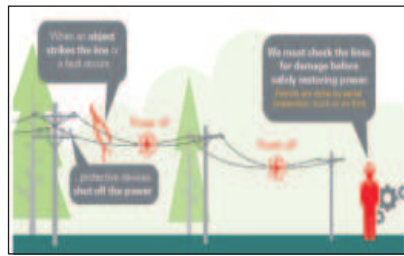




Pirates plunder Mean Moose for 13-7 win

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Xcel Energy explains impact of Wildfire Safety Settings

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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

May 8, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Pedal for Home

SAN LUIS VALLEY — SLV Habitat for Humanity is hosting Bike 2 Build, the San Luis Valley Century on Saturday, June 29. Event registration is now open. Embraced by the dramatic 14,000-foot peaks of the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan Mountains, come pedal a Metric Century or a 35-mile loop. Experience the great expanse of the San Luis Valley pedaling beneath the forever reaching blue skies and support the work of Habitat for Humanity.

For more information, visit online www.slvhabitat.org or email bikes@slvhabitat.org.

Alamosa water line main break

ALAMOSA — Following the water line main break that occurred Tuesday, May 7, on Carroll Street near the intersection of Lee Drive, the City of Alamosa has been made aware of concerns from the community regarding water quality.

After a water line break, sediment in water lines collects and is discharged through indoor plumbing. This discharge is often discolored but is entirely harmless. The sediment is primarily iron sediment and poses no risk to the public. Simply running your tap or outdoor spigot for a few minutes will remove the discharge and your water will run clear.

The city recommends not trying to clear lines in your home until crews have had enough time to flush lines. There will be a follow-up press release to let the community know when the city has completed its flushing of the lines. At that point, it would be beneficial for property owners to flush their lines.

"We ask for your patience at this time as city crews continue to flush lines to clear out the sediment but want you to know in the interim, that the water is safe to continue to use as normal," city officials stated.

Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education meeting

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, in the school library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Breezy 58/24

Thurs: Chance of Showers, Breezy 60/32

Fri: Chance of Showers, Breezy 56/32

INSIDE

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County, city and FAA finalize agreement

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — In the lingo of the aviation community — a "wheels down or landed," agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration and the San Luis Valley Regional Airport has been finalized.

As previously reported in the Valley Courier, in June of 2023 the FAA proposed a \$1.2 million

fine for the airport for numerous safety violations pertaining to firefighting readiness.

In the eight-page settlement agreement, the airport must comply with mitigation measures pertaining to Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) measures including, "That during all air carrier [commercial] operations, there are a minimum of two fully trained ARFF per-

sonnel on airport property during all air carrier operations."

The airport will be required to, "Make a good faith effort to ensure each ARFF shift has at least one fire fighter trained and certified as a Fire Fighter I through the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control."

The agreement mandates several other ARFF procedures the airport must incorporate into

daily operations.

Today, the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners will discuss the agreement that has been signed by Alamosa County Commissioner Vern Heersink, Alamosa County Attorney Jason Kelly, City of Alamosa City Manager Heather Sanchez, City of Alamosa Attorney Erich Schwiesow and FAA attorneys Marissa Harrison and William Garrison.

'Wapiti Peak' floated for Kit Carson

Saguache County Commissioners unanimously suggest the change

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAGUACHE — The Native American name for elk, "wapiti," is the name the Saguache County Commissioners unanimously voted upon Tuesday, May 7, as the new name for Kit Carson Peak.

The name change is under consideration because some find Carson's

■ See NAME page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

Saguache County Commissioners will recommend the name of Kit Carson Peak be changed to Wapiti Peak to the Colorado Geographic Naming Board. The peak is near these peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

3-truck collision on Saguache County road ends in fatality

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter



SAGUACHE COUNTY — Three vehicles, including two Ford pick-up trucks and a semi hauling a trailer, were involved in a collision near the town of Center on May 6, resulting in the death of one of the drivers.

The driver of a Ford F150 was transported to Rio Grande County Hospital in Del Norte where he died because of his injuries. He has since been identified as 64-year-old Jose Saavedra of Center.

According to Capt. Nathan Lyons, public information officer with the Colorado State Patrol, the accident took place at the intersection of Saguache County Road C and Saguache County Road 53.

Shortly after 7 a.m. on Monday, the driver of a Ford F150 out of Center was headed eastbound on CR C. At the same time, the driver of a semi out of Monte Vista was headed southbound on CR 53 while the driver of

■ See FATALITY page 3

Three vehicles, including two Ford pick-up trucks and a semi hauling a trailer, were involved in a collision near the town of Center on May 6.

Reader contributed photo

New Electrify and Save Program expands access to beneficial electrification and energy efficiency to REC members

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Rural consumers can benefit from greater access to electrification and energy efficiency through a new program announced Friday from members of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, including San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC).

Administered by the Colorado Clean Energy Fund (CCFEF), the Electrify and Save On-Bill Repayment Program will bring more affordable energy efficiency and electrification benefits to rural consumers.

The effort also will be boosted by the announcement that Tri-State and its members have secured \$75 million in loans for rural energy efficiency.

■ See SLVREC page 3

Governor Polis discusses the benefits of Tri-State's On-Bill Repayment Program for its members. From left to right, Colorado Energy Office Executive Director Will Toor, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association CFO Sarah Frites, SLVREC Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo, CCEF CEO Paul Scharfenberger, and Tri-State CEO Duane Highley.

Courtesy photo



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Record

OBITUARIES

Marianna Hollmer Brandt

Marianna Hollmer Brandt was born Oct. 12, 1942, in Crestone, Colo., to Harry Otto Hollmer and Mary "Toots" Tooker Hollmer. She grew up in that mountain community and went to school there until the local school closed. She then attended and graduated from Moffat High School, then attended Adams State College (now University), earning a degree in Elementary Education. She taught second grade for 36 years in the Pueblo public school system, retiring in 2001. Marianna cared deeply for each and every one of her students and never forgot any of them. She recently ran into a student she taught many years ago and, in the course of their conversation, found out that he had no pictures from his elementary years. She spent three days sifting through her pictures to find one of him to copy and send. Her children state that no matter where they went, there was always a former student who recognized and greeted her and she was never to busy to stop and visit with them.

After retirement, she and Claude spent 10 years working at Blue Mesa Ranch in Gunnison ... looking after campers and trolling for fish on the lake. Marianna became an expert at filleting salmon during those years. She became very adept at riding a 4 wheeler around the camp to check for compliance and to visit with and help out the summer people. During those years, she planted and cared for a beautiful wild flower garden.

Marianna passed from this life to the next one on May 3, 2024, at



Parkview Hospital in Pueblo, Colo., surrounded by her family. Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Claude Irven Brandt, one daughter Christine (Vince), four sons: Shawn (Pati), Marty (Missy), Matt (Nikki), and Shane (Corie); three step-sons: Mike (Antonette), Carl (Linda), and Doug together with six grandchildren, Shaylin (Joseph), Ty, Dillon, Bailey, Jasper, and Scarlett, two great-granddaughters: Olive and Emmy, six step-grandchildren, Laura, Julie (Brandon), Chris, Amy, Willie, and Alicia and one step-great-grandson, Alex. Also surviving are two brothers, Jim and Tom (Carol) Holmer, several nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Acts of service and food were Marianna's language of love. After Claude was diagnosed with diabetes, she made it her mission to learn all she could about the disease and to provide him with a diet that would enable him to live with the disease without having to go on insulin. Always generous, she shared food with family and neighbors and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone. She'd spend days canning you things like beans and jam. She'd cook everyone's favorite food for the holidays

and make extras just so you could have leftovers to take. If you told her you had a favorite food or drink she'd buy you so much of it. She would send her grand kids and great grand kids a card with a gift card in it for a treat like ice cream every holiday. One holiday we baked every pie we could think of just because we kept asking her to bake another one. She never had a dirty dish in her sink and would happily do your dishes while visiting. She would do anything for the ones she loved, even if it meant she went without. She was especially known for her dinner rolls and no one made lighter and more delicious rolls than she did. A friend dubbed her "the bread whisperer" as she could tell just by listening to the mixer from the other room whether you'd put enough flour in the dough. Her grandson, Jasper, declares that she was an angel food cake MASTER.

Marianna loved critters and pets were always part of the household - dogs, cats, chickens.

Marianna was always a nature lover. Fishing, hunting, hiking and camping with her are fondly remembered by all her children. Her son, Shawn, is especially proud of the fact that she taught him how to hunt, how to field dress his first deer, and how to butcher his game.

Services will be held May 11, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the POA Hall in Crestone, Colo., (68575 County Road T, Crestone, Colo.) with graveside services to follow at the Crestone cemetery.

Arrangements are in charge of Rogers Mortuary, 205 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101.

James 'Jimmy' Clinton Shaff

Longtime La Jara resident James "Jimmy" Clinton Shaff, 85, reunited with his wife of 67 years when he passed in his home on May 3, 2024. He was born on a Thursday, Oct. 13, 1938, to Donald E and Alta Ruth (Gabelman) Shaff.

Jimmy worked as a carpenter for many years in and around the community of La Jara. He and his wife, Connie, enjoyed traveling together, dancing, and spending time with family.

Jimmy is survived by his children, Susan Marie (John) Durham, Sally Noreen Shaff, his grand-



children Tiffany Wunderlich, Robert E Wunderlich and Kaylea Worm and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Connie Sue Shaff, son James Clinton Shaff II, Mother

Alta Ruth, Brother Robert Shaff and sister Frances Miller.

To celebrate the life of Jimmy, please consider making a donation to La Puente Home and outreach. Both he and his wife were always big advocates for supporting local community outreach programs by always donating what they could to help their community.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave words of comfort, tributes and remembrances for Jimmy's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

APD report for week of April 19 to 26, 2024

Elijah Lopez, 21, of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence, 2nd degree assault, felony menacing, 2nd degree criminal attempt, false imprisonment.

Roger Oehler, 61, of Beebe, Okla. was cited for fictitious plate.

Lucio Rios, 23, of Alamosa was cited for possession an open alcoholic container

Evonia Atencio, 22, of Monte Vista was cited for possession of an open alcoholic container, DUI - alcohol

Deidre Nyquist, 26, of Monte Vista was cited for theft under \$300

Kevin Guodace, 35, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Marcus Chavez, 25, of Monte Vista was cited for exhibition of speed.

Cody Lakey, 19, of Alamosa was cited for following too closely.

Steven Heater, 68, of Crestone was cited for failing to yield ROW when proceeding from stop sign.

Leevi Greenawalt, 25, of Alamosa was cited for

speeding (10-19 over), uninsured, driving under restraint.

Justice Quirova, 26, of Alamosa was cited for false reporting.

Celia Kelly, 71, of Alamosa was cited for failing to stop at stop sign, uninsured vehicle.

Quiel Chavez, 24, of Alamosa was cited for failing to yield ROW when proceeding from stop sign.

Valentina Valdez, 62, of Alamosa was cited for failing to yield ROW upon entering highway.

Sabrina Chevalier, 43, of Pueblo was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Corey Punak, 38, of Pueblo was cited for driving under restraint.

Sergio Fierro Chavez, 32, of Monte Vista was cited for DUI -drugs, expired plates over 60 days, uninsured vehicle.

Nicholas Garcia, 22, of Monte Vista was cited for false reporting, obstructing, theft.

Sofus Hahn, 51, of New Zealand was cited for changing lanes when unsafe.

David Silvas, 28, of An-

tonito was cited for failing to stop at stop sign.

Leonel Silva, 74, of Alamosa was cited for speeding (5-9 over).

James Atencio, 24, of Alamosa was cited for obstructed windows.

Jaedon Quintana, 20, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Arah Hof, 37, of Alamosa was cited for unregistered vehicle, unlicensed driver.

Avelino Juan Pedro, 23, of Alamosa was cited for driving under restraint, drove without seatbelt.

Kreg Berry, 35, of Monte Vista was cited for uninsured vehicle.

Cruz Villa, 31, of Del Norte was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance, unlawful distribution.

Andres Rosendo, 31, of Alamosa was cited for disorderly conduct.

Matthew Salazar, 27, of Alamosa was cited for DUI -drugs.

Kyle Velasquez, 36, of South Fork was cited for theft \$300-\$999.

Ezekiel Naranjo, 21, of Alamosa was cited for criminal mischief.

Parolee arrested on drug charges

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA - A 42-year-old Alamosa man was arrested Saturday, May 4, after Alamosa Police Department detectives discovered illicit drugs and other drug-related items while serving a search warrant at 912 8th St.

Nicholas Hepworth was taken into custody and transported to the Alamosa County Detention Center for unlawful distribution of a schedule II drug (Fentanyl), and unlawful possession of a schedule II substance. An undisclosed amount of U.S. currency was also seized at the residence.

Hepworth is on parole with the Colorado Department of Corrections for similar drug-related

charges, according to a press release from the APD. He had bonded out of Alamosa County Jail on similar drug-related charges when he was arrested on Feb. 29.

"Based on these facts, Hepworth is a significant danger to the community, and the bond was set at \$50,000 cash only," the release said.

Detectives located over a thousand suspected fentanyl pills, methamphetamines, and cocaine.

"Due to the increased availability of fentanyl that our officers have

been discovering during their duties, we encourage you to contact our Criminal Investigations Division at 719-589-2548 or leave anonymous tips through our City website, www.cityofalamosa.org to report all suspicious activities within your neighborhood," APD said.

The Alamosa Police Department thanked the Monte Vista Police Department, Conejos County Sheriff's Office, and the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office for their joint efforts on this operation.

Donald William Richardson, Jr.

Donald William Richardson, Jr., passed away doing what he loved on May 2, 2024. Born on July 10, 1953, in Gunnison, Colo., he lived a life filled with adventure and a deep-rooted faith as a strong Christian.

Throughout his 17-year career as a ditch rider, Donald showcased his dedication and unwavering commitment to his work. However, it was through his hobbies and interests that he truly found solace and joy. Riding his motorcycle, snowmobile, and side by side vehicles brought him immense happiness, allowing him to embrace the freedom of the open road. A passionate outdoorsman, Donald also found peace in activities such as fishing and hunting, connecting with nature in a profound way.

In all aspects of his life, Donald embodied qualities of independence and a relentless spirit of exploration. His free-spirited nature led him to always be on the go, seeking new experiences at every turn. His adventurous soul was complemented by a deep



sense of spirituality that guided him through life's challenges and triumphs.

Donald will be fondly remembered by his surviving family members. He is survived by his son Shelby Richardson and daughter Shannon Hensley (Scott), along with grandchildren Kayden Richardson, Chloe Richardson, Courtney Martinez (Ethan), Cody Martinez (Brittany), Michael Hensley, Sierra Hensley, Shelby Fairchild (Dusty), and great-grandchildren Presley Rose Fairchild, Rowan Fairchild, Colter Lane Martinez and Adalynn Alaine Martinez.

He leaves behind his beloved mother Rose Marie Richardson and

siblings Carolyn Martin, Kathy Strickland (Cliff), Jim Richardson (Laurie), Frank Richardson (Lana), as well as numerous nieces and nephews including Bridget and Shylah. Donald was preceded in death by his father Donald William Richardson Sr. and brother-in-law Jack Martin.

Donald's passing while engaging in what brought him immense joy, serves as a poignant reminder of his zest for life and fearlessness in pursuing his passions until the very end. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew him best as an adventurous spirit who found beauty in every moment spent exploring the world around him.

Cremation was selected and a Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Gateway Church in Del Norte.

To share memories or leave words of sympathy, please visit www.mvmortuary.com. Mountain Valley Mortuary is assisting the family with arrangements.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Prexedes Sandoval

Manassa resident Prexedes Sandoval, 83, gained her angel wings on May 6, 2024, in La Jara, Colo., surrounded by her loving family. Services for Prexedes will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024,

with the Recitation of Rosary at 6 p.m. at Romero Valley Funeral Home in Alamosa. The Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic

Church in Conejos, Colo. Full Obituary to follow. To leave online condolences, please visit; romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu
Wednesday
May 8, 2024

BREAKFAST

Turkey Sausage/Roll
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Chicken Tacos
Black Beans
Spanish Rice
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Tacos
Black Beans
Spanish Rice
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Chicken Tacos
Black Beans
Spanish Rice
Fruit & Milk

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Valley News

Trinidad State a semifinalist for 2025 Aspen Prize

CONTRIBUTED WASHINGTON DC
 — On May 7, the Aspen Institute named Trinidad State College as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.



Courier file photo

Trinidad State College has been named as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Award. Pictured here is the Alamosa campus of the college.

“At Trinidad State we see potential in every student who walks through our doors,” said Trinidad State President Rhonda M. Epper. “Our students are successful because our faculty and staff believe in them and are committed to making their dreams a reality. We are so honored to be included in this esteemed group of community colleges.”

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, broad access to the college and its offerings, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2025, and will receive a \$1 million award, which comes with the prestigious honor.

Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, congratulated the semifinalists.

“Each of these colleges has demonstrated a sustained commitment to moving beyond enrollment and retention as the markers of student success by defining their success by whether the education they provide changes lives,” Wyner said. “These colleges understand that enrollment and graduation matter most when tied tightly to post-graduation success in transferring for a bachelor's degree and in securing fulfilling, good-paying jobs and careers.”

The Aspen Prize selection process began in October 2023, when Aspen invited 150 community colleges to apply, based on data showing strong, improving, and equitable student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, and transfer. One hundred and eighteen colleges applied, and their applications went to a diverse selection committee of 18 higher education experts who assessed each application based on extensive data and narrative answers to questions. Following interviews with leadership teams from applicants receiving top scores, 20 semifinalists were selected. In the com-

ing weeks, the committee will continue its review and narrow the field to 10 finalists, which will be announced in June.

After the 10 finalists are announced, next steps in the process include:

- Fall 2024: Multi-day in-person site visits to each of the 10 finalists, during which the Aspen Institute and partners will collect additional information and data, including extensive employment and earnings data on graduates from the finalist colleges.

- Winter 2025: A distinguished, independent Aspen Prize jury will review data and qualitative summaries that synthesize each part of the 14-month analyses, then meet for a full day to select the winner and others for additional recognition.

- Spring 2025: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner and celebration of the 10 finalists in Washington DC.

To read more on the selection process, visit <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by Ascendium, the Joyce Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, and the Kresge Foundation.

Fire destroys house on Willett Ranch

No injuries reported

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

SANFORD — A fire resulted in the total loss of a house on Willett Ranch near Sanford in Conejos County on Monday afternoon. People were occupying the house but fortunately, according to Conejos County Sheriff Garth Crowther, no one was home at the time, so no injuries, either to people or animals, were reported.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) prepare to battle a house fire in Sanford late Monday afternoon. The home was reportedly a total loss, but no injuries were reported according to a DFPC spokesman. Sanford Fire was first on scene and requested mutual aid from DFPC.

Conejos County Road and Bridge was also on scene with an excavator.

Crowther said that some of the firefighters were on scene until 10 or 11 p.m. Monday night but all crews had left when he returned to the scene at 6 a.m. Tuesday morning.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. “We’re still looking into it but, at this point, it looks to be accidental,” Crowther said.

Crowther praised the efforts of the firefighters in containing the fire as,

despite the high winds at the time, flames did not spread to surrounding land.

“If it had been two or three weeks ago, we would have been chasing that fire all the way to Fort Carson, but things were still green enough. There were a couple of spots that started up, but they were able to contain them. The fire departments did an excellent job. It’s very sad for the family but it could have been a whole lot worse,” Crowther said.

Fatality

Continued from Page 1

a Ford F350, also out of Monte Vista, was headed northbound.

Lyons said that CR C has a two-way stop at the intersection with CR 53, but the driver of the Ford F150 did not stop. Although Lyons did not know the speed limit on that specific stretch of CR 53, he guessed it was probably 55 mph.

“Everything happened in the middle of that intersection,” Lyons says. After entering the intersection, the Ford F150 was immediately struck by the semi on the driver's side followed by the Ford F350 on the rear passenger side.

Upon impact, all three vehicles rotated and “did what they do in a collision like this,” Lyons said.

The identities of the other two drivers have not been released at this time but, according to

Lyons, neither one sustained any serious injuries in the collision.

Lyons said the accident will be investigated by the Colorado State Patrol vehicular crimes unit, which does accident reconstructions.

“Sometimes we don’t get all the information we want, but they’ll do an investigation,” he said.

The Colorado State Patrol extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Saavedra.

SLVREC

Continued from Page 1

efforts, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP).

In an event held Friday at the Colorado State Capitol, Gov. Jared Polis voiced support for the On-Bill Repayment Program, which will allow members and businesses in Colorado and across the West to install home improvement efficiency and beneficial electrification measures, at no up-front cost with the ability to repay over time through their monthly utility bill. Unlike traditional loan programs, unique underwriting criteria (rather than traditional loan underwriting criteria) assess the member’s bill pay history, thereby qualifying a broader base of participants.

Eligible energy measures under the On-Bill Repayment Program include funding for new insulation, windows and doors, water heaters, heat pumps, HVAC systems, electric vehicle charging and other qualifying energy-efficient technology. The program also includes home energy assessments and vetting for authorized contractors. Because the financial obligation is tied to the service location, rather than the individual, this program also is unique from traditional consumer loan programs, in that it does not affect credit scores or create additional debt for the member consumer.

In many cases, the energy savings achieved through the newly installed measures are greater than the monthly



SLVREC Board Director Scott Wolfe and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo attended the Electrify and Save kickoff event at the Capitol on Friday.



SLVREC Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo spoke at the Capitol on Friday regarding the new program.

Courtesy photos

repayment obligation, thereby saving consumer members and businesses money on their utility bill every month.

Tri-State Chief Executive Officer Duane Highley and CCEF Chief Executive Officer Paul Scharfenberger joined Gov. Polis today in announcing the program.

“With this opportunity, members of electrical co-ops that are Tri-state customers can easily update their heating and cooling to more energy efficient options without upfront costs, saving them money and supporting the state we love for generations to come,” Gov. Polis said.

Tri-State, its members and CCEF learned earlier last week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had approved \$75 million in loans to Tri-State through the RESP, to be used on energy efficiency efforts for its members; of that amount, \$50 million in loans will be used to support the On-Bill Repayment Program. The RESP provides loans to rural utilities and other companies that, in turn, provide energy efficiency

loans to qualified consumers who implement durable, cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

The first phase of the On-Bill Repayment Program, initially offered in March by SLVREC, is a standardized program developed by Tri-State, its distribution system members and CCEF. The Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) launched its on-bill repayment program last week, with other distribution cooperatives to initiate the program later this year. Eleven other members are planning to offer the program in the near future.

“Working together with Tri-State, our members are solving challenges and supporting the rural communities they serve” Highley said. “One of the historic roadblocks to helping consumers and businesses embrace energy efficiency and beneficial electrification has been securing access to the capital needed to make meaningful improvements that reduce their energy costs.”

With CCEF and our members, we have a solution that provides financ-

ing in a simple, transparent and cost-effective way,” Highley said.

Beneficial electrification refers to technology that takes advantage of a reliable, affordable and cleaner electric grid, thus reducing emissions and energy costs. For example, heat pumps can heat and cool homes using only electricity and their technology is highly efficient.

With energy expertise and significant assets under management, CCEF will act as the program administrator, directing activities of the program center; recruiting and enrolling authorized contractors; and managing financing disbursements and servicing.

“This program will help improve the lives of our members through energy savings and increased home values,” added Eric Eriksen, chief executive officer for SLVREC in Monte Vista, the first Tri-State member to offer the On-Bill Repayment Program. “I know this to be true because I’ve experienced the positive impacts of a similar program firsthand in Alaska.”

Name

Continued from Page 1

interactions with Native Americans objectionable. Carson was a frontiersman and Commander of Fort Garland.

Wapiti Peak will be submitted by the county to the Colorado Geographic Naming Board for consideration as a new name for the 14,171-foot peak located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Currently, the board has several names under consideration for the peak.

If the state board decides to rename Kit Carson, it will make that recommendation to the federal U.S. Board on Geographic Names which has final renaming authority. The state board also has the option to keep the current name without any changes.

During the commissioners meeting several names were discussed for the rename, including a

Spanish word for elk, the Spanish word for deer, and Saguache Peak (already taken).

“The name wapiti derives from a Shawnee and Cree word meaning white-rump for elk,” said Commissioner Liza Marron. Commissioner Tom McCracken said, “I move that we make the suggestion ‘Wapiti,’ to the naming board for the large flat-top mountain that is now designated Kit Carson Peak.”

In other business, the commissioners also accepted the resignation of Bobby Woelz from the Office of Emergency Management and appointed David Frese as interim. McCracken said of Woelz, “I would just like to say we appreciate his service to the county and he did a really good job.”

The Crestone Food Bank set to reopen on May 30 after a long hiatus was also discussed and Commissioner Thompson said she would like to tour the facility before it opens.

Important Notice for Landowners: Opportunity to Sell Water Rights to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District

What's Happening? Many areas in Colorado rely on groundwater from wells for their irrigation needs. Through Groundwater Management Subdistricts here in the San Luis Valley there have been efforts to reduce the reliance on groundwater, but there's still work to be done!

What's Funding is Available? The state created the "Groundwater Compact Compliance and Sustainability Fund," to help us address our sustainability issues. With these funds, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District created a program and is offering money to landowners who are willing to reduce their use of their groundwater rights either completely or partially.

How Can You Participate? The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is taking applications from landowners who meet program criteria and are willing to sell their groundwater rights to the District. Successful applicants will receive payment from this Fund.

Details and Application:
 • You can find out more and get the program criteria and application form on the District's website at rgwcd.org. You can also visit the District's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by call the office at (719) 589-6301.
 • Applications can be submitted beginning on April 22, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. and will end on May 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
 • Completed applications can be emailed to wylie@rgwcd.org or dropped off at the District's Office.

Don't miss this limited opportunity if you're interested in getting paid for conserving groundwater!

Opinion

Bobcats need protection, not killing for their pelts

Unlike the rest of modern wildlife management, killing bobcats is unregulated, driven not by science but by fur prices. We're stuck in the 19th Century when market hunters, for example, shot boatloads of waterfowl with 10-foot-long, 100-pound "punt guns."

Writers On The Range



Ted Williams

Now, there's a campaign in Colorado — via a November 2024 ballot initiative — to ban hunting and trapping of bobcats, Canada lynx and mountain lions, though lynx are already listed by the state as endangered and supposedly protected.

As a lifelong hunter and angler, I'm told by a group called the Sportsmen's Alliance that it's my duty to defend bobcat trapping and hunting against such "antis" as those pushing the ballot initiative.

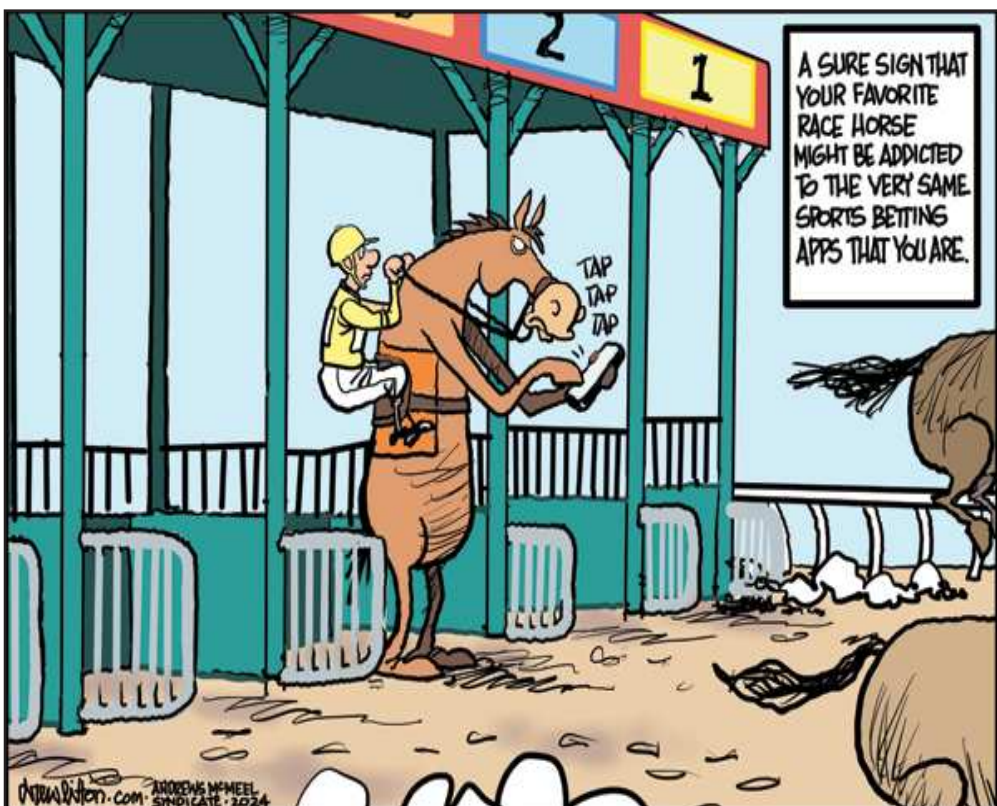
But a true sportsmen's alliance of ethical hunters — Teddy Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, William Hornaday, Congressman John Lacey, and other Boone and Crockett Club members — got most market hunting banned in 1918.

It persists today as commercial trapping and hunting of bobcats. Ethical hunters eat what they kill. Bobcat trappers and hunters discard the meat and sell pelts, mostly for export to China and Russia.

Yet the Sportsmen's Alliance warns me that, after bobcat trapping gets banned, "hunting ... and even fishing are the next traditions in the antis' crosshairs."

I don't buy it. I've heard this mantra since the 1970s, including from my then-colleagues at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife who, like me, were fed and clothed by fishing, trapping and hunting license dollars.

This from veteran bobcat researcher Dr. Mark Elbroch of the native cat conservation group Panthera: "Colorado



treats bobcats pretty much like they're treated throughout the West" (except for California where killing is banned without a special permit.)

"There are hardly any regulations in any state. No bag limits, no data on how many are out there. The hunting community gets super excited about what it calls the 'North American Model of Conservation,' and one of the tenets is you don't kill for profit or trade," Elbroch continued. "Trapping violates that model in every way. Bobcat trapping is the extreme — selling fur for luxury items. It's sickening."

From December through February, Colorado bobcat hunters and trappers may kill as many bobcats as they please. And hunters are permitted to pursue bobcats with hounds, an inhumane practice for both cats and hounds.

Bobcat traps are also unselective, catching other species such as Canada lynx, raptors, otters, foxes, martens, badgers, opossums and skunks. "Lynx, a close relative to bobcats, are naturally attracted to bait set for bobcats and are harmed, injured or killed when caught in traps," said Colorado veterinarian Christine Capaldo.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife attempts to rebut such reports with: "No lynx in Colorado has ever been reported as accidentally trapped by bobcat fur harvesters." Of course not. What bobcat trapper would jeopardize permissive regulations by filing such a report?

So, in addition to an estimated 2,000 bobcats, how many non-target animals

are killed by the roughly 4,000 bobcat traps annually set in Colorado? No one has a clue.

Colorado requires "humane" live traps. But they're scarcely more humane than legholds and less humane than quick-kill conibear traps.

During winter, bobcats keep warm by finding shelter. In live traps they're immobilized and exposed to cold, rain, snow and wind. Traps must be checked every 24 hours, but there's virtually no enforcement, so live-trapped bobcats sometimes suffer for days. When traps do get checked bobcats get bludgeoned or strangled.

Before European contact, bobcats prospered throughout what are now the contiguous states. Caucasian immigrants quickly set about rectifying this with an all-out war on the species, behavior that flabbergasted the Indigenous and for which their only explanation was that the pale faces were insane. By the early 20th century, bounties and government control had extirpated bobcats from much of the U.S.

Now bobcats are slowly recovering in every contiguous state save Delaware. That's an excellent reason not to kill them.

Bobcats belong to all Americans, the vast majority of whom prefer them alive. But they're managed for the very few people who kill them for profit. And from a strictly financial perspective, live bobcats are more valuable than dead ones.

A study published in 2017 in the

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email: khamrick@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. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

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."



Photo courtesy of Animal Wellness Action

Bobcat caught in a trap.

journal Biodiversity and Conservation, based on money spent by wildlife photographers, set the value of a single live bobcat at \$308,000. Today the average bobcat pelt fetches \$100.

Ted Williams is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, *writersontherange.org*, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. He writes about fish and wildlife for national publications.

Busy watching final season of United States

LA JOLLA - God bless America, and how's everybody?

Daily Variety reports TV shows are spread out over so many platforms that sports and news are our only nationally shared experiences. This past week I've been

unable to watch the NFL Draft or the NBA playoffs or the Kentucky Derby. I'm too busy watching the final season of the United States.

Cinco de Mayo was a festive drinking holiday in America Sunday honoring the date in history that Mexican forces routed the French Army in 1862. Ah yes, the French Army, everybody's favorite homecoming opponent. I'm so pro-Hispanic that candy would come out of me if you hit me with a stick.

North Korea's Kim Jung Un said Friday he has a hypersonic missile that can reach L.A. in 20 minutes. His CIA dossier says Kim dates underage women, takes Viagra, snorts cocaine, drinks Cognac and loves NBA basketball. You'd think he would spare Los Angeles out of professional courtesy.



Argus Hamilton

Golden Bachelor Gerry Turner and his glamorous bride Theresa Nist divorced on three months after getting married on TV. Such is life. If you're a celebrity and you're married to a celebrity, you know that your marriage is over when your wife will only let you watch her get undressed on Only Fans.

Al-Jazeera reported Friday that Teheran University will offer full four-year scholarships to any U.S. college professor who is expelled while participating in anti-American riots and chanting Death to America. I'd add a warning to the Queers for Palestine. Before leaving, pack a quick-opening parachute.

George Washington's statue at George Washington University in DC was covered by protestors in a Palestinian headdress. George, no Muslim by any means, brewed beer, distilled whiskey, raised tobacco and grew industrial-strength cannabis. His first book was Fear and Loathing on the Appalachian Trail.

Donald Trump accused Biden of running a Gestapo administration Saturday. If you keep score, the Democrats call Trump Hitler, Trump calls Democrats the Gestapo, and anti-Israel protestors now call for death to the Jews. The KKK must be mortified to realize they're now regarded as the Middle

Way.

Politico reported Sunday that South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave a thirty-minute speech at the RNC fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago on Saturday. However she was not included in the onstage photo with Trump and the other GOP speakers. Kristi's not just in the dog house, she's in the gravel pit.

President Biden gave a speech on the economic benefits of immigration Friday, then said Japan's economy is stagnant because they don't like immigration and are xenophobic toward foreigners. The president has a good point. Just look at the way Japan reacted when Godzilla emerged from Tokyo Bay.

The Bank of England said new British currency will go into circulation in June bearing the portrait of King Charles. The bank added that all currency with the late Queen's portrait will still be honored. The difference is, they had to widen the King Charles bills a little bit to accommodate his ears.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a bill call the California Food Safety Act that could threaten snack foods Oreos, Skittles, Cheetos, Doritos, Fruit Loops and Captain Crunch by the year 2027. The state is making no apologies. They contain a chemical that could turn

you into a conservative.

The Daily Mail tells how Boeing's Starliner space plane will avoid deadly black zones during its trip to the International Space Station. It was also reported Thursday that yet another Boeing whistleblower has mysteriously died. The company should change its name to The Clintons of the Sky.

The Methodist General Conference voted full communion with its mother Episcopal Church Tuesday. They are the two offshoots of the Church of England in America that share one handicap in common. Anglicans can't play chess because we can't tell the difference between a king and a bishop.

Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at *The Comedy Store in Hollywood* and entertains groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at ArgusJokes@yahoo.com.

Write them

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Do your part to remain 'bear aware' in 2024

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

COLORADO — With spring upon us, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) reminds residents and visitors that bears have emerged from hibernation to begin their daily search for food.

CPW has already received 110 reports of bear activity in 21 Colorado counties this year. Wildlife officials urge residents to secure any and all attractants. Bears should NOT eat from trash receptacles, bird feeders, or other human-provided food sources around homes or businesses.

"Every time a bear gets a treat, a bird feeder, a hummingbird feeder, or trash, it teaches the bear that people mean food," said Matt Yamashita, CPW's Area Wildlife Manager for Area 8 that covers Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Eagle and Pitkin counties. "People who think it's one time, no big deal, are totally wrong. It is a big deal when you compound that 'one time' with how many 'one timers' they get from your neighbors, too. It adds up."

The first bears to emerge from their winter dens are typically males (boars) followed by females (sows) that did not give birth to cubs over the winter. The last bears to emerge from winter dens are the females who gave birth to this year's cubs, usually in late April.

Early-season natural food sources for bears include grasses, aspen buds and other vegetative matter that is beginning to sprout. Those gentle food sources, the first crops available to them, help a bear's digestive system and metabolism adjust back to normal after not consuming anything for months.

"Their bodies need to adjust to the fact that they haven't consumed anything for sometimes six months," said Mark Vieira, CPW's Carnivore and Furbearer Program Manager. There is a phase called 'walking

hibernation' that refers to bears who are out on the landscape moving slowly and eating what tends to be vegetative material that starts to pass through their system to get their bodies ready for early summer food sources. That is when they will move back into the typical omnivore diet that we see bears eating the rest of the year."

Over 90 percent of a bear's natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants - native crops dependent on moisture. Wildlife officials monitor weather patterns in the spring and summer to help determine what natural forage will be available in the summer and fall.

Data shows there are fewer human-bear conflicts and interactions in years with good moisture and abundant natural food sources.

Though most human-bear interactions occur in the late summer and fall months, a late frost or prolonged dry weather could lead to localized natural food failures and a rise in conflicts. A lack of natural food availability pushes black bears to be more persistent in their search for human-food sources. Being bear aware not only protects your home and property, but it can save a bear's life.

Starting with proper bear aware practices in the spring may help prevent bears from discovering your home or neighborhood as a food source that they will return to throughout the year.

Become Bear Aware Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds people to take simple precautions to avoid human/wildlife conflicts and help keep bears wild.

Bear-proofing your home:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them free of food odors: ammonia is effective.
- Keep garage doors closed. Do not leave pet

food or stock feed outside.

- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.
- Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.
- Don't allow bears to become comfortable around your house. If you see one, haze it by yelling, throwing things at it and making loud noises to scare it off.
- Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.
- Clean the grill after each use, and clean up thoroughly after cook-outs.

If you have fruit trees, don't allow the fruit to rot on the ground.

Talk to your neighbors and kids about being Bear Aware.

Cars, traveling and campsites:

- Lock your doors when you're away from home and at night.
- Keep the bottom-floor windows of your house closed when you're not at home.
- Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
- When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle.
- Keep a clean camp, whether you're in a campground or in the backcountry.

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

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

Protecting your chickens, bees, livestock:

- Keep chickens, bees and livestock in a fully covered enclosure, especially at night.
- Construct electric fencing when possible.
- Don't store livestock feed outside.
- Keep enclosures clean to minimize animal odors.
- As a scent deterrent, hang rags soaked in ammonia or Pine-Sol around the enclosure.

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Region-wide striping operations to begin May 13 in Southern Colorado

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation, in partnership with Road Safe Traffic, will begin restriping operations on several highways throughout southwestern and south-central Colorado in mid-May. Striping operations will begin May 13 spanning across Alamosa, Chaffee, Dolores, Gunnison, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, San Juan, and San Miguel counties. "Each spring and summer, CDOT works to restore and refresh lane stripings and markings along our state and US highways. The paint fades and is weathered over time, especially due to wear and tear from winter maintenance operations," explained CDOT Re-

gional Transportation Director Julie Constan. "This annual striping project preserves the reflectivity of highway markings needed for drivers to see brighter, more visible lines in all weather conditions." CDOT will restripe the white and yellow lane markings, matching and refreshing existing pavement lines on both asphalt and concrete pavement types. The fresh highway paint is also a technological benefit to vehicles that are autonomous or utilize the lane departure warning system. These advanced technologies depend upon constantly maintained stripes to allow the vehicles to "see" the lines and allow the vehicle to stay in their lane.

Work will take place at the following locations:

- US 550 (MP 57 to

117), Coal Bank Pass to Colona

• US 491 (MP 31 to 69), Cortez to Utah state line

• US 285 (MP 127 to 148), Poncha Springs to Johnson Village

• US 160 (MP 200 to 233), Del Norte to Alamosa

• US 50 (MP 165 to 223), Gunnison to Salida

• US 24 (MP 193 to 227), Granite to Antero Junction

• CO 291 (MP 0 to 9), Salida to US 285 Junction

• CO 145 (MP 53 to 117), Lizard Head Pass to Naturita

• CO 17 (MP 69 to 88), Alamosa to Hooper

Traffic Impacts Beginning May 13, general working hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the possibility of some night work.

Sports

Pirates plunder Mean Moose in 13-7 win

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School baseball team hosted Monte Vista in its home finale Tuesday at Ortega Middle School. However, the home field didn't help the Mean Moose as they lost to the Pirates 13-7.

Monte Vista started fast by scoring five runs in the top of the first inning. Kobe Jiron led off by getting hit by a pitch, and Jakob Ross and Kaden Mellott both singled to load the bases. Jiron scored on a wild pitch, and Ross came home on Azariah Hurtado's groundout. Another wild pitch brought Mellott home for a 3-0 lead.

Jeremiah Baumgardner and Kaden Madrid both walked, and Judah Howe's single plated Jeremiah Baumgardner. After Chayse Bouet drew a walk, Deon Baumgardner, who was courtesy running for Madrid, scored on Domyon Naranjo's sacrifice fly.

The Pirates added three more runs in the second. Mellott hit a leadoff double and Hurtado singled to plate Mellott. Hurtado came home on a wild pitch to increase the lead to 7-0.

Madrid was hit by a pitch, and Howe received a base on balls. Bouet singled to bring home Deon Baumgardner and the Pirates led 8-0.

The Mean Moose finally got on the scoreboard with a run in the third. Tony Griego singled, took second on a passed ball and third



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Monte Vista High School's Azariah Hurtado rounds third and heads for home after slamming a two-run home run in Tuesday's game against Alamosa at Ortega Middle School. The Pirates defeated the Mean Moose 13-7.

on an error. He scored as Carlos Garcia reached on an error.

The Pirates scored twice in the top of the fifth. Naranjo singled, took second on an error and third on a wild pitch. He scored on Jiron's groundout.

Ross continued the inning with a single, and Mellott was safe on an error. Hurtado also reached on an error to drive home Ross.

Alamosa scored twice in the bottom of the fifth. Xavier Lujan and Brennan Maez both walked to start the inning, and both came home on Nelson Arambula's double.

Monte Vista scored once in the sixth. Madrid was safe on an error and Deon Baumgardner advanced on a wild pitch and scored on Bouet's double.

The Mean Moose also scored once in the sixth. Jonah Pittman singled and Kiko Ruybal also had an infield single. An error allowed Pittman to come home.

The Pirates put two more runs on the board in the seventh. Mellott singled and Hurtado slammed a two-run home run for a 13-4 advantage.

Alamosa attempted one last rally in the bottom of the seventh. Griego and Tino Rodriguez both had infield singles and Arambula was hit by a pitch. Gus West reached on an error and Griego and Rodriguez both scored. Arambula came home on Jayden Mizokami's groundout.

The Mean Moose had two runners on base later in the inning

but both were left stranded.

Ruybal started on the mound for Alamosa and was dealt the loss. He allowed eight runs and five hits and he struck out non-walked four and hit three batters. West finished the game and gave up five runs and seven hits and had two strikeouts and two walks.

Jiron started for Monte Vista and he took the win. He gave up seven runs and 10 hits and he struck out six, walked two and hit one batter. Jeremiah Baumgardner finished the game and allowed no runs and no hits with two strikeouts and one walk.

The Alamosa offense was led by Griego who went 3-4 and Arambula who went 2-3 with a double and two RBIs.

Leading Monte Vista on offense were Mellott who went 3-5 with a double, Bouet who went 2-5 with a double and two RBIs, Hurtado who went 2-5 with a home run and five RBIs, and Ross who went 2-5.

Alamosa (6-15, 3-3) will conclude the season on Saturday as it will travel to Pagosa Springs for a doubleheader beginning at 11 a.m.

Monte Vista (16-3, 11-0) will end the regular season at South Park also on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

Monte Vista 13, Alamosa 7

Monte Vista	530	021	2-13	12	4
Alamosa	001	021	3-7	10	5

Jiron (W), J. Baumgardner (7) and Madrid. Ruybal (L), West (2) and Garcia. HR – MV: Hurtado (7th inn., 1 on, no outs).

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor **Ken Hamrick** on X. His handle is @KenHamrick1.

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY
Prep baseball
Center at Sargent (2) - no report
Monte Vista 13, Alamosa 7
Trinidad at Sanford (2) - no report

SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
Prep baseball
Del Norte at Montezuma-Cortez, 4 p.m.

Prep girls golf
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Alamosa Invitational (at Cattails), 9 a.m.

College baseball
Adams State vs. Colorado School of Mines (RMAC Tournament at Grand Junction), 11 a.m.

THURSDAY
Prep baseball
Sanford at Walsenburg, 4 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Alamosa at Delta (Class 3A State Tournament), 4 p.m.

College baseball
Adams State at RMAC Tournament (at Grand Junction), TBA

FRIDAY
Prep girls golf
Alamosa at Rye Invitational (at Hollywood Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Prep track and field
Alamosa, Antonito, Center, Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Monte Vista, Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande at Monte Vista Last Chance Meet, 9 a.m.

Alamosa, Centauri, Sanford at Pueblo West Invitational, 1 p.m.

Sargent at Friday Night Lights (at CSU Pueblo), TBA

College baseball
Adams State at RMAC Tournament (at Grand Junction), TBA

SATURDAY
Prep baseball
Alamosa at Pagosa Springs (2), 11 a.m.

Monte Vista at South Park (2), 11 a.m.

Trinidad at Center (2), 11 a.m.

Sierra Grande vs. Flatirons Academy (Class 1A Region 4 Tournament at Byers), 12:30 p.m.

Sierra Grande/Flatirons Academy winner vs. Holly/Haxtun winner (Class 1A Region 4 Tournament at Byers), TBA

College baseball
Adams State at RMAC Tournament (at Grand Junction), TBA

TUESDAY
Prep baseball
Sargent at Del Norte (2), 11 a.m.
Salida at Centauri (2), 3 p.m.

South Park at Center (2), 3 p.m.

Prep girls golf
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Class 3A Region 4 Tournament (at Cattails), 9 a.m.

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

MONTE VISTA – The annual Monte Vista Invitational girls golf tournament became a dual meet as the Lady Pirates hosted Alamosa Tuesday at the Monte Vista Golf Course.

Monte Vista won the dual with a final score of 330, compared to 349 for the Lady Mean Moose.

Leading the Lady Pirates was Brooke Hoffstaetter who was the individual medalist with a 105. Reagan Futrell finished in third place with a 110, Kiera Sanchez was sixth with a 115, and Evie Hinds was 13th with a 126.

Ellaree Rockey finished in second place with a 106, however, she was not a part of the first team. Also golfing for Monte Vista were Alessah Archuleta who was ninth with a 119, Destiny Pacheco who was 12th with a 124, Laura Story who was 14th with a 128, Katie Pacheco who was 15th with a 129, Zariah Archuleta and Claire Seger who both tied for 16th with a 130, Ana Arroyo who was 18th with a 131, Saina Baumgardner who was 19th with a 135, Destiny Pacheco who was 20th with a 138, and Kaitlynn Roberts who was 21st with a 139.

The Lady Mean Moose were led by Jayla Quintana who finished fifth with a 114. Paloma Zahringer was sixth with a 113, Addison Rice was 10th with a 120, and Presley Gonzales was 11th with a 121.

Other Alamosa golfers included Khloe Spangler who was fourth with a 113, and Sydney Mason who was sixth with a 115. Neither were on the first team.

Both teams will compete at the Alamosa Invitational today. The tournament begins at 9 a.m. at Cattails Golf Club.

Monte Vista 330, Alamosa 349

Par 72

Individual scores

Brooke Hoffstaetter (MV)*	105
Ellaree Rockey (MV)	106
Reagan Futrell (MV)*	110
Khloe Spangler (A)	113
Jayla Quintana (A)*	114
Kiera Sanchez (MV)*	114
Paloma Zahringer (A)*	115
Sydney Mason (A)	115
Alessah Archuleta (MV)	119
Addison Rice (A)*	120
Presley Gonzales (A)*	121



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Monte Vista High School's Brooke Hoffstaetter drives from the first tee in Tuesday's dual meet against Alamosa. Hoffstaetter was the medalist with a 105.

Destiny Pacheco (MV)	124	Ana Arroyo (MV)	131
Evie Hinds (MV)*	126	Shaina Baumgardner (MV)	135
Laura Story (MV)	128	Destiny Pacheco (MV)	138
Katie Pacheco (MV)	129	Kaitlynn Roberts (MV)	139
Zariah Archuleta (MV)	130	*Counted for team score	
Claire Seger (MV)	130		

Adams State baseball to play in RMAC Tournament

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – After splitting a weekend series with Colorado Mesa, the Adams State University baseball team will advance to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference postseason tournament which begins today in Grand Junction.

The Grizzlies enter as the No. 4 seed and they will face the third-seeded Colorado School of Mines at 11 a.m.

The Colorado Mesa series featured four high-scoring contests. On Thursday, the Grizzlies defeated the Mavericks 28-16, but CMU swept ASU in a doubleheader on Friday. The scores were 36-6 and 24-7.

The series concluded on Saturday with the Grizzlies winning 14-10.

ASU had eight full-time team members hit better than .300 this season. Leading the way is Mike Bathauer at .432 and he also has 14 doubles, two triples, 15 home runs and 74 RBIs.

Ayden Tauscher is batting .389, Christian Altimirano is at .392, Jack Dere .391, Phil Carter .385, Matt Bathauer .380, Joseph Baker .360 and Seth Reker



.352.

In other games, top-seeded Colorado Mesa will play sixth-seeded CSU Pueblo at 3 p.m., and second-seeded Regis will play fifth-seeded Metro State-Denver at 7 p.m.

Should the Grizzlies win, they will play either MSU-Denver or Regis Thursday at 7 p.m. If they lose, they will face either Colorado Mesa or CSU Pueblo Thursday at 3 p.m.

This year marks the first time in several seasons in which the Grizzlies will play in the RMAC Tournament.

Tibbitts qualifies for state in boys swimming

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – Ben Tibbitts is a junior at Centauri High School. However, neither Centauri nor any other school in the San Luis Valley fields a boys swimming team, he makes the long journey to Pueblo to compete on the Pueblo County team.

Tibbitts has found success swimming for the Hornets. At a meet on Saturday, he qualified for the state meet in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:56.8 and the 100 freestyle in 52.2 seconds.

He was also a part of a relay that qualified for state. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, he

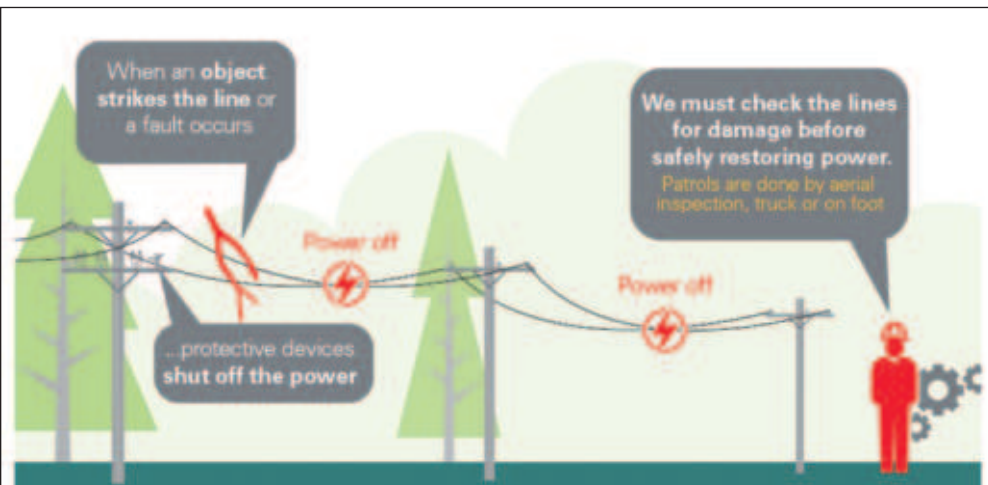


Courtesy photo by Vibrant Valley Photography
Centauri High School's Ben Tibbitts competes in a meet for Pueblo County last week.

qualified with a time of 24.1 seconds in his leg.

The Class 4A State Meet takes place on Thursday and Friday at the Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center in Thornton.

Lifestyle



Xcel Energy explains impact of Wildfire Safety Settings

CONTRIBUTED
When the San Luis Valley is in “Red Flag Critical Fire Weather Conditions,” Xcel Energy announced it will implement safeguards to reduce wildfire starts as part of its Wildfire Mitigation Program, specifically its Wildfire Safety Settings.

“As wildfire risk increases across the West, we’re committed to working hard every day to improve safety and reduce wildfire threats across our service area. As part of this commitment, Xcel Energy’s Wildfire Mitigation Program is designed to help protect lives, property, and Colorado’s forests from the threat of wildfire by proactively implementing various mitigation strategies to prevent our electric system from becoming the source of an ignition,” Xcel officials stated.

One of these mitigation strategies is Wildfire Safety Settings. In Wildfire Risk Zones, Xcel Energy has implemented a Wildfire Safety Settings pilot program in select areas of its electric distribution system.

These settings use upgraded wildfire devices to operate its system more conservatively when wildfire conditions are elevated due to a combination of high tempera-

tures, dry ground fuel and high winds.

“By enabling more sensitive protection settings during times of increased fire risk, we help keep our customers and communities safe. Please keep in mind that wildfire risk may exist year-round in some areas,” Xcel officials stated.

How it works

Xcel has upgraded select areas of its electric distribution system with wildfire devices that support more sensitive protection settings during periods of high wildfire risk.

These upgrades allow the system in these areas to instantly interrupt the flow of energy through a power line segment when a fault is detected, such as a tree branch or other object making contact with the power line, to prevent the potential ignition of ground fuel.

When the system is in Wildfire Safety Settings mode, the line remains de-energized until crews can patrol the area to ensure it is safe to restore service.

“Communities in designated risk zones may experience more frequent or longer outages, as we ensure the safety of our customers in these areas,” Xcel officials stated.

Preparing for potential outages

Xcel stated it under-

stands how disruptive it is to lose power, and “that’s why we’re working hard to reduce the impact of outages and help you be prepared. It is not possible to notify customers in advance of outages caused by these enhanced safety settings,” Xcel officials stated.

Xcel encourages customers to update their contact information and sign up for outage notifications at myaccount.xcelenergy.com or by calling 800-895-4999. If an outage is triggered by Xcel’s Wildfire Safety Settings, this will ensure they can communicate the outage’s status and estimated restoration time.

Learn how to prepare for potential outages, report an outage or check an outage status by visiting xcelenergy.com/Outages. For outage information, people can also:

- Text OUT to 98936 to report an outage, or text STAT to check the status of an outage.
- Use Xcel Energy’s mobile app available on iOS and Android.
- Call 800-895-1999.

For more information about Xcel’s Wildfire Safety Settings pilot program, visit XcelEnergy-WildfireMitigation.com/Operational-Awareness, call 833-352-0087 or email info@XcelEnergy-WildfireMitigation.com.

‘Assault weapons’ ban falters in final days of Colorado legislative session

By **QUENTIN YOUNG**
Colorado Newsline

A proposed ban on “assault weapons” in Colorado appears dead in the Legislature.

A bill that would prohibit the sale, manufacture and transfer — but not possession — of assault weapons passed the state House of Representatives last month and was introduced in the Senate days later. But with the legislative session set to end Wednesday, the bill had yet to get a committee hearing in the upper chamber, and its Senate sponsor said Monday she intends to ask for the measure to be postponed indefinitely at a committee hearing Tuesday.

“After thoughtful conversations with my Senate colleagues, I decided that more conversations need to take place outside of the pressure cooker of the Capitol during the last weeks of the legislative session,” Sen. Julie Gonzales said in a statement to Newsline. “In that spirit, I look forward to renewing and continuing those discussions over the interim. It is clear that survivors of devastating gun violence, responsible gun owners, and local and national policy advocates remain committed to doing the work necessary to save lives — and an assault weapons ban will do just that.”

Democrats in the House last year attempted to pass an assault weapons

ban, but the bill failed in committee. This year was the first time such a bill passed the full Colorado House. The chamber passed House Bill 24-1292 on a 35-27 vote. Every Republican present voted against it, joined by nine Democrats, who were mostly from rural or swing districts.

The bill was sponsored

in the House by Democratic Reps. Elisabeth Epps of Denver, who also sponsored last year’s bill, and Democratic Rep. Tim Hernández of Denver.

“I couldn’t be prouder of my colleagues in the House of Representatives for passing an assault weapons ban for the first time in Colorado history,” Gonzales said.

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS



Wednesday, May 8

Baseball vs #3 Colorado School of Mines at Grand Junction, Colo.

11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11

Women’s Track at Sound Running Track Fest at Los Angeles, Calif.

6:00 p.m. (PDT)

Thursday, May 23

Men & Women’s Track at NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Emporia, Kan.

TBA

Friday, May 24

Men & Women’s Track at NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Emporia, Kan.

TBA

Saturday, May 25

Men & Women’s Track at NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Emporia, Kan.

TBA



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Give — — break!"
 - 4 Pepper spray
 - 8 Field size
 - 12 Addition
 - 13 Reputation
 - 14 Wharf
 - 15 — -Wan Kenobi
 - 16 Suspend
 - 17 Advise earnestly
 - 18 Measure of electric power
 - 20 Auctions
 - 21 Solemn fear
 - 22 Crazy — of old comics
 - 23 Cliff edge
 - 26 Like some athletes
 - 30 Dog breed
 - 31 "—, a deer ..."
 - 32 Study in haste
 - 33 Related by birth
 - 35 Roadhouse
 - 36 — Maria
 - 37 Moreover
 - 39 "Honky Tonk —"
- DOWN**
- 1 Kitten's cry
 - 2 Isle of exile
 - 3 Dismounted
 - 4 Western Indian
 - 5 Saying
 - 6 Ice cream order
 - 7 Work unit
 - 8 Connected with water
 - 9 Ringlet

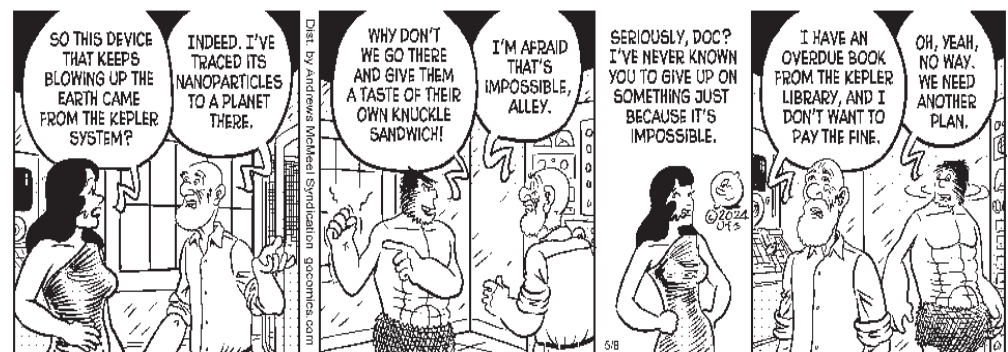
Answer to Previous Puzzle

W	E	S	T		C	H	I	N		A	B	S
E	R	I	E		A	I	D	E		L	E	E
A	N	N	A		S	T	E	P		O	L	D
R	E	G	R	E	T		S	T		I	F	L
				U	R	S	A		U	T	T	E
T	A	M	P	A		V	A	N	E			
I	C	E			C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y
P	E	N	C	H	A	N	T		R	O	U	E
				L	L	U	L		F	R	E	T
A	T	L	A	S		E	S	A				
C	R	U	M	B	S		T	R	I	V	I	A
I	O	N		A	L	S	O	N		E	R	O
D	U	G		N	O	O	N		E	T	O	N
S	T	S		D	E	W	Y		D	O	N	E

- 10 Fury
- 11 Potato buds
- 19 Sun worshiper's goal
- 20 Singer — Cooke
- 22 Sharp
- 23 Spill the beans
- 24 Roue
- 25 Leggy bird
- 26 "— of Anarchy"
- 27 Baby's wheels
- 28 Rant and —
- 29 Sign
- 31 Usual food and drink
- 34 Heavenly bliss
- 38 Payable
- 39 Tall boots
- 40 Gives a thumbs up
- 42 "Holy smoke!"
- 43 Great — of China
- 44 Director — Kazan
- 45 Molecule part
- 46 Budge
- 47 "— — no kick from champagne ..."
- 48 Region
- 49 Advantage
- 51 Bit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19			20				
		21				22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33			34		35			36		
37				38			39	40		
			41			42				
43	44	45			46			47	48	49
50					51			52		
53					54			55		
56					57			58		

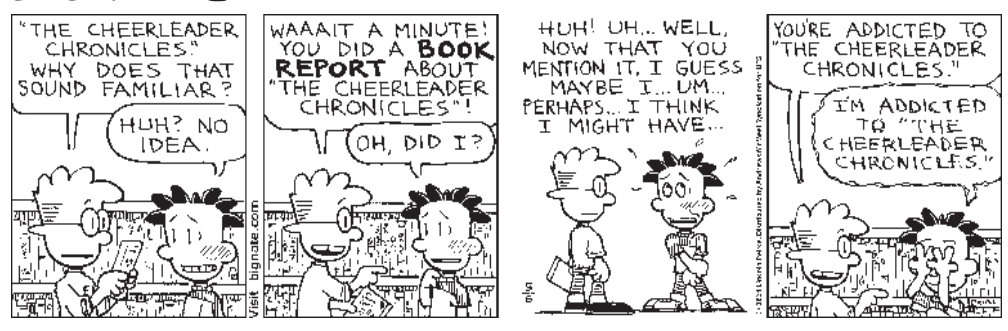
ALLEY OOP



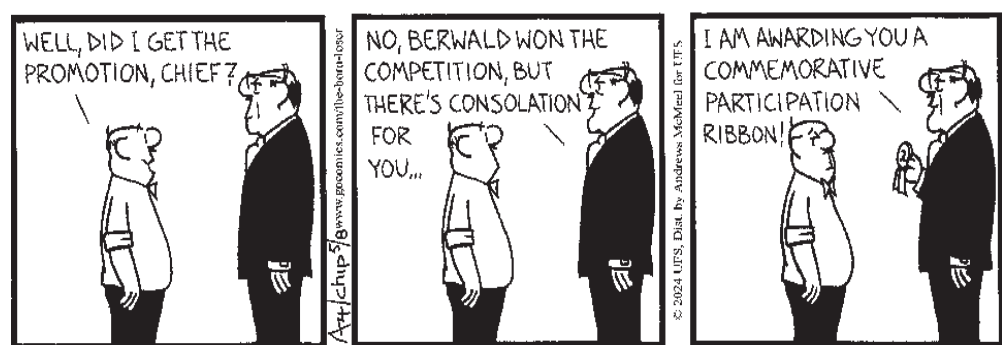
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



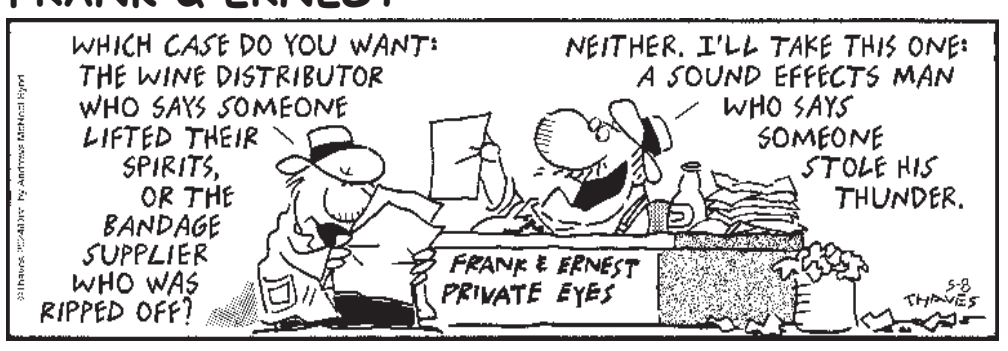
THE BORN LOSER



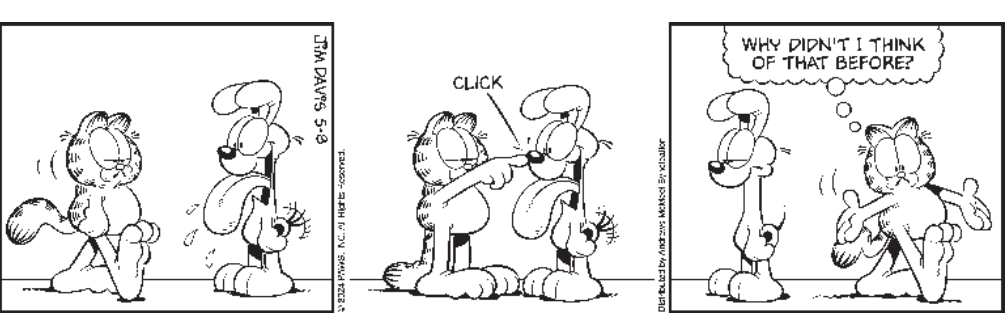
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



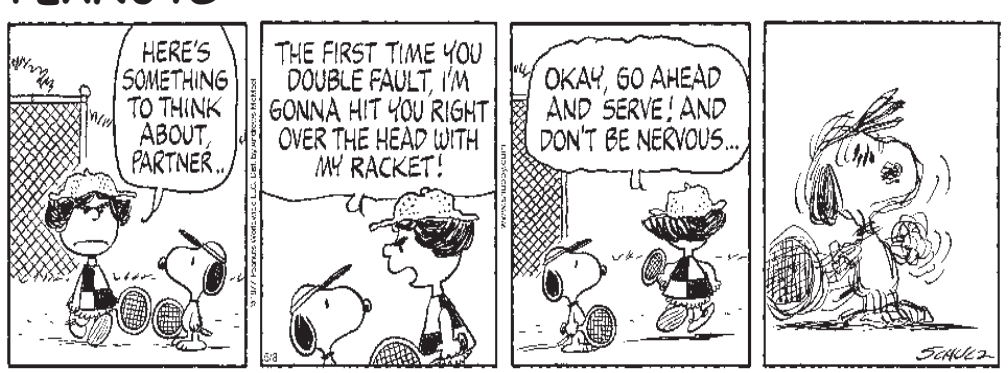
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

			2	9				
	4	5	8					3
8			3	4	1	9		
		3	6			7		
4	1		9			2	6	
	6		1		5			
	7	9	2	5				8
6			7		9	5		
			9	4				

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	3	5	9	1	2	6	4	7
9	1	6	5	4	7	2	3	8
4	7	2	6	3	8	9	1	5
1	2	4	8	5	6	3	7	9
6	8	3	4	7	9	5	2	1
7	5	9	3	2	1	8	6	4
3	6	7	1	9	5	4	8	2
5	4	1	2	8	3	7	9	6
2	9	8	7	6	4	1	5	3

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN



Husband tells his wife to find a side piece for sex

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for the last 25 years to a wonderful man, "Frank." We are very happy in all areas except for intimacy. Frank has lost all interest in intimacy and sex. It began about two years ago, and I have tried everything to reignite the flame in our relationship. Frank's sex drive has disappeared!

About a year ago, he told me I should find someone -- a take care of my sexual needs. At the time I said no, hoping he would be interested again. Now, after a year of waiting, I am seriously considering finding a "friend."

Do you think I should follow through with it, or keep waiting and hoping Frank will change? Have you any advice about how to restart the intimacy in our relationship? -- EXTINGUISHED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR EXTINGUISHED: You and your husband need to have another serious talk about this. He should also talk to his doctor and ask for a referral to a urologist and an endocrinologist, who may be able to help. The inability to achieve an erection occurs in some men around age 50 and even younger, which is why Viagra is such a popular drug. If your husband is

willing to discuss this with a medical professional, it may be the solution to his (and your) problem.

DEAR ABBY: I met a co-worker about a year ago and we started dating. He had been clean and sober from alcohol for more than 10 years. We got along very well, but he is drinking again, and his behavior has changed -- there are mood swings, bouts of jealousy and finger-pointing.

When he drinks, it's unpleasant, and the smell seeping from his pores is nauseating. He finds almost any reason to have a drink. When I try to talk to him about it, he says he does nothing wrong and he drinks because he wants to, or some other reason that makes no sense. I'm tired of the excuses. Then he begs for forgiveness or accuses me of not wanting him around.

I have told him he needs to work on himself and get back into the program, and he says all he can do is take one day at a time. He drinks and drives, which poses a danger to himself and others. He's jealous of my ex and my grown children. He plays the victim, and his answers to questions are, "I don't remember," "I didn't do anything," or "I don't know what you're talking about." I'm at my wits' end and can't take any more.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Please help. -- TOXIC RELATIONSHIP

DEAR TOXIC: Draw the line. Remind your co-worker that when you started dating him, he was on the wagon. Tell him that when he drinks his personality changes, and you do not like the person he becomes. You need to educate yourself about alcoholism, and an effective way to do that would be to join Al-Anon and attend some meetings.

If you really "can't take any more," stop dating him! And, if it creates problems where you work, inform your boss or supervisor. I'm sure that because of the potential liability, your employer won't be thrilled about having a drunk for an employee.

