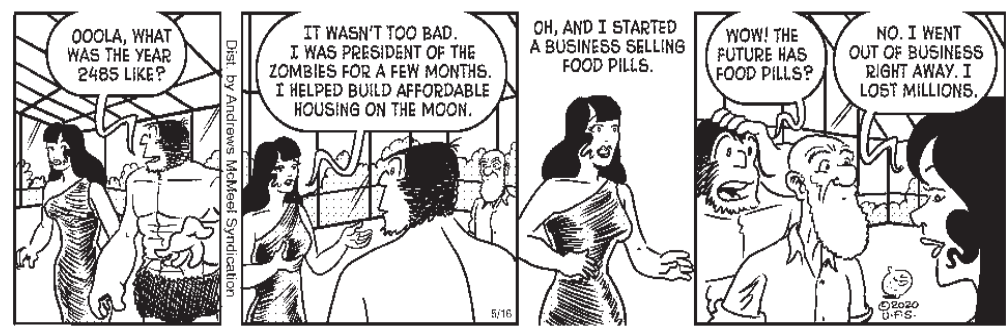
51 Brief bit of shuteye

52 Summer in France

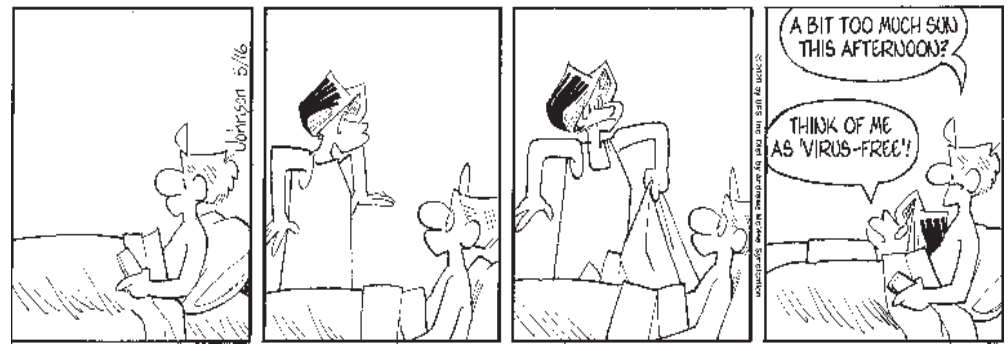
54 Place to retire to?



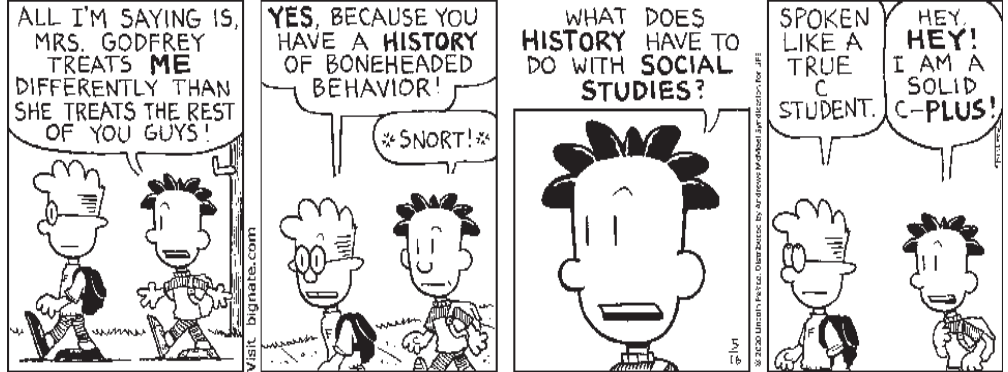
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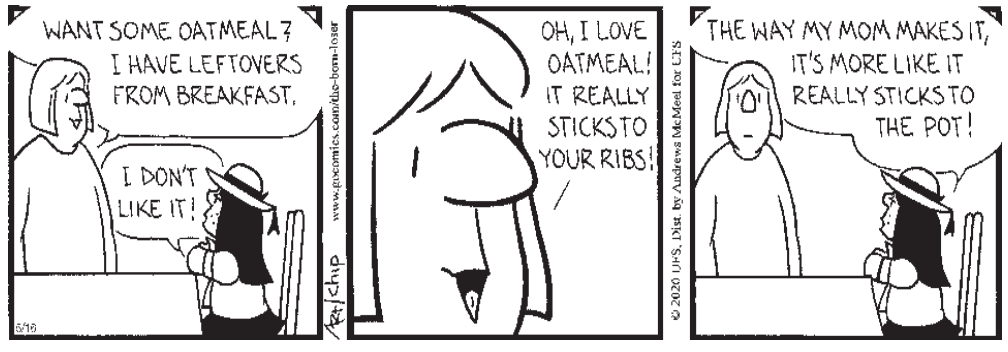
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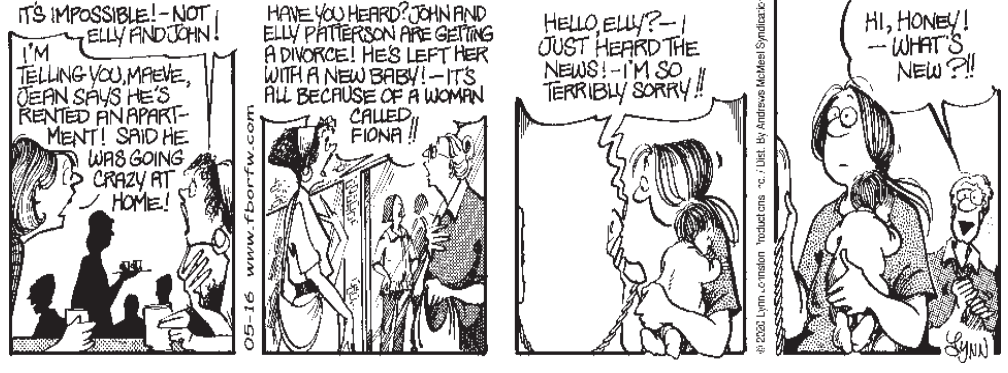
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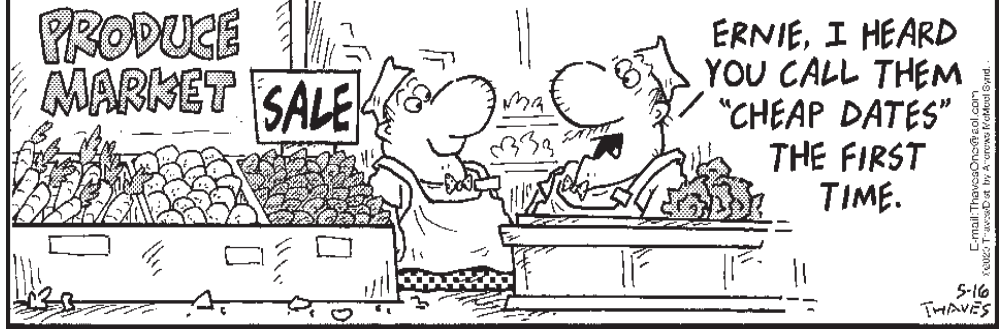
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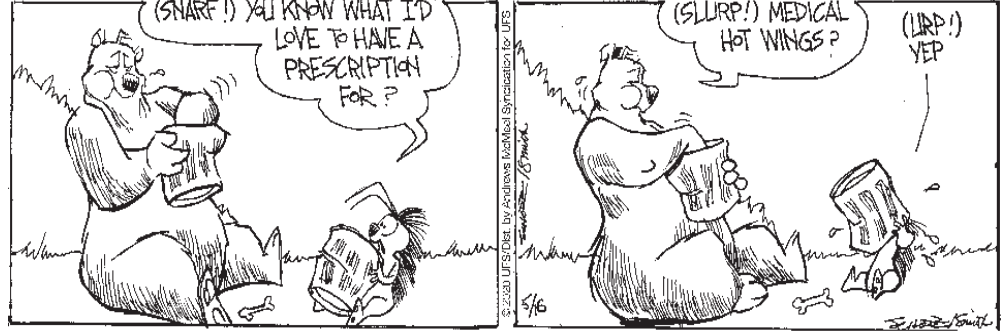
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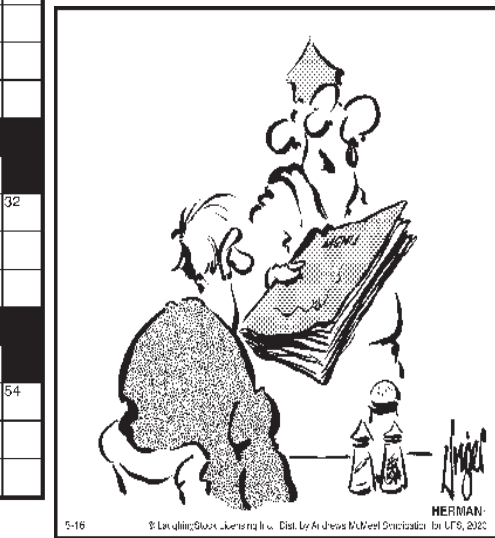
THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



HERMAN



"Here's the menu. I'll be back in a couple of hours."

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

“ P W H K U Z G E P T K H T W C X M E U T D X . . .
 P K X E X M D H X H D C K U P W X A D E H D A Y H J P
 T K M K V D U X , A S D M S D H A D J K I D K M Y H
 U Y M . ” — C E N E E U Z D J Y W

TODAY'S CLUE: Z svenba A

Previous Solution: "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." — Helen Keller

Girlfriend is unsure of her place in boyfriend's heart

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this guy for about a year. We are both 30. He lives at home. At first I thought it was to take care of his elderly father, but I soon realized it wasn't the case. His mom is sweet, yet overbearing. She inserts herself into his life at every opportunity. She talks to him like he's the butler. ("Oh, perfect son of mine! Won't you clear off the dinner table/clean the kitchen/do EVERYTHING?!")

DEAR DON'T: After reading your letter, it's apparent that you are competing with his mother rather than she competing with you. There's a saying that if you want to know how a man will treat his wife, watch how he treats his mother. Rather than feel manipulated, be glad she tries to include you in the family circle. And keep in mind, if you want to enjoy the earthly rewards after the woman goes on to her heavenly one, she and her "perfect son" are a package deal.

DEAR ABBY: I purchased a beautiful Tiffany engagement ring, but my girlfriend rejected my proposal. I will get only in pennies on the dollar if I sell it. Would it be acceptable to save it for a future

entis die. Could that be why he does it? He is a great lover and emotionally intelligent, but he depends on his mother too much for my comfort. I caught them in a long embrace (hug) after she had been away all weekend with his father. Then she came over to us while we were watching a movie and started kissing his head! It grossed me out. Help! -- DON'T WANT THIS THREESOME

DEAR PRACTICAL: Your letter illustrates the impracticality of buying an engagement ring before proposing. Whatever happened to the tradition of proposing and THEN, if the person says yes, selecting a ring together?

In recent years--thanks to social media -- engagements have become more like invitations to a high school prom -- elaborate and over-the-top. I do not think you should compound your mistake by offering another woman that ring in an effort to save money. If she were to find out, she would likely be both disappointed and hurt.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

engagement proposal? -- PRACTICAL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PRACTICAL: Your letter illustrates the impracticality of buying an engagement ring before proposing. Whatever happened to the tradition of proposing and THEN, if the person says yes, selecting a ring together?

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Lifestyle

Osterholt earns Doctorate

ALAMOSA — Donna Osterholt, former resident of Alamosa, (Grandson of John and Elsie Buhr of Alamosa) announces with pride, the graduation of her son Dr. Michael Joseph Osterholt from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Michael graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2014 with a BS in Physiology. He then continued his education in Grand Forks, ND, graduating with a Doctor of Medicine Degree on May 10th. He will be doing his family medicine residency in Rapid City, SD, with a future goal of completing a sports medicine fellowship. His father, Joe Osterholt (previously of Alamosa), who passed away in 2012 would be very proud.



Courtesy photo

Select local high school seniors get free fall tuition

Area high school students who took concurrent enrollment classes from Trinidad State in the spring 2020 semester are eligible to receive a full tuition scholarship this fall.

“For those high school seniors who had planned to go away to college this fall,” said Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda Epper, “this is a way to stay close to home and save thousands of dollars. We’ve never done anything like this before, but these are unusual times.”

The savings for each student is estimated at more than \$2,400, but the number of scholarships available is limited. “We understand the COVID 19 Pandemic has created a large disruption for your senior year of high school and may be influencing your plans to move on to college in the fall. Maybe you have concerns about relocating to a COVID hotspot, or perhaps you question attending college at all given the uncertainties ahead,” continued Epper. “We have a great solution for you. You’ve already earned credit through TSJC, so why not go ahead and take one more



Courtesy photo
Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda Epper

semester with us?” Students are encouraged to apply quickly, as the funding is limited.

Trinidad State plans to open with face-to-face instruction on August 17. Health precautions will include frequent cleaning of shared surfaces, physical distancing and small class sizes. Residence Halls are planned for single-room occupancy.

The money to pay for this program comes from CARES Act funding from the federal government.

To be eligible students must have taken at least one concurrent enrollment class through Trinidad State

in the spring of 2020 and must enroll in 15 credit-hours this fall at either Trinidad State Campus (Trinidad or Alamosa). If that student chooses to continue with Trinidad State beyond the fall 2020 semester, additional scholarships may be available.

To confirm eligibility and apply, go to the Trinidad State website at trinidadstate.edu/concurrent/. This is a one-time opportunity for concurrent enrollment graduating seniors.

For those who don’t qualify for this special offer, Trinidad State offers the Learn Local Scholarship, which automatically reduces tuition by 20 percent for area students who take 15 credit-hours in the fall. This is limited to students who live in Las Animas, Huerfano, Costilla, Conejos, Rio Grande, Saguache, Alamosa or Mineral counties. For more information call 800 621-TSJC.

Annual Colorado Hay Directory now accepting listings

BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Department of Agriculture is accepting listings for the 2020 Colorado Hay Directory. The annual publication connects hay producers with buyers.

“Every year livestock owners from across the state and nation call requesting information about Colorado hay,” said Wendy White, marketing specialist for the Colorado Department of Agriculture. “We are excited to have a publication that helps producers market their hay and serves as a resource for the livestock industry.”

The listing fee is \$25, and the deadline is June 15, 2020. The listing form is available at www.coloradoagriculture.com or by contacting the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The directory will be available in August at www.coloradoagriculture.com/hay, through CSU Extension offices and various horse and livestock associations in the state, as well as at agricul-

tural events. Each listing includes the type and amount of hay available, bale type and size, whether or not laboratory analysis is available, certified weed free status and identifies organic hay. Listings are grouped by region of the state. The directory also includes listings for companies that offer hay-related products or services. Advertising opportunities are also available at \$50 for a half-page ad or \$90 for a full-page ad. For more information or to receive a Colorado Hay Directory listing form, contact the Markets Division at 303-869-9175, e-mail Loretta.Lopez@state.co.us or visit www.coloradoagriculture.com.



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Deadline is 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15

This special feature will be published on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

Photos may be picked up at the Valley Courier office after the May 23 publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope.

* Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

ENTRY FORM

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15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

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Lifestyle

Young adults in Alamosa have HOPE

By DAWN KREBS
Special to the Valley Courier

ALAMOSA — A small group of 18-30-year-olds in Alamosa came together recently to brainstorm ways to help the local community and other residents their age. Then, COVID-19 came sweeping through, closing businesses and isolating people. Despite the obstacles, this group - known as Alamosa HOPE - managed to raise more than \$80,000 in funding to eight groups here in Alamosa and the San Luis Valley.

HOPE stands for Helping Others Promoting Equity, and there have been other groups similar to the Alamosa one, working in Antonito, San Luis and Saguache. The groups usually do a lot of research, finding where the needs are in the communities they live in for other young adults aged 18-30.

"The goal of the group was and still is to conduct a survey and find the health issues or gaps that our community faces, and then create a solution to help close that gap," said Jazmine Palacios-Molinar, a community outreach assistant for HOPE in Alamosa. "When everything shut down, I was honestly

shocked because I never thought that I would experience a pandemic. Our group was sorrowful for what was going on in our world, but very optimistic to lend a hand to our community during these hard times."

With that, the group quickly refocused their energies and got to work.

"We worked very quickly to see what local organizations and people needed," explained Garrett Pearson, another community outreach assistant. "Then we worked with funders to acquire those needs."

The groups that Alamosa HOPE helped included La Puente, the Immigrant Resource Center, the Justice and Heritage Academy, the South-Central Colorado Seniors, the Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley and the school districts of Alamosa, Sangre, and South Conejos.

"I was so impressed with their ability to pivot and help the community," said Tori Martinez, the regional associate for The Colorado Trust. "Their work was great."

Now, moving forward, Alamosa HOPE is getting ready to release a community survey for 18-39 years olds in Alamosa in order to gather more information on the

biggest issues, roadblocks and struggles for young adults their age.

For more information, email Tori Martinez at Tori@coloradotrust.org.



Courtesy photo by The Colorado Trust

Alamosa HOPE team, from left, includes Samuel Cristobal Lucas, Tori Martinez of The Colorado Trust, Lorena Jurado, Cody Trujillo, Garrett Pearson and Jazmine Palacios-Molinar. These young adults have been busy the last few months assisting with other Alamosa community organizations.

\$130 Million 'Thank You' pay for associates



GRAND JUNCTION — City Market and parent company The Kroger Co. today announced that it will provide a special Thank You Pay to hourly frontline grocery, supply chain, manufacturing, pharmacy and call center associates to acknowledge their dedication to maintaining safe, clean and stocked stores.

"Our associates have been instrumental in feeding our communities while also helping to flatten the curve during the initial phases of the pandemic. To recognize and thank our associates for their incredible work during this historic time, we offered special pay in March, April and May," said Steve Burnham, President of City Market.

"As the country moves toward reopening, we will continue to safeguard our associates' health and well-being and recognize their work. At the same time, we will continue running a sustainable business that provides steady employment and opportunities to learn and grow for over twenty-five thousand."

The Companies' new \$130 million Thank You Pay bookends an Appreciation Pay first provided to frontline workers for their efforts at the start of the pandemic in March. It also follows multiple Hero Bonuses that were paid in April through mid-May, with a final payment by May 23.

The one-time Thank You Pay, which will be

\$400 for qualified full-time associates and \$200 for qualified part-time associates, will be paid out in two installments on May 30 and June 18.

Continues Paid Emergency Leave Guidelines

As part of its ongoing investment in associate and customer safety, City Market also announced today that it will continue its COVID-19 Emergency Leave guidelines to provide paid time off to associates most directly affected by the virus or experiencing related symptoms.

"We want our associates to continue to feel supported in prioritizing their health," said Steve Burnham, President of City Market. "Our associates should only be working if they are healthy and symptom free. By continuing paid emergency leave, our associates most directly affected by the virus or experiencing related symptoms should feel supported in staying home, promoting a safer environment to work and shop in."

The new Thank You Pay of \$130 million and extended paid COVID-19 Emergency Leave are in addition to the \$700 million City Market and parent company The Kroger Co. have invested since March to reward associates and safeguard associates, customers and communities, all of which was contemplated in the guidance provided in a business update on April

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OOOPS! GOT PUPPIES 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)

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Valley Grande Apartments
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852-4302
Rental assistance available to qualified households.
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider

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