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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

APRIL 18, 2020

\$1

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SLV Today

Alamosa BOE Meeting

ALAMOSA—Monday April 20th the Alamosa Board of Education will have their meeting where the Alamosa High School Graduation will be discussed. The meeting will take place on Zoom and will begin at 7 p.m. The Zoom link for the meeting will be https://zoom.us/j/5051891882.

NCSD Meeting

LA JARA — A Regular Board Meeting for the North Conejos School District Board of Education will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the District Administration Office in La Jara, Colorado. Agendas are available at the District Administration Office, 17890 US Highway 285, La Jara, Colorado, or on our web site www.northconejos.com.

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SLV WEATHER



Cloudy Windy 59/26

Sun: Evening Showers 60/29

Mon: Mostly Cloudy 62/33

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Mean Moose Baseball gives back

By KEITH R. CERNY

Courier Publisher

ALAMOSA - Paying it forward has become a popular notion and even more important in these uncertain times brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Alamosa Baseball saw an opportunity this week to pay back a few of their biggest supporters by donating \$100 to each to go directly to their employees who may have seen a loss of income.

In a letter to those rewarded, Mean Moose Baseball said, "During this unprecedented time, Alamosa High School

Baseball would like you to know that we are thinking about our great community. Our community has always been there to support us and we want to give back!

"Many of our team members and our families have pooled some resources together. We are sharing it with your family and others in our community. We hope this helps during this difficult time."

Paul Duarte, assistant coach for Alamosa Baseball, said the money was raised through donations from families in the program in return for a "Safe At Home" wrist band.

He acquired the band through Colorado Classic Baseball who was selling them as a fundraiser related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We ask our community supporters for a lot of money every year," Duarte said. "This was an opportunity to give back."

To date, three local businesses, all big supporters of the baseball program, have been given \$100 donations. Duarte said there will probably be a couple of more receiving funds soon.

"We know people had to lay off some staff," he continued. "This was our way of helping."



Alamosa baseball hat with a 'Safe at Home' band

Social distancing seems to be paying dividends

SAN LUIS VALLEY — So far in the San Luis Valley, two-hundred seven COVID-19 tests have been completed. Of those, there have been twenty-two confirmed cases of COVID-19, with two fatalities in Alamosa County. Eighteen have completed their isolation period and been free of symptoms for at least seventy-two hours. More information, including a link to the SLV Symptom tracker, see our website, http://www.slvemergencycy.org/slv-covid-19/.

SLV regional public health staff member Linda Smith notes, "Almost exactly one hundred years ago my great-grandmother and three family members were quarantined for six weeks on a remote ranch in Conejos County due to a smallpox exposure. I have thought of them

often during these past weeks. What did they do to entertain themselves? How did they stay connected with others? How were their basic needs met? As challenging as this past few weeks has been for me, thinking of her has made me grateful for the ways that modern technology has made things just a little easier. Imagine what this would be like if we didn't have the internet, or reliable phone service, or even basic electricity."

Our utility workers continue to work in the field to keep these essential services available to us. These workers have taken steps to ensure their own safety as well as yours. Xcel has assured us that they are practicing social distancing, so please do not approach them in the field.

See COVID page 3

SLV COVID 19

These cases have been identified by public health agencies as of 4:00 p.m. on April 17, 2020. All numbers are cumulative. If there are discrepancies between these numbers and those showing on the state's data website, use these local numbers.

22 SLV POSITIVE CASES

- Alamosa County - 7
Conejos County - 0
Costilla County - 3
Mineral County - 2
Rio Grande County - 7
Saguache County - 3

9 HOSPITALIZED

18 ISOLATION COMPLETED

These are SLV positive cases that have completed their isolation period and have been free of symptoms for more than 72 hours.

2 DEATHS

San Luis Valley "Acequia Initiative" projects receive national funding

LAKEWOOD— Colorado Open Lands announced today that its Acequia Initiative Phase II has been awarded \$1,948,052 in funding from the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The money will advance the permanent conservation of privately owned farm and ranchland along the Rio Culebra River in Costilla County, as well as providing targeted Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds specifically allotted for use acequia irrigators. This is in addition to \$1,722,000 that NRCS awarded to Colorado Open Lands (COL) in Phase I of the project. When combined with other government and private funding sources, this represents nearly \$9 million dollars raised for conservation in Costilla County by COL.

The NRCS Award came though the agency's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). RCPP is a partnership approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. In this funding round, NRCS is invest-

ing \$206 million in 48 partner-driven conservation projects across 29 states through its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Partners are making nearly \$300 million in contributions. "I'm excited to announce the first RCPP awards under the 2018 Farm Bill," said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. "Through collaboration and aligning our resources toward a common goal, we're making an impact for natural resource conservation that could never have been realized on our own."

The project received attention from state-wide funders as well. In 2017 and 2018, Great Outdoors Colorado contributed \$1.2 million through its Open Space Initiative. Other funding for the project was contributed from the Gates Family Foundation, LOR Foundation, and the Trinchera Blanca Foundation.

The Acequia Initiative aims to strategically protect private land irrigated by acequias - shared irrigation canals and ditches - along the Culebra watershed. The acequias often represent

the oldest water rights in Colorado, and their protection is critical to preserving our heritage and way of life in the San Luis Valley. Communal water use is critical in the area - without these historic water-sharing agreements, the region's agricultural way of life would not be possible. Many acequia properties have been in the same families since the mid-1800s, and the acequias form the agricultural, social, and ecological foundation of the communities. In Phase II of the Initiative, Colorado Open Lands is able to expand the Initiative to include more landowners, conserving even more land and water rights.

COL President Tony Caligiuri added, "This is a community-led project. Colorado Open Lands is proud to be a facilitator, convener, and fundraiser for this community, which represents everything that makes Colorado special - a rich agricultural heritage, incredible scenic value, and people who place great value on preserving their land and water."

See FUND page 3

Parks & Recreation availability

ALAMOSA— Recreational facilities and amenities in the City of Alamosa that are currently available to use, and those that are closed as of Thursday, April 16, 2020:

Table with 2 columns: Open, Closed. Lists various recreational facilities like Dog Parks, Golf Course, Open Spaces, Parks, Trails, etc.

Please continue to practice social distancing, abide by amenity-specific restrictions, and follow handwashing and mask-wearing recommendations when you are using City trails and parks. Thank you for your patience and Happy Recreating from your Alamosa Parks and Recreation Staff. For more information, visit www.alamosarec.org or www.cityofalamosa.org/covid19/.

Rio Grande Savings & Loan Association logo and address information.

Improve your piece of the SLV for 2020! Apply for a Rio Grande home improvement loan! NMLS# 421822



Record

OBITUARIES

Joan Veronica "Ronnie" Duran Hales



ORTIZ—Joan Veronica "Ronnie" Duran Hales passed away on April 9th, 2020 at her home with her husband Mike Hales of Ogden Utah and her bestest friend in the whole wide world Chloe at her side. Ronnie passed away at the age of 65 after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

Ronnie was born to parents Gertrude Cordova and Geronimo (Jerry) Duran in a small town in Southern Colorado, Ortiz, on April 22, 1954. Ronnie was raised in California, Utah and Idaho. Ronnie is survived by Mike Hales (husband); her father, Geronimo (Jerry) Duran (Ofelia) UT; her stepfather, Albert Cordova; her children: Anita Miller CA; Kathie Hernandez, TX; and and Joey Duran (Stephanie), CA.

Ronnie had 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; her siblings, Rose Vanderpool (Ron) CO; Joey Sanchez (Danita) CO; Dolores Atencio (Paul) CO; Racael Gonzales (Wally) CO.

Ronnie was preceded in death by her sister, Anita Duran; her precious mother, Gertrude Cordova; her maternal grandparents, Antonio

as you would like to be treated. Some precious moments recalled by Ronnie's siblings were summer camping trips, pinon picking, meal sharing and cooking. In the last year of Ronnie's life, her heart cried for everyone; "Don't take anything for granted. Life is too precious, and it is so beautiful." Ronnie often verbalized her appreciation for her husband and siblings during her battle with cancer.

Ronnie referred to her siblings as her "Warrior soldiers" and she was the "warrior" going into battle. Ronnie proudly said that her family, many nieces and nephews and fur babies were the most wonderful thing in her life. Ronnie came to find the Genesis Church where she found much comfort, peace and excitement in her spiritual pursuit. Ronnie's last wish was to reunite with her children and to spend Easter with her grandchildren. One day, that day will come.

The celebration of life for Ronnie is being postponed to a later date and will be announced upon the completion of the COVID-19 stay at home orders.

Valdez and Esmiria Salazar Valdez; and paternal grandparents Celestino Duran and Rosemary Duran; her aunt, Genevieve Duran; and her uncles: Carlos Duran, Toribio Valdez, Albert Valdez, Richard Valdez, Raymond Valdez, Eugene Valdez, her "Jack Kitty"; and other family members within Conejos County.

Ronnie lived a full and wonderful life. Some of Ronnie's favorite hobbies were scrapbooking, landscaping, beadwork, interior decorating, riding the Harley, camping and being outdoors. Ronnie was a champion of animal rights/she believed that all pets should be treated

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.

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/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

SOUTH FORK — Kiwanis meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Feelin' Good Coffeehouse in South Fork. Contact: Karen Miller, 719-873-5466 or email mkmillermink@aol.com

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 slvphotosteph@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.

ALAMOSA — Open drop-in meditation for health, stress management and spiritual growth, is held at 10:45 a.m. the second Sunday of the month at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Hall, 607 Fourth St., Alamosa, with Mountain Institute, A Kriya, Meditation & Lamp-lighting School. Contact Martin at 575-758-5876 or talentolocal@live.com

ALAMOSA — Youngsters are invited to the Alamosa Public Library Story Room every Friday morning to sing, color, dance, read, enjoy adventures, share with friends and giggle. Babies and toddlers are welcome at 9:30 a.m. and preschoolers at 11 a.m.

ALAMOSA — Free breastfeeding classes are offered in Alamosa at the San Luis Valley Health Education and Conference Center on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 3-4 p.m.

MONTE VISTA — Valley Fiber Art Guild — VFA is a group for anyone interested in fiber arts: knitting, crocheting, weaving and spinning. We work on our individual projects, sometimes do projects together and learn from each other. We meet the fourth Saturday of every month from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 757 County Rd. 29, Monte

BIRTHS

Blakely Beau Canty

SANFORD — Blakely Beau Canty was born April 1, 2020, at the San Luis Valley Health Center of Alamosa to Jerree and Mitch Canty.

Blakely weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 and one half inches long. Blakely's siblings are Baylon, Dax

and Knoxley. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Terri Booth of Alamosa. Paternal grandparents are Mike and Jenny Canty of Sanford. Great grandparents are Norene Smith, John and Janeen Canty, and Jesse and Lorna Booth.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

A.A. members' primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Following are District 3 San Luis Valley AA 12-Step Meetings. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083.

SUNDAY
5:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Center at 3rd and Edison, Alamosa
7 p.m. Town Hall at 108 W Galena Ave., Crestone

MONDAY
12 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Hall at 607 4th St., Alamosa
5 p.m. Women's Meeting at Masonic Hall, 598 Spruce St., Del Norte

7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede
7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara.

TUESDAY
12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa
8 p.m. Mountain

View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

WEDNESDAY
12 p.m. First United Methodist Church at 2005 Mullens, Alamosa
6 p.m. Senior Citizen's Building at 710 Main St., Antonito

6 p.m. Amistad of San Luis at 403 Main St., San Luis
7:15 p.m. RV Park in Blanca
7:30 p.m. Masonic Hall at 598 Spruce, Del Norte.
8 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 607 4th St., Alamosa.

THURSDAY
12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa
12 p.m. Crestone Baptist Church, County Rd. T, Crestone
7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede

7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara.
7:30 p.m. Ables/Disables, Baptist Church at 751 Lincoln St., Monte Vista

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

SATURDAY
5:30 p.m. at 929 State Ave., Alamosa

6 p.m. Senior Citizen's Building at 710 Main St., Antonito.

8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

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

AL-ANON

TUESDAY

8 p.m. 15 Country Club Dr. Monte Vista

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p.m. SLV Behavior Health Group at 8745 CR 9S., Alamosa

THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. First Christian Church at 518 1st St., Alamosa

7 p.m. Crestone Town Hall, downtown Crestone (second and fourth Thursdays)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NarcAnon)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 607 4th St., Alamosa

7:30 p.m. Baca Grande Library at Road T, Crestone

THURSDAY

7 p.m. SDA Church at 313 Craft Drive,

School Menu
Monday
April 20, 2020

NO SCHOOL



COVID-19

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Chris A. of Alamosa is the winner of the home buying quiz!

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Valley News

Artists of the SLV

BY MEG COLWELL
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — This week's artist, Gergana Yordanova, hails from the southern-Bulgarian town: Haskovo. "My friends, in my country, call me Geri," she shares.

Working primarily with Italian acrylic paints, for the past ten years, Yordanova creates fantastical imagery reminiscent of the 20th CE. Her dreamy, bold color palettes clash beautifully with her fragmented subjects/landscapes.

Her first meaningful engagement with the arts came in 1992. Yordanova's mother used to coordinate Peace Corps volunteers in Bulgaria. In that year, one such volunteer took an interest in Yordanova's painting -- eventually asking her to paint a mural in his own home.

Yordanova has been painting ever since. "I graduated from the faculty of Fine Arts in 2003; at Bulgaria's University of Turnovo -- 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius,'" and went on to participate in many exhibitions and commissions -- both overseas and in the States.

"Before coming to the USA, I was a full-time artist and had been part of different art projects -- including: painting murals in Bulgarian Orthodox chapels, opening independent exhibitions and participating in common ones," Yordanova says.

"I have painted more than 100 paintings and almost each found its

honorable place in private collections in Bulgaria, Hungary, Belgium, Spain, the USA and beyond."

Some of her previous projects include:

- 2006/2007 -- actively took part in painting the murals of "St. Spas" chapel; situated in the Eastern Rhodopi mountain, Bulgaria.

- 2006/2007 - took part in painting the murals of Assumption of Mary Temple; in the village of Vladislavtsi, Sofia, Bulgaria.

- 2010 - took part in the last stage of Restoration of the artistic decoration of Yablanski House -- Sofia, Bulgaria (nominated as the building of the year /2011 in the category Monuments of Culture).

"The respect for history is the basic challenge for architecture, which was met with dignity in the project of the restored 'House of Yablanski.' We turned it into a building with public functions, as The Residence Exclusive Club. This was highly appreciated by the jury, which gave it the Monuments of Culture category prize."

- 2011 - took part in the painting the murals of St. Trinity chapel; situated in the Eastern Rhodopi mountain, Bulgaria.

Yordanova has also taken part in several independent gallery exhibitions at home and here in the Valley. In fact, after proudly having her immigration status approved, Yordanova



"Crane," 24"x14", 2018; acrylic on canvas.

has been permitted to participate in many local projects.

These include Monte Vista's "Swoop of the Cranes" project; as well as, an independent exhibition at Crestone's Shumei International Japanese Institute.

Until recently, Yordanova was working on a variety of things; like creating CD cover-art for the "first Bulgarian, ethno, ambient group: OM Art Formation." Unfortunately, COVID-19 has forced her to focus only on current projects and pause planning new ones.

Yordanova's heart is not only evident in her artwork, but also in her service work. "From the moment I had a legal right to work in this country, I started two part-time jobs -- not only to support myself, but to support the community,



"Madonna," 24"x18", 2006; acrylic on canvas.

too."

After befriending Rainbow's End staff, here in Alamosa -- and obtaining her work permit -- Yordanova was hired on to local non-profit, La Puente's, team; working to combat poverty and homelessness in the San Luis Valley. She works in their Hunt Avenue Boutique off and on.

I asked Yordanova why she makes art and what advice she would give aspiring artists. She replied, "I am tempted, here, to quote another favorite Latin saying. My precious mother -- being an English, Latin and Ancient Greek teacher -- taught me this:

"ARS LONGA, VITA BREVIS; Art lives forever, life is short!"

To explore more of Yordanova's art, please visit her website: <https://gergana-yordanova.wixsite.com/ger-yordi-art>.

Her work is also currently being shown in these Valley galleries: · Firedworks gallery; Alamosa, CO



"After the rain," 20"x20", 2010; acrylic on canvas.

· Rare things gallery Vista, CO
· Creede, CO
· FaemMoonWolfDe- signs gallery; Monte Vista, CO
· Elephant cloud station; Crestone, CO

3 ways to respond to the Census

Online -- my2020census.gov
If you received an invitation with an ID number, great, use it.
If you don't have an ID number, that's fine. Just follow the instructions to enter your address.

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

Mail -- If you do not respond online or by phone, you may receive a paper questionnaire. Paper questionnaires will be mailed in early April.

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2020census.gov

Celebration circumstances

SAN LUIS VALLEY -- Governor Jared Polis issued a stay-at-home order for the welfare of Coloradans that was set to expire on April 11th. Early last week that timeline was extended to April 26th. Due to Coronavirus, many have graciously forgone their own celebrations and gatherings for the good of their friends and neighbors. Unfortunately, there are those that can't socially distance, however.

First responders all over the state have been shown a wealth of appreciation for all they do during this global crisis. But as a community, it's not just businesses and people recognizing those first responders but also the first responders taking time out for people that shows how despite being apart our communities are just as close as ever.

Mariah Villagomez was unable to celebrate her oldest child's 10th birthday as originally planned. "We still wanted to make it memorable for Romeo since you only turn the double digits once. His father and I thought endlessly of different ideas how to surprise him with his 10th birthday wish (a phone)," Said Villagomez. "That's when I contacted Center Police Chief Dale Meeks." When she told him the idea, he was thrilled to be a part of making Romeos birthday one to remember. Fellow family members were also contacted to

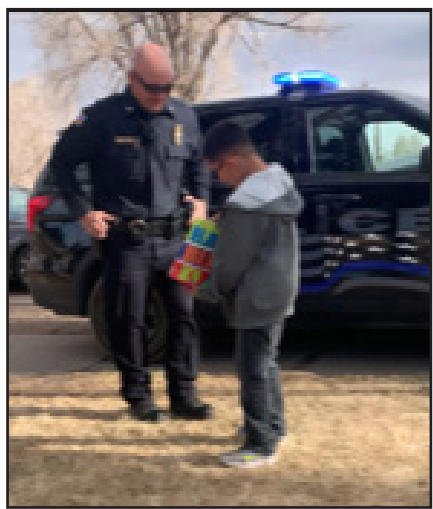


Photo courtesy of Mariah Villagomez
Center Chief of Police Dale Meeks presents Romeo Villagomez his tenth birthday gift.

join the procession since they were not able to attend the previously planned party.

"The excitement/confusion on our son's face along with his siblings and cousins was priceless," she continued. They thought they were going outside to take birthday pictures, but After Chief Meeks exited the vehicle, he called Romeo forward to receive his gift.

Romeo was then given a tour of the police car and allowed to turn on the sirens and lights. "When you have a Chief who does memorable things like this for your



Photo courtesy of Barbara Kruse
A sign encourages passersby to honk in recognition of Noelle's 7th birthday.

child, it makes you realize the amazing things he has planned for our small town of Center. Thank you, Chief Meeks and the fellow officers who wish they could've been there but had to keep our town safe! From the Villagomez Family."

Of course, those in uniform are busy looking after our cities and can't make every quarantined birthday special, so the next time you see a sign or receive an invite don't be afraid to go a little out of your way and make a little noise.

Fund

Continued from Page 1

The land included in this conservation initiative also features several miles of Culebra Creek, providing important habitat to several sensitive species including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. The properties lie at a narrow point in the Culebra floodplain, funneling wildlife onto the lands.

This Initiative is a grassroots conservation effort built from the community's interest and determination

to preserve their historical agricultural heritage and is a direct result of the relationships developed since COL began working in Costilla County a decade ago, and the investments that key partners have provided. The success of this project combined with the long-term investment in this landscape will provide security and sustainability to the acequia community, so that they continue to support agricultural production and ecological services, to the benefit of all Coloradans.

COVID

Continued from Page 1

They have suspended non-essential work that requires them to enter private homes and businesses. In some emergency cases, they may need to enter. If this is necessary, they will take some important precautions. They will

not shake your hand, and they will maintain at least 6 feet of distance from you. They may wear personal protective gear like gloves, coveralls, or safety goggles; and they may come equipped with disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer. If anyone in your home is sick, that

person may be asked to stay in a separate part of the house while work is being completed.

Public health and our partners continue to monitor our situation and plan for next steps. We will not be issuing any updates over the weekend.

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Opinion

God Bless America ...

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

The Comedy Store on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood remained closed for the thirtieth day Sunday, however the club has me performing an online topical comedy monologue each night on YouTube. It's funny, I told a corona virus joke in Feb. and nobody got it. Now everyone's got it.

Staples in Hollywood is giving away the store stock of 2020 planning calendars since planning for this year is out the window. What few people knew ahead of time is that 2020 is a unique Leap Year. It has 29 days in Feb., 300 days in March, and five years in April.

The White House produced charts Thursday showing that most of the U.S. is enjoying a decline in the number of cases, indicating the danger has crested. Scientists say warm air and natural light will help stop the spread of corona virus. If natural light is not available, any cheap beer will do.

Psychology Today predicted it will take people time to adjust to life after quarantine following a month of living in lockdown. I spend all day at home, I waste hours online, I binge-watch TV and I have my food delivered. Yes, the virus sickened a lot of people but it turned me into a Millennial.

The Commerce Department reports that despite the millions of layoffs in many sectors during the shutdown, many companies need workers due to new demand. When you were a child, did you ever knock on people's front doors then run away before they could answer? If so, UPS is hiring.

President Trump addressed the White House press corps Thursday and unveiled a three-point program to jump-start the American economy just as safely and as quickly as possible. It looks like stuff is going to slowly re-open area-by-area. The Kardashians are starting with above-the-waist.

Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti, decreed last week that everybody in the city must be wearing face coverings whenever they go outside in L.A. This is definitely a brand-new experience for me. Never in my life did I imagine someday I'd go up to a bank teller with a mask on and ask for money.

L.A. grocery stores are limiting the number of customers, creating long lines of untested people in the stores and in line outside to get in. Grocery shopping in West Hollywood has become a real-life version of playing Pac-Man. You avoid everyone, get the fruit and take any route to avoid contact.

President Trump's announced plan for America's return to business Thursday provided hope for those who are zoned-out from a month of quarantine. The experience of home confinement has taught Millennials here in Los Angeles a valuable life lesson. You don't need fun to have alcohol.

China faced condemnation Friday when it became clear they didn't seal off Wuhan from the world as well as from China in January. It's a question of who you believe. The next day China got the media back on their side after revealing the virus was caused by two bats wearing MAGA hats.

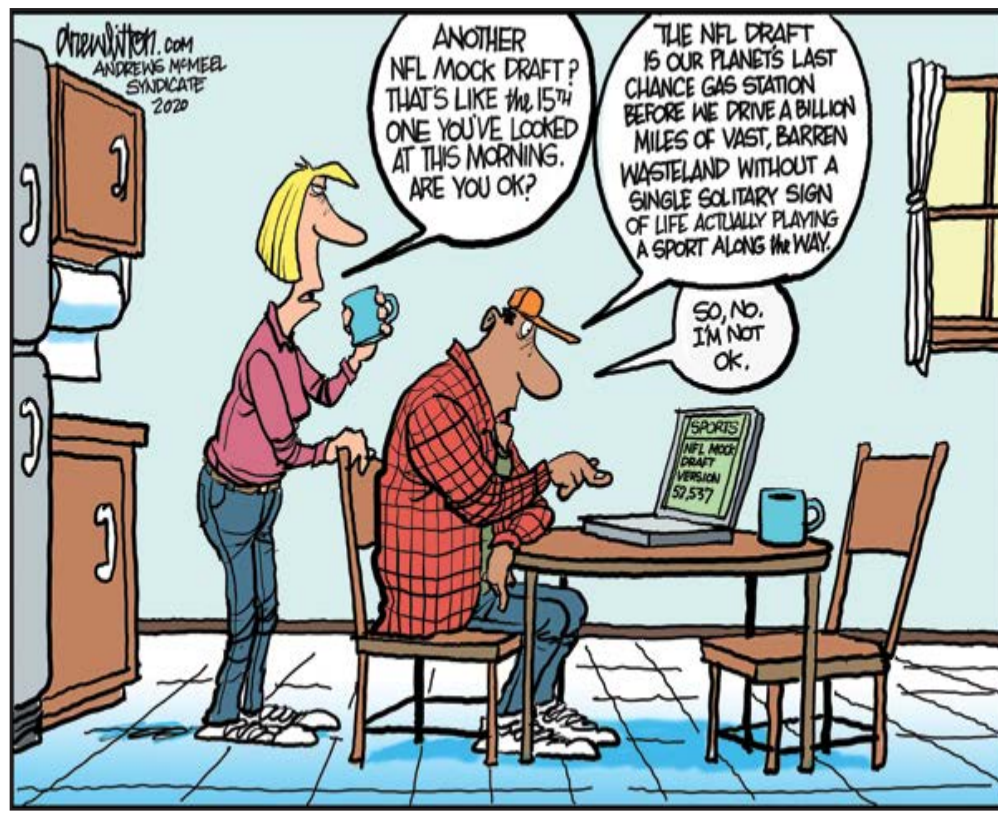
Nancy Pelosi appeared live on CBS Late Night in her San Francisco home Wednesday. She showed off her thirty-thousand-dollar refrigerator. The cardboard box alone provides housing for four just outside her security gate, including a huge bathroom on the luxurious winding sidewalk.

Joe Biden popped up in an interview on MSNBC Wednesday and leveled general charges of irresponsibility against the president. It was nice to see him. Ever since the sexual misconduct charges were leveled against him Sunday, Joe Biden has been harder to find than cheap toilet paper.

The London Daily Mail reports that a bus driver in Switzerland was arrested Wednesday for lewd conduct while on the job. He had begun masturbating behind the wheel while driving a bus load of horrified passenger across town. Don't you hate it when bus drivers pull out without warning? Argus Hamilton is the host comed-



Argus Hamilton



To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com
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."

The DA's Corner

I take this opportunity to introduce you to my office and what we do in the San Luis Valley. Our job is to prosecute criminal offenses in the name of the citizens of the State of Colorado. I am the people's lawyer.



Robert Willet, District Attorney

The difference between what we do and what a private attorney does is that we try to hold people accountable for violating the criminal statutes, which means the written laws, of the state.

Our job begins after law enforcement makes an arrest or refers a case to our office for what they believe to have been a criminal offense. This means they suspect someone has violated a criminal

law; for example, a theft, or an assault. At that time our involvement is triggered.

We need to make decisions on how to handle the case and what charges to file with the court, or possibly refer the case for other disposition, like diversion. If someone is convicted of violating the criminal laws, they can be punished by penalties ranging from probation, fines, or even going to jail. Because of this, we are required to be able to prove a case, to either a jury or a judge, "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Right now, let's just say this is a high degree of proof. Our job is to always do the right thing. Not the popular thing, and not the easy thing.

Getting by with a little help from my friends

Friends are the rocks of our lives and provide the comforting thoughts we need to thrive. Sometimes our families are also our friends -- friends become family, as well.

During these COVID-19 times when we are quarantined at home, friends have done so much for all of us. Susan ordered toilet paper for me that should last me months. A few weeks ago, when the toilet paper apocalypse hit us, the shelves were stripped of all varieties of lavatory clean-ups including facial tissues. I shopped by phone, by internet, and on a store scooter; but there were no wipes to be bought.

Thankfully, Susan heard my 8 p.m. howl from my back deck and had some on the way to me from Maryland.

Gayla brings me supper occasionally and I've enjoyed her chili, spaghetti, and beans with cornbread dinners. Barbara calls me from her home, and we talk about our strategies for being cooped up and how our household cats are faring. Edna calls daily or I call her. I ask about her livestock and pets. We like Facetiming and it's always fun to see her eyes smile. Greg and his sons have unloaded my car more than once and positioned my Waste Management bin for pickup. He's also said he will rake my yard and has gotten lights on in the back. Nicole ran an errand for me. Andrea comes to check my medications and vitals. Laura made a grocery run for me for yogurt and Zyrtec and she calls for long talks too.

My son calls me regularly and we talk about God, movies, new episodes of Project Blue Book or Vikings and I tell him about The Incredible Dr. Pol, again. Karli rings from Monument and we exchange thoughts about the new world and broken souls and online instruction and drawbacks. Lisa pulls cat food bags from her truck; then joins

me for a soft drink with lots of scientific discourse about worms, bacteria and local wildlife.

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss

When I open my front door to let the day in, I wave at the children riding their scooters and bikes. Sometimes they call: "Hi neighbor!" I like to sit on my front porch and hear sounds of animated kids, swooping birds and whooshing cars. Life is going on and I'm thankful for that.

I'm thankful for all these friends and family and am also thankful for Safeway's team who scan my groceries, load them into my car and help others as well. They assist all of us with our daily lives. Driving through DQ is a high point these days. Rio Grande Hospital Clinic Pharmacy extended appendage is at the ready with necessary refills and in turn, I'm thankful.

I'm thankful for the internet that my sisters provide and shows I stream: Murder She Wrote, CBS This Morning, Shetland, Hunters, Emergence, and Manifest. With that early morning coffee, I read the Valley Courier and appreciate all news reporters. I'm so glad we have wonderful animal shelters which are no-kill non-profit operations. I'm so glad that SLV Cats Alive is making headway with their Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program. (By the way, they need donations.) Friends on Facebook (like Chris, Therese, Cleta, Julie, Susan, Genevieve, Danny, Carla), loosen the stress and bring laughter, and strategies to drive the day. I'm grateful for Carla's funny posts, and for veterinarian Warren Deal's care for our animals.

As one of many Valley Courier columnists, I am glad to have readers contact me at columnsbynellie@gmail.com to share ideas and perceptions. Sometimes I'm remembered in line as

Valley Stuff

It's kind of hard to say all is good in the neighborhood ... because it certainly is strange right now. I am almost used to wearing a mask — but I hate it! We try and be careful. But I also believe the germs for this damn virus are everywhere, and sooner or later we will all get it. Hopefully, if I get it, I survive, and those of you who already donated to Peyton's Swing Project won't have to donate at my funeral. I don't have a tally of how much we have raised yet, but it is getting up there. I will try and get that figured out for next week.

Meanwhile, Peyton's birthday is today (Saturday).

Ruthie Brown Valley Gardening

He is turning 14. This shelter at home thing has been pretty hard on him because he loves people. He loves socializing. Even as his speech has become harder to understand, it doesn't hold him back from voicing an opinion. It just takes longer. His heart and soul are pure gold!

This afternoon, at around 3:30 p.m. a huge bunch of us are meeting up on the 12 S and County Road 104 to do a honking parade by Peyton's house. I know of motorcycles -- firetrucks, I hope -- maybe a semi or two, asking for some tractors and you; to help make this a special birthday for Peyton.

It won't take long and all you have to do is honk and wave. Pretty simple, like really simple! Let's all show this wonderful young man some love!

The turnaround spot will be at the Farm Brewery. If you feel like showing them some love in this economic downturn, growlers and more will be available to go.

Practice social distancing and be patient. What a great idea! I hope to see all of you!

Meanwhile ... it is time to plant onions. And many folks are getting their potatoes in the ground. I find that gardening is always a gamble, so planting early gives you time to have everything freeze, or get wind-whipped and you can plant again. Every time I see a snowstorm up in the Denver area I sure am jealous.

Wouldn't it be great to wake up to 12" of snow on everything? We are now in a severe drought in the SLV, so pay attention to your watering. It actually is kind of nice to see lawns just now greening up. It means that everyone has been too busy to get the watering started, and that is good.

Grass is very resilient. I did see a local public area being watered three days in a row and I had to wonder what that was about. Sometimes we are expected to cut back on our watering but government buildings don't have to.

Peas are getting planted all over the Valley. Peas love it when it is cold. Might wait another week or two and then get your cabbages, broccoli and cauliflower planted.

I will be working on phase two of my flag project, during the next few weeks.

In the second circle downturn ... by Papers of Distinction, I will be putting in the Colorado flag; and also flags for all our wonderful first responders. If you would like to help me purchase the flag poles, solar lights and flags, please let me know. It's going to be awesome.

A huge shout-out to those folks with Meals on Wheels! When it turned out that Maria and Leo will not be able to move until this damn Virus has settled down, we got them signed up for this program. They have meals delivered to the Green Spot; where I have a clean, sanitized table ready for them to eat.

If you have someone you are worried about, you might want to check into this program. As your budget allows, please try and shop locally — if you can. Check with a store to see if they can do curbside.

Maybe you can make an appointment to meet up to purchase a gift certificate. We need to keep our stores open! When all of this is over, tear up your Amazon card and get back to basics!

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Valley Courier

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First Place, Best Photo Essay	Helen Smith	Staff Writer	Vernon Trujillo	Production/Press Foreman
First Place, Best Photo Portfolio	Debbie Sowards	Advertising Manager	Ryker Alonzo	Editorial Assistant
Second Place, Best News Photo	Morgan Neely	Sales Associate	Richard R. Quintana	Mailroom Supervisor
Second Place, Best photo Essay	Shasta Quintana	Circulation		

Your FIRST Source for Local News

Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Lifestyle

MADD joins the Colorado State Patrol

DENVER — Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Colorado will join the Colorado State Patrol, Uber, and Bachus & Schanker in reaching out to the public from April 17th through April 20th to remind everyone to do their part to keep our roads and communities safe — including staying at home to reduce the risk of cannabis-impaired crashes and to avoid the spread of COVID-19 as part of the #DoingMyPartCO campaign.

April 20th is seen as an unofficial cannabis holiday. Driving while high on cannabis is impaired driving and can result in a DUI. MADD and its traffic safety partners have teamed up to remind everyone of this simple message: If you're celebrating 420 this weekend, please be safe and stay at home. The goal is to have zero DUI arrests, zero DUI crashes, and zero COVID-19 community spread. If we all do our part, together, we can keep our Colorado roads and communities safe.

The Colorado State Patrol is specially trained to detect cannabis impairment, and troopers will be out in full force this weekend to raise awareness, educate drivers, and enforce the laws. While a statewide stay-at-home order is in effect in Colorado, the Colorado State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies continue to make DUI arrests.

Colonel Matt Packard, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, has a simple message ahead of 420: "There is no excuse for there to be a single crash caused by someone driving under the influence. Do your part by staying home and consuming responsibly." You can view his full video message here.

"MADD is honored to partner with the Colorado State Patrol, and I'm thankful for all the brave men and women who work to keep our roads safe every day," said MADD Colorado Executive Director Fran Lanzer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the main active ingredient in cannabis, delta-9-THC, affects areas of the brain that control your body's movements, balance, coordination, memory and judgment — skills needed to drive safely.

"Marijuana does not make you a better driver. In fact,



it can slow reaction time, interfere with your ability to make decisions, distort perception and make it harder to solve problems." Helen Witty, MADD National President said.

Ed and Denise Hill of Colorado know the impact of drugged driving all too well. Their daughter, Amanda, was hit head-on by a driver high on marijuana. Amanda lost her life due to the injuries she sustained. She was 24 years old.

Ahead of 420, the Hills participated in a national discussion with MADD about 420 and marijuana-impaired driving, which can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/izSZju8IFkw>.

This is the fourth year that Uber has partnered with MADD Colorado and the Colorado State Patrol to raise awareness ahead of 420. "While we're asking everyone to stay home if they can right now, it's still as important as ever that people are empowered to make smart and safe choices," Grant Klinzman, Safety Communications Manager at Uber said. "With Uber's technology, you can avoid impaired driving with the push of a button." Uber is also a national corporate partner of MADD and the official app of the designated driver.

The Law Firm of Bachus & Schanker joins MADD Colorado in asking everyone do their part to save lives on our roads and in our communities. This weekend and throughout the year, MADD Colorado is proud to partner with the firm as the official Statewide Sponsor to save lives and serve victims in Colorado.

Native Roots will also be joining in the campaign to promote safety messaging to their customers during the 420 weekend.

According to Canadian researchers who studied 25 years of data on fatal crashes in the U.S., the risk of being in a fatal crash is 12 percent higher from 4:20 p.m. to midnight on April 20 compared to the same time one week earlier. For drivers younger than 21, the risk is 38 percent

higher. The findings were published two years ago in a research letter in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine.

The takeaway of this year's 420 campaign is perfectly summed up by the Hills: "We urge everyone to make wise choices and plan ahead. The life you save may be your own — or a loved one's."



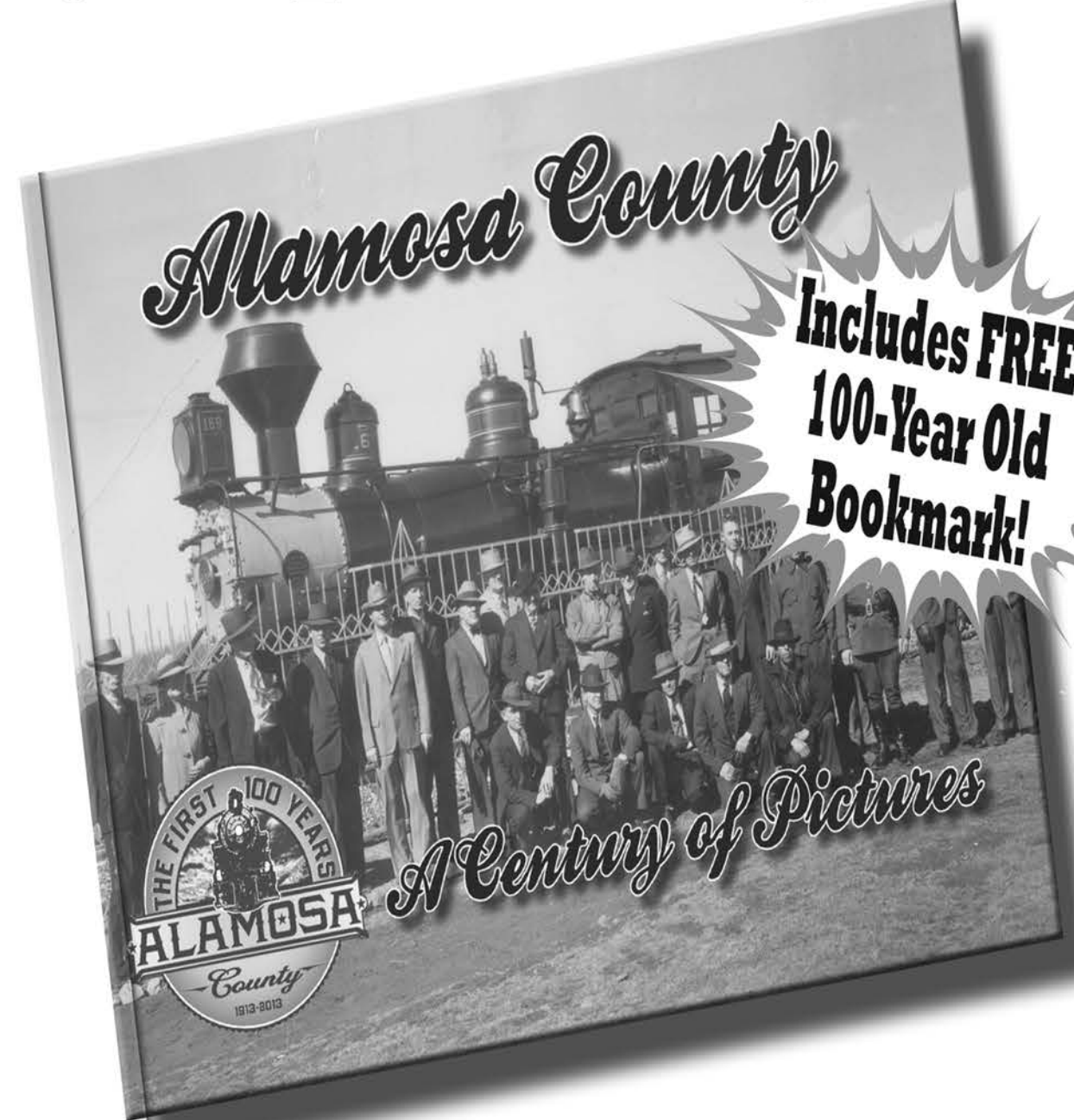
Valley-Wide Welcomes
Catherine Wilson, FNP, APRN
to
Convenient Care Community Clinic
1131 Main Street, Alamosa

Catherine "Cece" pursued her graduate education at Walden University in Minneapolis. She strives to be caring and supportive to her patients and community. Her desire is to help people be the best they can be. In her free time, CeCe enjoys hiking with her dog, cooking, and watching a good movie!

Walk-Ins available every day at our Convenient Care Clinic!
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Tipton demands immediate explanation from Polis on funding rumors

WASHINGTON— Today, Congressman Scott Tipton (CO-03) demanded an immediate explanation from Colorado Governor Jared Polis on rumors that he will use the entirety of federal aid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to balance the state's budget rather than distribute the funds to the smaller county, tribal and municipal governments for which they are intended. The letter reads, in part:

"I am writing to seek more information on how the state of Colorado will allocate the approximately \$1.7 billion it will receive under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to county and local governments. Rumors that you plan to use the entirety of the federal aid to balance the state's budget, and neglect to distribute the funds to smaller county, tribal and municipal governments for which they are intended, are deeply troubling.

"In response to the extreme toll the pandemic response is having on state, county, and city governments across the country, Congress passed and the President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and

Economic Security (CARES) Act, which established a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for states, tribes and local governments with 500,000 or more residents. Counties across Colorado, but especially those in the Third Congressional District, which do not meet the 500,000 resident threshold to directly apply for federal funding, are relying on the state of Colorado's portion of federal funds to help make-up for devastating budget shortfalls.

"I am extremely concerned about information I have received that indicates your office plans to use all of Colorado's CARES Act funds to balance the state's budget, rather than allocate a portion of the funds to county and local governments to help offset their revenue losses and unforeseen expenses related to the pandemic. This decision would be completely unacceptable, against Congressional intent for these funds, and I request an immediate response from you or your office on this matter."

The complete letter can be viewed at <https://tipton.house.gov/sites/tipton.house.gov/files/Tipton%20Letter%20to%20Polis%20CARES%20Funding%20FINAL.pdf>

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Public Notices

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging for Region 8 is accepting Request for Proposals (RFP) from both the public and private sectors representing both nonprofit and for profit entities interested in providing services to people age 60 and older for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Services include: Transportation, Nutrition Program - Home-Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals, In-Home Home-maker and Chore Services, National Family Caregiver Program. Other avenues of services to older adults will also be considered. Area Agency on Aging, Region 8 service area includes the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. RFP packets and instructions are available at South-Central Colorado Seniors, 1116 3rd Street, P.O. Box 639, Alamosa, CO 81101. Completed proposals are due to South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Administrative office, 1116 3rd Street, Alamosa, CO by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 30, 2017. For more information, please call Monica Wolfe, Director, 719-589-4511. No. 1386 Published in the Valley Courier on April 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 21, 2020.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Director's meeting of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors is April 21, 2020, and will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District offices are currently closed to the public because of preventive measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, therefore, this meeting will be held by Zoom teleconference only. The public may participate and listen in to the meeting by dialing in to the Zoom Webinar/teleconference. To join please call either number: 1-346-248-7799 or 1-669-900-6833, enter the Webinar Id: 884-7675-6312##, and wait for the meeting to begin. There is no charge for this call. This meeting is open to the public. No. 1403 Published in the Valley Courier on April 18, 2020.

The annual meeting of the Board of Managers for Special Improvement District No. 5 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is set for April 22, 2020 and will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District offices are currently closed to the public because of preventive measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, therefore, this meeting will be held by telephone only. The public may participate and listen in to the meeting by dialing in to the conference call number. The call-in number is 1-(866)-576-7975 and the participant code is 532217. There is no charge for this call. This meeting is open to the public. No. 1404 Published in the Valley Courier on April 18, 2020.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING On Ordinance No. 9-2020

NOTICE IS GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 9-2020, an ordinance approving the annexation of the Alamosa Riparian Park, located in a portion of Section 15, Township 37 North, Range 10 East, New Mexico Principal Meridian, Alamosa County, Colorado. This ordinance was accepted on first reading on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, and a Public Hearing thereon set for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. This hearing will be held in Alamosa Council Chambers, 300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado.

Further notice is given that any and all persons of interest may appear at said hearing and be heard in this matter, and that the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection and acquisition on the City's website and in the office of the City Clerk. Alamosa City Council Holly C. Martinez, City Clerk No. 1406 Published in the Valley Courier on April 18, 2020.

NOTICE OF PASSAGE Ordinance No. 10-2020

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at a regular meeting of the Alamosa City Council duly called, Council finally passed and adopted Ordinance No. 10-2020, an ordinance revising the provisions governing false reporting to mirror state code and include prohibitions on abuse of 911 emergency calls.

Further notice is hereby given that the full text thereof is available for public inspection and acquisition on the City's website and in the Office of the City Clerk. Alamosa City Council Holly C. Martinez, City Clerk No. 1407 Published in the Valley Courier on April 18, 2020.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING On Ordinance No. 11-2020

NOTICE IS GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Ordinance No. 11-2020, an ordinance approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Alamosa Marketing District and the City of Alamosa for acquisition and use of a mobile event stage.

This ordinance was accepted on first reading on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, and a Public Hearing thereon set for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. This hearing will be held in Alamosa Council Chambers, 300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado.

Further notice is given that any and all persons of interest may appear at said hearing and be heard in this matter, and that the full text of the ordinance is available for public inspection and acquisition on the City's website and in the office of the City Clerk. Alamosa City Council Holly C. Martinez, City Clerk No. 1408 Published in the Valley Courier on April 18, 2020.

163 LOST & FOUND

LOST A PAIR of men's black work boots on W. Hwy 160 on way to a fire call. 4/2 approx. 4:30pm west of Budweiser before Del Viento Road. If found please call 719-580-0398.(TFN)

221 HELP WANTED

SANGRE DE CRISTO School District is looking for highly motivated Middle School Science Teacher that has a desire to teach and the ability to pass their passion of learning onto students. For more information please contact Mr. Stagner at 719-378-2310 or bstagner@sangreschools.org. Teaching applications may be downloaded from sdc.schoolsdesk.net. Positions open until filled.(4/25)

SANGRE DE CRISTO School District is seeking a girls Middle School Basketball coach for the 2020/2021 season. For more information contact Brady Stagner at 719-378-2310 or bstagner@sangreschools.org. Applications are available at sdc.schoolsdesk.net.(4/25)

EXPERIENCED HAY AND grain farm hand needed. signing bonus plus wages. Call for more info. 719-588-0207(5/8)

221 HELP WANTED

TOWN OF DEL NORTE is hiring part-time- Code Enforcement Officer. Must be at least 21 years of age, have a valid Colorado driver license and be a credible witness in court and have no felony convictions. High school diploma or the equivalent. Position is on year to year basis depending on Town budget. Approx. 20 hours a work week. Patrols limits of the Town to detect and identify violators of municipal ordinances including vehicle owners, property owners and residents. Inform citizens of ordinance violations, issue written notices of violations, and issue written summon complaints to offenders. Knowledge of Town Codes and experience dealing with citizens under stressful situations are preferred. Works closely with Del Norte Police department. Send resume to Del Norte Police Department or job application available online at delnortecolorado.com and submitted to email address delnorte1860@outlook.com or mailed to Del Norte Police Department 525 Grand Avenue, Del Norte, Co 81132 or call 719-657-2600 EOE. (5/8)

NEED A SECOND IN-COME? child support? Car Repairs? Taxes Due? Earn up to \$800/month delivering the Valley Courier. Contact Keith at 589-2553. (2/26-TFN)

221 HELP WANTED

RIO GRANDE SAVINGS & Loan is seeking a Mortgage and Consumer Loan Officer to join our team in the Monte Vista office. The Loan Officer is responsible for promotion of RGSLA products and services, including, but not limited to home purchase loans, home refinances, consumer loans, and home construction loans. Qualified candidates will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, superior customer service skills, and the ability to work independently, as well as cooperatively in a team environment. Prior lending experience or other applicable experience is preferred, but not required. Salary commensurate with experience. RGSLA also offers a rich benefit program including a 401k match and a family health insurance plan, along with a stable and enriching work environment. For additional information please contact Denise Heersink @ 719-852-7048 or deniseh@rgsla.com. Applications available at www.rgsla.com/contact and can be submitted to kater@rgsla.com - deadline is April 27, 2020.(4/25)

THE SAN LUIS Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services has positions for a full time occupational therapist and physical therapist. Interested applicants should hold a valid Colorado Special Services License or be eligible for a Temporary Educator Eligibility (TEE). Application is available at the BOCES office or on-line www.slvbores.org. Process requires application, letter of interest, and three current letters of reference. Send completed application process to Nita McAuliffe, Director of Exceptional Student Services, SLV BOCES, 2261 Enterprise Drive, Alamosa, CO 81101. Application deadline is April 17, 2020 or until positions are filled.(4/22)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR-- HINSDALE County is seeking to hire a County Administrator. This position directs the day-to-day operations of Hinsdale County in accordance with policies and other direction provided by the Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners. Hinsdale County is located in southwestern Colorado and has 843 residents plus seasonal and second home owners. The annual budget expenditures (all funds) for 2020 is \$5,745,653. Hinsdale County employs 34 full time and 8 part time employees. County services include: Road and Bridge, Coroner, Building, Code Enforcement, Transfer Station, Sheriff, Health & Human Services, General Administration and other. For a full job description, please contact accounting@hinsdalecountycolorado.us or 970-944-2225 ext. 103 or check the County website at: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hinsdalecounty/human-resources-7. Applications are due May 1st at 4:00 p.m. MST.(5/9)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Fifth Grade Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. The person in this position will teach both Science and Language Arts. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, by April 20, 2020, or until the position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the district website or call 719-852-5996.(4/21)

221 HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Middle School Math Teacher. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, until the position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the district website http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html or call 719-852-5996.(4/28)

MONTE VISTA ESTATES Nursing Home is seeking a full time day shift RN to add to our amazing team! Shift is 6am-6:30 PM-Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (one week) Thursday, Friday Saturday (second week) rotating schedule. The open positions are essential roles in the overall care offered to our residents. Seeking a full time day shift CNA Seeking a full time evening shift (2-10) shift CNA. If you love working with the elderly and enjoy making a difference in the lives of our residents, please contact us. We look forward to having you join our team. (5/8)

JONES OIL COMPANY seeking route drivers. Need to have CDL Class A or B with hazmat and tanker endorsement. Clean MVR. Must be 21 or older. Call 719-754-2221 for application.(4/22)

221 HELP WANTED

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL District is now accepting applications for a .5 graphic design & photography teacher. Qualifications: Must hold a Colorado Teacher's License, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Please submit a District application, resume, cover letter, transcripts and credentials to apply@southconejos.com. Deadline 4/16/2020. (4/16)

THE SAN LUIS Care Center in Alamosa are currently taking applications for the following positions: Full Time night shift RN, PRN Nurses/all shifts, Full Time Nurse Staff Development Coordinator, PRN Cook, PRN Diet Aide, and PRN Hostess. Please apply in person at the San Luis Care Center, 240 Craft Drive in Alamosa or call 719-589-9081.(4/29)

SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL district is accepting applications for middle school girls volleyball coach. Applicants must be willing to meet all CHSAA guidelines. For more information, contact Mr. Lucero at mlucero@sierragrandeschool.net. Applications are available at Sierra Grande School district at 17523 Hwy 160, Blanca, Co 81123 or www.sierragrandeschool.net. Application deadline is open until filled. Sierra Grande is an equal opportunity employer.(5/8)

221 HELP WANTED

SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL district is accepting applications for Girls high school head basketball coach; applicants must be willing to meet all CHSAA guidelines. For more information, please see the school website for detailed information or contact Mr. Lucero at mlucero@sierragrandeschool.net. Applications available on website or at Sierra Grande School District at 17523 Hwy 160, Blanca, Co 81123 or www.sierragrandeschool.net. Application deadline is open until filled. Sierra Grande is an equal opportunity employer.(5/8)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Second Grade Teacher. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, by April 23, 2020, or until position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the district website http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html or call 719-852-5996.(4/28)

TORRES BUILDERS, LLC is now hiring skilled carpenters and laborers. Please email resumes to torresbuildersllc@outlook.com. Call Joe 719-580-5860 with TORRES BUILDERS LLC.(5/1)

221 HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for an Elementary Special Education Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, by April 20, 2020, or until the position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the district website or call 719-852-5996.(4/21)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a Secondary Spanish/PE Teacher. Applicants must have a current Colorado teaching license. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE & E.(5/5)

221 HELP WANTED

THE UPPER RIO GRANDE (previously Del Norte) School District is seeking applications for a Jr/Sr High School Principal for the 2020/2021 school year. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Principal license. Previous experience as a Principal or Asst. Principal is preferred. Applications may be obtained online at www.dncsd.org. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Chris Burr, Superintendent, cburr@urtigers.co, 719-657-4040.(5/9)

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Classifieds

221 HELP WANTED

SANFORD SCHOOL IS seeking a self-motivated special education paraprofessional willing to assist with multiple grade levels K-12 for the 20-21 school year. Duties include small group, one-on-one instruction, assist with lesson planning, and curriculum. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Position opened until filled. Sanford Schools is an EOE.(5/9)

SANGRE DE CRISTO School District is seeking a girls High School Basketball coach for the 2020 / 2021 season. For more information contact Brady Stagner at 719-378-2310 or bstagner@sangreschools.org. Applications are available at sdc.schoolsnet.net.(4/25)

324 - FEED & SEED

PREMIUM ALFALFA AND grass/alfalfa, small bales \$7.00 in hay shed (719) 580-2509.(5/14)

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351 LIVESTOCK

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360 - MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE 2-TONS of Wood Pellets. For Pellet Stove. \$400. Call 719-588-0996.(4/18)

RAMSEY 12 VOLT Pro 8000R Series #817508 wench 93 ft. 5/16 cable. Remote switch, roller fairlead. 719-852-2285 (10/22-TFN)

ZACH'S EUROPEAN MOUNTS. Professional work, low prices. 719-580-0398. (TFN)

369 - PETS & SUPPLIES

ALL DOGS ADOPTED FROM THE VALLEY HUMANE LEAGUE HAVE TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE GOING TO THEIR NEW HOME. (TFN)

OOPS! 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)

NEED CATS FOR mousers? Want to adopt kittens? Help trap/neuter/release efforts? Donate food/litter/supplies? Low cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. <http://www.catsaliveslv.com> 719-298-7028. (TFN)

FREE TO GOOD home. Adults and kittens. NO MOUSERS OR BARN CATS. Spay/neuter clinics coming to Alamosa in near future. Call Donna K 719-589-5952 or 719-580-9078. (TFN)

387 - WANTED TO BUY

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409 FARM & RANCH LAND

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601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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620 STORAGE UNITS

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Good name, for short

4 In the distance

8 Trawler's haul

12 Get more mellow

13 "Superman" reporter Lois

14 Secluded

15 Capone foe

16 Diet

17 Humerus neighbor

18 Road sign

20 Supple

22 Lost a lap?

23 Calendar abbr.

24 Famous wizard

28 Startled cries

31 It's really tacky

34 Long time

35 Hearty laugh

36 Per

37 "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" network

38 Creole veggie

39 Old-time slugger Mel —

40 "Anyone home?" (hyph.)

42 Left Bank pal

44 Target rival

48 Forceful

51 Barn loft

52 Home-products brand

53 Shout from the bridge

55 Ovid's hello

56 UPS trucks

57 Folk wisdom

58 Born

59 Princess Anna's sister

60 Provide temporarily

61 Sum up

DOWN

1 Marauds

2 Marsh stalker

3 Trattoria sauce

4 Mention casually

5 Just

6 Pantry pest

7 Get dizzy

8 Droop

9 "Mark Twain Tonight!" actor

10 Baxter or Bancroft

11 Honey

19 Enthusiasm

21 Scottish for John

25 City on the Truckee

26 Timber wolf

27 Length unit

29 Armed conflict

30 Mexican Mrs.

31 Earth, in combos

32 Mare's tidbit

33 Stop signs

35 Large

40 Female principle

41 Approved

43 Brainy club

45 Fridge maker

46 Roamed

47 Woolen fabric

48 Bat home

49 Plum shape

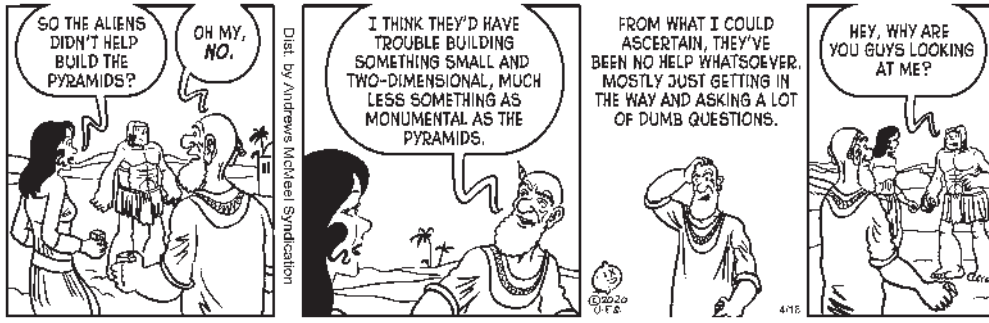
50 Like a skyscraper

51 Tuba or trumpet

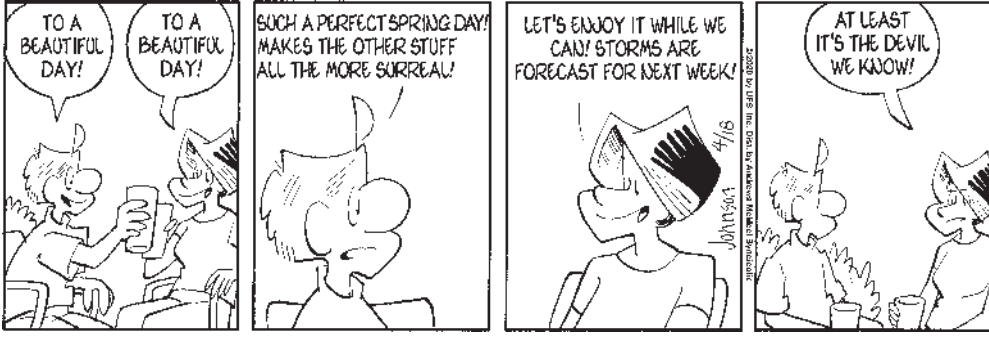
54 Shed tool



ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



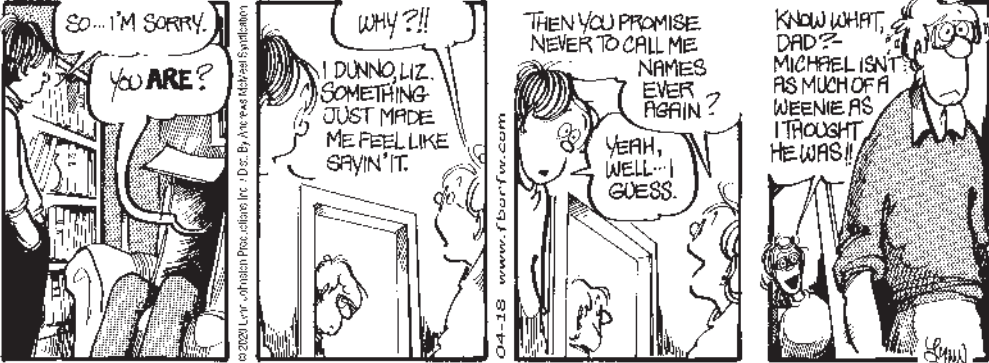
BIG NATE



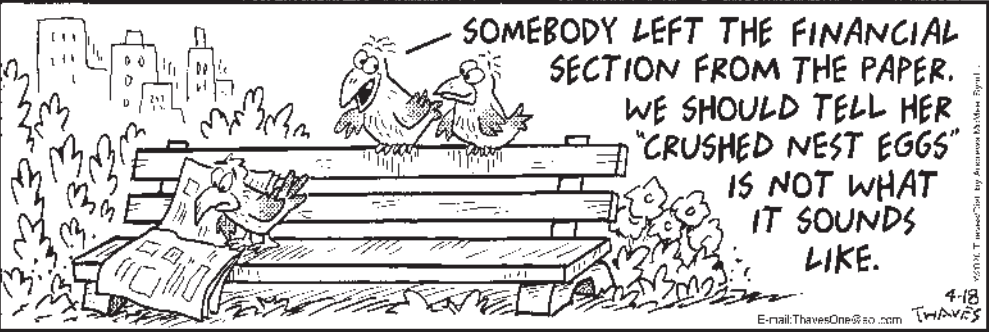
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



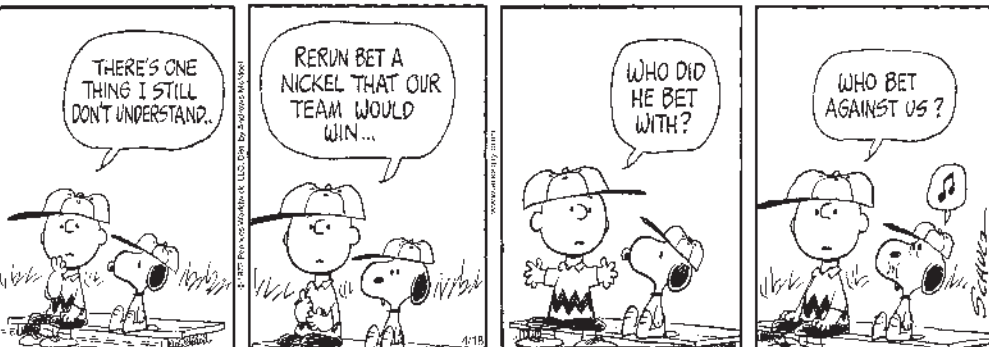
GARFIELD



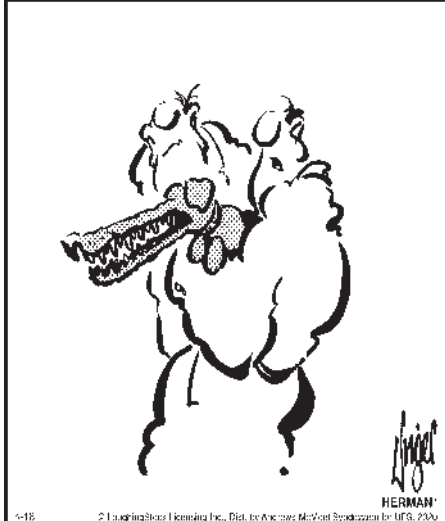
THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



HERMAN



"Of the smaller breeds, these are about the best guard dogs."

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 H C T C Z F Z K C L F S Y Z S T C B H N F E K H D
 F S J S W C S H C C X J C . K I B H F C L F S
 Y Z S T C J S W C F E K H D F S W N J C X R ."
 — M S O C O Z N B H F

TODAY'S CLUE: 4 8 2 6 2 8

Previous Solution: "If the Lord had meant us to pay income taxes, he'd have made us smart enough to prepare the return." — Kirk Kirkpatrick

College graduate seeks ways to boost english vocabulary

DEAR ABBY: I am a 26-year-old college graduate. I immigrated here in 2001, so English is my second language. I have no accent, and I have been doing well in my life overall, except I score low on reading and written communication when I take exams.

I'm intelligent and a quick learner, but my vocabulary is kind of limited, and it makes me feel stupid, especially when I don't score well on exams. I try to read, but I don't always have the time. Do you have ideas on how I can improve my vocabulary or do better on exams? -- SMART BUT FEELS STUPID

DEAR SMART: I know someone who, like you, immigrated to the United States in her early 20s after having spent her first 17 years in Russia. From there she went to Italy, where she learned to speak Italian. From there she came to the U.S.

When I asked her how she learned English, she told me it was by watching American television. If there was a word she didn't understand, she would look it up in a dictionary. Not only can this be fun, I have heard others say that's the way they learned English, too.

She also read books in English with a dictionary by her side. Audiobooks could

be helpful, too. An adult education class might help you not only improve your vocabulary, but also help you sharpen your written English skills. Please consider it.

DEAR ABBY: My 11-year-old niece sometimes calls my 7-year-old son fat, which hurts him to the core. He's very close with his cousins, and we get together a lot. I have talked to my sister on numerous occasions about it.

My son knows it's not OK to make fun of how others look, and he doesn't understand why she says these mean things to him. She's old enough to know better. I don't know how to get through to my sister that this behavior should be reprimanded when she doesn't seem to care. -- FED UP IN WISCONSIN

DEAR FED UP: Your sister's parenting skills appear to be questionable. Because she refuses to teach her daughter consideration for the feelings of others, or reprimand her when she's cruel and hurtful, see less of the two of them and spend more time with the other cousins.

DEAR ABBY: When I take my dog for a walk, I always carry little doggy bags and pick up his business. I live in a residential neighborhood with alleys



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

behind the houses. After my dog does his business, I pick it up and often throw the tied-up bag in a trash can along the alley. Is this rude? Is it illegal to put things in other people's trash cans? My dog may make several stops along our long walks, and I don't want to carry his waste with me the whole trip. -- CONSIDERATE IN COLORADO

DEAR CONSIDERATE: Whether it's illegal in your community is something you should check locally because there may be an ordinance that forbids it. While I can't speak for everyone, some of the homeowners those trash cans belong to would strenuously object to someone throwing dog doo-doo into them. That's why my advice is, "When in doubt -- DON'T."

Lifestyle

United Way of Pueblo County receives major contribution



Southern Colorado community foundation supports covid-19 relief

Southern Colorado Community Foundation has announced a \$25,000 donation to support COVID-19 relief efforts through the United Way of Pueblo County Emergency Response & Recovery Fund.

“Our gift is in response to the current crisis our community is experiencing, and we are committing these funds in partnership with United Way of Pueblo County,” said Southern Colorado Community Foundation Executive Director Jeff Osterman. “We hope this gift encourages those in the communities that we serve to also contribute to help the nonprofit community.”

“SCCF has been, and continues to be an important partner with United Way of Pueblo County,” stated United Way of Pueblo County President/CEO Shanna M. Farmer. “Together, we fight to be responsive to short and long-term needs as they arise resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that our friends, neighbors, co-workers and those we may not know are in need.

It is our hope to be able to not only fill short term gaps, but also support longer-term recovery efforts.”

The contribution bolsters the fund’s total to more than \$120,000. 100% donations received through the fund will directly support local Emergency Response and Recovery efforts. Majority of fund dollars are designated for nonprofit organizations serving Pueblo County. However, limited funds are available for nonprofit organizations across the Southern Colorado Community Foundation’s service area in Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. United Way of Pueblo County established the fund to address the community’s most pressing immediate and long-term needs in partnership with local nonprofit agencies. Applications are open to eligible nonprofit agencies. Guidelines and application can be found at www.pueblounitedway.org/errfapply.

Additional donations are sought to address ongoing needs associated with the pandemic. To donate, text PUEBLOSTRONG to 41444 or visit www.pueblounitedway.org/emergencyfund.



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From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you’re at home, your local newspaper is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

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- 3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.**
- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community’s needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa’s diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

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Lifestyle

Colorado Wildlife Habitat program 2020 Request For Proposals (RFP) now open

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to announce the 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP). The CWHP is a statewide program that supports CPW's mission by offering funding opportunities to private landowners who wish to voluntarily protect important wildlife habitats on their property, and/or provide wildlife-related recreational access to the public.

The CWHP is an incentive-based and voluntary program that uses conservation easements, public access easements, and in limited circumstances, fee title purchases to accomplish strategic wildlife conservation goals and/or public access goals. Priority is given to proposals for conservation easements and public access easements over fee title purchases (per CPW policy and Title 33-4-102.7 C.R.S.).

Funding for the 2020 cycle is approximately \$11 million and is made possible through a conservation partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and from revenue generated through the sale of habitat stamps.

To apply, a landowner, or his/her designee, must complete a project proposal form ("Proposal") that addresses one or more of the following Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission ("Commission") 2020 funding priorities:

Public access for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing
 Big game winter range and migration corridors
 Protecting habitat for species of concern (specifically those Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Statewide Action Plan)
 Riparian areas and wetlands
 Landscape-scale parcels and parcels that provide connectivity to conserved lands

All application materials will be available on or before Wednesday, April 15, 2019 through the following CPW webpage: <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/LandWaterCWHP.aspx>

Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Monday, May 18, 2019. Completed Proposals are to be emailed to:

Wildlife.RealEstateProposals@state.co.us

Applicants will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of Proposals.

It is not required that CPW hold conservation easements funded through the CWHP. A landowner may request a land trust, local government, or other conservation organization (collectively, "Third Party,") to submit a Proposal on his/her behalf. If the Proposal involves a conservation easement to be held by a Third Party, the entity must be qualified to hold conservation easements under federal and state law.

Additional Information

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recognizes that maintaining wildlife-compatible agriculture on the landscape is an important benefit that can be realized through appropriately crafted conservation easements and land management plans. All conservation easement projects funded through the CWHP will have an accompanying management plan that must be agreed upon by the landowner and CPW prior to the closing of the project. The management plan typically includes provisions for the type, timing, and duration of livestock grazing, recreational activities, and overall management of habitat to protect or enhance the property's conservation values identified in the conservation easement. Negotiating the terms and conditions of the management plan is a key step in the conservation easement process. Landowners are encouraged to develop a clear vision of the future of their property prior to submitting their Proposal. Proposals are scored and ranked through a rigorous review process to evaluate strategic conservation impacts, biological significance, public benefits, and project feasibility. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their local CPW Area Wildlife Manager or his/her designee for assistance describing the wildlife and habitat values accurately and to discuss the merits of their Proposal. Local CPW office contact information may be found at https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/CPW_Areas.pdf.

Projects are provided funding based on recommendation by the Commission. Applicants are expected to be notified of the Commission's final award decisions following the November 2020 Commission meeting.

All projects involving conservation easements are required by law to be monitored annually. Third-Party conservation easement holders are required to submit to CPW a copy of the annual monitoring report for each conservation easement that receives funding through the CWHP.

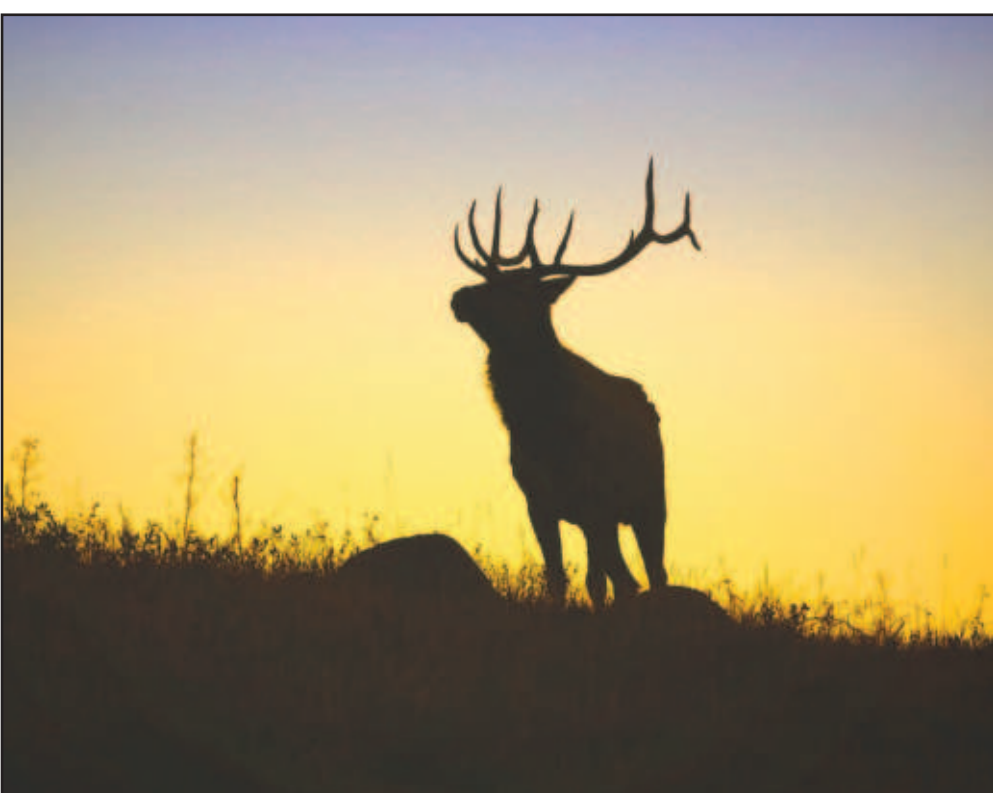
Public access is not required for conservation easement projects. However, conservation easement proposals that separately offer to convey to CPW public access for wildlife-related recreation may be eligible for compensation in addition to compensation for the conservation easement. Landowners may also submit proposals to the CWHP for projects where the sole purpose is to provide hunting or fishing access to the public through a public access easement.

Under Colorado law, terms of the transaction become a matter of public record after the project is completed and closed. Additionally, it is important for CPW and our major funding partners to provide accurate information to the public regarding the CWHP efforts to protect vital habitats and provide hunting and fishing access opportunities. Applicants should be aware that after a project has closed, information about the transaction, including funding amounts, may be used by CPW for internal planning and public information purposes.

All real estate transactions in this program are subject to an appraisal to verify value. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult their legal and financial advisors when contemplating any real estate transaction associated with the CWHP.

Contact Information

For additional information about the CWHP or application process, please contact:
 Amanda Nims, Land Protection Specialist and Program Manager, CWHP
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Real Estate Section
 6060 Broadway
 Denver, CO 80216
 (303) 291-7269
Amanda.nims@state.co.us



Courtesy Photo

Private landowners wishing to protect important wildlife habitats on their property may now submit proposals for the 2020 Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program. Submissions are due May 18, 2020.

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