



Mayra McGibbon awarded COSI Grant

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100 Years ago in the San Luis Valley

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VOLUME 94, NO. 54

# Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 17, 2020

\$1

Imagine Your Ad Here!

SLV Today

Commission calls special meeting

ALAMOSA - Alamosa County Commissioners will hold a special meeting Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and hear recommendations for county operations going forward.

The meeting will be in commissioners' chambers at the service center, 8900 Independence Way.

LET US HELP YOU!

ALAMOSA - To our valued San Luis Valley restaurants, retail stores and businesses open to the general public.

During this time of precautions and unprecedented changes due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Valley Courier offers our support to you.

Please email any changes in hours, business practices or special assistance you are offering, such as curbside pickup, to news@alamosanews.com. We will post those on our Facebook page and alamosanews.com at no cost to you.

This will be offered to local businesses through April 11 and will be reevaluated at that time. If you have any questions, please contact Keith at kcerny@alamosanews.com.



Facebook - Alamosa Valley Courier

SLV WEATHER



Cloudy/Wind 62/26

Wed: Sunny/ Wind 59/27

Thurs: Partly Cloudy 48/21

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## Dumb Friends League expands to Alamosa

Dumb Friends League is opening the 8,500-square-foot shelter later this year in Alamosa County to house thousands of homeless pets

By YVONNE KRUMREY 5280 MAGAZINE ALAMOSA — Good news for animal lovers in rural Colorado: Denver-based Dumb Friends League (DFL) is opening a shelter in Alamosa County with space to care for 2,500 homeless pets.

The San Luis Valley Animal Center is expected to open this summer and will fill a large gap in animal care for the surrounding region—which has historically struggled



Courtesy photo

An artist's depiction of the future Alamosa location to be built later this year. Ground breaking on the new location is set to begin in April.

to find resources to care for at-risk animals.

As the 8,500-square-foot facility takes shape (the groundbreaking is planned for April), DFL plans to start offering spay

and neuter services, subsidized vet care, temporary pet housing, behavioral care, policy advocacy, and humane education programs in the months and years to come.

In 2019, DFL helped over 21,608 pets through adoption, spay and neuter services, and behavioral training.

Rural Colorado, though, is a different story. While across the Front Range, many animal shelters devote around \$400 per animal to general care, in Alamosa County, that number drops to about \$100 per animal, due to a larger number of needy animals and less fund-

ing, says Duane Adams, DFL's vice president of operations.

Beyond the Front Range, support for specific animals is also lacking—shelters that house homeless cats, for instance, can't be found in many parts of rural Colorado. Fighting against a constant influx of homeless pets, the animal care organizations that work in Alamosa County are struggling to deal with significant hurdles.

"What we're doing is a little unique, building a center three hours away," Adams says. "It's a pilot program. If [an organiza-

tion] is doing well and has a huge shelter with a lot of support, you have to look at your neighbors and ask what they need, too."

The new center, though, is not solely the product of DFL's work. The San Luis Valley Animal Center will be built on land donated by the City of Alamosa and Alamosa County. And in order to offer a full range of services, DDFL is collaborating with the Valley Humane League and local veterinarians.

All told, the facility will cost about \$1.7 million, much of which was contributed by DDFL donor and art collector Henry Roath; the rest was contributed by the Animal Assistance Foundation and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

The San Luis Valley Animal Center should be open in August or September 2020. In the meantime, pet lovers who would like to support Dumb Friends League can volunteer, adopt a special needs cat like Figaro, follow the organization's Instagram for a daily dose of cuteness, or bring your pup along to the Furry Scurry, a two-mile dog walk and fun run in May—all proceeds of which support Dumb Friends League.

**"If [an organization] is doing well and has a huge shelter with a lot of support, you have to look at your neighbors and ask what they need."**

- Duane Adams

DFL's vice president of operations.

## Printing changes due to COVID-19

ALAMOSA — For obvious reasons, your Valley Courier will not have a daily sports page for the foreseeable future based on all high school and collegiate athletics being placed on hold.

If anything arises of local interest in sports, we will be sure to report that to our readers.

In addition, we are carrying ongoing updates on the Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on local governments, schools and businesses on our Facebook page and at alamosanews.com.

We are intentionally leaving those reports outside our "pay wall" so all readers have ac-

cess. We do recommend subscribing to our online "E Edition" if you do not already do so. In the event we are unable to produce a printed version of the Courier we will do everything in our power to post the daily electronic version.

Sincerely,  
Keith R. Cerny  
Publisher



## Valley banks jointly announce virus reactions

SAN LUIS VALLEY — A number of San Luis Valley banks have decided to temporarily close their lobbies, but they are still open to serve their customers. To further attempts to

continue to serve customers through their drive-up facilities, night drops, ATMs and their electronic banking services. Appointments are available for loan re-

and CEO of Del Norte Bank.

"Closing our lobbies is not an easy decision. However, data shows that closing the lobbies will mean less exposure to the virus and therefore it will help keep our employees, our customers and our community safe. Things will return to normal, and we will keep our communities up to date as events evolve," said Duane Bussey, CEO of San Luis Valley Federal Bank.

"Each of our banks is also ready to provide short-term loans or loan extensions to offer additional support to our community, said Russell Achatz, president and CEO at Alamosa State Bank. Our loan officers can take credit requests by telephone or make other arrangements to meet with people individually."

Alamosa State Bank,

Del Norte Bank, First Southwest Bank, Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association and San Luis Valley Federal Bank are all community banks based in the Valley.

Shon Davis, president and CEO of Rio Grande Savings and Loan said, "all of our banks are well-capitalized and strong

financially and we, of course, provide the safety of FDIC insurance for our deposit accounts."

"As community banks, we have to put the needs of the community first and that means preventing the spread of Coronavirus as much as possible," said Kent Curtis, CEO of First Southwest Bank.

**"As community banks, we have to put the needs of the community first and that means preventing the spread of Coronavirus as much as possible,"**

- Kent Curtis, CEO of First Southwest

slow the spread of COVID-19, Alamosa State Bank, Del Norte Bank, First Southwest Bank, Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association and San Luis Valley Federal Bank all have temporarily closed their lobbies. Each bank will con-

quests and new accounts. "Providing ongoing and consistent banking services is our primary mission and each of our banks will remain open to ensure our communities navigate this difficult situation," said Mike Hurst, president

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THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!!!



# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Gilberto Arturo "Art" Garcia, 61

**CENTER** — Gilberto Arturo "Art" Garcia, 61, passed away on March 12, at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte surrounded by his wife, daughter and sister.

Art was born in Farmington, New Mexico to Juan T. Garcia and Tonita E. Garcia on September 02, 1958. He went to school at Sargent High School where he left a lasting impression and great memories playing football and wrestling. He was small but quick on his feet.

On his senior year he enlisted to the Army, transferred schools and graduated at Center High School in 1978. Soon after graduating, he married Leslie Box with a son on the way. He was honorably discharged from the Army to be with his son who passed. In this timeframe he learned the welding trait, went through the loss of his son, a divorce, and did boxing with his brothers Jesse and Phil.

Throughout the years he did hard labor as a welder, worked with welding creating horse trailers, flowerpot holders and buildings. He did many stucco jobs with his brother Phil, which included the St. John Baptist Catholic Church in La Garita; roofing for several years; and did hard labor in the ware-



houses long as he could.

He loved to jam on his guitar. With this talent, he would be a part of St. Francis Catholic Church Spanish choir group with Frieda Martinez and several others before her passing.

He met the love of his wife Josefina Guzman in 1984 and were married on July 19, 1985. In their unity they had 3 beautiful children Jessica, Gilverto and Jasmine. They enjoyed becoming grandparents and loved every moment of it.

Art is survived by: his wife of 34 years, Josefina Garcia; one son, Gilverto Garcia, Monte Vista; two daughters, Jasmine Garcia, Monte Vista and Jessica (Daniel) Soto, Monte Vista; grandchildren, Alyssia Soto, Joshua Soto, Tahlya Soto all of Monte

Vista; Daniel Garcia, Joseph Garcia, and Aleylna Garcia all of Walsenburg; and one brother, Feliberto Garcia, Del Norte.

He is also survived by: six sisters, Tillie Garcia, Center; Jenny Zamora, Del Norte; Lorraine (Wayne) Madril, Colorado Springs; Inez Pacheco (Rick Santistevan), Pueblo; Eileen Garcia, Monte Vista; and Bebe (Randy) Archuleta, El Rito, New Mexico. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his son, Juanito Garcia; his parents, Juan & Tonita Garcia; brothers Jesse and Michael Garcia; sister, Virginia Garcia; as well as sister-in-law Eulalia Gutierrez and mother-in-law Maria Refugio Gomez.

A vigil service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held Friday March 20, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista. A Mass of the Resurrection will be on Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Monte Vista Cemetery in Monte Vista.

All services will be private and just for family members as church rules are in effect. Arrangements are in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

### Lucille Ortega, 87

**ALAMOSA**—Longtime Alamosa resident Lucille Ortega, 87, passed away peacefully March 15, at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center surrounded by her loving family.

Lucille was welcomed into the world on February 6, 1933, in Alamosa, the beloved daughter of Timeteo Lucero and Anita Matilda Gallegos Lucero.

She was united in marriage to the Love of her life Lionel Ortega Sr., on July 12, 1948. The two shared a long and loving union until his passing in 2012. Lucille dedicated her life to caring for her family.

She was a kind, loving and exceptional mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend who enjoyed reading, attending bingo, crocheting, doing crossword puzzles, cooking for her family.

She was an avid Denver Bronco fan and absolutely loved the time she was able to spend with her family,



grandchildren and friends. She will be dearly missed. Her family is comforted in the fact that she is now in heaven and reunited with her love Lionel!

Survivors include her daughters, Louella (Jose) Ortega, Ruth Ortega, Andrea (AB) Romero all of Alamosa; sons, Felix (Janice) Ortega of Stockton; Lionel (Rosalie) Ortega, Jeremiah (Elizabeth) Ortega, Jesse (Tiffany) Ortega all of Alamosa; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-

great-grandchildren.

She is survived by sisters, Linda (Ted) Avila of Alamosa; Judy (Roy) Lucero of Antonito; brothers, Ike (Josie) Lucero, Martin (Florence) Lucero, Michael (Angie) Stefano all of Alamosa; Manuel (Lupe) Lucero, Jimmy (Elaine) Lucero both of California. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Lucille was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lionel Ortega Sr.; son, Ronnie Ortega; sisters, Mary Arellano, Cordelia Tate; brother, Tommy Lucero; granddaughters, Kartina Ortega, Andrea Ortega; grandsons, Donivan Ortega, Jerry Ortega, Lionel Ortega and Santos Ortega.

Cremation was chosen and services will be held at a later date. To leave online condolences please visit [romerofuneralhomes.com](http://romerofuneralhomes.com). The arrangements have been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

## PENDING OBITUARIES

### Norris Maestas, 89

**ALAMOSA** — Our Beloved Norris Maestas, 89, passed away peacefully March 16. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

### Elizabeth Mosney, 88

**ALAMOSA** — Alamosa resident Elizabeth Mosney, 88, went to her eternal rest on March 16. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

### Florinda Maestas, 99

**ALAMOSA** — Alamosa resident Florinda Maestas, 99, passed away peacefully March 15. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

#### COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Courier charges \$30 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on [www.alamosanews.com](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to [news@alamosanews.com](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

## ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [slvphotostephen@gmail.com](mailto:slvphotostephen@gmail.com)

## 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

**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**

**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 900 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 & Lamplighting School. Contact Martin at 575-758-5876 or [talentolocal@live.com](mailto: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.

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

**WEDNESDAY**  
5:30 p.m. SLV Behavioral Health Group at 8745 CH 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 Grand Library at Road T, Crestone

**THURSDAY**  
7 p.m. SDA Church at 313 Craft Drive, Alamosa

**SATURDAY**  
9 a.m. Little Shepherd Episcopal Chapel at Alder St., Crestone  
7 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 607 4th St. Alamosa

School Menu

Tuesday  
Mar. 17, 2020

NO SCHOOL



Spring Break

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

## Service postponed

Memorial services for John "Jack" Kreiner have been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later day.

# Valley News

## State Labor Department announces assistance for employees and employers

**DENVER** – The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) today announced assistance for workers and employers during temporary closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance includes information for employees filing for unemployment insurance claims, as well as information on programs available for employers.

Workers who have a reduction in hours/wages may file an unemployment claim at [coloradoui.gov](http://coloradoui.gov). A list of resources and FAQs on how to file is available on CDLE's website at [colorado.gov/cdle](http://colorado.gov/cdle) and clicking on "Coronavirus Information and



Resources."

The Department is also taking

steps to reduce the impact of these claims on employers who have had to temporarily lay off staff due to closures or slowdowns. CDLE encourages all employers to utilize paid leave and telework options for employees before utilizing temporary layoffs. Employers can also consider alternatives to laying off staff through CDLE's Work Share Program. More information at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/node/23616> or by email at [cdle\\_employer\\_services@state.co.us](mailto:cdle_employer_services@state.co.us).

Unemployment insurance claims: If you are laid off due to business

closures related to COVID-19, you can receive unemployment benefits, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. File a claim online at [coloradoui.gov/fileclaim](http://coloradoui.gov/fileclaim). Indicate you expect to return to work and are job-attached to your last employer.

CDLE will process unemployment insurance payments to ensure payment will continue to be paid in a timely manner.

For more information, visit [colorado.gov/cdle](http://colorado.gov/cdle) and click on "Coronavirus Information and Resources". Updates will be released as they become available.

## How to practice social distancing during a pandemic

As COVID-19 continued to spread across the world, it quickly became evident that the public would have to take drastic measures to slow the transmission. In addition to practicing generalized sanitation and good hygiene, people in some of the hardest-hit clusters were advised to take additional, more aggressive measures. Quarantines and travel restrictions were implemented, and the term "social distancing" became a buzzword.

Social distancing involves people keeping a physical distance from each other during disease outbreaks in order to slow transmission rates. Social distancing also is employed to lessen the impact of the disease on the medical care system, which quickly can become overwhelmed with a high number of cases presenting in a short period of time. In best-case scenarios, social distancing also may enable a few people to avoid infection until a vaccine is available.

So how can people socially distance



themselves? Here are some of the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and

other leading health groups.

- Opt out of group events. Steer clear of events, whether meetings, sports games, conferences, and other

gatherings where large amounts of people congregate together.

- Stick to non-contact greetings. Avoid hugs, kisses and handshakes. Substitute a smile, a wave or a bumping of elbows, instead.

- Practice remote learning. Students who attend large schools, such as high schools, universities and colleges, can continue their studies via remote learning and virtual classes instead of gathering in classrooms.

- Work from home. Many companies are now equipped to allow employees to work from home all the time or a portion of the time. Businesses can encourage employees to stay home and utilize the internet to get their work done.

- Stagger commute times. Commuters in urban areas can consider staggering work hours so that they help curb crowds on public transportation.

- Alter shopping schedules. Try to visit stores in the early morning or late at night when they are less likely to be crowded.

## State health department provides recommendations for parents and guardians

**DENVER** — The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has recommendations for parents and guardians with children at home from school.

Closing schools is a powerful way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and

protect people at higher risk from getting very sick or dying. Though kids are thought to be at lower risk for severe disease from COVID-19, they can easily spread it to others.

"We are all in this together. Nearly every

child could have an interaction with an older adult or others at risk of getting severe illness from COVID-19. This is not just about keeping kids safe, which is absolutely important; it's about keeping the whole community safe

by limiting and slowing the spread," said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

When school is closed, kids and adults should practice social distanc-

ing. Aim to stay six feet away from others as much as possible. Do not take children into any social setting when they are sick.

The complete set of recommendations is available on the website shown below.

Continue to stay up to date by visiting [colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus).

## City of Monte Vista facilities closed to public

**MONTE VISTA**— The City of Monte Vista announced the closure of all City facilities to the public effective Wednesday, March 18. This closure includes, but is not limited to, public business and activities

at City Hall (including Municipal Court) and all other public City facilities.

The Ski Hi Facility and all Recreation Department Activities are closed as well.

Kid's Connection will remain open temporarily but this may change with very short notice. This closure extends until May 4th, 2020. The City will continually evaluate the situation and end or extend or modify the closure as circumstances change.

The City's focus is the health and wellbeing of residents and

members of the City team, and continuing to deliver core services to the community.

The decision to close City facilities to the public is the next step in the City's ongoing response to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Since January, the City has prepared by sharing infection prevention with the community and with City team members, providing additional training to employees, ensuring adequate supplies of safety materials and updating continuity of service plans to be able to scale and adjust to continue to deliver services to the Monte Vista community.

The City will post updated information regarding cancellations and postponements on our Website at [https://cityofmonte-](https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/)

[vista.colorado.gov/](https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/)

Payments for City Services Bills and Court fines can be made via mail, the

drop box in front of City Hall, by telephone, and online via express bill pay.

## City suspends activities

**ALAMOSA** – As the COVID - 19 outbreak evolves, the City of Alamosa is following recommendations from the CDC to limit and slow the spread of the virus.

Based on current recommendations from the CDC, all organized recreation and library

programming, including youth sports practices and games, and adult fitness/cultural enrichment classes, are temporarily suspended until further notice starting immediately on Monday, March 16.

The city encourages residents to make the best choice

about using a public space, especially if you're in an at-risk category or caring for someone in an at-risk category. To be clear, the Recreation Center, the Ice Rink, and the Library are currently open.

The city will update you any changes as soon as possible.

**SKI-HI 6 SHOWTIMES**  
719-589-4471

Tues - Thurs: 5:15, 8:10  
*I Still BELIEVE*  
One love can change your life PG

Tues - Thurs: 5:20, 8:10  
*THE HUNT*  
Hilary Swank, Emma Roberts R

Tues - Thurs: 5:35, 8:05  
*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG*  
Gotta Go, Fast! PG

Tues - Thurs: 5:15, 8:10  
*THE INVISIBLE MAN*  
What you can't see can hurt you R

Tues - Thurs: 5:40, 8:10  
*ONWARD*  
Cometh Soon PG

Tues - Thurs: 5:30, 8:10  
*THE CALL OF THE WILD*  
Based on the Legendary novel PG

## SLV Public Health issues statement

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – San Luis Valley residents who have visited Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, or Gunnison counties since March 8 should minimize all contact with other people for 14 days, whether or not they are experiencing coronavirus symptoms.

If you have recently visited the counties listed above, and you have symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, and shortness of breath), stay where you are, isolate yourself from others, and call your healthcare provider or the nurse line at SLV Health 719-589-2511 option 9 or Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990 before seeking care.

Tell the provider about your recent visit to one of the counties listed above. Do not fly or share transportation with others.

As we continue to see community spread growing in Colorado, it is critical that everyone take action to protect themselves and others by increasing distance from others to 6 feet when possible, avoiding public gatherings, washing hands frequently, staying home if you are sick, and cleaning cell phones and household surfaces using regular household products.

Persons over age 60 and those with chronic medical conditions are at greatest risk if they are exposed,

but people of any age are susceptible to the virus and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others if everyone does not take proper precautions.

For more information about COVID-19:

- CO HELP line 1-877-462-2911 (English and Spanish)
- SLV updates: <https://www.slvemergency.org/>

<https://www.slvemergency.org/>

Colorado updates and guidance: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>

CDC updates and guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## Correction on Shriners' article

**ALAMOSA** — In the Tuesday, March 10 issue of the Valley Courier, there was a miss quote in the IHOP/Shriner article on page 3. The bolded quote that read "She's very sharp and loves school, and she's taking piano lessons" was shared about Leah Climie by her mother, Veronica Climie, not Veronica Acosta.

The quote had nothing to do with Urianna Acosta. Urianna lives in Monte Vista. Leah lives in South Fork. The Shriners have helped children from all parts of the valley through the years.

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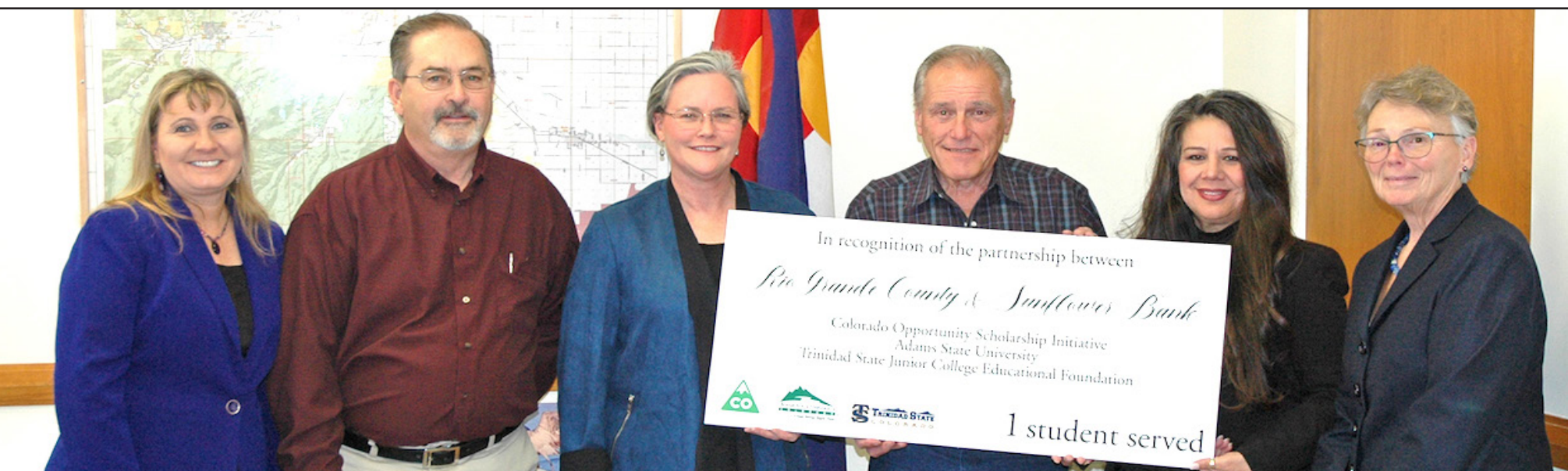
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# Lifestyle



## Rio Grande County student receives assistance through COSI Grant

ALAMOSA—Through the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative Adams State University partnered with Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation, the Monte Vista Sunflower Bank, and Rio Grande County

and to provide a scholarship for Mayra McKibbon from Rio Grande County. Pictured, left to right, Adams State University Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Lori Laske, Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover,

Suzanne Bothell, John Noffske, and Adams State student Mayra McKibbon, and Adams State President Cheryl D. Lovell. Not pictured, Sunflower Bank Senior Branch Manager Maria Aguilar.

Photo by Uriah Valdez

## Museum to host Maya Fuego Sagrado celebration

PUEBLO – El Pueblo History Museum will be hosting a Maya Fuego Sagrado ceremony blending cultures of the Maya and Mexican traditions to celebrate the spring equinox on Saturday, March 21, starting at 3 p.m. in the museum's placita. Limpias will precede the fire ceremony, starting at 3 p.m., and the ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. and last until 7 p.m.

Benetta Cruz, Liz Guerra, Nanette Santos and Angelina Perez will perform the sacred fire ceremony. All are invited to open their hearts and connect through your energy to the thousands of human beings who will be performing a Sacred Fire Ceremony at the same time.

Those who attend are invited to wear white clothing with a red belt and red headband, and if possible to bring four small pieces of wood to add to the fire for the ceremony. Other appropriate offerings can include small candles (red, black, white and/or yellow), granulated sugar, chocolate, copal,

rosemary, bay leaves, tobacco, flowers (dried or fresh), and sesame seeds. Several of these offerings can be purchased at El Pueblo History Museum store prior to Saturday.

Those who wish to participate in the limpieas should also bring an egg. This event is free and open to the public.

**About El Pueblo History Museum** El Pueblo History Museum is located at 301 N. Union Avenue in the heart of historic downtown Pueblo. The museum stands on the site of the original El Pueblo fort, constructed in 1842, and current exhibits include Borderlands of Southern Colorado, the award-winning Children of Ludlow, and the Museum of Memory. El Pueblo History Museum is a museum of History Colorado. El Pueblo History Museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org) or call 719-583-0453.

**About History Colorado**

History Colorado has become a force for finding new and inclusive ways to serve Coloradans. In 2018 History Colorado provided programs to more than 18,000 students in their own schools, and assisted more than 40 schools with bus funds, to expand efforts that now serve more than 85,000 students annually. Its all-day Hands-On History program at El Pueblo History Museum responds to the four-day school week that is now administered by 61% of Colorado school districts. History Colorado's mission is to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past. We serve as the state's memory, preserving the places, stories and material culture of Colorado through the History Colorado Center and statewide Community Museums, educational programs, historic preservation grants, research library, collections and outreach to Colorado communities. Visit [HistoryColorado.org](http://HistoryColorado.org), or call 303-HISTORY, for more information.

## Celebrate responsibly this St. Patrick's Day



Millions of people will celebrate St. Patrick's Day this March 17 with fanfare, food, parades, and, for many, adult beverages. Irish law prohibited pubs from opening on religious holy days like St. Patrick's Day until the 1970s. According to the culture and travel site Irish Central, it was feared that leaving the pubs open would be too tempting for some during Lent and would lead to overconsumption of alcohol on this most solemn day. That begs the question as to how imbibing became tied to the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Many of the traditions so closely associated with the St. Patrick's Day holiday are due to American influence. Some of the first parades and parties in honor of Ireland's patron saint originated not on the Emerald Isle, but on American soil. Nowadays, many St. Patrick's Day celebrations feature alcohol, with some establishments even producing green beer for the occasion.

Fortune magazine states on average 13 million pints of Guinness will be consumed on St. Patrick's Day worldwide. Guinness joins

Baileys Original Irish Cream and Jameson Irish Whiskey as popular Irish drinks to consume on the holiday. St. Patrick's Day is the fourth most popular drinking day of the year behind New Year's Eve, Christmas and the Fourth of July, according to WalletHub. Even if alcohol is part of the party, St. Patrick's Day celebrants can follow these tips to have fun responsibly.

- Do not drink and drive no matter how much you've consumed. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 69 percent of crash fatalities on March 18 involve drunk drivers between midnight to 5:59 a.m.

- Ensure everyone you are partying with has a safe means of returning home, such as a ride-share, bus, taxi, or designated driver.

- Remember to eat well and stay hydrated throughout the day. Eating food with protein and fat before going out and while drinking can slow down the effects of alcohol. But even consuming such foods does not make it safe to drive after drinking.

- Remember to buddy up with other friends so that everyone can look out for one another.

- If you are hosting a St. Patrick's Day party, downplay drinking by offering plenty of other beverages and a wide array of foods.

St. Patrick's Day can be enjoyed in a responsible manner by being smart about alcohol consumption. TF203753





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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.





# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Islet  
4 Paddle  
7 Court case  
11 Frat letter  
12 Fossil fuel  
14 Thunder god  
15 Dad  
16 Sea eagle  
17 By heart  
18 Slur  
20 Island welcomes  
22 Flightless bird  
23 Shark feature  
24 Rested up  
27 Made a sharp sound  
30 Many centuries  
31 Bard or minstrel  
32 Noon, to Caesar  
34 Frazier foe  
35 "The King and I" actress  
36 Prow projections  
37 Hold closely

39 Night sky streaker  
40 Cowboy's affirmative  
41 Everybody  
42 Happened to  
45 Embellished  
49 River in England  
50 Limerick locale  
52 Sleet-covered  
53 Jazzy — Horne  
54 Mutant heroes of comics (hyph.)  
55 That girl  
56 Finales  
57 Favored  
58 Ocean fish

**DOWN**

1 Flat-topped cap  
2 Harrow rival  
3 Shrill barks  
4 Wild feline  
5 Ventricle neighbor  
6 Competed in an election

7 Powerful  
8 Yikes! (hyph.)  
9 Greek letter  
10 Crowd, in Madrid?  
13 More verdant  
19 Ballpark figs.  
21 Fabric fuzz  
24 Jellyfish habitat  
25 "Whatever — Wants"  
26 Novelist — Bagnold  
27 Gaze intently  
28 Reason to cram

29 Thinnest coin  
31 Confuse  
33 Devotee's suffix  
35 Hull part  
36 Bagel, e.g.  
38 Carrion feeders  
39 Lawyer's customer  
41 See eye-to-eye  
42 Hay unit  
43 Not bumpy  
44 Crazy about  
46 Half of DJ  
47 Parrot  
48 Changed color  
51 Brat



H I D T A R S S C A M  
A R E R I C A L A M A  
R E V I R A N O D O R  
S N I P P Y E M P I R E  
H E L L O D E L  
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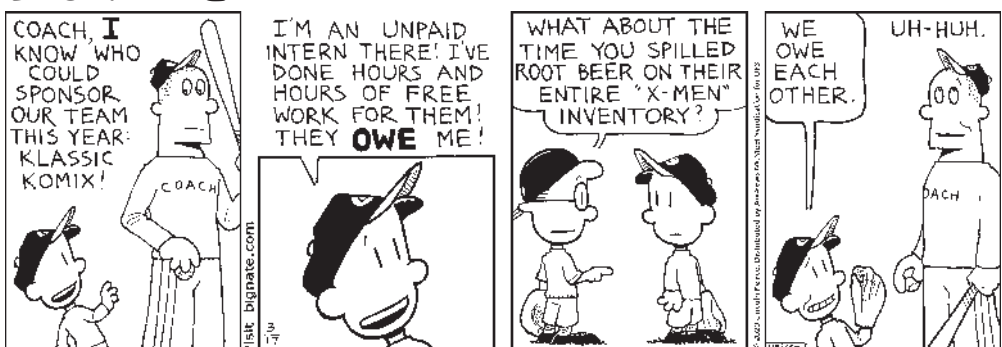
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



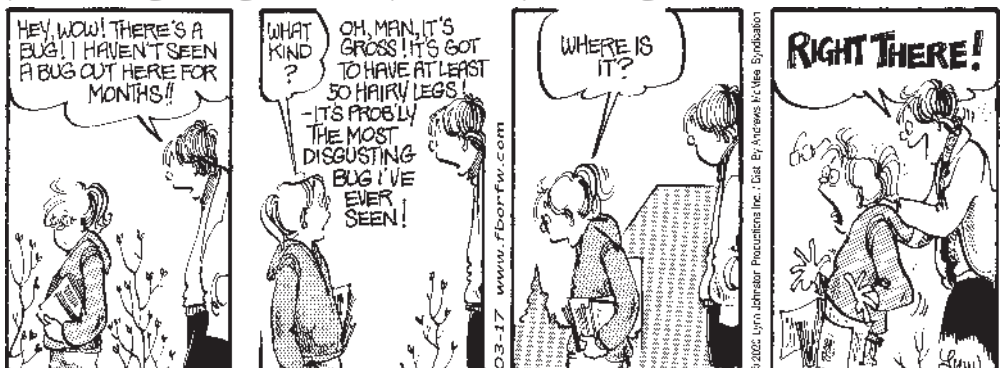
## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



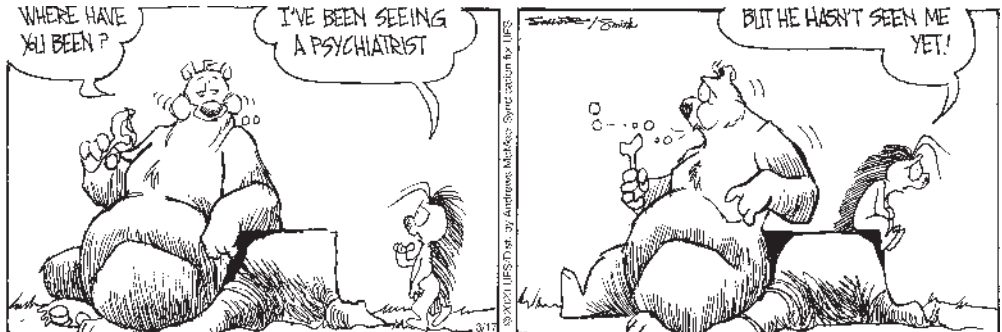
## FRANK & ERNEST



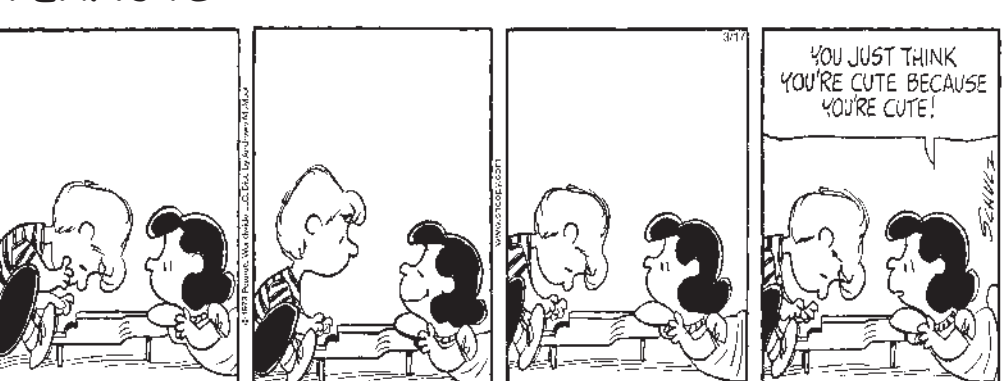
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



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## HERMAN



## Well-meaning grandmother is criticized for helping too much

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are not on the same page about helping with the grandkids. We moved here six years ago to be closer to my daughter, her husband and their two daughters. The older one is 9, and the younger is 6. Although the 6-year-old has multiple physical challenges and developmental delays, our son-in-law thinks "we" babysit far too often. My intention is to help my daughter with the challenges that a special needs child presents to the family. Mostly, I am the one providing the care; my husband does the minimum.

Every time I agree to watch the children, I feel huge stress because I know my son-in-law will complain about it. It's tearing me apart. Thank you for listening. Just writing this helps. -- HELPING IN THE EAST

DEAR HELPING: I agree that parenting a child with special needs is challenging. You are a loving, caring mother and grandmother, but this is something your daughter and her husband have to reach a meeting of the minds about. The last thing she needs is dissension in her household. Counseling for them might help your son-in-law understand that your daughter's health might be compromised if she does everything herself. Some sort of compromise about your level of involvement could be key.

As to your husband, I'm not sure what more you think he should be doing. He agreed to move closer to your daughter so you could help her. It has to have been disruptive for him. Please give him points for that, because I do.

DEAR ABBY: I have a couple of weddings coming up, and I have a small dilemma. They are both in my husband's family and only a month apart. One is his brother's, and the other is his cousin's. My question is, can I wear the same dress to both weddings?

I normally don't care about what people think, but I also don't want to be the subject of ridicule or scorn at a family event. I'll also add, it's not about financial concerns. It's just that it's a beautiful dress, and I really don't see the point in going out and getting another fancy dress. I worry about pictures at both weddings. I guess I'm confused and could really use some advice. -- BEAUTIFUL DRESS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BEAUTIFUL DRESS: You are not a Hollywood actress during awards season, who "must" have a radically different look for each ceremony. Your family weddings are special events, but there



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

is no reason you can't use the dress you have in mind for both. If you're afraid it may cause a problem in wedding photos, consider accessorizing your dress differently for each one -- gold jewelry for the first, silver for the second and a different colored shawl or wrap. I'm sure you can pull this off. Please write back and let me know.

## CONFIDENTIAL TO MY IRISH FRIENDS:

May you always have A sunbeam to warm you Good luck to charm you And a sheltering angel So nothing can harm you.

Laughter to cheer you Faithful friends near you

And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you. HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! -- LOVE, ABBY

# Lifestyle

## 100 years ago in the San Luis Valley – March 1920

By BARBARA KRUSE  
SAN LUIS VALLEY-

Representatives from neighboring towns met at an enthusiastic gathering to discuss plans for the future greatness of the San Luis Valley. Those at the gathering were determined to bring out a new development of prosperity by boring three great rail tunnels in the ensuing year -- the Cumbres, Mofatt and Marshall Tunnels. Fourteen million dollars was to be allowed toward the tunnel project, half from the state and half from the federal government. The committee said that current shippers have not provided adequate services due to the rotten service by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. "The citizens are getting 'next' to themselves and demanding something better."

### Farm News

Alamosa hosted the first Farmers Day. *All Hail The Farmers* read a headline. We have shipped over 4,000 cars of potatoes, 22 cars of yellow blossom sweet clover and more than 2,400 cars of hay out of Alamosa during the last year.

A most distressing accident occurred. G. Meyers, a 30-year-old rancher on Swede Lane, was showing some guests after dinner how his recently-purchased gasoline engine could run a feeder. His sweater was caught against a revolving flywheel and hurled him around and around. The fatal accident was witnessed by his wife and son.

F. A. Brownell was gored by a mad bull while doing chores. He was badly bruised and found it impossible to lie down and sleep but is doing nicely.

Santa Cruz Valley Farms in Tucson, Arizona advertised land with water for \$200 per acre to raise cotton which brought \$1.00 per pound.

Tree planting was encouraged on farms to increase appearances. Get a bulletin from the state forester at the Ag. College in Fort Collins. General suggestions for eastern Colorado were honey locust, Russian olive, American elm, hackberry, jack pine and western yellow pine.

Alamosa City Council ordered a brand-new, all-painted red motorcycle for the City Marshall. The council also discussed a possible development of a public campground.

The city was progressing nicely with the call by the mayor for a clean up, except for a few slackers.

Dozier and Martin, Delco Light dealers, qualified for the 1919 Kilowatt Club for the most stellar sales, selling over 1,000 watts, which is \$30,000 worth of business. The two won a trip to Dayton.

Knights of Columbus initiated 52 members.

A community welfare lecture was announced at the Elks Hall by a person connected with the Lyceum course. "Everything is free, everybody invited, especially the ladies. Be sure to bring the ladies."

D.M. McKinnon, formerly of Alamosa, made a daring, deliberate, spectacular leap of 2,200 feet from an airplane and came down to earth by means of a parachute. This occurred in Douglas, Arizona.

A fountain pen was found downtown. Give a description at the newspaper office.

J.C. Penney Co. ran an advertisement stating that out-of-town visitors were cordially invited to come to the store, check their parcels and make themselves at home, whether they buy merchandise or not.

Spring waists (*drop-waist dresses*), plain white or fancy, were \$1.49 to \$2.98.

Boys wool short-pant suits were \$9.90 to \$16.50. Mens union suits were \$1.49 to \$3.98.

An ex-con from New Mexico was caught stealing from a rooming house at 5:00 a.m. He was given five days hard labor on

the streets and confined to the jug.

Sacred Heart Church was planning an Easter bazaar. Great enthusiasm was shown and contributions included a Navajo rug, steam cookers, silver toilet sets, coal and a suckling pig.

A reader offered suggestions for planting trees in Alamosa. They said there were many renters in Alamosa and wouldn't it be a beautiful idea if renters each planted a tree. Just north of the river there are numerous growths of cottonwoods. Ranch owners would not object to a little thinning out of their groves. Do not plant a female tree which produces a large amount of fluff. A light-barked tree is a male and a dark-bark tree is a female. *[False.]* Other plants suggested were willows and the most beautiful wild mountain currant; get slips from your neighbor.

### Schools

Hooper, Mosca and Star schools were closed because of sickness. The Alamosa senior class had a taffy pull. Fifty boys participated in the Older Boys Conference, a three-day event. While at the event the boys were distributed among private homes of the ladies of the church.

A cleanliness presentation was given at the Hooper parent meeting. An athlete from Monte Vista was ineligible for sports, apparently because he attended a college for one semester and then returned to Monte Vista. That was the fourth in three years to have eligibility contested. "As a comment on the whole athletic situation in MV, we wonder how long the good people of our neighboring city will stand for such episodes in school activity, which if it does not develop the spirit of the 'square deal' is worse than nothing at all." *[? that is what it said]*

Spelling contest winners were announced from Uracca, Waverly, Alamosa, Mount Pleasant (Clara Higel), McGinty, Mosca and Hooper. Durango School Board members cannot be recalled because they profilate *[sic]* and enforce vaccination orders. Smallpox developed in Durango, and vaccine orders went out for all school-age children. Anti-vaccinationists started a recall petition; 125 pupils were not vaccinated because of parental refusal.

### Weather

A storm pulled down telephone poles in Hooper. A narrow gauge passenger train was marooned on Cumbres Pass at 10,000 feet with no provisions. Danger of actual suffering was averted by Osier residents on snowshoes, who carried food and drink over drifts to the passengers on the train.

### Oil Drilling in SLV

At the beginning of the month, hundreds of carloads of people were visiting the Travelers Oil Company site as they spudded their well near Hooper. They were encouraged but not dead certain. Oil was still holding interest in mid March. It was predicted that land in the area would soon be valued at \$100 per acre and possibly \$400 to \$500. "Just put it down that 1920 will be the biggest year that the valley ever had." Then, on March 20 it was reported that the smoke stack blew over, taking the boiler house with it and tearing it to pieces.

### Other

Wanted: American boy, age 14-16, work on farm, good home, kindly treatment. Contact Courier office and give age, weight and wages expected.

A Monte Vista man's death was reported in error as some people saw and talked with him the previous week and he had not heard of the report of his death.

"The high cost of spuds got a jolt in the solar plexus" insofar as one large hotel in Denver was concerned. "Lets cut 'em out of the menu till the price rations,"

said the proprietor of the Hotel Valejo at 1420 Logan Street.

Limited stock was available for the Floyd Fair-land Film Company. "Un- animated dolls as if real, as if animated, as if real, live."

### National

The Treasury Department Impudence: "Pay your tax in full when you file your return, thereby reducing the cost of collection and avoiding possible annoyance to you." The department has no authority whatever in putting such language before a taxpayer. It carries an implied threat. The current law stated to pay in full or quarterly.

Crime was way down among women as the result of prohibition. "The Nation will feel a pulsation of awakening and social consciousness as soon as the effect of the war unrest passes. Prohibition is saving the souls of women dragged to early graves by drunkenness; children will be better fed and happier; wage earners will spend to feed the family; temptation has decreased and a lessening of immortality."

### A Poem - Before and After

Pass the butter gently, Mabel. Send it light thru the air; In the corner of the dish, love You will find a nut-brown hair.

What fond memories it awakens Of the days ere we were wed When upon my fool coat collar Oft you laid your little head.

How I stroked those gentle tresses In the days long, long gone bye, Now I find them every meal-time In the butter and the pie. (No author given)

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