



Religion in these trying times

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Annual meeting changes

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

MAY 9, 2020

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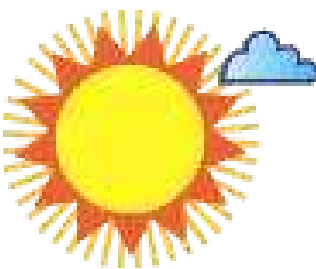
ANTONITO — South Conejos School District will have pre-school and kindergarten registration on May 20th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at 13099 County RD G in Antonito. Guardians are asked to bring immunization records and a birth certificate for their child. For more information call 719-376-7001.

SDC BOE

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday May 12th, 2020 in the school Library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca CO with an Executive Session from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and an Open Session starting at 6:30 p.m. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

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Mostly Sunny 74/32

Sun: Partly Cloudy 74/32

Monday: Evening Showers 68/37

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COVID-19 frequently asked questions

SAN LUIS VALLEY — There are no new cases to report today. As we head into the weekend SLV Emergency took the time to address some of the recent questions that people have been asking about COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley. SLV case counts and other numbers are updated every weekday at slvemergency.org/slv-covid-19.

What is considered an outbreak?

Colorado uses specific definitions and criteria when talking about COVID-19 outbreaks. A confirmed outbreak is two or more con-

firmed cases of COVID-19 in a facility or (non-household) group that began in a 14 day period. Most of Colorado's outbreaks in this pandemic are in health care facilities like nursing homes, which is why our local facilities are being so very cautious in order to protect their residents and employees. There are also outbreaks in jails, workplaces, and other settings.

How are positive cases counted?

Cases are identified and counted in the San Luis Valley using the same definitions used

across the state and the rest of the country. The number of cases includes people who have had a test that indicated they were positive for COVID-19. The number of cases also includes epidemiologically-linked cases -- or cases where public health epidemiologists have determined that infection is highly likely because a person showed symptoms and also had close contact with someone who tested positive. The number of epidemiologically-linked cases represents a small portion of the reported cases across Colorado.

Who can get COVID-19?

Because COVID-19 is a new virus, everyone, regardless of workplace, age, or other factors, is

potentially vulnerable to infection. Anyone can get it, and anyone can spread it. Please continue to follow public health recommendations to prevent the spread of disease.

Who is at the highest risk for serious outcomes from COVID-19?

Individuals who are 65 years and older, those with chronic respiratory conditions, serious heart conditions, or diabetes, those who are immunocompromised, or who have been told by their doctors that they are at high risk are urged to stay in their residence at all times except as necessary to seek medical care. The Colorado COVID-19 Safer at Home web page has some specific guidance for employees who may fall into these categories,

and for their employers.

Why are restrictions being lifted while we continue to get new cases?

There is a lot of complicated decision making happening at all levels of government as officials balance the many needs in our communities. Our message continues to be this: Stay at home when you can, observe social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands. Follow public health recommendations in order to keep yourself and others safe and healthy even as businesses transition into increasing operations. Be respectful and supportive of local businesses by following guidelines for safe interactions with employees and other customers.

Historic preservation in Alamosa

ALAMOSA — Wednesday night at the City Council meeting, they passed a proclamation designating May as Historic Preservation Month. They did this because they recognize that historic sites and structures in the community are symbols of our heritage and valuable assets to the quality of life in our community.

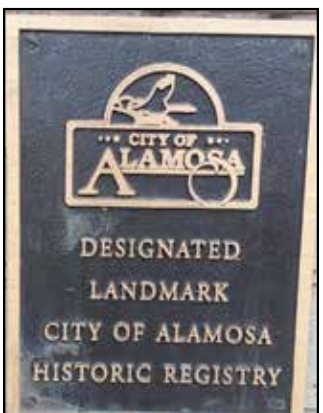
These structures anchor our downtown, our residential areas, and the larger community, upholding the native character of our City and instilling civic pride by virtue of their very presence. Their potential as resources and attractors for heritage tourism is great. The events, businesses, and experiences these sites have hosted connect us to one another and form a vital part of the fabric of our community

The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee was established on August 7th, 2002, and since that time has proposed and had designated some 23 buildings in Alamosa. The first on the list is the President's residence designated on 16 March 2005 and the most recent is Hobby Town at 709 Main St.

Buildings which are at least 50 years old or those with some special reason for designation may be added to the list. There are financial opportunities which can be considered with designation. More information may be obtained from the Public Works Department or the Chairperson of the Committee, Andrea Spencer at ajspencer2017@gmail.com. The proclamation to follow.

May 2020 HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

WHEREAS, the City of Alamosa, in celebration of the Month of May as Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, recognizes that



historic sites and structures in the community are symbols of our heritage and valuable assets to the quality of life in our community. These structures anchor our downtown, our residential areas, and the larger community, upholding the native character of our

City and instilling civic pride by virtue of their very presence. Their potential as resources and attractors for heritage tourism is great. The events, businesses, and experiences these sites have hosted connect us to one another and form a vital

part of the fabric of our community; and WHEREAS, Alamosa's many historic structures represent a diversity of economic and architectural trends that are integral to the past and future

development of this great community, founded more than 141 years ago. The City is actively engaged in recognizing these emblems of our heritage through the Alamosa Historic Registry;

NOW THEREFORE, the Alamosa City Council proclaims the Month of May,

2020, as Historic Preservation Month, and encourages its citizens to advance

historic preservation activities in the community.

Test preparation



Courtesy photo Alamosa Public Health employees prepare for testing individuals who may have covid19.

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Public Health Department did COVID-19 case investigations involving additional testing on Friday May 8th. Testing is being done in conjunction with Valley-Wide Health Systems and with assistance from neighboring public health agencies.

Serving the San Luis Valley for nearly 20 years.

ALAMOSA — Sandia Hearing Centers, formerly known as Mountain Care Hearing Centers in Alamosa operated under a former owner for nearly 20 years, has a new owner with a decade of experience. Brady King, the new owner, has been in the hearing aid industry working along the Front Range for 10 years. Last year he re-opened the Alamosa office, providing service to clients who had been without for months.

Now the COVID-19 crisis is leaving them without the ability to hear and have their hearing needs met again. Brady has a heart of compassion for the senior population and has made several house calls to seniors who are close to the 160 corridor. Unfortunately, the state has asked hearing centers and other vital services to shut down to "flatten the curve". While Brady understands the reason to practice precautions and safety measures, it can be frustrating

for seniors who are hard of hearing to go without being connected to the world audibly...especially when the office has been shut for more than a month.

Being sensitive to this, Mr. King has offered house calls, bringing back the personal attention of the doctors of yester-year. Sandia Hearing Centers is now open and practicing safety measures recommended by the State of Colorado and the CDC.

Bio: Brady King, the new owner, has worked along the Front Range for the last 10 years and managed a hearing aid center in Pueblo. He is licensed by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences, licensed to provide services throughout Colorado. Mr. King purchased the Alamosa, Durango, and Cortez offices from the estate of David Saxon. The estate chose him because of his experience and dedication to excellent customer service.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Frieda Davis

ANTONITO — Frieda Davis passed away peacefully on April 29, 2020, in Burbank, California at the age of 89. Frieda was the 12th of 13 children born to Pedro and Deluvina Salazar on November 22, 1930, in Antonito, Colorado. She attended school in Antonito graduating from Antonito High School in 1949. During her high school years, she was editor of the school news-

paper, participated in theater drama and even wrote and directed a play foretelling the future of her senior class. After school on Saturdays, Frieda did bookkeeping for her father at the Rainbow Garage. She met her future husband, Richard Davis, Sr. (d. 2005) on a blind date while he was an airman stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colorado. They were married on August

17, 1952. Frieda and her husband moved to Burbank, California and made it their home for over 50 years, raising 3 children. Frieda's faith was very important to her and she was an active parishioner of St. Finbar Catholic Church also teaching religious education for many years. Frieda was proud of her hometown of Antonito, Colorado and loved to organize high school and

family reunions often making trips to Colorado for gatherings. Frieda earned her certificate of proficiency in bookkeeping and worked for California companies; Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, Stainless Steel Products and Wilshire Mortgage before retiring in 1990.

Frieda is preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Richard Davis, Sr, her parents, and 11 siblings. She is survived by her three children; Sandie Rathbun (Lewis), Richard



Davis, Jr. (Sherry) and Randall Davis (Mychi), seven grandchildren; Chris Rathbun, Ryan

Rathbun, Sarah Quiring (Toby), Amy Rathbun Tran (Binh), Christina Veluzat (Marc), Jessie Davis, and Elliot Davis, ten great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and her last surviving sibling, Orlando Salazar.

Services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center Foundation, https://www.providence.org/locations/saint-joseph-medical-center/foundation.

Jerry Leigh Shawcroft

ALAMOSA — Lifetime valley resident Jerry Leigh Shawcroft, 67, passed away May 7, 2020. He was born August 14, 1952, in Alamosa, Colorado to Amos Franklin Shawcroft and Margaret Holmes Shawcroft. Jerry grew up on the family ranch and graduated from Sanford High School. He later returned to ranching after working in various trades and acquiring a variety of skills. He was a jack of all trades and was always willing to lend a hand to those in need.



Shawcroft, his daughters, Krista (Robert) Middlemist, Jamie (Brandon) Thomas, Robbie (John) Curto, Hannah Shawcroft (Taylor Walker) and Maggie Shawcroft as well as 9 grandchildren.

His surviving siblings include Bruce (Janis) Shawcroft, Kathy (Jerome) Parsons, Bill Shawcroft and Judy (George) Kelloff as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Danny Shawcroft and sister, Darlene Abernathy.

Cremation was selected and services will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to Grace Ministries and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa is in care

Jerry had a heart for youth. He volunteered with various youth sports programs and assisted high school girls basketball. He enjoyed outdoor activities including softball, hunting, fishing, riding horses and bike riding. Jerry was a compassionate and caring man. He was beloved by God and gave back by sponsoring and mentoring many who suffered

from addiction. Having become a member of the leadership team for Grace Ministries, he was respected for his commonsense and unwavering faith to his Lord and Savior. He loved animals, most notably his dogs and horses. Above all, he loved his family.

He is survived by his wife Philomina Morgan, his son Jerry (Deborah

Ellis R. Weir

LA VETA — Ellis R. Weir of La Veta, passed away May 6, 2020, in Pueblo, Colorado, at the age of 78. He was born in Pueblo on September 13, 1941, to Robert R. Weir and Mae (Smith) Weir. He graduated from La Veta High School in La Veta, Colorado. Ellis married Eleanor Ward on May 21, 1983, in Trinidad, Colorado. Ellis owned Weir Trucking LLC.

Ellis is survived by



his wife Eleanor Weir; children Walter, Bob and Daria, Joanna and

Jeff, and Judy; sister Helen and Ward Jones of Dillingham, Alaska; 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Mae.

Ellis will be laid to rest at the La Veta Cemetery during a private ceremony. A public memorial service will be held at a later date. Online condolences, www.imperialfunerals.com

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.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

05/01/20520-05/08/2020

Gage Vega, 19, Center; Failed to Obey/Disregarded a Traffic Control Device, Failed to Present Evidence of Insurance Upon Request, Seat Belts Required

Tracy Doleshall, 55, Greeley; Shoplifting

Louis Fair, 35, Alamosa; Trespassing, Shoplifting

Richard Fortney, 51, Alamosa; Shoplifting

Richard Fortney, 51, Alamosa; Shoplifting

Richard Fortney, 51, Alamosa; Shoplifting

Richard Forney, 51, Alamosa; Theft From Yards

Richard Fortney, 51, Alamosa; Theft From Yards

Jessica Polkowske, 16, La Jara; Following Too Closely

Eli Sparrowhawk, 18, Monte Vista; Shoplifting

James Matthews 23, Alamosa; Domestic Violence, Harassment

Delfana Sandoval, 22, Alamosa; Violation of Restraining Order

CJ Dominguez, 26, Capulin; Following Too Closely, Driving While Denied

Robyn Sammons, 55, Colorado Springs; Careless Driving

Nakoa Martinez, 25, Sanford; Failed to Obey Traffic Control Signal, Failed to Use Turn Signals, Driving Under Suspension, Unlawful Use Of a Controlled Substance, Unlawful Possession Of a Controlled Substance Schedule III-V

Jacob Vigil, 22, Alamosa; Failed to Display Valid Registration

Gregory Torres, 20, Alamosa; 1st Degree Burglary, 2nd Degree Assault,

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

4/7-5/4 2020

4/7
-Robert Brown was cited with harassment at the corner of 17th and Vine Ave.

4/8
-Joe Miramontes, 43, of Olathe was cited for harassment at 102 E. Hwy 160.
-Wesley Marquez, 33, of La Jara was cited for speeding over 20 MPH over the posted limit; at 12,000 BLK S CR 100.

4/9
-Ote-tee Malwood, 26, of Denver was cited for violating a protection order; at 333 Santa Fe Ave.

4/13
-Pablo Bell, 23, of Monte Vista was cited for driving while license was revoked; at 5400 BLK and Sierra Vista Rd.

4/15
-Dakota Ward, 21, was cited for speeding 40 MPH over the posted limit; at 8000 BLK 5N
-Weylen Vigil Jr., 25, was cited with third-degree criminal trespassing; at Discount Liquor.

4/20
-Randall Wadsworth, 38, of Mosca was cited with third-degree assault on Hwy 17.

4/21
-Joseph Garner, 42, of Alamosa was cited for third degree assault and child abuse at 32 Costilla.

4/24
-Jason Druktenis, 43, of Santa Fe was cited for failing to drive in a single lane, driving under the influence -- with a blood alcohol level above .008 -- at the intersection of Hwy 17 and McKinney.

4/25
-Wesley Marquez, 33, of La Jara was cited for driving while his license was revoked; at 2000 BLR Lava Ln.

5/4
-Alex Cordero, 52, of Alamosa was cited for expired registration on 200 Blk Broadway.

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.

ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

ALAMOSA — Veterans Therapeutic/Sup-

port 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

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 mkmiller@aol.com

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

ALAMOSA — TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) CO 568, Alamosa, a non-profit weight loss organization, meets every Tuesday evening at the College Heights Baptist Church at 2035 Church Avenue in Alamosa. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. with an informative meeting at 6:15. Anyone interested in having weight loss support is welcome to attend a free meeting or call Doris at 589-6396 for more information.

ALAMOSA — Search and Rescue meetings are the fourth Tuesday at the Alamosa County Sheriff Office, 1315 17th St., at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is welcome. Call Suzi at 719-588-9236.

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Photography Club meets the first Wednesday at the Alamosa Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Contact Stephen Jensen at 379-0001 or slv-photostephen@gmail.com

ALAMOSA — Families Healing Families is a community-based organization that provides support and resources for families affected by the impact of substance abuse. They meet on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center at 92 Rio Grande Ave. (on the north end of Cole Park) in Alamosa.

ALAMOSA— Peace Meditation at the Campus Ministry Office, Adam State University, Alamosa, is held on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. Everyone is invited. Contact Candace Knowlan 805-886-6959.

ALAMOSA — American Legion Auxiliary Unit #113, Alamosa, holds its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the American Legion Building at 514 Fourth Street, Alamosa. Call Evelyn Espinola at 719-313-1466 or Alice Robinson at 589-0543.

School Menu - Monday May 11, 2020

NO SCHOOL



COVID-19

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Mushroom farm confirms COVID-19 cases

Company moves quickly to address well-being of workers; follows food safety procedures

ALAMOSA – The Colorado Mushroom Farm has confirmed that 11 of their employees tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

In a statement, management at the mushroom farm said they learned of the positive test results on May 6. “Colorado Mushroom Farm management was sad to find out that 11 of 100 farm employees were tested positive with coronavirus. All of these employees belonged to a picking crew and worked together,” according to the statement. “We, at the mushroom farm feel the pain of these employees and their families. We pray for their speedy recovery.”

The company said it learned on May 1 that the spouse of a picker, who worked at a different business, tested positive



with COVID-19. The subject employee was instructed to go home and contact the Alamosa County Public Health Department.

Management said it moved quickly, wasting no time to work with the health department to schedule all of crew members for testing. Those crew members were advised to stay home until were tested.

“Safety and security of our employees is the top priority of farm management. Since March 17, 2020, the farm has been proactive and taking preventive measures to keep COVID-19 out

of the facility and providing a safe working environment for our employees,” the management of Colorado Mushrooms said.

According to the statement, the farm has followed a program developed in conjunction with Alamosa County Public Health Department (ACPHD) to keep the facility hygienically clean. The guidelines for the program came from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the ACPHD and “COVID-19 Pandemic Procedures for Cleaning, Disinfection and Hygienic Protocols for the Food Industry.”

Farm management said the program was implemented on March 17, immediately after it was approved by ACPHD and has been religiously following as prepared by the farm’s food safety team and approved by ACPHD.

Under the program, employees are required to wear

appropriate face masks and gloves, and wash hands as often as practical. Lunch breaks are staggered to ensure employees meet a criteria of only 10 people in the cafeteria and maintaining a distance of six feet between one another. The employees have also been encouraged to take lunch breaks in their cars.

Other safety measures taken by the farm and workers include cleaning doorknobs, countertops and all surfaces that are routinely touched. Floors are washed and sanitized daily.

The company’s food safety team randomly checks employee temperatures and CPDHE guidance posters for Public Health Order 20-22 are posted across the facility to spread awareness of the do’s and don’ts to tackle COVID-19. “The food safety team has been making sure that the program is being enforced and guidelines for separation, assembly, cleaning

surfaces and hand washing are being followed,” according to the company’s statement.

COVID-19 is believed to be transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Wearing a face mask and practicing social distancing are considered best practices to prevent the spread of the virus.

The management of Colorado Mushroom Farm assured there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and that all company employees are to be tested for the virus by the Alamosa County Public Health Department.

“The management is committed to taking any action needed to ensure that the farm facility offers a hygienically safe environment to its employees,” according to the company’s statement.

Physician’s assistant claims COVID numbers embellished

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA – Allowing medical professionals to diagnose potential COVID-19 cases without testing to confirm has recently become a point of contention in the San Luis Valley.

An SLV Health hospital physician’s assistant (PA) claims the hospital is embellishing these diagnoses in order to receive government funding for COVID-19.

Konnie Martin, Chief Executive Officer of San Luis Valley Health refuted those claims in a statement on Wednesday:

“A video interview was brought to our attention that asserts hospitals in the San Luis Valley are directing Emergency Department providers to code and bill in a manner that would increase revenue when treating patients with potential COVID 19 diagnosis. These assertions are false. The statements made in this video are inaccurate, misleading, and untrue.

“As your community partner, we have remained steadfast in our service during this pandemic. Our response to this crisis has always focused on two things:

• Caring for our community by providing essential healthcare services

• Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our team.”

On May 4, the radio show “Thrivetime” uploaded an interview to YouTube with “whistleblower” Lindsay Blankenship. She has been a PA for nearly 12 years and said, “Honesty is my core.” For those who do not understand what a PA does, she explains, “I’ve spent the majority of my career in the ER, but it’s almost like the extension of a physician. So, a PA can do everything a physician can—except perform surgery on one’s own.”

Blankenship has been at work at SLV Health for about five years. According to her taped interview, coworkers received orders to include a COVID-19 code on their patient charts, based on the patient exhibiting both a fever and cough.

“We have been instructed, or advised, to include a ‘COVID-like illness’ in the diagnosis, on our charts; if they have a fever and a cough.” Blankenship said. “This completely goes against what a PA, or provider, is supposed to do when diagnosing. Which is, when we diagnose, we stick strictly to facts.”

Though Blankenship has no knowledge of real numbers, national rumors



Courtesy photo
Lindsay Blankenship during her interview on Thrivetime

tell of hospitals being reimbursed for COVID-19 patients. This leaves one to assume funding must be the motive for diagnosing COVID-19 cases without proof, she asserts, “especially considering SLV Health is struggling financially.”

Blankenship warns the hospital is on the verge of going under, which Martin’s statement supports.

“While this pandemic has created financial hardship—for this organization and the entire community,” Martin offers optimism for the future. “We will return to our full potential through the honorable work of providing essential and appropriate healthcare services. We are SLV Strong and appreciate your support and

partnership during this challenging time.”

Rural hospitals already struggle to secure funding and due to COVID-19 SLV Health is actually experiencing at least a 25% decrease in the volume of emergency room patients.

National Public Radio (NPR) released an article on May 6 titled: “Eerie Emptiness Of ERs Worries Doctors: Where Are The Heart Attacks And Strokes?” The author describes this patient decline as a trend doctors have been tracking since the pandemic hit.

“As the pandemic took hold, the number of patients showing up at hospitals with serious cardiovascular emergencies, such as strokes and heart attacks, shrunk dramatically. Across the U.S., doctors call the drop-off staggering, unlike anything they’ve seen,” according to the article.

“Across the country, ER volumes are down about 40-50 percent,” says Dr. William Jaquis, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians. “And they worry a new wave of patients is headed their way — people who have delayed care and will be sicker and more injured when they finally arrive in emergency rooms.”

People are apparently wary of seeking medical attention — especially

at hospitals — for fear of coming into contact with the virus.

EVENT CANCELLED

LED training cancelled

ALAMOSA — Attention Alamosa Liquor Licensees: the LED liquor license training that was scheduled for next week, May 12 at City Hall is

cancelled. The City Clerk’s office will offer an online version of the training soon and will send out information as it becomes available.

Update on Pioneer Days 2020

MANASSA — Representatives from the community partnerships involved in putting on The Manassa Pioneer Days Celebration have determined that due to COVID-19, it is in the best interest of the public and all organizations involved to cancel the event for 2020.

With an event of this magnitude in a town so small, it is impossible to regulate social distancing practices and protect individuals from the virus, particularly those who are high risk. We love our community sponsors, but realize that they have had to close their doors or operate at partial capacity for months now. Moving forward, we want their

businesses to thrive, and hope they can invest their sponsorship money into keeping their doors open. The inability to predict attendance on a year like this makes it difficult for committees to determine how much to spend on events, supplies, entertainment, and other services without the risk of considerable financial loss — leading to major obstacles in planning our 2021 event. We love our community and we love Pioneer Days. This decision was not an easy one to make! We pray that you and your families can stay safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 Manassa Pioneer Days!

CPW continues to address Chronic Wasting Disease

DENVER – At its virtual meeting today, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission discussed the results from CPW’s mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing in 2019. CPW Terrestrial Programs Supervisor Matthew Eckert and State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Mary Wood provided an update to the Commission on the testing efforts.

As of February 2020, CWD has been detected in 33 of 54 deer herds, 14 of 43 elk herds, and 2 of 9 moose herds. The percentage of sampled animals infected (or “prevalence”) appears to be rising in many affected Colorado herds.

In the early 2000s, hunters were very interested in learning whether their deer or elk was CWD positive. Results from large numbers of voluntary submissions showed most herds were low-prevalence or CWD was undetected. Thereafter, voluntary submissions sharply declined. By 2010, trends in prevalence became difficult to track because too few hunters voluntarily submitted samples for testing. As a result, prevalence estimates for most herds were unreliable. However, even with small submission numbers, a high proportion of animals tested positive in some herds, which indicated that prevalence had likely increased. In 2017, CPW resumed mandatory submissions from hunter-harvested deer to boost sample sizes and develop a clear understanding of how CWD trends had changed.

The expanded testing is part of CPW’s Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan, a 15-year plan that will use rotating mandatory tests on hunter-harvested deer to give a complete picture of Colorado’s CWD prevalence every five years. The plan also provides a suite of tactics that CPW wildlife managers can implement to lower CWD prevalence in GMUs with a prevalence of 5% or greater for adult bucks.

In 2019, CPW required mandatory testing for rifle season deer hunters in 79 GMUs, mostly located in eastern Colorado. The expanded testing gave wildlife managers the clearest picture yet of CWD prevalence in Colorado.

Testing in 2019

16 deer herds were included in mandatory testing. Over 7,700 samples tested statewide for all cervid species

CWD prevalence exceeds the 5% management threshold in 18 deer herds

Data collected from mandatory testing shows CWD prevalence is higher in male deer than female deer

Prevalence may be slightly higher in mule deer than in white-tailed deer

5 herds have prevalence between 5-10%, 7 herds have prevalence between 10-20%, and 6 herds have prevalence that exceeds 20%. When prevalence is 20%, it means 1 out of 5 adult males are infected

Management of CWD

CPW is working to minimize the number of animals that die from this disease. To date, management actions have been taken in 18 deer herds that intend to reduce prevalence to below 5%. Generally, actions include an increase in licenses to reduce the density of a herd, particularly in CWD hot spots, which should reduce transmission. In addition, because male deer are more prone to have CWD than female deer, actions also include the increase of antlered deer licenses to reduce the herd’s sex ratio. Both approaches have sideboards, meaning the population or sex ratio can be reduced to no lower than the management objective ranges in respective herd management plans, which have already been approved by the public and the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

CWD testing in 2020

The 2020 Colorado Big Game Brochure is out and 89 GMUs are included for mandatory CWD testing in 2020 (see page 21), mostly in western Colorado. If a rifle season deer hunter harvests (either sex) in these units in 2020, they will need to bring their head in to a CWD submission location so CPW technicians can collect a lymph node sample for testing.

About CWD

CWD is a prion disease that affects members of the deer family, such as mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. The disease is always fatal and infected animals can develop symptoms like weight loss, stumbling and listlessness.

Although there has been no evidence that CWD has been transmitted to humans, the Center for Disease Control, along with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, recommend that hunters not eat the meat of a CWD-infected animal.

More information about CWD is available on CPW’s website.

More information on prion diseases is available on CDPHE’s website.

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La Jara

Opinion

Some moms are engineers

Some mothers are born the eldest and some the youngest. Some moms serve dipped cones at Dairy Queen or hamburgers at Burger King. Some mothers rescue emus and others groom quarter horses. Some mothers sing songs and others write books. Some mothers hike the road by the grazing cows and others pedal on their secondhand bike behind their daughters on training wheels.

Movin' On with Nellie

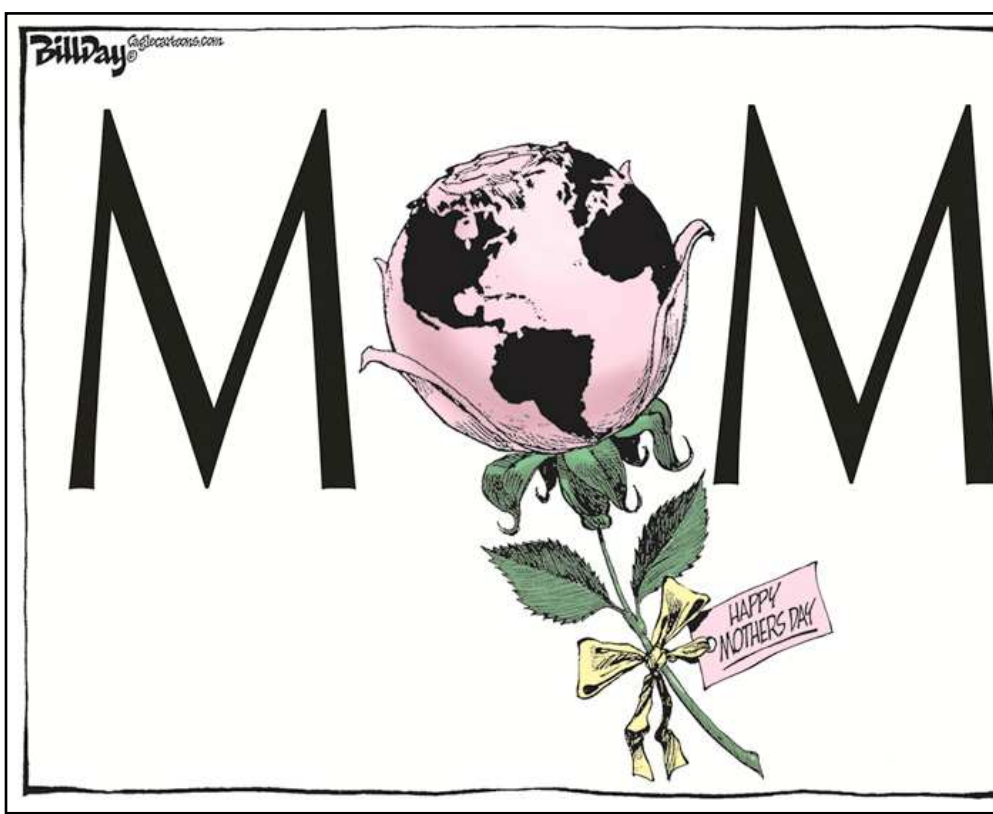


Nelda Curtiss

Some moms dash forgotten lunches to elementary – that is pre-pandemic wise. Some moms sit beside their math students adding then subtracting problem after problem. Some mothers use baby wipes and others run warm water on a cloth to wipe away the tears from a tumble off the tricycle.

Some moms see their children every day and some moms cherish even the time allotted on FaceTime. Some moms have children in college; and some are proud of their children enlisted in the Army, Marines, Navy or Air Force. Some mothers welcome grandbabies in the hospital and others weep at the returning soldiers in flag-draped caskets. Some moms stand by their sons or daughters as they reboot their lives gone astray and others welcome them home from opioid rehab.

Some are mothers of humans and others of the four-legged kind. Some moms congregate to be inspired and others withdraw to pray. Some mothers are small in stature but generous to the moon. Some mothers walk on the moon and others ride the cow that jumps over the moon. Some moms counsel hearts and some moms account for figures. Some moms water daisies and some



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To submit sports, email: sjiron@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

grow dandelions. Some moms are married, and some are single.

Some mothers act on a stage and others sing karaoke. Some mothers rake the leaves and others mow the lawn. Some mothers make cheese from goat milk and other fish on the Rio Grande. Some mothers are close by and playing jacks while some mothers in heaven are watching over their children. Some mothers sew up a storm and some lay asphalt for the county. Some mothers drive SUVs and others long haul semi-trucks. Some mothers build a fort in the family room and others build barns for the farmer.

Some moms shop at Macy's and some weave wraps they give to their loved ones. Some moms are here and others there. Some moms like chocolate and some like vanilla. Some moms are engineers, and some are tailors. Some ride like the wind. Some plod along making sure every seed takes hold.

Happy Mom's Day to all the mothers on earth and those in the stars. Love you!

Special delivery



Courtesy photo

From left, Clara Adams, Savannah Segura & Michelle Arellano pose in front of the Colorado welcome sign.

BLANCA—This week we all share our appreciation to the teachers and staff of the Sierra Grande School District. With most of the school at home, we felt a desire to make a "Special Delivery" this week. With a May Day Basket in hand, School Board President, Wendy Fischer, and Middle/High School Principal, Brandon

Mizokami, hit the road. After driving over 125 miles from Blanca to Alamosa, La Jara and across to San Luis and down to the State Line finishing in Fort Garland, we dropped off over 40 gifts of appreciation. It was so wonderful to see the teachers and staff and thank them for their service.

COVID-19

Our world was assailed by a mighty foe, he dons a crown and mighty sting
He thinks he is the mighty Scorpion King
He preys on the weak, the elderly and even babes at birth
He is a coward and presumes that he has worth
The mighty soldiers stand ready with masks and gloves
They do not have adequate PPE so they summon their strength from God above
The soldiers give their best from dusk to dawn
They won't give up until this war is won
The soldiers toil day in day out with no breaks or rest
This mighty foe puts them to the test
They work vigilantly to save patients, they do their best
Ventilators and PPE is their only request
The world's scientists scramble to find a potent vaccine
To put an end to the reign of this brutal and mighty faux king
The world stands together six feet apart
You can take our breath but you can't take our heart
You can bring our countries to their knees, but not for long
United together we are too strong.
Enjoy your reign you coward, crowned like a king
Your reign of terror is ending, feel our sting

Judi Velasquez
5/1/2020

Valley Stuff

What a week! So busy...and all I want to do is garden! The best was yesterday (Friday) when Leo's sister and her family finally got to Alamosa! Talk about lots and lots of tears. Maria had not seen LuLu (her daughter) for over 9 plus years. As you are reading this, I'm thinking they all are still sharing tears and hugs, and making plans for the future.

Ruthie Brown

Valley Stuff

I don't know if more folks are planting gardens, or as I get older it just seems like I am working harder. I am hoping more folks are gardening. I'm hoping they are teaching their kids and grandkids how to garden. Playing in the dirt is very, very healthy!

I have incorporated math and penmanship with gardening projects this week. My granddaughter, Peyton, has counted the number of seeds in a pack, and then we divide and plant 3 seeds in each little pot. We calculate the amount of soil and figure out the cost. And then, we figure out how much money she can make if they all sold—that's where the excitement builds. It's been fun! We have been planting some Delicata Squash, Tatume Squash (calabacita) and next, we are going to some Red Warty Pumpkins. A customer told me this week that the Red Warty's were the best tasting squash she had ever had. Very meaty, and little water content. We will soon find out.

If you have been waiting for Soil Conditioner, because I told you how good it is, it has arrived. For a few days, I was worried that we weren't going to get any in until the end of May, which would have been horrible! I am relieved.

I spent a few hours on a City Council Zoom meeting on Wednesday evening, along with probably a hundred other people. The main topic of discussion was the placement of a TEMPORARY homeless camp. 'Stakeholders' had been meeting for a couple of months picking a location out, but never attempted to meet with the folks across the street—how sad, but typical this is!

So many folks spoke up against the proposal, that the location was changed. This is not a win, win situation for anybody.

What made me really nervous was when the City Manager said we could plant trees and vegetation out there!! Now...

every landscaped area in Alamosa has been destroyed and covered with rock, but "we can plant trees and vegetation" in a temporary homeless camp—right?? What are we thinking? Might as well put in a campground with an outdoor movie theatre.

And some fire pits, maybe even drinking fountains. Who is going to pay for this? Could we all see a budget for what has already been spent—hourly time, etc and costs for the future?

Meanwhile, I think I renamed Alamosa

a while back, but can't remember.

Was it Alarocka or should it be Rockamosa? There is an ordinance being proposed for water conservation in two weeks—first reading.

I am against it...for a number of reasons.

Please get educated on this ordinance. I will have a copy of it at the store. Wouldn't it be great if the city put a delay on decisions like this until folks could talk in person instead of Zoom. Zoom is pretty intimidating.

LETTERS

COVID budget concerns

The Colorado Governor by executive order slashed \$229 Million dollars from the state budget. Ski areas closed until May 23. State services cut. This and other decisions were made at 9:30 PM on Thursday by the governor. My question! Under whose authority? This should be done by legislation and the governor has the authority to either sign or veto such legislation.

In a declaration of disaster the governor can direct emergency spending such as floods and fires, but to arbitrarily cut spending is not a part of the governor's duties. This type of authoritarian government cannot continue to happen. In a declaration on April 27th the governor gave local control on the virus to the county government. Wolf Creek Ski Area, following this directive had garnered the necessary permission from surrounding local government entities to open on May 2nd. Another directive from the governor's office declared all ski slopes closed until May 23.

In southern Colorado we had 27 cases in the San Luis Valley and I am of the

belief that we need to trust the people to make proper health decisions. We should not compare rural southern Colorado to the heavily populated metro area. Both businesses and customers will know what is right for them. We do not need local health officials telling people to inform on their neighbors for not wearing a mask.

We will all get through this by mutual trust. We as a people will not be dictated to.

The budget process starts the 4th of this month and there will be a revenue shortfall. Under our state constitution, we are required to have a balanced budget. There will be people affected because of the program cuts.

We are all in this together and together we will get through this pandemic. Remember the government works for you.

Senator Larry Crowder
SD 35 southern Colorado

Editors Note: The San Luis Valley positive case count has since grown to 52.

Lifestyle

Benevidez gradation

ALAMOSA — We are pleased to announce that Oliver Benevidez will earn an Associates of Arts degree with a distinction in Art from Adams State University during their virtual June 2020 Commencement exercises. He was the recipient of numer-

ous scholarships including the COSI Award for Saguache County, ASU Vice President's Merit Scholarship, Edwin Clemmer Arts Scholarship, SLV Promise Scholarship, and ASCENT. A native of Alamosa, Oliver is the son of Michael and

Mary Benevidez and shares this joyful accomplishment with Jesse Wright and their puppy Reece. He graduated from Crestone Charter School in 2019 and plans on continuing his education at ASU in pursuit of a Bachelor's of Art degree.



SLV Federal Bank is a supporter of ALMA

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association is pleased to announce that San Luis Valley Federal Bank in Alamosa is a Supporter of our organization by sponsoring ALMA at the \$1,000 level in 2020. This generous sponsorship will assist ALMA in producing Sundays at Six, its free concert series, as

well as other concerts throughout the year. Benefits of sponsorship include recognition at Sundays at Six concerts, listing on Sundays at Six banner and poster, plaque presentation with press release, and recognition on social media. Pictured here are Jamilla Ruybal, Marketing Associate, and Kyle Burnett, Marketing

Officer, holding the bank's updated appreciation plaque. If your company is interested in supporting quality live music in the San Luis Valley, please contact Nancy Harris at almaconcerts@gmail.com to find out more about becoming an ALMA corporate sponsor and how you, too, can be recognized.



A gift from the heart

ALAMOSA — When The Bridge at Alamosa's Charlie Cellura and his wife, Merlinda Lopez Cellura discovered the importance of wearing masks, particularly with the elderly, during the concerns with COVID-19, they joined forces with Charlie's sister, Kimanna

Cellura Shields and The Bridge at Alamosa's Business Office Director, Teri Burnett. Teri donated fabric which was used to make ladies masks. Kimanna donated \$200 which was used to purchase additional fabric. Charlie and Merlinda worked tirelessly, putting

in 12 hour days of sewing to create over 100 masks for all the residents and staff at The Bridge at Alamosa. We are so grateful for the gift of all these wonderful masks.



Courtesy Photo
Pictured, left to right, Teri Burnett, Melinda Lopez Cellura and Charlie Cellura.

#ThankATeacher

OUR TEACHERS ARE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NO MATTER THE

DISTANCE

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

MAY 4-8

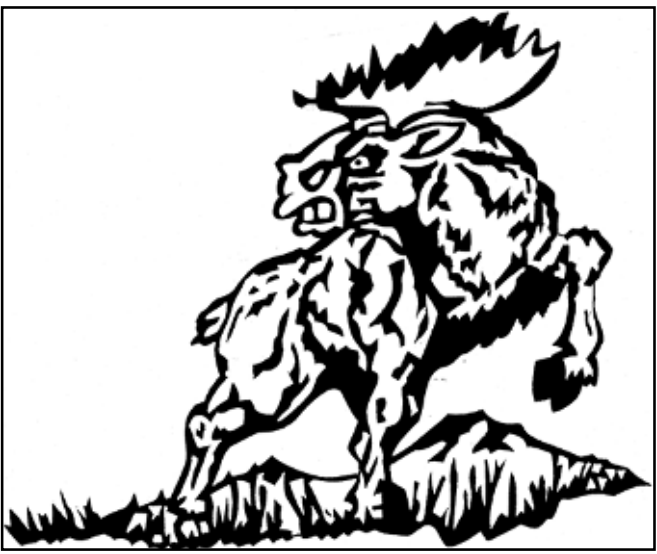
Maroon Pride Athletic Banquet

ALAMOSA — The 2020 Alamosa Athletic Banquet has gone virtual. Wednesday May 13th at 6 p.m. Awards for the following categories will be announced

- Freshmen Athletes of the Year
- Senior Athletes of the Year
- Spud Orr Award Winners

- Manchester Award Winners
- Coach of the Year
- Maroon Pride Member of the Year
- and Maroon Pride Supporter of the Year.

A video posting the winners will be posted to the Maroon Pride Facebook page.



Apply for SNAP benefits over the phone

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition is now providing remote SNAP application appointments. Anyone wanting food assistance can call to complete an application. To schedule an appointment email snapslv@slvlocalfoods.org, call 719-937-2319, or text SNAP to 719-539-5606. You can also apply for SNAP benefits online at colorado.gov/

PEAK or by calling your local human services department. Emergency allotments for SNAP recipients not receiving the maximum amount will be issued on May 18-20th. Go to <https://www.hungerfreecolorado.org/covid-19/> for any SNAP or food resource updates. Local food resources can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/slv-covid-food-resource/home>

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Happy Nurse Appreciation Week to our Dedicated and Caring Nurses!

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Agreement
 - 5 Stem's end
 - 9 Ewer
 - 12 Stare at
 - 13 Like Mr. Hyde
 - 14 Mineral deposit
 - 15 Bellyache
 - 16 Verne skipper
 - 17 Noncom
 - 18 Lion families
 - 20 Hearth debris
 - 22 Running wild
 - 23 Sault — Marie
 - 24 "Nifty!" (hyph.)
 - 27 Clumsy boats
 - 31 Phrased
 - 34 Unhearing
 - 35 In — of
 - 36 Bit of the universe
 - 38 Annoying insect
 - 40 Paramount rival
 - 41 Wynter or Andrews
- DOWN**
- 1 Splendor
 - 2 Old Greek market-place
 - 3 Assert
 - 4 Sinew
 - 5 Eye part
 - 6 Twilight, to a poet
 - 7 Zero in on
 - 8 Parade sight
 - 9 Kid around with
 - 10 Encourage
 - 11 Catches on
 - 19 Used thriftily
 - 21 Tape up
 - 23 Lobby furnishings
 - 25 Zeus' shield
 - 26 Light browns
 - 28 Brink
 - 29 Party extra
 - 30 I am, to Livy
 - 31 Gym mat
 - 32 Ms. Hagen
 - 33 Cargo unit
 - 37 "— the Knife"
 - 39 Mon. follower
 - 43 Gladdens
 - 45 Without doubt (2 wds.)
 - 47 Slow-moving animal
 - 48 Acid in proteins
 - 49 Kid around
 - 50 Pennsylvania port
 - 51 Bona fide
 - 52 Early vegetables
 - 53 Miniblind part
 - 56 Lyricist — Gershwin
 - 57 After taxes



- ACROSS**
- 9 Kid around with
 - 10 Encourage
 - 11 Catches on
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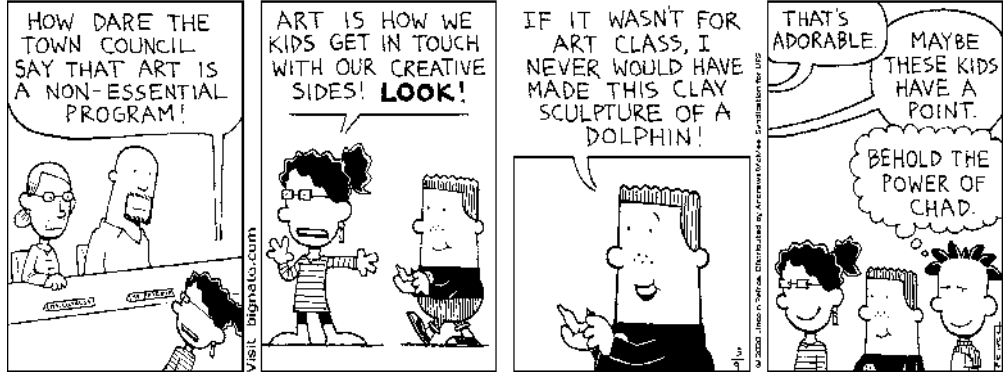
ALLEY OOP



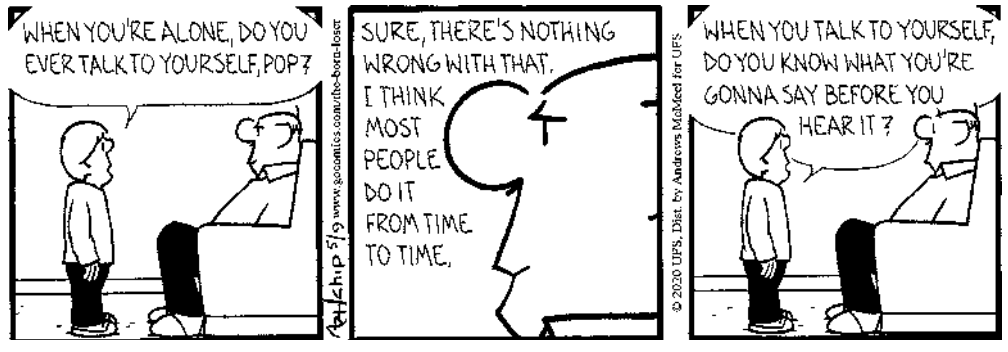
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



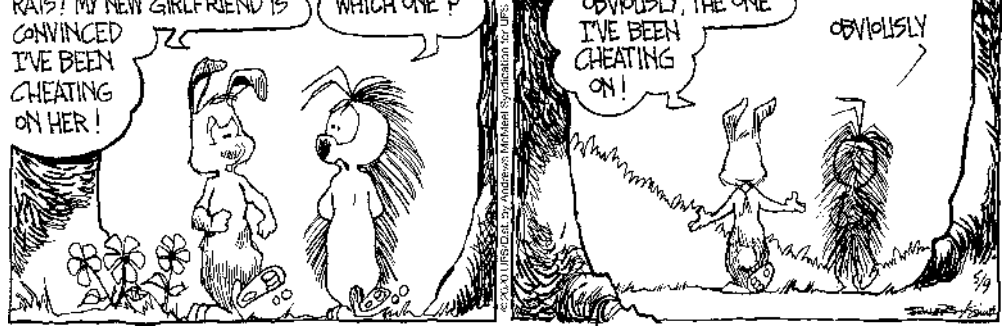
FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



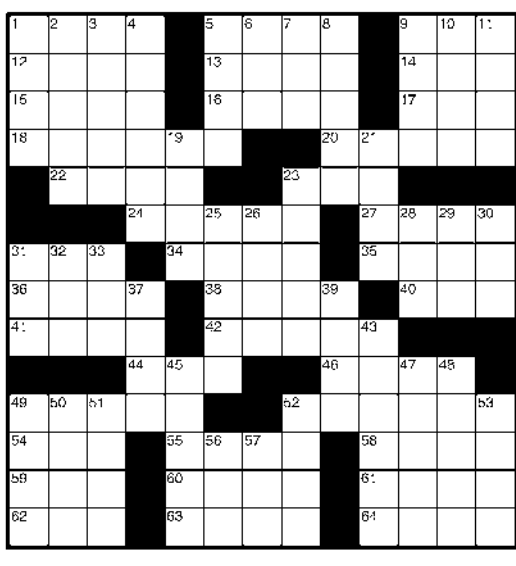
THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



HERMAN



CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos
 Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" K W I R V N V C D I P V H D N . . . D N V
 I W P V C K B V D , D N V U I C V K E K L P
 U T A V W E W K G V U T U I U . " — R H L V A A H
 N S P B V L A I L B K L H B S H L B X I

TODAY'S CLUE: C srenbe X

Previous Solution: "I have often wished for just a few words of love from one man, rather than the applause of thousands of people." — Judy Garland

Insensitive question leaves grieving mother speechless

DEAR ABBY: My daughter unexpectedly died very recently. A "friend" called today asking how I was doing (quarantine, food, pet food, etc). Then she asked me the most unnerving question: "Do you have 'June' with you?" I was floored. So many thoughts came rushing at me at once. June was disabled since birth. She went to live in a group home nine years ago. The friend knew I brought her home for weekends.

After I didn't speak for several minutes, she asked in an annoyed tone, "Well, did you go get her ashes or not?" (As if having her ashes with me was a comfort? It isn't!) Abby, I didn't know what to say. Her question slammed me against the wall. I mumbled a response, said I had to go and hung up.

I'm trying to make myself believe she meant nothing but concern, but I can't seem to make myself believe that the words she used weren't purposely cruel. My warm feelings for her have changed to something ugly. I'm still gasping. Your thoughts? -- GRIEVING MOTHER

DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER: Let's give the woman a perfect 10 on the insensitivity meter. She was tactless, but she may not have meant to be unkind. My thought is that you have handled the situation as well as you could since her ques-

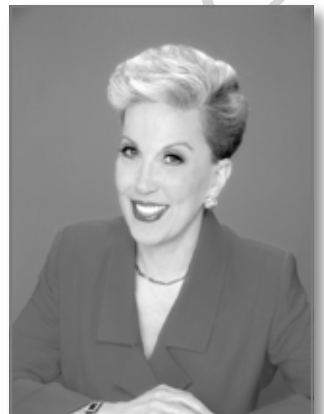
tion left you understandably flat-footed. However, I would have answered her differently. I would have responded, "Why do you ask?" and let her explain herself.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister bullied me from the time our parents divorced. I was in elementary school, and she was in middle school. We are now adults and retired. Her form of bullying now is to exclude me. It started with announcing to me that I was adopted and progressed to saying in front of me, "Let's have a family reunion" and not inviting me.

When our father died, she was his executor. She showed the will to my sisters, but would not allow me to see it. Yes, I was in the will as an equal. She told the attorney I was a granddaughter, which I caught and corrected.

When I told my oldest sister my feelings were hurt, she accused me of being jealous and blocked me on social media. It's hard to disengage because I have no other family, but I keep busy in other social circles. I was unable to have kids, and the one child I adopted is busy working in another state, so it's just my husband and me now.

I tried for years to be nice and to contribute as much as possible. I know I have done nothing wrong. I have searched my soul to see why



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I deserve this treatment. I don't! Should I just let go of my family since at least two of my three sisters seem to want to let go of me? -- LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: Yes, you should. Disengaging from the emotionally abusive sisters who treat you cruelly would be healthy for you. Maintain a relationship with the one who is open to it.

I have advised more than once in this column that sometimes it's necessary to create a family of one's own if circumstances prevent a normal relationship with a person's birth family. You and your husband should continue branching out socially. I predict that once you move in that direction, you will be far happier than you are today.

Lifestyle

Mental health at all stages of life

By RYAN LAVER-DIERE and AZAREL MADRIGAL-CHASE

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and every year the goal is to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and support people with mental illness and their families. The San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group (SLVBHG) has served the SLV for 50 years we are committed to providing access to quality behavioral health services that enrich lives and promote wellness. We are driven by a profound respect for human dignity and a desire to serve the underrepresented, the disenfranchised, and those who experience behavioral distress.

Mental Health Awareness Month was started in the United States in 1949 by the Mental Health America organization (then known as the National Association for Mental Health). Its purpose is to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses, such as depression, schizophrenia, substance abuse disorder and bipolar disorder; the realities of living with these conditions; and strategies for attaining mental health and wellness. It also aims to draw attention to suicide, which can be precipitated by some mental illnesses.

"Mental Health is important, we don't expect a tractor to run if the engine isn't being taken care of. A stress reaction is the mind and bodies reaction to unusual demands. Life's demands can create challenges for everyone at every stage of their life. We at SLVBHG care about the community. We recognize the Valley is resilient and in it tough times we are here for you." Fernando A. Martinez, CEO.

Caring for one's mental health and emotional well-being are often overlooked aspects of aging. Older adults may sometimes expect to deal with physical pain and loneliness as they age. However, just as pain is not a normal part of getting old, neither is depression. According to the World Health Organization, 15 percent of adults aged 60 and over suffer from a mental disorder. Yet, older adults continue to make important contributions to society as family members, volunteers,

and within the workforce. People experience mental health problems due to a variety of reasons including daily stressors and changes that occur throughout life. As people age, they may continue to experience changes including loss of purpose due to retirement, reduced mobility, loss of friends and family, and ongoing physical health concerns. These stressors may increase loneliness, depression, anxiety, substance use and decrease independence.

There are several actions one can take to care for their mental wellbeing throughout life and into the future. It is important to prepare for change. This can include adjusting one's sense of purpose as situations change and remaining engaged in communities and families. Being a caretaker for others and keeping in touch with friends and family can help achieve this.

Balanced eating and drinking helps ensure that our bodies keep working properly and can also be a social experience to share with friends and family. Just as your body changes throughout life, your appetite also changes. Many find it difficult to continue cooking if they are alone in the house or face physical limitations. Reaching out to community resources can help with this or accepting invitations from friends and family to eat together can promote health.

Finding ways to remain physically and mentally active and sleeping well can help raise your self-esteem and self-worth while also boosting your mood. This includes going for a walk, light stretches, or playing with children. Engaging in enjoyable activities such as completing puzzles, reading, or even learning something new can be helpful. It is valuable to find different activities, but it is also important to know when to relax and take a break and allow yourself to do so.

It is always important to talk to others if you are experiencing problems in your life-including emotional stress and to ask for help when needed. This will help promote wellness at every stage of life.

SLVBHG will be sharing resources on social media and in local newspaper and radio throughout the month of May. Follow us on facebook.com/slvbhg and on Instagram

@slvbhg.

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.

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ATTENTION FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CLASS OF 2020!



Isaiah Coffey
Your Grandmother and I are very proud of you!!!
Congratulations



Joann Thong
We are so proud of you!
Congratulations!
Love you, Mom, Dad, Ken & Sam



Submit a high quality, scannable baby photo and senior photo of your favorite graduating senior, a message with up to 15 words and a \$20 placement fee to the Valley Courier office at: 2205 State Ave. or mail to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101. Emailed photos* can be sent to lsveum@alamosanews.com. Please call 589-2553 to arrange payment.

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

GRADUATE'S FIRST/LAST NAME _____

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

Person submitting photo: _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Photos may be picked up after May 23, 2020. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2020.

Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment(\$20) along with this completed form to:

The Valley Courier • 2205 State Ave. or mail to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101

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Emailed photos* can be sent to lsveum@alamosanews.com

SLV REC announces annual meeting changes

MONTE VISTA—There are strict requirements for San Luis Valley REC to follow regarding timing and deadlines for scheduling and mailing out annual meeting notifications. These deadlines are fast approaching and with the current health circumstance, REC was forced to make decisions now for the June annual meeting.

Due to the unprecedented situation the state and country is currently facing with the Coronavirus pandemic, REC is making changes to the structure of the 2020 annual meeting. The revised meeting will still be held on Tuesday, June 9 but will be an open house annual membership meeting with registration open from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., to allow for meeting and prize registration, as well as in-person voting. All state gathering restrictions will be adhered to, as far as attendance and social distancing. The business meeting portion of the annual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be hosted virtually with viewing capability only.

Qualified members who vote in person and register at the June 9 open house membership meeting will be eligible for prizes, which include a \$250 bill credit, one-half beef, one-half pork and more.

There will be a live video link provided through the REC website where members can observe the business meeting.

In addition, members can send questions by mail or email to be answered during the online meeting. All questions must be received at REC by Tuesday, June 9. Email questions to 2020Annmeet@slvrec.com. Board elections will continue; ballots can be mailed in, returned to REC's dropbox or brought to the June 9 open house membership meeting. The annual report packet, including the ballot will be mailed to members by May 8.

In addition, the 2019 meeting minutes will be approved; please vote for approval on the postage-paid postcard included with the annual report packet.

Lifestyle

Hunting acreage soars for 2020 as Colorado Parks and Wildlife again expands 'Public Access Program'

DENVER – At its virtual meeting on May 7, the Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Commission unanimously approved the enrollment of 210,000 acres into the Public Access Program for the fall 2020 hunting season, bringing the program to a total of 777,000 acres.

The Public Access Program provides limited, seasonal hunting and fishing opportunities on Colorado trust land across the state.

"Colorado is known for our incredible natural beauty, and I'm committed to expanding the public's access to and enjoyment of our treasured state and federal land," Gov. Jared Polis said. "CPW's Public Access Program for sportsmen and women is growing just in time for the upcoming 2020 hunting season. We will continue looking at more opportunities to increase access and help relieve overcrowded areas. The Public Access Program is one of several ways hunters and anglers can get out in Colorado. Colorado spans 66.6 million acres and 23 million acres of public land is available for hunting."

Locations of the new lands enrolled in the Public Access Program for fall 2020's hunting season will be announced with the release of the 2020 Colorado Recreational Lands Brochure later this year. The Public Access Program currently includes 567,000 acres.

"I congratulate the Parks and Wildlife Commission and the State Land Board for expanding access to Colorado state lands," said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. "The expansion of the Public Access

Program passed by CPW will grow the program by 37 percent to 777,000 acres over the next year. Colorado is a growing state with increased demand for hunting and angling access. In the coming years, Governor Polis and the Department of Natural Resources will continue to seek additional access opportunities to encourage Coloradans to experience, explore and enjoy the outdoors."

The vote was the next step in a multi-year effort to grow the Public Access Program to up to 1 million acres.

Last year, CPW enrolled lands in the plains of Eastern Colorado where bird hunting and small game hunting are popular to provide a broader array of opportunities on state trust lands. Before that, the majority of public access was located in Northwestern Colorado where there is prime big game hunting. The newly enrolled acres will further expand the geography and hunting opportunities available on properties enrolled in the Public Access Program.

Public access for wildlife-related recreation on state trust lands is made possible through the Public Access Program, a lease agreement between the State Land Board and CPW. CPW is funding the expansion of the program through hunting and fishing license fees made available through the 'Future Generations Act' approved by the Colorado General Assembly in 2018.

"I'm thrilled that hunters and anglers will have more access to state trust lands in Colorado this season," said Dan Prenzlow, CPW Director. "Hunters and anglers are a criti-

cal foundation to wildlife conservation. They make significant contributions to our local economy, especially rural economies. It's an added benefit that our Public Access Program helps fund Colorado school kids."

Three million acres of land in Colorado have been held in a trust since statehood in 1876 for the purpose of funding public schools. The State Land Board generates revenue from these state trust lands by leasing the land for a variety of purposes, including hunting and recreation. Leasing of state trust lands earned \$1.7 billion for Colorado public schools since 2008 and provided the primary funding source for the Department of Education's Building Excellent Schools Today program.

State trust lands enrolled in the Public Access Program are open to a variety of wildlife-related uses, primarily hunting and fishing. In addition, the State Land Board leases or permits other uses such as agriculture, mining, oil & gas and renewable energy.

Hunters and anglers are encouraged to be mindful and respectful of other authorized uses on these lands. For hunter safety, wildlife protection and the integrity of the land and other uses, the public must follow the rules and regulations at each property enrolled in the program. Unauthorized activity on state trust lands is subject to enforcement.

For more information about the Public Access Program visit CPW's website. The public may view land enrolled in the Public Access Program using CPW's Hunting ATLAS.

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