



Maintaining a lawn routinely roamed by pets

— Page 5



Harrison rallies in second half to defeat Lady Moose

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VOLUME 98, NO. 52

Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 2, 2024

\$1

ASU engineers a new path for students



Courier photos by John Waters

Ken Marquez (left) and Sara Noller with Adams State University stand at a CNC Mill (computer numerical control) in the Adams State University/CSU Engineering Manufacturing Education Center (EMEC).



By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Adams State University faculty and staff held an open house in the Engineering Manufacturing Education Center facility that enables students in the San Luis Valley to complete an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering without leaving Alamosa. The university has partnered with Colorado State University in the program.

Ken Marquez, who is the project director at the EMAC said the facility cost \$1.4 million to construct and boasts \$5 million worth of cutting-edge equipment. Those expenses were covered by a \$5.0 million Title Three U.S. Department of Education HSI—

■ See **PATH** page 3

Alamosa State University undergraduate student Dain Romero is enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program at the school.

SLV Today

SLV Spay and Neuter April schedule

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The mobile clinic at SLV Spay and Neuter will be in Fort Garland on April 5 and 6. The clinic will be in Moffat on April 13 and in Antonito on April 19 and 20. The cost for cats is \$60 and \$85 for dogs. To book an appointment, visit www.slvna.org.

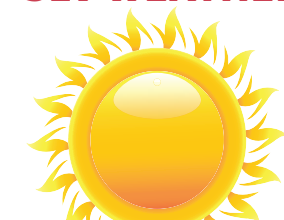
SLV National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center grand opening

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the grand opening of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitor Center will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 19. It is located east of the city of Alamosa on Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge at 7824 El Rancho Lane.

Meet refuge staff and Friends of the San Luis Valley Refuges. The Friends will provide light refreshments. They will be on hand to talk about the refuges, answer questions, and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a guided bird walk.

For more information, call Suzanne Beauchaine at 719-588-3473.

SLV WEATHER



Sunny 52/20

Wed: Sunny, Breezy 60/26

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 64/30

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Coming to America — The journey to asylum

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — A single mother with two children is living in Venezuela. She goes to the open market where she buys enough food to last her family for a few days, if she's careful.

She pays the American equivalent of \$1 for a head of broccoli, \$2 for some tomatoes and onions and \$2 for a few eggs. In a country where the minimum monthly wage is the equivalent of \$5.40, she has \$.40 left over for electricity, water and phone service.

A monthly wage of \$5.40 is less than one-tenth of the \$57 per month the United Nations has set as the threshold of extreme poverty. And with inflation soaring out of control, bolivars (currency in Venezuela) will be worth even less next month.

The young woman works at three different jobs every day to support her tiny family, but she worries for the safety of her children. They're left alone much of the time or watched by neighbors and family members. She worries that they're so vulnerable.

But all of this is secondary to the latest and largest threat that has entered her life. A member of El Tren de Aragua, the most



Courtesy of LC

A small family smiles at the camera, hopeful for the future. They are in an encampment on the Mexico - United States border waiting for the opportunity to enter the United States and apply for asylum. Photo taken over Easter weekend, 2023.

powerful and violent gang in Venezuela, has visited her house — twice.

The first time, he offered her money — even the false promise of a house of her own — in exchange for something she would never consider. When she refused, he said if she did not give

him what he wanted, she would be killed as an example to others. The member of El Tren de Aragua is demanding the unthinkable: give him one of her children to be raised as a guerilla and indoctrinated into the gang.

She can't go to the police; ■ See **JOURNEY** page 3

Alamosa County Fire Protection District work session Tuesday night

Topics of significant interest on slate to be discussed

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Fire Protection District (ACFPD) is scheduled to hold a work session on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. where the Public Consulting Group will present their Staffing Operational Analysis. The analysis was contracted with joint funds from both the City of Alamosa and ACFPD earlier this year.

A review of the executive summary contained in the consulting group's final report provides a glimpse of what topics might be discussed in Tuesday night's meeting.

At the outset of the study, as stated in the document, it was deter-

■ See **WORK** page 3

Women's March in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — About 35 people marched through downtown Alamosa on March 30 as part of an annual Women's March. The event was a march and did not include a rally before or after.

Many in the group carried signs in favor of issues such as reproductive rights, several also carried signs calling for peace, and defunding Israel.

When asked why she was marching, Sue Foster said, "Hope for peace, and the need to advocate for women's rights."

"I'm protesting the ongoing U.S. support for the war in Israel. We should not be giving them military assistance, and bombs," said Alamosa resident Beth Kinney

"It is just time to do something, we always vote and I just think it is time. We all deserve these rights," said Vince Alcon of Alamosa."



Courier photo by John Waters

Several of the marchers who participated in the annual Alamosa Women's March.



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Record

OBITUARY

Roy Wayne Shawcroft



Roy Wayne Shawcroft was born Aug. 17, 1938, on a warm summer day with the smell of newly cut alfalfa in the air. His parents J. Howard Shawcroft and MarVelle Reed Shawcroft resided on a farm in La Jara, Colo., in the San Luis Valley. Wayne loved living on the farm with his two brothers and one sister. He remembers fondly the chores and responsibilities it required. Those memories have been told many times to his children over the years.

When it was time to start school, Wayne started the first grade with several of his good friends and close cousins. That same group also graduated from high school together. He learned to drive a tractor at the age of 9 and finished his senior year of high school driving the school bus.

Wayne attended CSU for both his bachelor's and master's degrees. He had decided he was still a farm boy so settled on degrees in soil science and meteorology. In 1965 he crossed the country so he could begin his doctorate degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. It was during that time that he was introduced to Marian, his wife, through a close cousin. They were married in 1967 and re-resided in New York until he completed the Ph.D. in 1970 and then moved to Colorado.

When they were established there, Julie Ranae and Steven David joined the family. They were a busy family with church, camping, and sports. Wayne had been an avid athlete during his high school days and the family followed his love of all sports, especially football and the Broncos. The tradition continues with his grandchildren who all have been sports participants and fans.

Wayne was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

come in every week.

A new life began for Wayne as he went to work for the local Farmer's State Bank as their farm representative. He held that position for 15 years until he and Marian decided to retire for good in 2008 and buy a little getaway in Greeley and spend more time with their family. Peppered through his regular careers were three different teaching terms of calculus and physics classes at Morgan Community College.

When he retired from the Research Station, a friend told him he should sign up with an organization called ACDI/VOCA, an overseas agricultural agency that sends volunteers to foreign countries who needed help. Eight years later he got a call to go to Kosovo. Other assignments came regularly after that. Soon he was in Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. Marian and her sister Nancy flew over after that one and they spent fun days seeing the sights around Moscow and St. Petersburg. Additional assignments took him back to Southern Russia, Jericho, Egypt, Georgia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan once again. Nine wonderful opportunities of a lifetime.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Lynn and Dale, his sister LaVonne, and a great-grandchild Zavier.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Marian, his children Julie Reynolds (Tom), and Steve Shawcroft; grandchildren Jordan, Ryan, Aaron, Drake, Slater, and Savannah; great-grandchildren Mia, Max, and Maeve.

Wayne was a soft-spoken, kind, and gentle man. He had no enemies. He had a big heart but one that got tired before he was ready. He departed this life on October 24, 2023. He was thoroughly loved by his family who will miss him every day.

Spark Speaker Series: Empowering Aging in Colorado launches April 10

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA

Spark the Change Colorado, a leading volunteerism nonprofit dedicated to service and community health, is excited to announce the launch of a monthly speaker series, "Spark Speaker Series: Empowering Aging in Colorado," on Wednesday, April 10, at 1 p.m. at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center.

Hosted by the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Alamosa County, the series will address issues pertaining to older adults and their health and will feature local expert speakers on topics such as well-being, nutrition, volunteering, memory, physical health, and much more. All are welcome and no registration is necessary. Each presentation in the series will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the activity room of the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center, 92 Colorado Ave.

Leila Hirtler is the featured speaker at the first event in the series on April 10 and she will discuss happiness and aging. Hirtler will talk about the importance of laughter and a good sense of humor as we age and will suggest some ways older adults can increase well-being in their lives.

Following Hirtler's presentation, Nancy Harris, Spark the Change Colorado's RSVP Manager for Alamosa County, will talk about the RSVP program and how folks aged 55 and up can serve our



Leila Hirtler

community, while staying engaged and healthy, by volunteering at local organizations doing good in Alamosa County.

Additionally, Josie Boynton, the RSVP Director with Spark the Change Colorado, will share about some new focus areas for RSVP in Southern Colorado and how this will open up many new volunteering opportunities in Alamosa County.

"We are thrilled to invite the community to support this wonderful new speaker series. The first speaker in the series — Leila Hirtler — will set the tone for the entire series, by highlighting the importance of happiness

in older adults. Future speakers will focus in on topics that address various aspects of seniors and their well-being," says Harris, Spark the Change Colorado's RSVP Manager for Alamosa County. "We will also be gathering input from participants at each of the first few events to determine what folks from our senior community are interested in learning about through the monthly series."

For more information about the Spark Speaker Series, or to become an RSVP volunteer, contact Harris at nharris@sparkthechangecolorado.org or 303-867-0868, or visit www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/rsvp.

Gov. Polis, Colorado Energy Office launch nation's first electric bicycle tax credit

By COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE DENVER

On April 1, Governor Jared Polis and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) celebrated the launch of the nation's first statewide electric bicycle tax credit. Colorado residents are now eligible to save up to \$450 off their e-bike purchase, meaning less traffic and less pollution for Coloradans. The e-bike tax credit reflects Colorado's bold climate goals while promoting sustainable communities for future generations.

"This e-bike tax credit builds Colorado's nation-leading work to reduce pollution and traffic, save people money and protect our environment. This will help Colorado reach our bold climate goals, invest in future generations, and expand access to clean transportation options now," said Governor Jared Polis.

Starting April 1, Colorado residents will be eligible to receive the e-bike tax

credit, at any qualifying retailer. Coloradans can visit the E-Bike Tax Credit webpage for more information on how it works.

"Whether it's picking up groceries or making sure you get to work, e-bikes are a great way for so many Coloradans to not only make their everyday short commutes but also save money and help lower greenhouse gas emissions," said Colorado Energy Office Executive Director Will Toor. "We look forward to implementing and building this rebate program over the next several years and believe it will be an important part of our overall climate work."

The e-bike tax credit is a result of HB23-1272, sponsored by Senators Lisa Cutter and Steve Fenberg and Representatives Mike Weissman and Junie Joseph.

"With the new statewide tax credit, transitioning to an electric bike has never been easier or more afford-

able in Colorado. From transporting kids or cargo to tackling uphill commutes, e-bikes offer a fun and healthy travel option," said Alex Simon, Public Health Advocate with CoPIRG.

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

ACSO Report Alamosa County Sheriff's Office Report week of March 22-29

Mateo Cordova, 26, of San Clemente, Calif., was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 3000 block of Highway 17 North.

Alan King of Alamosa was cited for vehicular eluding, reckless driving, going 30 mph in a resi-

dential zone, failure to obey traffic control device and number of plates attached at 10th Street and Craft Drive.

Jonathan Gonzales, 37, of Sanford was charged with speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 14000 block of County Road 109 South.

Jacinda Perea-Gonzales, 29, of Alamosa was charged with failing to

stop at a stop sign and operating a vehicle without insurance at Conejos Avenue and East 1st Street.

Ashley Jaramillo, 35, of Alamosa was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign at 8th Street and Main.

Josiah Luna, 23, of Pueblo was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 12000 block of Highway 160.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affili-

ated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website:slvaa.org

School Menu Tuesday April 2, 2024

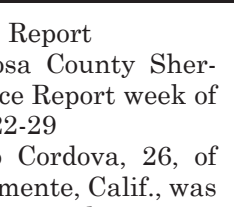
BREAKFAST
Blueberry Muffin
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

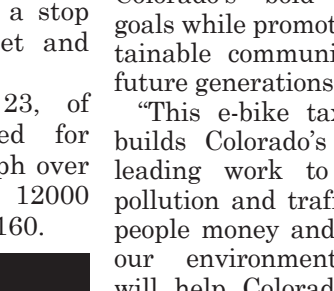
Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students
Alamosa School District
To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553



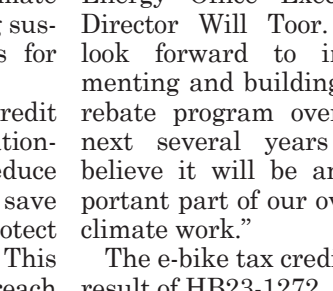
San Luis Valley Federal Bank

MORE THAN MORTGAGES

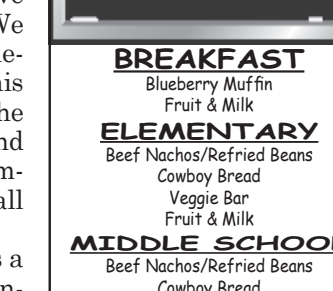
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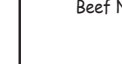


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Valley News

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold certifies 2024 Presidential Primary Election

By COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE
DENVER, CO – Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has announced the certification of the 2024 Presidential Primary Election, making the results of the election official and final. The certification was conducted after each county's bipartisan canvass boards submitted their official abstract of votes to the Secretary of State's Office.

"The 2024 Presidential Primary Election was among the most accessible in Colorado's history. I am proud of our state's elections and the voting access that we have added over the last five years," said Secretary Griswold. "I commend the county election officials, election workers, and the employees of the Department of State for their hard work and dedication to delivering great elections for Colorado voters."

After the election, the Secretary of State's office worked with Colorado's county clerks to complete a bipartisan risk-limiting audit that verified the results of the election. After the audit, each county's bipartisan canvass board signed off on the election results. The canvass boards then submitted the final results to the Secretary of State's office.

Returning a mail ballot was the preferred method for voters with 98.59% of voters choosing to cast their mail ballot during the 2023 Coordinated Election and only 1.41% of voters choosing to vote in-person. 99.02% of Democrat ballots cast were cast by mail ballot and 98.31% of Republican ballots cast were cast by mail ballot.

2024 Presidential Primary Election:

- Ballots Cast: 1,464,836
- Total Active Voters: 3,788,458
- Turnout among Active Voters: 38.67%
- Ballots cast by Unaffiliated Voters: 562,699 (38.41% of total ballots cast)
- 177,117 Democrat ballots cast (31.48% of ballots cast by Unaffiliated voters)
- 385,582 Republican ballots cast (68.52% of ballots cast by Unaffiliated voters)
- Ballots cast by Democrat Voters: 403,471 (27.54% of total ballots cast)
- Ballots cast by Republican Voters: 498,666 (34.04% of total ballots cast)
- 3,117 voters used TXT2Cure to cure a signature or ID discrepancy with their ballot in the 2024 Presidential Primary Election

Grant funding provides free diapers, wipes and creams



Courier photo by John Waters
Lindsay Meredith, Pauline Palacios, and Silvia Martinez with the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley hand out free diapers during the Easter event at Adams State University on March 30. Meredith, who is the Chief Operating Officer at the council, said the organization recently received a grant of nearly \$200,000 to provide free diapers, wipes and creams. For more information on the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, visit their website at www.eccslv.org.

Work

Continued from Page 1
 mined that "the availability of emergency response personnel, adequate funding, and appropriate response times have been challenging." Leadership at the city and county level decided that a study looking into those topics would benefit the local fire departments while also giving direction to local leadership.

In their analysis, according to the report, "Operationally, and even financially, there were no significant issues identified throughout the course of the study. It should be noted that all organizations appear to be striving to provide what they deem to be appropriate levels of service for the public that they serve."

However, notable issues related to communication were identified.

"From the onset of the study, it was apparent that communication would need to be the primary focus for future improvements," the report reads. "From an external standpoint, the relation-

ship between the ACFPD, the City of Alamosa, and the AFD Chief appeared to be a challenging path to navigate.

"The most important change is that each department should actively strive to improve communications with the other. These communication efforts should include the written documentation provided to each other, as well as the simple verbal communication each agency representative has with the other. Any other recommendations, planning, changes, etc., will likely continue to struggle until all the organizations are on the same page."

The last sentence of the analysis was perhaps the most noteworthy and will likely be one of the areas of focus in Tuesday night's meeting.

"The sentiment expressed by each department suggested that they would be more comfortable working with departments outside of their County than working with each other."

The 6:30 p.m. meeting will be held at the Alamosa County building at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa.

Journey

Continued from Page 1
 they're paid by the gang to do nothing. Even worse, they would tell the gang she tried to report them, which would mean instant death — not just in revenge but, again, as a message to others.

She thinks of moving to another city, another state, even across the country but she knows it's useless. El Tren de Aragua would find her — her actions cannot encourage others to do the same thing. She has only one choice, only one place to go where she will be safe and can work to support her children. She must go to the United States and ask for protection.

"This is one of the stories I hear over and over from some of my clients," says Charles Nicholas, an immigration lawyer with a practice in Denver who has contacts in the San Luis Valley. Nicholas — who specializes in representing people from El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela — agreed to be interviewed to provide some general insight into understanding the basic factors impacting the influx of people applying for asylum in the United States.

"They'll leave their extended families," he continues, "their homes, their culture, the food, the only life they've ever known to come to the United States. They have to. If they stay, they must either give up one of their children or be victims of violence. They have no choice but to leave. The things some of my clients have experienced in their home country is unimaginable for us here in the United States."

The young woman and her children are now facing a journey where, like thousands of others, they will walk almost 3,000 miles, traveling through seven different countries and crossing the Darién Gap, a 70 mile stretch of jungle that connects Central America to Panama. Once considered an area that only the most prepared should travel, the Darién Gap is remote,

roadless, mountainous and dangerous because of the mud during the nine month rainy season, the snakes that inhabit the jungle and the robbers along the route.

Not all of his clients are similar to the young woman. "I have at least two clients who are lawyers, several police officers who were cops and were calling out the system for its corruption or clients who were in the military. In some countries, the difference between police and military isn't that distinguishable.

"But they're being told to do things that are wrong. They saw that the last guy who refused was murdered, so they gather up their family and make a very dangerous trip to come here — a trip where a great risk involved. They're vulnerable and exposed and may be robbed or assaulted or worse along the way, but they come because they literally cannot stay where they are."

Once they arrive at the southern border, different challenges await.

"Immigration law is complicated," he says.

Someone seeking asylum is coming to the U.S. for protection from persecution in their home country. To be granted asylum and allowed to live and work in the U.S., a person must be able to prove they have been persecuted on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or for being a member of a particular social group.

As Nicholas explains, it is 100% legal for a person to apply for asylum. It's been a part of federal law governing the United States since 1972. But applicants can only apply for asylum if they are physically in the U.S. — they have to come here to apply.

Because many of the countries people are fleeing are authoritarian dictatorships or extremely corrupt, the vast majority of people seeking asylum do not have documentation to enter the country. Consequently, they are detained, charged with Unlawful Entry — a civil, not criminal, charge.

"That is as far as some



Courtesy of LC
A mother and child wait to enter the United States in a camp on the Mexico side of the border with the United States.

people go. If they have a criminal record, fraudulent documents or prior removals, they'll be kept in detention and then returned to their country."

But those with no problems that make them inadmissible proceed in the process and are then interviewed to see if they have "credible fear" and qualify under one of the classes.

If the answer is no, they'll be detained and sent back to their country. If the answer is yes, the person will be released and given a court date to appear before a judge, sometimes with a cell phone or ankle monitor.

"Those are removal proceedings with an immigration judge to make a determination if the person is removable, which they are — presumptively — because they entered without documentation. At that point, the only course of action is asylum, and those proceedings can take years."

About six or seven months after they have submitted an application, people will receive a work permit and, in a separate mail, a social security card so that they can work. At that point, they'll pay taxes and must abide by the same laws as everyone else until their

case goes before an immigration judge. During that time, as long as they don't commit a crime and check in with ICE as required, they cannot be removed to the country.

"The term 'illegal' isn't accurate and it's been used to paint this picture of criminality in people. You leave Venezuela because it's not safe for your family. You come to the United States and apply for asylum. Are you an 'illegal alien'? No. You're exercising your right to seek asylum under the 1980 Refugee Act that says a country can't send someone back to a country they came from where they might be subject to persecution and torture.

"Common sense needs to drive immigration policy. Not us and them. Not politics. There's no open border policy. That's just politics. There's an immigration system that's really dysfunctional. Everyone can agree on that. The system isn't working."

"Until we can see everyone as human beings with the same needs and wants and hopes and fears, it's going to be really hard for common sense to be applied, which is what we really need."

Charles Nicholas can be reached at www.charlesnicholaslaw.com

Path

Continued from Page 1
STEM (Hispanic Serving Institution, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) grant. The funds cover five years of expenses for the university.

The facility includes a jet engine that according to Matt Nehring, Ph.D. and Department Chair of Engineering and Computer Science at ASU, enables students to, "Learn about the thermodynamic processes. It is great when we fire it up and it is very impressive. We make real measurements

on the thrust it generates and what are the thermodynamic processes." Nehring added the EMAC has other engines to conduct similar tests.

Dain Romero, a student from Antonito who is in his second year in the program, said of the program, "It is really math-heavy and very satisfying to learn all of this new technology. To bridge the gap between the theoretical and the physical world is really cool. As you can see, it is high-tech and interesting to see how all of these machines work." Romero said that after graduation he is interested in robotics.

Lifestyles

How to help students master college entrance exams

(METRO) — The college admissions process is multifaceted and stretches out over a year or more. High school students who plan to continue their education at four-year schools typically go through the admissions process at various schools before deciding where the next step on their academic journeys will take them.



Courtesy of METRO

Families can work together to make preparing for standardized testing more successful.

Testing is part of the college admissions process. Parents and guardians who want to give young people the best chance of being admitted to their preferred school can help students prepare accordingly. In the United States, performance on the SAT and/or the ACT has traditionally been a key consideration for college admissions departments. The college information resource CollegeVine says standardized test scores are not required in the admissions process for public Canadian universities, although some private ones will accept SAT scores. According to the Princeton Review, the SAT is created and administered by the College Board. The test consists of Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing. Each section is scored on a 200-to-800-point scale, (a score of 1600 indicates mastery of the exam). The ACT is a similar test that also helps measure college readiness. The ACT consists of four sections: English, Reading, Math, and Science. There's also an optional 40-minute Writing Test that some colleges may require. The

maximum composite score for the ACT is 36.

Most schools do not favor one test over the other, so it's possible students will take just one exam. However, college-bound students are increasingly taking both the SAT and ACT and only submitting the higher score to schools. This is important for families and students to recognize. Generally, students can study concurrently for both tests, and the following are some additional strategies to prepare for college admissions testing.

- Enroll in a test prep course. Students may benefit from taking test prep courses either in sophomore year of high school or early in their junior year. These courses familiarize students with the testing format and enable them to take practice exams. They also offer tips for getting through the test within the allotted time. Knowing "how" to take the test is often just as important as knowing the material on the test.

- Focus on vocabulary. Families can work together to expand students' vocabularies. Everyone can learn new words and use them on a daily basis.

- Prioritize rest and a healthy lifestyle. This can be a stressful time in students' lives. Parents and other caregivers can recognize this and reinforce healthy living habits that will help teens get the rest they need to stay both physically and mentally well. Try not to put extra pressure on students during this critical time. Avoid emphasizing a need to get the best test scores possible, which can lead to additional stress, burnout and resentment.

- Realize many schools are test-optional. Students who simply are not excellent test-takers may take comfort in knowing that a growing number of schools have become test-optional. Families can determine if students want to be "one-and-done" on standardized testing, or take the test a few times to improve their scores.

Documents to bring to your tax preparer

(METRO) — In many parts of the country, April marks a return to warm temperatures, landscapes marked by blooming foliage and perhaps even a colorful flower or two. April also signals tax season, a notion that may elicit different reactions than warmer weather and budding plants, particularly among those who do not anticipate receiving a tax refund.



Courtesy of METRO

Tax season has arrived, and taxpayers are urged to provide all relevant documents to their tax preparers to ensure their returns are filed correctly and on time.

income should contact their tax preparation pro prior to their appointment to determine which additional income form they need to file.

- Tax deduction documents: Tax deductions save taxpayers money, and taxpayers may be eligible for a range of deductions. For example, homeowners who finance their home purchases with mortgages will receive a 1098 form from their mortgage provider each January. That form is a mortgage interest statement that can help homeowners reduce their tax obligations. Donations, student loan interest payments and college tuition costs are some additional potential deductions. Charities, student loan servicing firms and colleges or universities should provide tax deduction documents by the end of January, and taxpayers can turn these forms over to their tax preparation professional so they earn all eligible deductions.

- Receipts: Some expenses are eligible for tax deductions. Taxpayers can contact their tax preparation professional to determine if any medical bills, business expenses, charitable contributions, or additional expenses are deductible. Receipts may be required, and individuals are urged to hold on to any receipts they might be able to use to earn a tax deduction.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the deadline to file a 2023 tax return is Monday, April 15, 2024. Individuals who file more complicated returns or those who simply don't have the time to file on their own typically look to tax preparation professionals to ensure their returns are filed correctly and on time. As the tax deadline draws closer, taxpayers who work with tax preparation professionals can make that partnership go more smoothly by ensuring they bring along these necessary documents and details to their appointments.

- Social Security numbers: Individuals who are filing as single or jointly with a spouse will need to list the Social Security numbers of each person on the return. Taxpayers with dependents will need to provide the full names and Social Security numbers of each dependent as well as their own Social Security numbers.

- Identification: A copy of a form of identification, such as a driver's license or passport, also must be included in a tax return. The identification confirms a person's identity and the name on the ID provided must match the name associated with the Social Security number provided.

- Income statements: Tax preparers need a copy of each taxpayer's W-2 form, which employers must provide by the end of January. Taxpayers with more than one job must provide a W-2 from each employer. Additional income statements, such as forms indicating gambling winnings or retirement account distributions, also must be provided to the tax prep pro. Taxpayers who have such

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- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
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- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
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- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier
(ISSN 1047-1170)

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.

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Lifestyles

Maintaining a lawn routinely roamed by pets

(METRO) — Vibrant, green lawns can draw attention to any landscape. Many homeowners toil for hours each week to ensure their lawns are pristine, or invest in lawn care services to help maintain a yard if they do not have the time to do so themselves.

While many treatments can be applied to lawns to help them thrive, animal waste is not among them. Pet owners who aspire to have beautiful lawns will have to take a few extra steps to ensure lawns can persevere despite the presence of furry companions.

Reseed with a damage-resistant grass

There are many different types of grass, and some are more resilient than others. Tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and Bermuda grass are just some of the grass varieties that can capably handle pet traffic. If replacing the entire lawn is not possible, consider reseeding or addressing the areas that pets frequent.

Strengthen the root system

It may be tempting to cut the lawn short, particularly if dogs or cats like to nibble on longer blades of grass. But that approach could be doing the lawn a disservice. According to The Home Depot, letting the lawn grow to at least three inches will help keep moisture in the soil and prevent evaporation. That moisture will strengthen the roots, creating a healthier

lawn for pets and people.

Create pet paths

Various materials can be used in these high-traffic areas to minimize the sights and signs of pet traffic. Mulch or crushed stone can establish these pet highways and look like intended features.

Set boundaries

Pet urine contains high levels of nitrogen, which can burn grass and turn it brown. It's not possible to water down urine or pick up solid waste immediately every time a pet goes outdoors, so designate a pet-friendly spot for potty time. Use fencing or a dog run to separate this area and help mitigate "land mines" all over the lawn. Fencing also can keep pets out of vegetable gardens and away from potentially toxic plants.

Avoid chemical lawn treatments

When pets use the yard and rest on the lawn, you'll need to eliminate products that can be harmful to them. Choose all-natural fertilizers and weed and pest preventatives.

Look for alternatives

If maintaining a lawn with pets seems like an uphill battle, consider swapping out your landscape with a variety of materials. Scale back on grass, and incorporate groundcover, hardscape materials like pea gravel, or extend the patio. Artificial turf also is an option, as it won't brown and wither. Some turf products can even be quickly and thoroughly cleaned with water.



Courtesy of METRO

Lake Pueblo State Park installs 'exit only' gates to let boaters leave after hours

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

PUEBLO — Beginning April 1, boaters who remain on the water at Lake Pueblo State Park past gate closing times on the two boat ramps will not be prevented from leaving.

A new policy — and new gates — will allow after-hour departures, which have not been permitted since the rise of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) forced Colorado Parks and Wildlife to begin inspecting every boat that enters and leaves state-managed waters.

This winter, Lake Pueblo installed new gates on the south boat ramp that resemble large railroad-crossing guards. They are equipped with sensors — and spike strips — to allow the boaters to leave, but not enter the water after hours.

The change comes with new ANS inspection requirements that boaters will need to strictly follow.

"This is a response to our guests who like to fish and boat late into the night," said Joe Stadterman, manager of CPW's busiest park. "We are trying to accommodate them while maintaining the highest defense possible to prevent aquatic nuisance species from entering the lake."

The new south ramp gates are becoming operational as Lake Pueblo ANS inspection sta-

tions shift from winter to springtime operating hours. Beginning April 1, the south ramp gates will be open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The north ramp operating hours will be 5 a.m. to midnight.

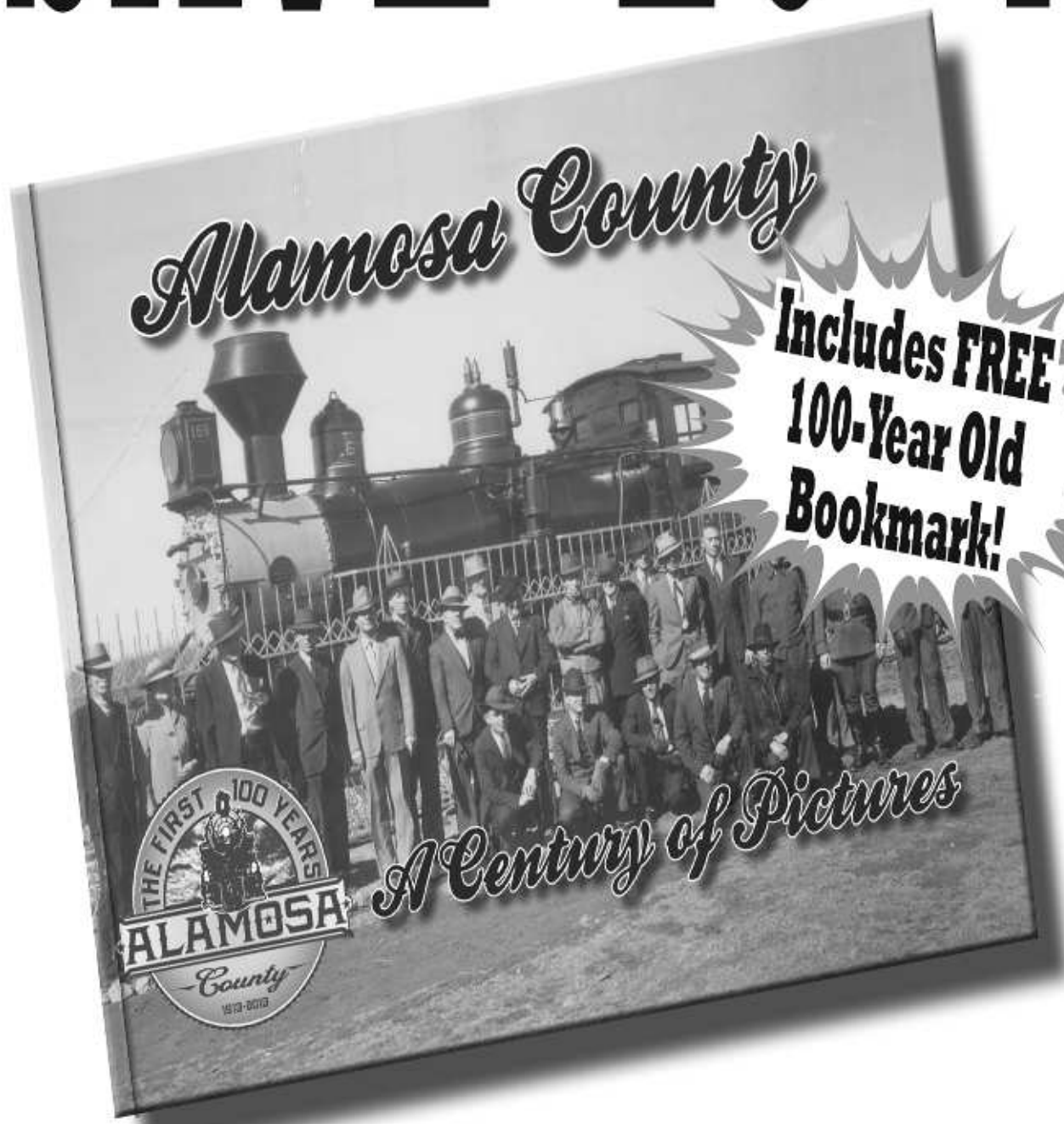
Boats leaving after hours still must follow CPW's "clean, drain, dry" ANS protocols. However, they will not receive a seal that designates them as clean. They may be required to go through the decontamination station before being allowed to re-enter the water.

In recent years, CPW has aggressively policed boats entering its waters to guard against the invasion of non-native zebra and quagga mussels, in particular.

"Our seasonal hours, combined with the new south ramp gate, give boaters more freedom to come and go at Lake Pueblo," Stadterman said. "But we will not relax our ANS inspections as we continue to keep Lake Pueblo free of invasive zebra and quagga mussels."

When ANS inspection stations are open, all trailered or motorized watercraft must be inspected by on-site staff prior to launching on the lake. CPW's ANS protocols include inspecting watercraft before they enter state waters, decontaminating those with ANS attached, educating boat operators and ensuring that users clean, drain and dry watercraft.

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Sports

Harrison rallies in second half to defeat Lady Moose

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – After starting the season with three road games, the Alamosa High School girls soccer team played at home for the first time on Saturday as it hosted Harrison at the AHS stadium.

The Lady Mean Moose started strong as they led 2-0 at halftime. However, the Lady Panthers came alive in the second half and came back to win by a score of 3-2.

“We did not come out like we should have for the second half,” said Alamosa coach Kelly Wubben. “Hopefully we’ll come back and take it to Pagosa in our next game.”

Alamosa took an early lead with a goal in the second minute of the game. Leah Higareda took a pass from Jayden Wubben on a break and beat Harrison goalkeeper Emily Garcia for a 1-0 lead.

The Lady Mean Moose increased the lead to 2-0 in the 33rd minute as Wubben was fouled in the box and was awarded a penalty kick which she converted.

The Lady Panthers got on the scoreboard in the fourth minute of the second half as

Tyara Vazquez scored an unassisted goal.

Harrison tied the score 11 minutes later as Adamari Mata scored off a Lexy Wilson assist.

The go-ahead goal came in the 66th minute as Vazquez scored for the second time. Mata was credited with the assist.

The Lady Mean Moose made several attempts to tie the score and they came the closest in the final minute as Wubben’s shot was stopped by Dmarie Miles.

Harrison outshot Alamosa 14-13. Goalkeeper Emmy Tibbits made 11 saves.

Alamosa (1-3) will travel to Pagosa Springs for the intermountain League opener on Friday and then will return home to host Bayfield on Saturday.

“We just need to piece together a full game,” coach Wubben said. “So far, we’ve just had half games.”

Harrison 3, Alamosa 2

Harrison	0	3-3
Alamosa	2	0-2

Scoring

A - Higareda (Wubben), 2:00
 A - Wubben, 33:00
 H - Vazquez, 44:00
 H - Mata (Wilson), 55:00
 H - Vasquez (Mata), 66:00.

Shots on goal: Harrison 7-7-14, Alamosa 5-8-13. Corner kicks: Harrison 2-0-2, Alamosa 1-2-3. Goalkeepers - Harrison Garcia (3-0-3), Miles (0-7-7); Alamosa - Tibbits (7-4-11).



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Alamosa High School's Jayden Wubben sends a penalty kick into the net in Saturday's game against Harrison at the AHS stadium. The Lady Mean Moose lost to the Lady Panthers 3-2.

Alamosa baseball picks up first win of season

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School baseball team got its first win of the season on Saturday as it defeated Trinidad 10-6 in the Jim Sullivan Invitational at 22nd Street Field in La Junta.

The Miners took the early lead with three runs in the bottom of the first. They increased the lead to 4-0 in the second before



the Mean Moose scored its first run in the top of the third.

Trinidad added another run in the bottom of the third, but Alamosa took

the lead by scoring five runs in the top of the fifth. The Mean Moose scored twice in the sixth and seventh innings.

Trinidad scored once in its half of the seventh.

Gus West started on the mound and picked up the win. He allowed six runs and eight hits and he

struck out four and walked two. Tony Griego finished the game and gave up no runs and no hits.

The Mean Moose had eight hits and were led by Jayden Mizokami who went 3-4 including a double, and Carlos Garcia who went 2-3 with one RBI.

Earlier in the tournament, the Mean Moose lost to Sterling 13-3 and to La Junta, the host team, 5-4.

Alamosa (1-6) will travel to Gunnison on Tuesday for a doubleheader the first game starts at 2 p.m.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep baseball
Dolores Huerta 15, Antonito 0, 4 inn
Dolores Huerta 16, Antonito 7
La Junta 5, Alamosa 4
Sanford 15, Centennial 0, 4 inn.
Sanford 22, Centennial 1, 3 inn.
Sterling 13, Alamosa 3, 6 inn.
Swink 21, Centauri 0, 3 inn.

SATURDAY

Prep baseball
Alamosa 10, Trinidad 6
Centauri 11, Rocky Ford 5
Del Norte 16, Ignacio 10
Ignacio 4, Del Norte 2
Monte Vista 12, Sargent 0, 5 inn
Monte Vista 17, Sargent 2, 4 inn.
Prep girls soccer
Harrison 3, Alamosa 2
Trinidad 4, Del Norte 1
College men's lacrosse
Colorado Mesa 20, Adams State 3

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Prep baseball
Alamosa at Gunnison (2), 2 p.m.
Centauri at Walsenburg, 3 p.m.

Center at Sanford (2), 3 p.m.
Centennial at Custer County, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

College men's lacrosse
Concordia-Irvine at Adams State, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY

Prep girls soccer
Ignacio at Del Norte, 4:30 p.m.
College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Jo Meaker Classic and Multi (at Canyon, Texas), TBA

FRIDAY

Prep baseball
Manzanola at Sierra Grande (2), 11 a.m.
Antonito, Branson/Kim at La Veta, TBA
Monte Vista at Buena Vista Invitational, TBA
Prep girls golf
Monte Vista at Swink Invitational (at La Junta), 9 a.m.
Prep girls soccer
Alamosa at Pagosa Springs, 4 p.m.
Prep track and field
Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande at Ray Headley Invitational (at Swink), 9 a.m.
College baseball
Adams State at Colorado School of Mines, 6 p.m.
College women's softball
Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs (2), noon
College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Jo Meaker Classic and Multi (at Canyon, Texas), TBA

SATURDAY

Prep baseball

Durango at Alamosa, 10 a.m.
Bayfield at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.
Center at Sargent (2), 11 a.m.
Del Norte at Trinidad (2), 11 a.m.
La Veta at Sierra Grande, 11 a.m.
Monte Vista at Buena Vista Invitational, TBA

Prep girls soccer
Bayfield at Alamosa, 11 a.m.
Del Norte at Banning Lewis Academy, noon

Prep track and field
Creede, Del Norte at Abel Velasquez Invitational (at Ignacio), 8 a.m.
Alamosa, Moffat, Monte Vista, Sanford, Sargent at Thunderstorm Invitational (at CSU Pueblo), 9 a.m.
Antonito, Center, Monte Vista at Salida Invitational, 9 a.m.
Centauri at Pueblo County Invitational, 9 a.m.

College baseball
Adams State at Colorado School of Mines (2), noon
College men's lacrosse
Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo, noon
College women's softball
Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs (2), 11 a.m.

College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Jo Meaker Classic and Multi (at Canyon, Texas), TBA

SUNDAY

College baseball
Adams State at Colorado School of Mines, noon



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ALAMOSA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE is seeking a **DATA ENTRY CLERK**. This job requires data entry skills and working knowledge of the Assessor's Office to ensure accurate property data is generated to maintain complex records. Responsibilities include: Working independently or in a team setting, entering deed transfers (land splits/combination and replats of parcels into database), entering address changes into the computer system, answering phones and assisting the public at the front counter, coping maps, daily mail runs, participating in professional training, and perform all other duties as required by the County Assessor. \$17.00-\$19.00 per hour, full time, full benefits. Background check and drug screening required. Applications may be obtained online at www.alamosacounty.org. Inquiries may be directed to humanresources@alamosacounty.org. (4/6/24)

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the MIDDLE SCHOOL and/or HIGH SCHOOL level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.com; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.com. (719-657-4020). (5/1/24)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (5/1/24)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS NEEDED at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scruez@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (5/1/24)

CSU-SAN LUIS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER is seeking temporary hourly employees to work M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm, 30 to 40 hours per week. Aids in the preparation of research field experiments and crops. Provides planting, irrigating, cultivating, harvesting, storing crops and various tasks important to the research initiatives at this station. Please apply at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/141377> or contact Sharon at (719) 754-3594 x17. (4/17/24)

TOWN OF HOOPER is accepting applications for the **PARK AND TOWN MAINTENANCE POSITION**. Job begins in April - September, up to 30 hours per month. The job duties include maintaining park, maintaining mowing equipment etc. and town weed control and various other duties. Job description available upon request. Send resume or letter of interest including experience, to PO Box 1, Hooper, CO 81136 or clerk.hooper@gmail.com, include in the subject line, Hooper Maintenance Position. For more information call 719-937-3683. Application deadline, April 15, 2024. (4/6/24)

LA PUENTE IS seeking a self-starting individual for the position of **EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR** as the front line worker in our Employment Readiness program. This program engages clients experiencing barriers to employment to support their journey from unemployed or underemployed to stability and independence. The Navigator will work with La Puente's Shelter, Street Outreach, and Adelante programs, as well as local employers and employment programs to help clients overcome barriers and obtain employment. The Navigator also works to build trust, conduct assessments, make referrals, identify resources, and collect data. Ability to problem-solve and collaborate with other agencies is a must. 36k-40k DOE. Send resume: La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719 589-5909. www.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net. (4/17/24)

POTATO WAREHOUSE IN CENTER IN NEED OF WORKERS. There are SEVERAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Hours 8:00 am-???. Competitive wages. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO. (5/1/24)

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CAPULINDITCH CO. is looking for a DITCH RIDER for the 2024 season- approx. Mid April through September. Pay is a set amount per day worked. For more information please contact Joseph Valdez at: 719-274-5109 (La Jara Pharm.) Or 719-588-2585. (4/6/24)

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ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is hiring a DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS for our EXTENDED STUDIES PROGRAM. This is a twelve-month exempt, at-will, full-time position with the primary responsibility of managing the enrollment, development and delivery of PreK-12 professional development, concurrent enrollment opportunities for high school students, professional development for private sector and other special projects as assigned. This individual will work collaboratively with Extended Studies staff, ASU staff, external stakeholders/clients, and staff of other educational institutions to support the delivery of quality off-campus programs. The position will provide high levels of customer care and relevant, timely and innovative solutions to students and stakeholders. Travel is required and the position will represent Adams State University at various meetings, conferences, and workshops. Apply here: <https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ASU> or contact Renae Haslett rhasslett@adams.edu 719-587-8144 for more information. (4/5/24)

HELP WANTED: SOMEONE TO CLEAN THE TOWN HALL OFFICE. MUSEUM HELP: Must be 16 yrs of age or older for museum, must have some knowledge of Jack Dempsey history. Also, CHIEF OF POLICE & POLICE OFFICER. Please pick up application at the Town Hall office during business hours. (4/8/24)

CDL B TRUCK DRIVER: Earn Up to \$83k+. Join Us, Grow with Us! At WORLD FUEL SERVICES, our drivers are the key to our success. Tank/Wagon drivers operate a straight truck carrying petroleum products to our customers. We are currently seeking experienced CDL drivers to join our team in ALAMOSA, CO. This is a DAYSHIFT POSITION. EARNINGS: \$5,000 sign on bonus; Starting pay \$23/hr. For day shift; Additional \$1.00/hr. with one year of fuel experience; Performance Bonus \$5,000; Earn Your First Year; Day Shift Average (with 1 year fuel experience) - \$1,320 Weekly / \$76,640 Annually. WHAT YOU WILL LOVE ABOUT US!: Home Daily! Health Benefits from day one! Medical with HSA and FSA options; three plans to choose from to fit your needs; Dental, Vision, Teladoc, Employee Assistance Programs; \$0 Premium Medical Insurance Option; Prepare for the Future with 401K Retirement Plan with company matching, no vesting period; Rest and Relaxation 120 hours PTO, 7 paid holiday, and 4 floating holidays; Financial Peace of Mind: Company paid Short-Term Disability, Life, and AD&D Insurance; Additional Perks We Offer: Long Term Disability Insurance, Accident & Critical Illness Insurance, Legal & Identity Theft Protection, Paid Unifem and Boots, Satellite Radio; Learning and Development, LinkedIn Learning; Fleet of modern vehicles with the latest in cab technologies; Referral bonus program. WHAT YOU WILL NEED!: Current CDL; HazMat & Tank endorsements; Two years of recent Class CDL driving experience required; Pass required MVR and DOT pre-employment testing and background check. Apply Today! Questions 707.761.7671. (4/24/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

LOCAL DRIVER - METZ POTATO COMPANY is looking for a year-round full-time POTATO TRUCK DRIVER who will be responsible for loading and unloading trucks along with stacking or other duties in the warehouse. Wage of \$14.42-16/hr plus potential to earn bonus annually. Overtime eligible. Simple IRA matching after 6 months. Must have a valid driver's license and clean MVR. Applications can be completed at 971 E County Rd 6 N, MONTE VISTA. (4/10/24)

HOME HEALTH AIDE for individual needed near LA JARA. CNA helpful but not required, on the job training. Good pay, flexible hours, must pass background check. Call or Text 719-580-9633. (4/26/24)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a RELATIONSHIP MANAGER with 3+ years of commercial loan experience and a Regional Branch Manager with 5+ years of banking experience. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE. (4/10/24)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking a candidate to fill a Seasonal position for a TELLER at our CREEDE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments, and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is seasonal, full time with a hourly range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 12, 2024. Application is available at TruelocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4/12/24)

SKYLINE POTATO CO. in CENTER, CO is looking for a SHIPPING CLERK/ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR for their bulk division. Applicants must be Bilingual (English/Spanish) and capable of using Microsoft Word and Excel, Microsoft Word and able to learn other computer/shipping programs. Work week consists of Monday-Friday and some Saturdays. Responsibilities will be the following: Weigh in and out incoming trucks, ship out trucks with outgoing product and produce paperwork for the truck, coordinate incoming and outgoing trucks with supervisor and shipping/loading crew, help supervise employees. For an application please contact Margaret Limon @ 719-754-2043. (4/30/24)

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about making a positive impact on people's lives? SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for BEHAVIOR HEALTH COUNSELOR/MTSS COORDINATOR for the 2024-2025 School Year. Our school has a reputation as being a great place to work. We currently have a state of the art facility, supportive administration, paid health insurance, free lunches, 4 day school week. A current license/state certification in counseling is highly recommended to apply. Application forms are located at 17523 Hwy 160 BLANCA, CO. 81123 or on the district's website at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Applications may be submitted electronically to Mr. Kevin Jones at kjones@sierragrandeschool.net or Mrs. Maria Atencio at maticencio@sierragrandeschool.net, or can be turned in at the district office. For more information please contact the district office at 719-379-3259. (4/5/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for a MUSIC TEACHER for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information and to download an application please see our website at sangreschools.org. (4/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SDEC SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH for the 2024 fall season. Applicants must have CHSAA certification or have a CDE teaching license. Applications may be picked up at the school office: 8751 Lane 7 North in MOSCA, CO. For more information, contact David Mejia at 719-378-2321 or 719-677-8217. (4/3/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a SECONDARY SCIENCE TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (4/2/24)

1/2 TIME TIGER CONNECTION COACH (attendance & family connection) needed at DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. This will be a 2-year part time classified position paid for with the Stronger Connections Grant. For more information please contact Principal Amy Duda at 719-657-4050 or aduda@urtigers.co. Applications may be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4/17/24)

ALAMOSA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT is now hiring for SEASONAL STAFF. Please go to their website www.mosquitobytes.org. Click on EMPLOYMENT for job descriptions and applications. Alamosa Mosquito Control District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Must be 18+ to apply. (4/3/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HS HEAD BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Extra Duty Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities>, by March 28, 2024 or until the position is filled. For questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (4/3/24)

HOSPICE DEL VALLE is currently seeking an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. A part time to full time position available. Knowledge in payroll and QuickBooks preferred but not necessary. Please call or stop by Hospice del Valle for further information: 514 Main Street, ALAMOSA, Colo 81101 or 719-589-9019. (4/17/24)

HOSPICE DEL VALLE is currently seeking a REGISTERED NURSE PRN or part time with a possibility of full time. We are a great team looking for someone special to fill this position. Competitive wages and among other benefits. Please call or stop by Hospice del Valle for further information. 514 Main Street, ALAMOSA, Colo 81101 or 719-589-9019. (4/17/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the remaining 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Special Education Certification as required by the State of Colorado or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of ELEMENTARY 3RD GRADE & 5TH GRADE TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

JR. HIGH CHEER COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach is preferred. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website: www.urtigers.co. (4/17/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26JT is looking for a MIDDLE SCHOOL HEAD TRACK COACH for the 2024 season. Qualifications: Must be over 18, have a high school diploma/GED and be able to pass a background check, or, such alternative qualifications as the Board may find appropriate and acceptable. Non-Certified Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719)754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

MACKAY CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC is looking for a WELDER/FABRICATOR with MIG experience and some field stick welding. Salary will be based on skill and experience. Please call 719-852-3222. (4/3/24)

VEGI EDUCATION & GARDEN MANAGER. VEGI (Valley Education Gardens Initiative) teaches both youth and adults the craft of gardening with the goal of enhancing participants' understanding of health and nutrition. VEGI is seeking a motivated garden enthusiast to manage the program's garden operations, coordinate garden/nutrition education efforts in partnership with local school districts, supervise staff and volunteers, and oversee special events. We're looking for someone with knowledge and enthusiasm about gardening, experience working with children, and strong communication and organizational skills. This person will have opportunities to work with their hands both in the dirt and in an office space. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary \$44k-47k DOE, full benefit package. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to Emily: hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net(4/3/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (5/24/24-monthly)

307 - APPLIANCES

PAT SOLD HER ELECTRIC STOVE IN JUST 3 DAYS THROUGH THE VALLEY COURIER'S CLASSIFIED ADS. (AS)

314 - CLOTHING

FOR SALE: CHEROKEE BOOTS size 12 MEN. Like new - \$50. Call 719-256-4058 or 719-429-9900. (2/17/24)

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COWHAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (4/24/24AS-monthly)

345 - WOOD

THANK YOU, VALLEY COURIER. I SOLD MY WOOD SPLITTER! Frank.

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

I SOLD MY HORSE IN 2 DAYS TO A GOOD HOME. THANKS VALLEY COURIER! Rick. (AS)
REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULLS for sale. Low pap scores, calving ease and grove, oldest Angus herd in Colorado. Smalley's Angus. 719-588-4665 or 719-378-2459. (4/19/24)

ATTENTION FARMERS & RANCHERS. Show special. Seal leaking stock tanks, ponds, or reservoirs with BENTONITE. 719-580-6652. (5/24/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

SOLD MY WHEELCHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL, HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US! Yolanda. (AS)

387 - WANTED TO BUY

WANTING TO BUY high power rifle 416 Rigbe bolt action or single shot. Remington Winchester Ruger No. 1 or CZ. Call 785-475-3107. (4/10/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

5 ACRES FOR sale - \$7,000, Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (4/6/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

FOR SALE IN ALAMOSA County: 1980 GLENWOOD TRAILER HOUSE \$6,700. Must be moved. 402-269-7172. (E-TFN-AS)

525 - GUNS

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

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

RENT COMMERCIAL SPACE SETUP FOR HAIR SALON 888-641-3750 / 719-232-3388. (4/9/24)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

KUDDOS TO THE VALLEY COURIER FOR RENTING OUR HOUSE IN 2 DAYS! Thanks, Gerry. (AS)

RENT 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW ALAMOSA 888-641-3750 / 719-232-3388. (4/9/24)

ALAMOSA: 2 BEDROOM HOME, 28 Cascade, \$990 / rent, \$1,000 / deposit, pets negotiable. 719-580-3710. (4/5/24)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

1 DAY ADVERTISED IN THE VALLEY COURIER, SOLD MY CAR! GREAT SERVICE! Samuel. (AS)



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town?

Get acquainted with and all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to the

Valley Courier

719-589-2553

Where To Shop!
Where To Dine!
Community Bulletin Board!
Professional Services!
....And more!

One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure. Try Our Classifieds!

Valley Courier
589-2553

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "No Country — Old Men"
 - 4 Body of laws
 - 8 Box
 - 12 — — glance
 - 13 Artistic work
 - 14 Rabbit kin
 - 15 — — tac-toe
 - 16 Marshmallow candy
 - 17 Opposite of baja
 - 18 Picturesque
 - 20 — Fudd
 - 21 "2001" computer
 - 22 Name
 - 24 Philippine dish of marinated meat or seafood
 - 26 Wardrobe
 - 30 Mutt
 - 31 Aquarium
 - 33 Helen of —
 - 34 Greasy spoon fare
 - 36 Boundless
 - 38 Zoo denizen
- DOWN**
- 1 Singer — Domino
 - 2 Of a hearing organ
 - 3 Thoroughbred

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 39 Beatles' " — Rigby"
- 41 Stands
- 43 Hairpin turn
- 44 "Monsters, —"
- 45 Suggest
- 48 Charge with wrongdoing
- 51 " — Around"
- 52 Stopper
- 54 Feather scarf
- 55 " — Enchanted"
- 56 "Take a Chance —"
- 57 Texter's giggle
- 58 Shoulder muscle, for short
- 59 Tidy
- 60 Annex
- 4 Cockpit
- 5 Energy cartel
- 6 Soon to arrive
- 7 Sixth sense
- 8 Onion variety
- 9 Oil source
- 10 Commedia dell' —
- 11 Hind
- 19 Seize
- 20 Slippery —
- 22 Fabricated story
- 23 Boats
- 24 Cause for complaint
- 25 Twofold
- 27 Testy
- 28 Lariat
- 29 "Bette Davis —"
- 32 English river
- 35 Environment
- 37 Bauble
- 40 After deductions
- 42 Not Dem. or Rep.
- 45 Mottled
- 46 Eye
- 47 Vend
- 48 " — La Douce"
- 49 Refrigerate
- 50 Improbable
- 52 — brio
- 53 Somebody

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"Your medical insurance has run out. You'll have to remove your own bandages."

Wife withdraws from life she's built over decades

DEAR ABBY: After 28 years, my wife left me "to find herself." She says she doesn't want a divorce; she just needs time and space to work on herself, but she also wants to work on our marriage. She doesn't want to talk, text or contact me.

My question is, how are we supposed to work on our marriage with no contact? What am I supposed to do? I love her, but she's avoiding me and everyone else, including her friends and family. All she wants to do is work and be alone in her apartment. -- LONELY IN THE EAST

DEAR LONELY: When you asked how your wife plans to work on your marriage if you aren't seeing each other or communicating (or utilizing marriage counseling), you asked a pertinent question. She cannot have it both ways, nor does she seem open to repairing what drove her to leave your marriage.

Ask if she is interested in counseling. If she isn't, PLEASE get a referral to a therapist for emotional support for yourself right now. If you do, you will more quickly be able to figure out what your next steps should be.

DEAR ABBY: Two of my children contracted pink eye. We were assured by the doctor that after being on antibiotics for 24 hours,

they would no longer be contagious. Feeling reassured, we isolated them for 24 hours and went about our plans to visit family as originally scheduled.

Later learned that a few days after we left, three of my nephews, whom my sons played with often, all came down with pink eye. I have apologized, but I still feel guilty. We did everything the doctors recommended, yet we still gave it to others. Is there anything else I can do to make up for it? -- PINK WITH GUILT

DEAR PINK: A large box of chocolates might sweeten the bitter after-taste of your visit to that family. Or, go online and search for "Ice Cream of the Month Club." If you do, you will find several companies that guarantee frozen deliveries nationwide. Include a message on the card, "Apologies for the pink eye." (And be sure one of the flavors is strawberry to reinforce your sentiments.)

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old boy living with my parents. Due to religious constraints, I was not going to be allowed to date until I turned 16. That policy has recently changed, although my parents are still holding me to it.

My problem is, there's this girl. She's my sister's

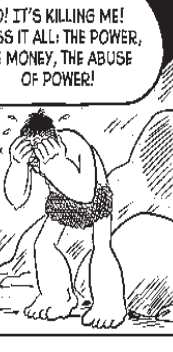


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

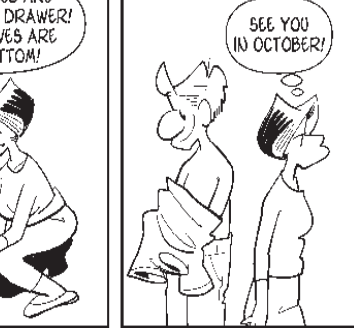
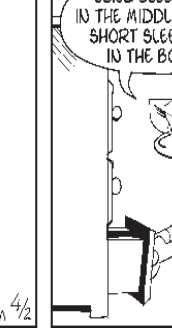
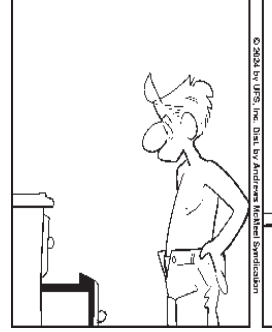
best friend. I met her when she came to hang out with my sister. I'm afraid if I wait, she'll fall out of my life. Also, I am afraid that it will be awkward with my sister. What should I do? -- LOVESICK IN UTAH

DEAR LOVESICK: Your parents are enforcing those rules and, at least for now, you need to abide by them. If this girl is friendly with your sister, she's not going to drop out of your life. That's why, if you are as smart as I think you are, you will make an effort to simply be "friends" with her. Just friends. If you do, as you get to know each other better, you may form a more lasting relationship than if you were to make a move on her now. I wish you luck.

ALLEY OOP



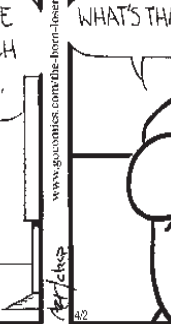
ARLO & JANIS



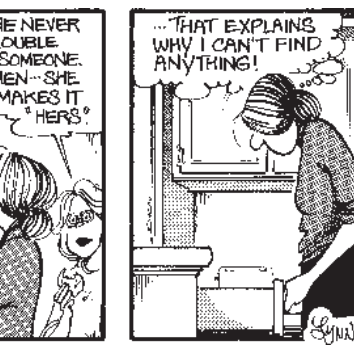
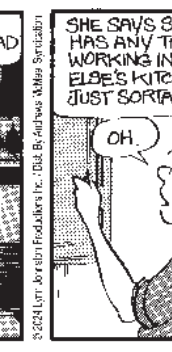
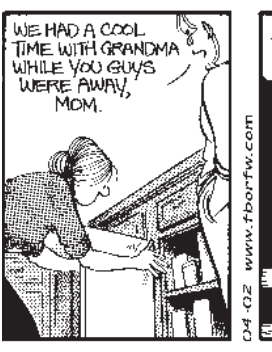
BIG NATE



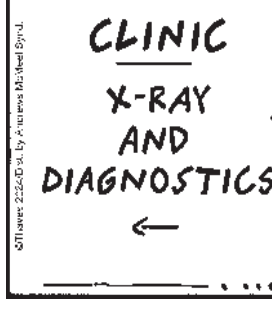
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

