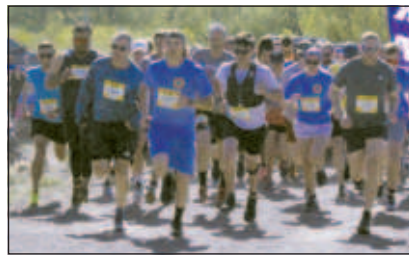




Reptile barn celebrated with ribbon cutting

— Page 4



Top finishers at Rio Trio event

— Page 6

San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine
Today's Issue Sponsored By:

San Luis Valley Federal Bank

Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau

VOLUME 98, NO. 85

Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

May 28, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

June romance at Spines

ALAMOSA — Indulge your summer fantasies of romance with the special sale this month at Spines book shed in Alamosa. All romance books are half price. Every purchase earns you two extra free paperbacks.

History buffs will find more of Dr. McDaniel's extensive book collection and a new donation of Civil War-related books. Many books for children are available to help pass the summer months.

The monthly book sale is Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash or check only. Spines is located off the alley north of the Alamosa Post Office. Proceeds support special projects and operations at the Alamosa Public Library. Contact Allyn at 719-588-9410, for more information or to volunteer.

SLV Community Band to perform May 30

ALAMOSA — The SLV Community Band will perform its annual spring concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, in Adams State University's Richardson Hall, 208 Edgemont Blvd., Alamosa. The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert is the highlight of the 2023-24 concert season and will represent the best of the band.

The concert on May 30 will feature a variety of musical selections that includes music from the "Lion King," a ragtime piece highlighting the talent of the band's trombone section, an original band composition by Clifton Williams, a band transcription of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" by Martin Luther, and an orchestral transcription of "Folk Dances" by Dmitri Shostakovich. In addition to the selections for the full band, the concert will feature a few numbers performed by the Hard To Be Humble Tuba Quartet - made up of the low brass contingent of the community band.

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Showers, Mostly Sunny 76/39

Wed: Slight Chance of Showers, Mostly Sunny 78/38

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 78/40

INSIDE

Record Page 2
 Valley News Page 3
 Lifestyle Page 4
 Graduations Page 5
 Sports Page 6
 Public Notice Page 7
 Classifieds Pages 8 and 9
 Comics Page 10

2024 AHS class goes out into the world

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Beneath a blue sky with slightly breezy conditions, close to 120 graduating seniors of the Alamosa High School Class of 2024 took the ceremonial walk across the stage on Saturday morning at the school's stadium.

Clad in graduation gowns of either maroon or white, they were handed their diplomas by a faculty member of their choice, signifying their accomplishments in completing their high school years and paving the way to new roads ahead.

As Principal Andy Lavier told the crowd who had assembled, some students are headed to the military. Others, who have already earned their asso-

■ See GRADS page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

AHS Class of 2024.

Let not their valor be forgotten

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — At a Memorial Day service at the Alamosa Cemetery on May 27, Veterans and others assembled to honor those who gave service and life to the nation.

Monte Collins, Commander of the Alamosa American Legion, presided over the ceremony and reflected upon the

■ See MEMORIAL page 2

Monte Collins (center) Commander of the Dickey-Springer No. 113 post of the American Legion led the ceremony honoring Memorial Day at the Alamosa Cemetery on May 27.

Courier photo by John Waters



Alamosa commissioners recognize students with scholarships



Courtesy photo

Commissioner Vern Heersink, Deanna Padilla, Kayleigh Garcia, Joaquin Salinas, Sonia Salinas, Commissioner Lori Laske. Kayleigh Garcia and Joaquin Salinas received the Alamosa County Bright Future Scholarship during a meeting on May 22.

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — At the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 22, commissioners celebrated several Valley students.

Kayleigh Garcia and Joaquin Salinas received the scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship was open to high school seniors and college students who are currently enrolled in an accredited educational institution and have a family member employed with Alamosa County.

This is the first year the scholarship was awarded, but the county plans on continuing with it every year, according to County Com-

missioners. ■ See STUDENTS page 3

Polis comes to Valley to sign 3 significant bills into law

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Governor Polis was in the Valley on Friday to sign several bills into law, two sponsored by Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) and one by Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-D6), which hold special importance to the communities in the area. All passed with significant bi-partisan support.

The ceremony started at Milagro's in Alamosa where the governor signed HB24-1314 "Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures," sponsored by Reps. Martinez and Lucas and Sens. Gonzales and Will.

Gov. Polis thanked everyone for being present for this "exciting bill that will send \$5 million out for projects for preserving historic projects and making sure they can play a role in improving our quality of life."

He then turned the podium over to Rep. Martinez, who acknowledged

■ See POLIS page 3



Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Governor Jared Polis, middle, was with Rep. Matt Martinez, second from left, and local supporters of historic preservation at Milagro's on Friday, May 24, to sign HB24-1314 Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures into law. Sponsored by Martinez (D-62), who represents the San Luis Valley, HB24-1314 expands income tax credit for costs incurred in preservation of historic structures like Milagro's and others throughout the Valley.

Looking for a new AG lender? Look no further!

Chad and Lee are both lifelong farmers/ranchers and have vast experience both in the field and in the office. We have a lending team and support systems for your operation whether it's Cow/Calves, Hay, Chickens... whatever your operation demands, we can help.

Please call us today!

Chad - 719-657-4550 • Lee - 719-657-4553

www.TrueLocalBank.com



Chad Spearman



DEL NORTE BANK



Lee Crowther

Member FDIC



52078 00101 0

Record

Memorial

Continued from Page 1
solemn day stating, "It is the soldier, not the reporter who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the poet who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the politician who has given us the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

At Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, President Biden said, "Today, we once again gather in this sacred place, at this solemn hour, to honor our fallen heroes, to once again stand amid the rows and rows of marble stones and bear witness to the brave women and men who served and sacrificed for our freedom and for our future; those who died so our nation might live."

Memorial Day has its origins in the post-Civil War period when the organization of Union Veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate graves of the war dead. Today, this is recognized as Memorial Day.

Before an 1868 gath-



The flag of the United States Marine Corps waves during the Memorial Day service at the Alamosa Cemetery on May 27.

ering of about 5,000 people at Arlington National Cemetery, James A. Garfield honored Veterans with these words, "For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism, and their virtue." Garfield too, would give his life for his country when, as president, he was killed by an assassin's bullet in 1881.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterlooloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. At the time, Johnson said, "On this Memorial Day, as we honor the memory of brave men

who have borne our colors in war, we pray to God for His mercy. We pray for the wisdom to find a way to end this struggle of nation against nation, of brother against brother. We pray that soon we may begin to build the only true memorial to man's valor in war, a sane and hopeful environment for the generations to come."

In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday.

In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, calling upon the American people to truly reflect on the ultimate sacrifice for which our heroes in uniform have



Photo by Marie Mccollm

Approximately 200 people attended the Memorial Day service at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery on May 27.

given to preserve freedom and liberty for generations to come. Specifically, the law encourages Americans to pause in a moment of silence at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. This act — giving one minute of collective silence — to honor fallen service members is a simple, yet meaningful way to stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens, the fallen heroes and the loved ones they left behind. As the legislation says, "The relevance of

Memorial Day must be made more apparent to present and future generations of people of the United States through local and national observances and ongoing activities."

Monte Collins with The American Legion noted that American's have honored Memorial Day since 1868. The Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

It is the nation's largest wartime Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and Veterans.

Memorial Day services were held across the Valley, including Homelake in Monte Vista and in Creede.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department Report May 10-17, 2024

Kevin Quintana, 37, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300, criminal mischief, harassment, disorderly conduct.

Gabriel Perez, 58, of Alamosa was cited for failing to drive in designated lane.

Ricardo Martin Agustin, 25, of Alamosa was cited for DUI-alcohol, failing to drive in designated lane.

Kashus Ledbetter, 23, of Alamosa was cited for

expired tags (1-29 days).

Nicole Archuleta, 36, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Chanel Gutierrez, 31, of San Luis, was cited for theft under \$300.

Simone Pedro Juan, 35, of Alamosa was cited for DUI-alcohol, DUI per se, careless driving, driving without a license.

Don Reyes, 59, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Harold Lemon, 46, of Monte Vista was cited for seatbelts required.

Paul Clark, 83, of

South Fork was cited for seatbelts required.

Grace Hamdy, 19, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Lynnisha Dupont, 37, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

David Gassdorf, 61, of Fort Garland was cited for seatbelts required.

Maria Maldonado, 41, of Center was cited for seatbelts required.

Brenea Langford, 39, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Linda Romero, 65, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Tammie Morris, 43, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Jared Morgan, 47, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Michael Duran, 77, of Sanford was cited for seatbelts required.

Aaron Mazzoleni, 29, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Kurt Russ, 63, of San Luis was cited for seatbelts required.

Gerald Rodriguez, 39, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Robert Deherrera, 60, of Alamosa was cited for

seatbelts required.

Guillermo Sandoval, 18, of Alamosa was cited for seatbelts required.

Catherine Reynolds, 33, of Alamosa was cited for violation of a restraining order.

Vernon Mott, 40, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Orlando Medina, 35, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Elena Chacon, 30, of Alamosa was cited for required position and method of turning right.

Brandon Mueller, 25,

of Alamosa was cited for limits on unsafe backing.

Jerry Sanchez, 41, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.

Donald Gillespie, 55, of Moffat was cited for expired plates over 60 days, uninsured vehicle.

Dave Dominguez, 43, of Denver was cited for criminal attempt, 1st degree criminal trespass of a vehicle.

Brian Duran, 34, of Alamosa was cited for DUI-alcohol, reckless driving, reckless endangerment, failing to notify police of accident, possession of open container.

Patrick Garcia, 54, of Alamosa was cited for menacing-intimidation, 3rd degree criminal trespass.

Lederall Hollingsworth, 26, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

OBITUARY

Myriam (Mimi) Aracely Cooke

Myriam (Mimi) Aracely Cooke (née Celada), 52, suddenly passed away on March 7, 2024. Mimi was born on Nov. 11, 1971, to Marco and Maria Celada in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

She was one of three children: Marco and Roberto. After graduating from Centauri High School in La Jara, Colo., in 1990, she attended the University of Colorado where she met her future husband, John Cooke.

She went on to have three children: John, Ana, and Bethany. Her children were her pride and joy. She will be remembered by her kindness and contagious



smile.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Jara on June 1, 2024, at 10 a.m. followed by a reception.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com.

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

Alamosa County Sheriff's Office Report week of May 15-22, 2024

Dillon Havens, 31, of Alamosa was cited for theft at 5148 CR 112.9 South.

Adeline Acosta, 53, of Alamosa was cited for driving motor vehicle as a habitual offender and failing to yield at yield intersection of Highway 160 and Highway 17 South.

Jose Taylor Jr., 60 of Alamosa was cited for dog at large, second offense at 217 White Pine.

Arturo Garcia Jr., of Alamosa was cited for two counts of violation of a protection order at 6711 County Road 106.75 South.

Robert Wayne Hol-

land of Alamosa was cited for obstructing telephone and domestic violence at 6730 Redwing Lane.

Savannah Perales, 23, of Fort Garland was cited for child abuse 1304 San Juan Avenue.

James Cousin, 60, of Denver was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit at 22000 block of Highway 160 East.

Daniel Garcia of Alamosa was cited for second degree assault, child abuse, obstruction of telephone service, criminal mischief and domestic violence at 306 Curtis Lane.

Amber Rosario, 35, of Alamosa was cited for child abuse at 1304 San

Juan Avenue.

Matthew Nyquist, 31, of Colorado Springs was cited for reckless driving and speeding 40 mph over the speed limit at 18000 block of Highway 160.

Amy Marie Steward of Creede was cited for theft at 13193 Highway 160 East.

Nathan Myers, 47, of Alamosa was cited for unauthorized use of motor vehicle at 102 Highway 160.

Randall Wadsworth, 43, of Mosca was cited for harassment at 5418 Main Street in Mosca.

Mercy Ornelas, 36, of Center was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit at Highway 17 South Mile Marker 75.



Online - www.alamosanews.com

719-589-2553

2205 State Ave. • Alamosa

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

School Menu
Tuesday
May 28, 2024

Summer
Break!



San Luis Valley Federal Bank

MORE THAN MORTGAGES

Discover the power of our commitment to your business. Meet Walter, Amanda, and Andrea, your trusted team of commercial loan officers. From real estate projects to equipment financing and beyond, we have the solutions to help your business thrive.



Walter Roybal
NMLS# 1692596



Amanda Maez



Andrea Archuleta-Cisneros
NMLS# 417703

(719) 589-6653

NMLS# 403374

WWW.SLVFED.BANK



Valley News

Polis

Continued from Page 1
 that “it feels really good to be back in the San Luis Valley.” He then went on to explain how HB24-1314 increases the impact of legislation already in place.

“This rule has really supported efforts to revitalize Main Streets in our state. In the San Luis Valley, we’ve had three projects that have been able to access these funds, including the Saguache Hotel and Bain’s Dept Store as well as this space right here. With this bill we added an additional \$5 million to existing \$10 million for a tax credit that will allow us to positively impact projects across our state as well as adding much needed housing. Since the tax credit’s inception, we’ve seen 800 additional housing units added to existing infrastructure, and this bill will continue to build upon that program.”

Governor Polis and staff then moved to Sen. Cleave Simpson’s Mt. Valley Farms for the signing of two more bills.

Surrounded by verdant crops and farming equipment used in regenerative farming, Governor Polis said of Sen. Simpson’s SSB24-037 “Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management”, “I’m so excited by the opportunity to reduce costs, benefit our climate and protect our water. Traditional gray infrastructure removes pollutants from water before getting released back into circulation but it’s very costly and energy intensive. We know green infrastructure can do it more efficiently and in better ways.”

Sen. Simpson then took the podium. “Welcome to Mountain Valley Farms. We’re happy to have you here today.” He then introduced his wife, his father, his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. “This is really kind of a special moment.”

Simpson then discussed the bill. “The governor talked about this and green infrastructure really can be a gamechanger. If you have any time do a little research and see what it can mean to our communities. I have so many wastewater treatment facilities that are really out of compliance and to spend tens to hundreds of millions of dollars on gray infrastructure isn’t feasible at all for smaller communities. Green infrastructure won’t fit all communities, but it will help some and it’s a great opportunity.”

After signing Sen. Simpson’s bill, he discussed HB24-1249 “Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices”, sponsored by Rep. Martinez. “This is a really important bill that provides a tax credit for farmers and ranchers that really engage in strong stewardship practices.”

“Senator Simpson said he has his no till drill, the kind of practice that can help keep nutrients and moisture in the soil. But, of course, many farmers can’t do this due to capital expense or can’t find one nearby. This bill will help support that kind of infrastructure across our state. It’s \$2 million which is a good start. It will save farmers, help make their operations more profitable, protect soil health, conserve water and support drought resilience.”

Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg followed with her comments, describing HB24-1249 as “a testament to bipartisan effort. It’s a true collaboration in support of our agricultural community and we see so many practitioners here



Courier photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg and Representative Matt Martinez look on as Governor Jared Polis signs HB24-1249 ‘Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices’.



Senator Cleave Simpson looks on as Governor Jared Polis signs the ‘gamechanger’ SB24-037 ‘Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management’ into law. Gov. Polis held the bill signing at Sen. Cleave Simpson’s Mt. Valley Farms.

who do the regenerative work in agriculture every day and take care of our soil. This really builds on the work over the last five years with Colorado’s soil health that supports producers statewide, our Agriculture Drought Climate Resilience Office and now this Agriculture Stewardship Tax Credit that really helps build those tools out for agricultural and rural communities to help meet the challenges of the future and invest in conservation and stewardship as they always have but with new tools from the state. I couldn’t be more proud and delighted with this bill – both for what it means to agriculture and the way that we got here.”

Rep. Martinez then took the podium, first mentioning his and Senator Simpson’s bill addressed uncertified potato seed. “It’s not the most exciting bill title but it’s very important,” he said, drawing a laugh from the crowd.

“This session I was proud to carry bills that support our rural communities, especially farmers and ranchers. And today, we’re here for 24-1249. This is soon to be a law that works in two different ways. It rewards farmers and ranchers and encourages good stewardship practices, including water conservation and improving soil health. It saves farmers money, fosters diversity and drought resistance and helps agriculture producers thrive. In Colorado, agriculture is so important and I’m so proud to see this soon become law.” He also thanked his co-sponsors.

Governor Polis then signed the second bill into law, joking that coming to Senator Simpson’s beautiful farm shows he is “a full-service governor.” That also drew a laugh.

In a conversation with the Valley Courier, Polis discussed the legislative session. “Overall, we were able to do a significant property tax cut, which is a big deal, and an income tax cut and to fund schools better than we have in recent history with about \$17,000 per classroom. That allows us to pay teachers better, reduce classroom size and improve instruction.”

When asked about specific impact of funding education in the San Luis Valley, he added, “We also changed the formula to benefit districts like the San Luis Valley so it will be based more on factors around students’ needs and the students the district serves.”

“These were statewide bills. It took a lot of collaboration from Republicans and Democrat across the state to get these bills

done. And, as a result, the whole state benefits.”

Rep. Martinez also reflected on the session with the Valley Courier, stating, “This legislative session really showed that bipartisan really works. We can get bills across the finish line. That’s something that Senator Simpson and I have accomplished together and everyone benefits from those kinds of relationships.”

County officials eating spuds for lunch



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

County officials and administrative staff take a break to support local businesses and enjoy lunch at the ‘Spud Cafe’ in Mammoth Gifts/Souvenirs/Fudge/Spuds at 620 Main St. in Alamosa. Pictured left to right: Roni Wisdom, Alamosa County Administrator; Jamie Greeman, Deputy County Clerk; Sandra Hostetter, Alamosa County Assessor; Vern Heersink, Alamosa County Commissioner, and Lori Laske, Alamosa County Commissioner.

Students

Continued from Page 1
 missioner Lori Laske.

Garcia will graduate from Monte Vista High School with a 4.067 GPA. She is a member of the National Honor Society, was highly involved in extracurricular ac-

tivities throughout high school and served the community with a large amount of community service hours. She is interested in becoming an ultrasound technician.

Salinas is a freshman at the University of Colorado Boulder and is pursuing a bachelor's in media production. He

graduated from Adams State University with his associate's degree while in high school and is a member of the National Honor Society. He has earned a place on the Dean's list both semesters while at CU and is interested in becoming a director or a screenwriter.

Grads

Continued from Page 1
 ciate's degree, are going on to complete post-secondary education. And still others will make their mark in the world of business.

Meanwhile, 2,000 families, friends and community members looked on from the bleachers in the stadium, packed to the top rows while others lined the railing for a better view or made their way down to the field for close-up photos of their special students. And when a student's name was read, it was common for a cheer complete with foot stomping to rise up from one part of the stadium or another.

The ceremony, which is always a bittersweet celebration, brings an end to some of the most formative years of students' lives, but that's especially true with this class that started their high school years in the middle of an unprecedented pandemic. As was obvious on Saturday morning, the efforts of staff, teachers and, of course, the students themselves, culminated with a graduation that was the 130th in the school's history.

And so, for the last time, graduating seniors in AHS class of 2024 listened to the departing words of wisdom from Principal Lavier, Salutatorian Sarah DeLaCerde and Valedictorian Brock Benton, who encouraged his fellow students by saying, “Despite our class of over 100 students, we are all special and unique in our own way, we all hold the same similarity: the capability to achieve greatness. I urge you more than ever to quit making excuses and quit holding yourself back, and, instead, start working toward achieving your dream.”

The class officers of the class of 2024 included Sienna Gallegos, President; Madeline Castillo, Vice President; Eva Lopez, Secretary; and Danielle Aquino, Treasurer. Class sponsors were Kristi Hillis and Mollie Heredia.

The class flower was a



Photo courtesy of AHS Principal Andy Lavier

Left to right: Interim Athletic Director (AD) Greg King, AHS Assistant Principal Drew Cleveland and AHS Principal Andy Lavier at AHS graduation on Saturday. ‘Greg was just honored by CHSCAA this spring for distinguished service,’ Lavier told the Valley Courier. ‘Greg did a great job serving as our interim Athletic Director after Erik Melgoza died. Rick Lovato will start in a couple of months as our new AD and Greg will be missed. He really bailed us/me out during this time.’

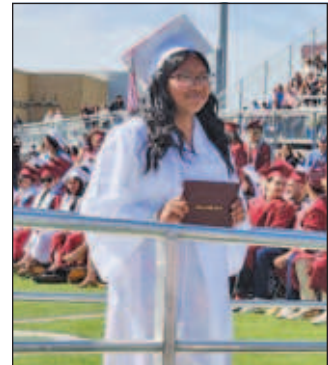


Photos by Priscilla Waggoner
Teacher Tessa Lindahl hugs AHS senior Adrienne Cordova as she presents her with her diploma.

white rose.

After entering the field to the traditional music, “Pomp and Circumstance”, students chose to end their ceremony with their class song and new wave hit from the 1980s, “Everybody Wants to Rule the World” by Tears of Fears. The lyrics suggest that these future leaders and members of the community know that the world they’re about to enter is not yet what we hope it to be.

“Welcome to your life/ There’s no turning back/ Even while we sleep/ We will find you/ Acting on your best behaviour/ Turn your back on mother nature/ Everybody wants to rule the world.”



Senior Lucia Andres-Jacinto poses for a photo with her diploma.



Christopher Perales, AHS graduate Class of 2024.



Lifestyles

Reptile barn celebrated with ribbon cutting



Photo courtesy of the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Gator Farm staff, family members and community well-wishers celebrated the grand opening of the new reptile barn there with a ribbon cutting Friday morning. Owner Jay Young is shown in the middle holding a sign. The new barn replaces the previous reptile building that was destroyed in a horrific fire on April 18, 2023, killing more than 100 reptiles including numerous snakes, turtles, tortoises, caiman, and others.

GFWC Colorado local scholarship

Winners announced

CONTRIBUTED SAN LUIS VALLEY —

The Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), is pleased to award two scholarships to San Luis Valley students this May.

Kadence McWilliams from Saguache County and Jaelyn Jackson from Manassa are the two students who were chosen.

McWilliams attended Moffat High School. She credits her family with instilling a love of animals, especially her grandfather who introduced her to the world of agriculture. She spent many years working at the Monte Vista livestock auction. She plans to become a veterinarian due to her love of and experiences with all sorts of animals. In addition, she played volleyball, basketball and ran track at Moffat High School. She has also been a part of FFA and the National Honor Society (NHS) as well as volunteering as a referee for peeewe sports and working in a second-grade



Kadence McWilliams classroom.

Jackson attended Centauri High School and was involved in the Student Council and National Honor Society. She was an All-State athlete as a senior, participating in volleyball and basketball. She has been a part of her LDS church's Young Women's group and has volunteered in projects such as picking up trash on highways, serving food at a homeless shelter and assisting the elderly with yard work. As a student council and NHS member, volunteer efforts included holding two blood drives, an elementary school carnival and working at two middle school track meets. Jaelyn plans to study kinesiology at CU Colorado Springs and become a Physical Therapist.



Jaelyn Jackson

Funding for the scholarships comes from the Minnie L. Harding Education Fund (MLHEF) created in 1902 by Mrs. Harding, a clubwoman living in Canon City. Since that time, many women have been given interest free loans. In 2022, a scholarship fund was developed to help graduating seniors further their education.

A committee made up of Colorado clubwomen manages the fund including three members of the Women's Citizenship Club in Alamosa.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is one of the oldest national women's organizations dedicated to strengthening communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

ALMA is grateful for its new corporate sponsors

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) is pleased to announce that the following local corporate sponsors generously support our efforts in 2024 and are new to its corporate sponsorship family: Alamosa Home and The Bank Shot Sports Bar.

Their sponsorship furthers our mission to bring live music to Alamosa; in particular, Sundays at Six, the free summer concert series at Cole Park (starting June 30 with Stillhouse Junkies!).

Community support and sponsorship are vital to ALMA's continued success. Each of these corporate sponsors will be featured on ALMA's marketing materials and social media in recognition of their generous support.

In addition, each sponsor received a plaque of appreciation for their places of business.

"We could not bring dynamic live music to our community without the support of sponsors like these," ALMA stated.

Follow ALMA on Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok, or visit almaonline.org to learn how to get involved with live music in the San Luis Valley.



Courtesy photo

Alamosa Home recently became a corporate sponsor of the Alamosa Live Music Association. Back from left to right is Mike Trenholm (Sales); Hunter Jack (CO-Owner/COO); and Brandon Chavez (Delivery Driver). In the front from left to right is Bruce Metzger (ALMA Board Member); Erin Keck (CO-Owner/CMO); and Kelly Geddes (Store Manager).

Here's Your Sign!

**We can fill it for you.
Call Keith or Debbie,
719-589-2553**



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 719-895-6158 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Valley Courier
(ISSN 1047-1170)

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

coloradopress ASSOCIATION

Debbie Sowards Advertising Manager
John Waters News Editor
Priscilla Waggoner Staff Writer
Ryker Alonzo Editorial Assistant

Ken Hamrick Sports Editor
Shasta Quintana Circulation
Richard R. Quintana Mailroom Supervisor/Press

Your FIRST Source for Local News

Graduation

Centauri



Photos by Brian Williams
Centauri High School Class of 2024 graduate Colton Creery receives congratulations following the ceremony on Saturday, May 25.



Centauri High School Class of 2024 graduate Adam Sisneros shows his diploma as he walks back to his seat during the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25.



Centauri High School Class of 2024 graduate Kylie Dunnahoo is all smiles as she walks to her seat for the start of the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25.



Centauri High School Class of 2024 graduate Aundre Chavez gives the benediction at the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25.



Left: Centauri High School Class of 2024 graduates toss their caps into the air at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25.

Center



Photo by Marie McColm
At the 2024 graduation for Center High School graduates are shown giving love and support to the people who came to support them at their graduation ceremony.

Del Norte



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell
Del Norte High School Class of 2024 walked into their graduation in style. Smiles from ear to ear and some tears of joy graced the faces of this year's graduates.



Mountain Valley



Photos by Marie McColm
The Mountain Valley High School Class of 2024 received a standing ovation from the crowd after receiving their diplomas on May 18.



Mountain Valley High School graduate Tristin Helmick proudly displays his diploma on May 18.



Left: Mountain Valley High School graduates show their appreciation to their family and friends at their graduation ceremony on May 18.

Creede



Will Roden, pictured, Valedictorian for the Creede High School Class of 2024 addresses his fellow classmates and talks about the hard times, the good times and the best of times of life. Roden was followed by Class of 2024's Salutatorian Tiernan King who spoke to his graduating class about the importance of experience and how each experience shapes you to become the person you are.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



Sanford



Photo by Krista Bond
Sanford High School's graduation ceremony was held on Friday, May 24. Twenty-six seniors received their diplomas in front of a packed auditorium-gymnasium. Following the ceremony, a dinner was held free to the public.

Monte Vista



Photo by Marie McColm
At the 2024 Monte Vista High School graduation ceremony, graduates march in and get ready to be seated for their graduation ceremony.

Sports

Top finishers at Rio Trio event



Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

Top left: Chad Mortensen of Alamosa won the 2024 Rio Trio event which took place Saturday around the State Street Bridge and near Cattails Golf Course. Top right: Chris Sachs of Nederland was second. Bottom: Aubrey Damiatti (left) of Salida was the top female placer and she also finished fifth overall, while Dani Robbins (right) of Alamosa was second among the women and sixth overall. The Rio Trio consisted of a 5K run, a 3-mile paddle on the Rio Grande Rivers, and a 7-mile bike race.

Atencio earns honor



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Jon Atencio, the pro at Cattails Golf Course, was awarded the Crusader of the Year for the state of Colorado by Taylor Made Golf. It is awarded to the Staff Professional of the Year.

Pirates' season ended by Las Animas

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA—This season came to an end for the seventh-ranked Monte Vista High School baseball team as it was defeated by third-ranked Las Animas 5-0 in the Class 2A State Tournament Saturday at the Runyon Sports Complex's Andenucio Field.

The Trojans scored one run in the bottom of the second inning and they scored three more in the third. Las Animas added another run in the sixth.

Kaden Mellott went the distance on the mound for the Pirates and he took the loss. He allowed five



runs and 10 hits and he had eight strikeouts, two walks and one hit batter.

Monte Vista managed only one hit as Jeremiah Baumgardner went 1-2.

Monte Vista finished the season with 19 wins and five losses. The Pirates return all but one starter for next year.

Las Animas 5, Monte Vista 0
Monte Vista 000 000 0-0 1 2
Las Animas 013 001 x-5 10 1
K. Mellott (L) and Madrid. B. Ortiz (W) and T. Ortiz.

Class 2A State Tournament

At Runyon Sports Complex, Pueblo
Friday, May 24

Limon 17, Buena Vista 7, 6 inn.
Lyons 12, Swink 2, 5 inn.
Dayspring Christian Academy 11, Las Animas 3

Denver Christian 4, Monte Vista 1

Lyons 5, Limon 1
Denver Christian 11, Dayspring Christian Academy 2

Saturday, May 25
Buena Vista 6, Swink 5, Swink eliminated
Las Animas 5, Monte Vista 0, Monte Vista eliminated

Buena Vista 7, Dayspring Christian Academy 4, Dayspring Christian Academy eliminated
Limon 2, Las Animas 1, 8 innings, Las Animas eliminated
Denver Christian 6, Lyons 2

Friday, May 31

Buena Vista vs. Limon, 10 a.m.

Buena Vista/Limon winner vs. Lyons, noon
Saturday, June 1
At CSU Pueblo's Rawlings Field
Denver Christian vs. Buena Vista, Limon or Lyons, 10 a.m.
If necessary game, noon

Final high school spring sports standings

BASEBALL		
Team	League	Overall
Class 3A/2A Intermountain League		
Montezuma-Cortez	7-1	16-9
Pagosa Springs	4-4	11-11
Bayfield	4-4	7-15
Alamosa	4-4	7-16
Centauri	1-7	8-15
Class 2A Southern Peaks League		
Monte Vista	11-0	19-5-0
Trinidad	8-2	10-10-0
Del Norte	10-4	11-10-0
Sanford	6-5	12-8-0
Center	4-7	5-15-0
Sargent	5-9	5-15-0
South Park	1-9	3-16-0
Custer County	2-10	2-20-1
Class 1A Southern Peaks League		
Sierra Grande	4-0	13-3-0
Antonito	2-2	7-9-1
Centennial	0-4	2-10-0
GIRLS SOCCER		
Class 3A Intermountain League		
Alamosa	4-1-1	8-6-2
Bayfield	2-1-3	6-7-3
Montezuma-Cortez	1-2-3	3-5-3
Pagosa Springs	0-3-3	6-5-3
Class 2A Southwest League		
Crested Butte	4-0-0	14-3-1
Telluride	3-1-0	5-8-1
Ridgway	2-2-0	7-6-0
Ignacio	1-3-0	1-11-0
Del Norte	0-4-0	1-12-0

Your Future Begins Today!

Primary Home and / or Rental Home Loans

Purchase, Refinance and / or Construction

Commercial Loans

Real Estate Purchase, Refinance and / or Construction
Equipment Purchase and / or Refinance
Operating Lines of Credit

Agriculture Loans

Real Estate Purchase, Refinance and / or Construction
Equipment Purchase and / or Refinance
Cattle Purchase and / or Refinance
Operating Lines of Credit

RG BANK has a full line of deposit products for your personal, business or farm & ranch needs!

Go online and / or use the RG BANK app to access to your accounts 24/7.
Transfer funds, pay bills, use payroll ACH and more!



RG BANK
WWW.RGBANK.BANK

Call today!
Alamosa 719-589-2536
Monte Vista 719-852-5933
Pagosa Springs 719-731-4701

Member FDIC • Equal Housing Lender • NMLS#421822

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

TOWN OF CENTER is accepting applications to fill 2 positions in their **UTILITY DEPARTMENT**. Applicant should possess knowledge and skills in all aspects of high voltage power lines, gas systems, water distribution, and sanitation. Applicant should accept duties of construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of these systems. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license and be able to operate trucks, backhoe, and other equipment in the performance of these duties. The duties also included are heavy manual labor and utilization of a large variety of hand tools. Some experience is preferred and continued training will be provided. Salary: \$19 - \$22 per hour depending on Experience. Generous Benefits Plan: 100% Employer-Paid Health Insurance, Competitive dental, vision, and life insurance plans, Generous PTO vacation earnings, Up to 3% match for retirement IRA's and Half-Day Fridays. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing upon hiring per CDOT regulations. CDL license preferable but not required. The application deadline is June 7, 2024. (6/7/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING: PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT. Job Description: A Public Works Assistant is an on-call, PART-TIME position with no benefits, supervised by the Public Works Superintendent. The Public Works Assistant assists the Public Works Superintendent to service the sewer system, water system, roads and bridges, drainage, buildings, parks, Town properties, and cemetery. Required Knowledge, Qualities, Skills, and Abilities: Working knowledge of the language, principles, methods, materials, and equipment common to municipal public works repairs and maintenance of parks, roads, grounds, and buildings. Ability to operate and maintain small snow removal equipment, mowers, and a variety of power and hand tools. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with Town officials and employees, representatives of other agencies and organizations, and members of the community. Required Education, Training, and Experience: A valid Colorado driver's license or equivalent, and high school diploma or equivalent. Previous experience in a parks or public works department preferred. All applicants should fill out an application (located at <http://townofcrestone.colorado.gov/>) to submit along with a resume and cover letter to crestone-townoffice@gmail.com. (6/19/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SARGENT EARLY LEARNING CENTER (SELC) is hiring for a **LEAD TEACHER** beginning in the fall of 2024. Lead teacher salary begins at \$22,000 per year depending on experience and PDIS level. The lead teacher must hold a minimum of a level 2 in PDIS and must have the ability to be flexible, open to learning, and to take on new tasks/problems as they occur. He/she must also be able to pass the CBI/FBI/TRAILS background checks. Benefits include paid holidays, sick pay, vacation time, and a simple IRA. Learn more about the SELC at <https://sargentearlylearning.wixsite.com/selc/programs>. To apply, please send a letter of interest and resume to sargentearlylearning-center@gmail.com. Position open until filled. (5/28/24)

THE SLV LANDFILL is accepting applications for a **TEMPORARY LANDFILL LABORER/BACKUP EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**. Maintain landfill property, pick up trash, and be a backup equipment operator. Position open until filled. \$16.00 to \$17.00 per hour, 32 to 40 hours week. Applications can be emailed to Kim at officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned at the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (6/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) **CENTAURI HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER**. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com. Submit application to the central office or email to rmccarroll@northconejos.com. Position is open until filled. EOE. (5/25/24)

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) **CENTAURI MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER**. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com. Submit application to the central office or email to rmccarroll@northconejos.com. Position is open until filled. EOE. (5/25/24)

Always the Last to Know?

If you keep finding out about local events after they happen, it's time to subscribe to the Valley Courier.

Subscribe today and stay connected to your world.

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

You'll find it all in the ... **Business & Service Directory** • Easy to Read Format • Affordable • Seen 4 Days a Week To Place Your Ad Call (719) 589-2553

APPLIANCE REPAIR
All Major Brands of Kitchen & Laundry Appliances
• Trained and Certified Technicians
ALTITUDE APPLIANCES
Open 10-6 Mon-Sat
611 Main • Alamosa
(719) 206-2844

dylan brown agency
Local Medicare Help
719-350-6941
2415 Mullins Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
Dbrown1@farmersagency.com
Katrina.Brown@farmersagency.com
*Medicare Advantage *Supplements *Part D Prescription Plans

STORAGE
ALAMOSA STORAGE
5929 Road South 106
Alamosa, CO 81101
Call us today or visit our website
alamosastorage.com
(719) 992-3440

HEATING & GAS
RMHG
Rocky Mountain Heating & Gas Service
Installation, Service & Repair
Heaters, Fireplaces,
Wood & Pellet Stoves Sales
Stason Gomez 719-628-9310
RMHGENT@gmail.com

Attorney
ATENCIO LAW
719.589.6005
• Civil Litigation
• Real Estate • Water Law
• Business Law
• Wills & Probate
• Unbundled Legal Services
STEVE ATENCIO
steve@atenciolaw.net
www.atenciolaw.net
PROUDLY SERVING CLIENTS THROUGHOUT THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Architecture
SPENCER architecture studio
Your Local SLV Architecture Firm for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Projects
Don Spencer, A.I.A.
719-696-5783
Steve Copley
Sr. Project Manager, E.I.T.
spencerarchitecturestudio.com

CONSTRUCTION
Cerro Colorado Construction LLC
Commercial and Residential
• Snow & Water
• Basins
• Retention
• Storm
• Patches
• Excavation
• Foundation
• Drywell
• House Remodeling and more
Call or Text
(719) 589-9144
CerroColoradoConstruction@gmail.com
Cerro Colorado Construction LLC
FREE ESTIMATES

Electrical
ALPINE ELECTRIC INC.
82 CONEJOS ALAMOSA
719-589-9144

Earth Moving
Earthworks of Southern Colorado LLC
Troy Geringer 719-480-1756
• Trenching
• Backfilling
• Site Cleaning & Prep
• Driveway Construction & Grading
• Landscaping
• House Pads
• Stream Bank Restoration
• Irrigation Welding & Fabrication
• Tractor Moving
• Dirt Work
• Demolition
• Snow Removal

Taxidermy
Ask about our 6 month guarantee!
Jay's Taxidermy Est. 1995
719-480-9300

Real Estate
Greg & Jeni Goodwin
PORTER REALTY, INC.
303 Main Street, Alamosa CO
719-589-5899
www.PorterRealty.com
greg@porterrealty.com (719) 580-5395
jeni@porterrealty.com (719) 580-2636
♦ Excellent Service ♦ Expert Advice ♦ Exceptional Results

AUCTION
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Last Saturday of the month from April 27 until November 30. At the Community Building next to Quality Timbers on Hwy. 285. Taking consignments on Fridays. Sale starts at 10:00 am. Lunch available.

FOOD TRUCK
SUAVECITO Follow us on Facebook
719-588-7185
GRILL
Catering located in the parking lot in front of Little Caesars

TREE SERVICE
Thomas Trees Services & Lawn Care
719-480-1821
Residential and Commercial
Tree removal, trimming, topping, stump removal
pruning, lawn care, we put gravel etc.
Free estimates

LOCKSMITH
Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!
• Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs
Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas
Call or Text us Today 719-Mrk-Lock (719-675-5625)
MrKLock.com
Mr. K Lock & Key
LOCKSMITH
719-Mrk-Lock (719-675-5625)

Plumbing & Remodeling
DEREK'S
Plumbing & Remodeling
Licenses: PC-3198 - Licenses: MP-40181
Derek Marquez
Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor
(719) 588-0682
dereksplumbing@outlook.com
1110 Alamosa Ave. • Alamosa, CO

We Buy Cars
FREE Estimates
We Welcome Insurance Claims
L&M
Paint & Body Shop
8425 Rd. 8 South • Alamosa
589-9205

Construction
ZTEC Construction
5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
Free Estimates
Mervin Fisher 719.992.1396
14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Stucco
Sanchez Plastering & Masonry
Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint
Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
(719) 486-6781

Tires
Jim's Tire Store
711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-589-9690
NEW • USED • RECAPPED
Great Service!

ELECTRICAL
SUMMIT ELECTRICAL LLC
719-480-5638
Summitelectrical1@outlook.com

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Comic's offering
 - 4 Noteworthy time
 - 9 Barfly's bill
 - 12 Yoko —
 - 13 Porch
 - 14 Area 51 secret
 - 15 Cry of derision
 - 16 African antelope
 - 17 Storage container
 - 18 Spectrum color
 - 20 "— Scissor-hands"
 - 22 Method
 - 23 Makes less severe
 - 24 Fruit discard
 - 26 Leaf
 - 29 Snaky fish
 - 30 Butt
 - 31 Ride a wave
 - 35 Great — of China
 - 37 Holiday time
 - 38 "American —"
- DOWN**
- 1 Asian desert
 - 2 Shortly
 - 3 "—"
 - 4 "Hunting" poem
 - 5 — Alto
 - 6 Go out — limb

- 7 Walking stick
- 8 Concealed
- 9 Big brass
- 10 In flames
- 11 Investment options
- 19 Actor — McKellen
- 21 Masses of greenbacks
- 24 Stitch
- 25 New Zealand parrot
- 26 Finger-board ridge
- 27 Four-star review
- 28 Sign
- 32 Disruption
- 33 — Grande
- 34 Not many at all
- 36 Pork cut
- 40 Moneybags (2 wds.)
- 41 Long sandwich
- 42 Kiosk
- 43 Raring to go
- 44 Sainthood quality
- 45 "Hello, —!"
- 47 Fill
- 48 Inmate's room
- 49 Comedian Jay —
- 50 Duck
- 53 — de mer

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					59							60	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

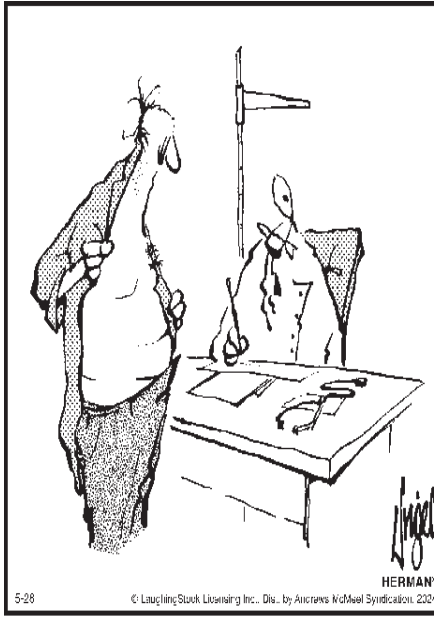
	3	2		7	9	1						
	7		8		3	2					5	
	5	8		4		7	3					
7				1							5	
				4	6	5						
	4				7							2
	2	4		5		6	7					
3		9	7		4		2					
		7	6	3		9	8					

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

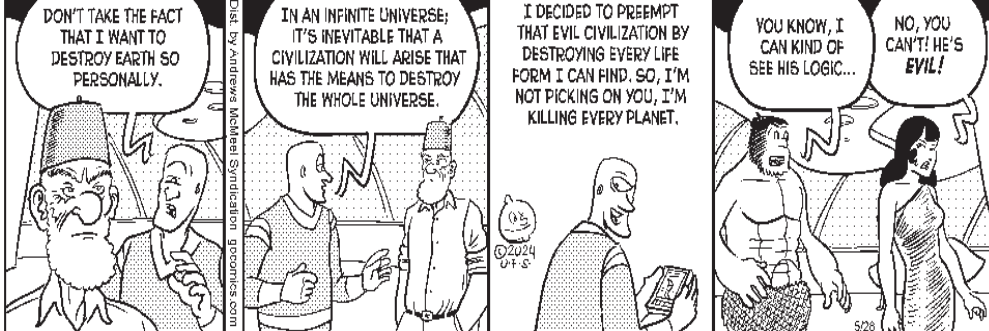
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN

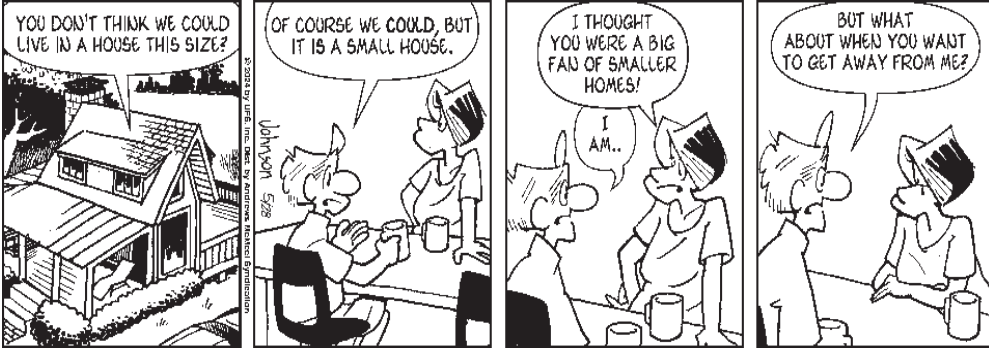


"Do you want to know what's wrong with you or just the dollar amount?"

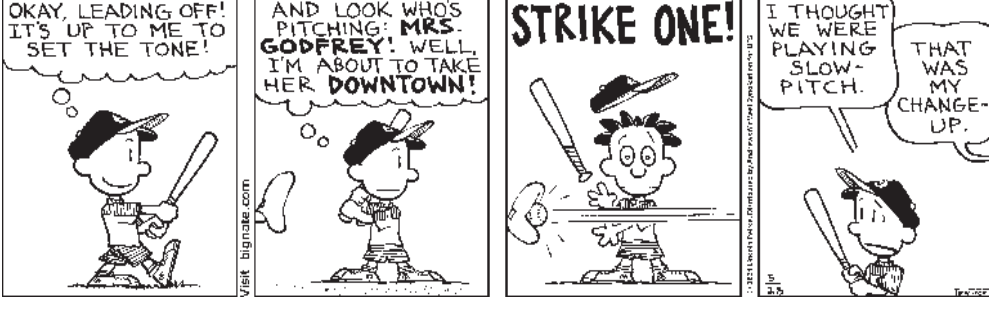
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



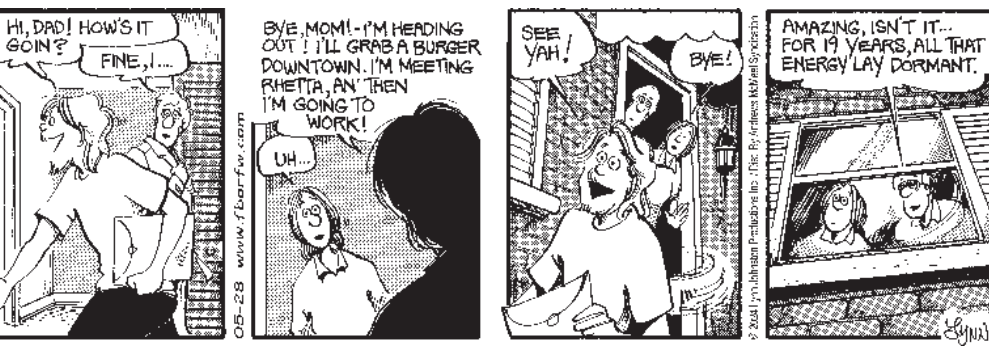
BIG NATE



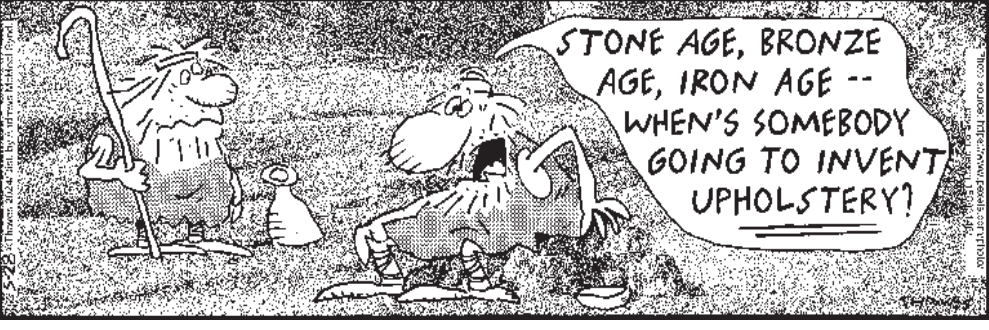
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



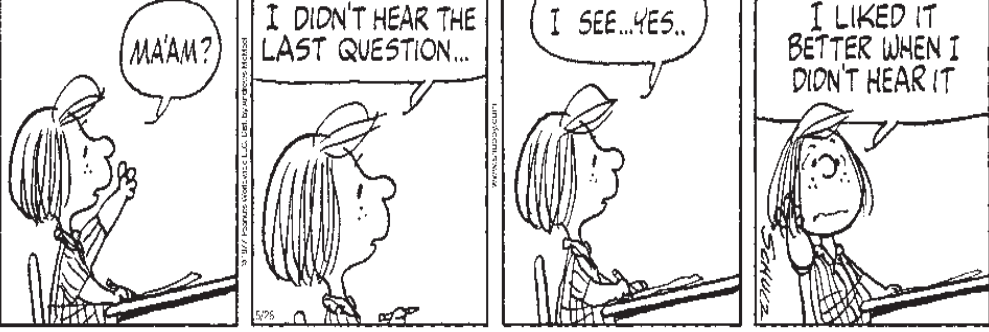
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Man asked his girlfriend to decline a wedding role

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old man who has been with a fantastic woman, 25, for the last year. I believe she is The One. We have moved quickly and have already settled into an apartment together.

Recently, she was asked to be a bridesmaid in a wedding between her ex's cousin and a friend she met through her ex. Her ex will be a part of the wedding. She isn't very close with this friend. It seems like the bride-to-be doesn't have many other friends.

It is clear to me that my girlfriend really wants to attend this wedding. I asked her to see if we could attend the wedding without her being a bridesmaid, but she's under the impression that we wouldn't be invited otherwise. I felt like I couldn't say no, so I agreed to go if she agreed she wouldn't attend any event where her ex would be present.

But now she has agreed to be a bridesmaid, and I find myself getting upset every time the wedding is mentioned. I haven't begun to feel resentful toward her, but I'm worried this may change as the wedding draws closer. I want to be supportive, but I also can't ignore that I am clearly not OK

with this arrangement. What should I do? -- NEW BOYFRIEND IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR BOYFRIEND: You should not be placing stipulations on your girlfriend, who is part of the wedding. For her to back out on her promise to be in the bridal party would be bad form. Pressuring her to do that is childish on your part.

You have an opportunity to be a hero and conquer your insecurity. Grab hold of it and send your girlfriend to the wedding ... alone. And when you do, smile, give her a hug and tell her you hope she has a good time, and that you will be waiting with open arms when she gets back.

DEAR ABBY: "Shattered in New York" (Jan. 14) was struggling with the fact that her wife, "Sandy," was supporting a friend entering into a new relationship soon after her wife was admitted into a dementia care facility. The reality is, the person you love no longer exists. Yes, physically they are there, but the person they once were is not, and it's devastating.

My dad has dementia, and while my mom makes sure he's safe, happy and visits him every day, she is certainly no longer in a marriage with an actual



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

partner. She is alone, and we all support her finding companionship while Dad is alive.

It's incredibly unfair to expect someone in that situation to wait alone, potentially for years, for their spouse to pass. You doubted that Sandy would want Shattered to move on if Sandy were in that situation. I feel confident that she is understanding enough that she would. -- KNOWS HOW IT IS

DEAR KNOWS: I would hope so, but if my mail is any indication, there are no guarantees. This is a complicated situation, and the solution has to be something appropriate for everyone involved.