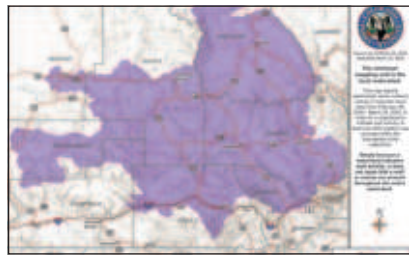




Panthers defeat Farmers in season opener

— Page 5



CPW releases updated collared gray wolf activity map

— Page 6

San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine
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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 29, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Free dirt from the Blanca Vista Pond dredging project

ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa has a large supply of dredged material that the public is welcome to take as needed for dirt and or soil projects.

By taking any of the material, one assumes all liability associated with it, and the City makes no claims as to the actual profile of the contents. Interested parties are responsible for loading and hauling any material from the site.

The material is on the Alamosa Ranch near the Disc Golf Course entrance on Maddux Lane, just North of the Cattails Golf Course. The material may be accessed during daylight hours and the existing ground may not be taken or disturbed in any meaningful fashion.

For more information, contact Parks, Recreation and Library Director Andy Rice at 719-587-2529.

Fire district calls work session

ALAMOSA — A special work session will be held Tuesday, April 2, by the Alamosa County Fire Protection District (ACFPD) for a public consulting group to present their staffing operational analysis. The work session will be held at 6:30 p.m. at 8900 Independence Way here.

The work session, called by the ACFPD board of directors, is open to the public but is not a meeting and no decisions will be made. There will be no opportunity for public comment and there is no meeting agenda.

Boys and Girls Clubs Youth of Year Breakfast

ALAMOSA — The Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley will honor its 2024 Youth of the Year at 7 a.m. on April 2. The annual breakfast celebration fundraiser will take place at the Alamosa Club site, 1115 Tenth St. Register online at Eventbrite — www.eventbrite.com/o/boys-girls-clubs-of-the-san-luis-valley-18595308322.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Gusty Wind
55/28
Sat: Sunny, Gusty Wind
59/32
Sun: Slight Chance of Showers, Gusty Wind
57/29

INSIDE

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Alamosa County non-sanctuary resolution dies after extensive public comment

'We missed the mark with the wording of this resolution' — Alamosa County Commissioner Vern Heersink

By **JOHN WATERS**, *Courier News Editor*, and **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**, *Courier Reporter*

ALAMOSA — Following more than an hour of public comments largely in opposition, a contro-

versial "Resolution Declaring Alamosa County a Non-Sanctuary County" crafted by Alamosa County commissioners died when none of the three commissioners made a motion to take it to a vote.

The resolution was created to "send the message" that, due to a lack of resources, the county "will not open shelters or emergency services to uninvited migrants and or illegal immigrants that may arrive in unincorporated Alamosa County."

About 90 members of ■ See **COUNTY** page 3



Father Carlos Alvarez with Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa addressed the Alamosa County Board of Supervisors on March 27 about a proposed resolution to declare the county a non-sanctuary county.

'We're just like everybody else'



Members of People First, starting in the foreground and going clockwise. Susan, Sharon, Willie, Robert, LaVern (advisor), Karie (president), Sonya, Amanda (secretary), Mike (sergeant at arms), Elvira (vice-president) and Cesar.

People First organization in Alamosa

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**, *Courier Reporter*

ALAMOSA — Once every month on a Thursday afternoon, an organization called "People First," meets in the Alamosa Public Library. The group is comprised of thirteen adults with developmental disabilities who are, at the very least, interesting and

■ See **FIRST** page 3

Second fatal fire reported at same location

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — A second fatal fire in a vehicle at the same address in the past three months was reported Wednesday morning.

Fire Captain Zach Cerny said Alamosa and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) firefighters responded to a property in the 1300 block of Alamosa Avenue about 9:15 a.m. and found the cab of a small box truck on fire. Once extinguished, an unidentified body was

found in the passenger seat of the cab. The gender of the victim is not known at this time, he said.

A camper fire on Dec. 31, 2023 at the same location resulted in the death of Justin Armijo, 35, of Alamosa. It was determined that a make-shift fireplace in the trailer was the likely cause of that fatal blaze.

The cause of Wednesday's fire is not known at this time, Cerny said. Alamosa Fire has completed

its investigation, but the case is still under investigation by the Alamosa Police Department (APD).

An APD officer saw the fire from a distance and called it in, according to Cerny. Eight DFPC firefighters and six from AFD responded, both with two units, and were on scene for three hours.

The Alamosa County Coroner's office removed the victim but may not have a positive identification for several weeks.



A second fatal fire in a vehicle at the same Alamosa address in the past three months was reported Wednesday morning. A body was found in the passenger seat of the small box truck. A Colorado DFPC firefighter attempts to extinguish the blaze.

Center's Roger Mix honored as 2023 CFVGA Member of the Year

CONTRIBUTED
WESTMINSTER — The 2023-24 Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) President Roger Mix was recognized as CFVGA's 2023 Robert Sakata Member of the Year, during the CFVGA 10th Annual Conference, Feb. 28 in Westminster.

Mix and his wife, Rosalie, operate Mix Farms in Center, growing potatoes and barley. Roger Mix was first appointed to the CFVGA Board in 2015 and later elected by the membership, ultimately serving as a board member for three terms.

In February 2023, Mix was elected by the CFVGA Board to serve as its president for 12 months, ending after the Feb. 27-28 conference, due to his being term-limited.

Established in 2017, the first award was presented to then CFVGA President Robert Sakata and is named after him

■ See **MIX** page 3

Roger Mix and his wife, Rosalie, operate Mix Farms in Center, growing potatoes and barley. Roger Mix was honored as the 2023 CFVGA Member of the Year.



Courtesy photo



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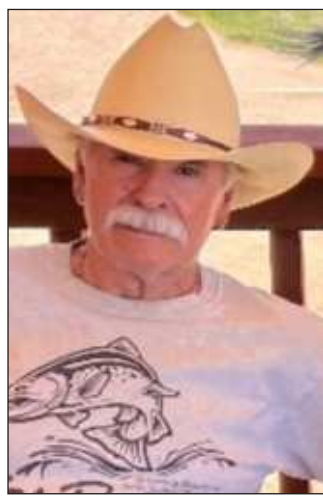
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Record

OBITUARIES

Jerry Chacon Obituary

Jerry Chacon, 73, of Berthoud, Colo., passed away on March 14, 2024. He was born on March 26, 1950, in Alamosa, Colo.



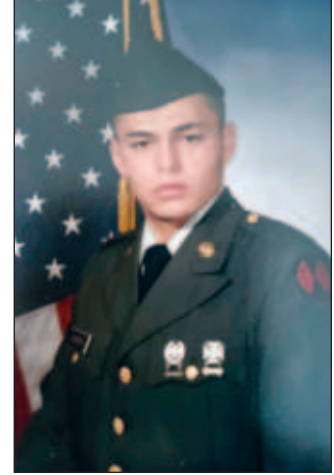
Jerry retired from Anheuser-Busch after 30 years of service. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and cherished member of the community.

Jerry's loves were the mountains, fishing, hiking, and all sports. He is survived by his

Augustine John Cisneros

Augustine John Cisneros, 57, born on March 9, 1966, in La Jara, peacefully passed away on Dec. 28, 2023, in Portsmouth, Va. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Augustine is survived by his wife Shannon Cisneros of Portsmouth, Va.; sons David Cisneros of Hampton, Va., and Dally (Harvest) Cisneros of Hampton, Va.; sisters Kathy (Jimmy) Duran of Guadalupe, Colo., Monica (Steve) Espinoza of La Jara, Colo., Barbara (Andy) Marquez of La Jara, Colo.; cousin Jason Walden of Capulin, Colo., who was like a brother; and grandchildren Liam, Aubree, and Khaza Cisneros of Hampton, Va. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.



He cherished spending time with his two sons, three grandchildren, and his extended family. His passion for travel took him to numerous states, creating memories that will be treasured forever. A veteran of the US Army who served in Desert Storm, Augustine's dedication and service to his coun-

try were unwavering. Augustine was preceded in death by his parents David and Priscilla Cisneros, his paternal grandparents Gilbert and Eufela Cisneros, and maternal grandparents Jose and Virginia Medina.

A Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Jara, followed by a Mass of the Resurrection. Contributions can be made to the GoFundMe page set up on Facebook in memory of Augustine John Cisneros. May his memory live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Darlene Hilderman Gunther



her two living sisters had a necklace from her.

Darlene Hilderman Gunther, 73, passed away at home with her husband Jerry and stepdaughter Tracie (Gunther) Meister at her side.

Darlene and her husband Jerry enjoyed their home in Center, Colo., with wide open spaces surrounded by farmland. They enjoyed the many card games they played with friends, she especially enjoyed poker. Darlene was also an avid Broncos fan.

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand. That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand. The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above. And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love. But when I walk through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home. For God looked down and smiled at me, and told me welcome home. So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

Darlene grew up in Park City, Mont., the daughter of Harry and Lucille Hilderman. In 2003, Darlene was happily married to Jerry Gunther who was her partner for almost 21 years at the time of her death.

Survivors include her wonderful husband Jerry who was always by her side, her daughter Becky Raiha; her stepson Brian (Nikki) Gunther, her stepdaughter Tracie (Dave) Meister, her grandsons Hadly, Brennan, and Brady; her granddaughters Baylee, Katelyn, Sheridan, and Karissa; as well as two great-grandchildren Brinley and Rhett; her sister Roberta (Scott) Marquez, her sister Becky (Dennis) O'Reilly; her brother Harry (Sue) Hilderman and many nieces and nephews.

There will be no service at this time. In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions to Hospice del Valle at 514 Main St., Alamosa, CO 81101 or to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org/donate/donate-by-mail-or-phone.html.

Darlene has had several battles with cancer throughout her life. Darlene stayed strong and positive through it all. Darlene was always very thoughtful and never forgot a birthday or special occasion. Upon going into hospice, she made sure

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Lucille Hilderman, her sister Kay Stewart and her nephew Garrick Logsdon.

Rogers family Mortuary is in care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Darlene's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

"When Tomorrow Starts Without Me."

PENDING OBITUARY

Michael Robert Brenner

Alamosa resident Michael Robert Brenner, 60, was called home March 27, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

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.

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

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

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

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

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

MVPD arrests two people on evading, drug charges

CONTRIBUTED MONTE VISTA — Two people were jailed on several drug charges by the Monte Vista Police Department on March 26.



On Tuesday, MVPD officers attempted to stop a vehicle driven by Austin Villagomez, 30, Alamosa. Officers were aware that Villagomez had two outstanding felony warrants and was a suspect in a robbery, MVPD reported.

Courtesy photo of illegal drugs and guns found in a home in the 600 block of Morton Street. An investigation by the Monte Vista Police Department led to a search warrant being executed at the residence. Two people were jailed on various drug charges.

Villagomez refused to stop the vehicle, resulting in a pursuit. During the pursuit, Villagomez never drove above 40 mph and eventually stopped where he was taken into custody, MVPD reported. At the time of the stop, his passenger, Delydia Naranjo, 49, Monte Vista, was questioned and released.

MVPD reported. Naranjo was also arrested on numerous charges, including suspicion of special offender, unlawful distribution of meth, unlawful distribution of fentanyl, child abuse and unlawful storage of a firearm.

Investigation by detectives resulted in a search warrant being executed in the 600 block of Morton Street where officers located fentanyl, methamphetamine and two weapons. The drugs and weapons were stored in an area where a young child had access to them,

Both Villagomez and Naranjo were booked into the Rio Grande County Jail. The Monte Vista Police Department was assisted by the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office in the apprehension of Villagomez and by the Colorado State Patrol with the search warrant.

GoFundMe to help with Moffat fire loss



Courtesy photo of a fire on the back porch of Melinda Myers historic home in Moffat, where she has lived for the past 30 years. Tragically, the home burnt down with all her possessions. She was able to get out in her stocking feet with no time to grab personal possessions, purse or anything else and all was lost including three beloved cats. All other animals including her best friends KarLee, Max, and Duece are fine. A GoFundMe account to help Myers has been set up and is at https://gofund.me/2f80d4d7

Elks, MVPD organizing Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday

By MARIE MCOLM MONTE VISTA — On Saturday, March 30, at 11 a.m. at Chapman Park, the Monte Vista Elks Lodge and the Monte Vista Police Department are having an Easter Egg Hunt.

to come out to the hunt. "We have invited vendors to come out. It is a little later than previous times because we are trying to work with the weather for the kids. Last year, we did it at 10, which was later than the year before. This year we are trying it at 11. We are hoping the kids will not have to hunt Easter Eggs in the snow. There will be lots of traditional dyed eggs, and plastic eggs with prizes. There is going to be something for everyone."

Vendors who would like to participate in the event are encouraged to contact the Elks Lodge at 719-852-2456, for more information on the event, or to reserve a space. In the event of harsh weather, other entertainment may be available.

According to Monte Vista Elks Officer Joy Werner, the free event will be held at 11 a.m. in hopes that the weather will be nicer around mid-morning for the children. The Easter Bunny is expected to be there.

The hunt will be divided into age groups. There will be several age group scrambles for children up to 12 years of age. There will be candy and prized filled plastic-colored eggs, along with colored hard-boiled eggs for the children to gather.

School Menu Friday March 29, 2024

"We will be giving out some books as prizes," Werner said. "We also have a hunt for the little ones who can't walk yet. We do have some prizes for them, too."

Werner, who is the officer and chair for the youth activities of the Elks, is excited about the egg hunt. "The Elks have traditionally always tried to put on community events like this," she said. "We like to help support and provide activities for the youth and the Veterans in the community, that is something that is very important to us. We enjoy it and are happy to be doing it again this year. We are excited about doing this with the Monte Vista Police Department, too."

No School

Werner explained that there are vendors invited

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

Valley News

SLV Women's March this Saturday



Courier file photo

The SLV Women's March will gather at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, at the corner of Highway 160 and Richardson Avenue in Alamosa. The march is sponsored by SLV Women ACT (Alliance for Change Together).

Mix

Continued from Page 1

for his excellence in Colorado produce production and his tireless work to start CFVGA.

"I am honored to be named winner of the Sakata award. It is amazing to see how far CFVGA has come since it was founded in 2014," said Roger Mix. "We currently serve our members through political advocacy, by exploring automated and other options to the ag labor challenges we face, and by putting potential buyers in front of grower members. In addition, CFVGA voting members get free membership in Western Growers and have representation in Washington, D.C. on the issues impacting our operations. I also mention the many avenues CFVGA uses to promote Colorado produce to everyone from consumers to commercial buyers. I couldn't be prouder of what we have accom-

plished the last decade as a unified organization."

Mix was born and raised in the San Luis Valley and grew up on his family farm. He has represented CFVGA and helped strengthen its partnership with Western Growers. He also is a valued member of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and has served as chair of its Industry and Community Committee.

On a national level, Mix has served in multiple leadership roles on the National Potato Council including serving as its president. He is active in many capacities at the regional and local levels and has represented the San Luis Valley on numerous water and labor issues.

According to one of the people nominating him, Mix "has been instrumental in representing the San Luis Valley and has helped unify and direct the shared interests of the potato industry and other produce sectors. He is a clear and conscientious voice for



Roger Mix

agriculture. His sense of friendliness, humor, and thoughtfulness has made the organization more effective and welcoming for all those around him."

The CFVGA is comprised of some 280 members, including growers of all sizes and types of production throughout the state, as well as representatives of allied industries. The Colorado fruit and vegetable growing sector contributes nearly \$485 million to Colorado at the farm gate and is multiplied as it goes through the distribution chain. Over 90,000 Colorado acres are in fruit and vegetable production. Learn more at coloradoproduce.org.

First

Continued from Page 1

inspiring and, if the March 21 meeting was any indication, very committed to developing skills that are crucial to who they are as individuals and the lives they choose to lead.

According to information provided by Larry Zaragoza, the organization's advisor, "People First," is a "self-advocacy," and "self-help" organization whose purpose is to create a self-directed, supportive community of adults who have developmental disabilities.

The club has been in existence since 2000, with some members having been a part of the community for "a very long time." That Thursday, thirteen members were present, including two married couples,

with another married couple and a few others who weren't able to make it. There was a general consensus that helping each other is a key part of being a member of this community.

When asked what that looks like, Robert, one of the members, says, "We get together and talk about things. Things with each other and things in the world. Sometimes, we go out to lunch."

"Three or four times a year, we go out to celebrate our birthdays," adds Karie, People First's president in Alamosa.

Reaching out to others is also a key element. "We talk to people in the community about the club," says Elvira, People First vice-president. "We talk about what we do and what it means to us."

"I was so excited to find out there was a People First club here," says Amanda, club secretary. Amanda and her husband, Mike, recently joined the club after moving to Alamosa from California. "This community is very important to us."

Encouraging each other is also crucial. "We encourage our members to get outside jobs, if they want to," adds Karie. That prompted a response from the group where a number of the members said they had jobs, some at fast food restaurants, such as Sonic and Taco Bell, and others at Blue Peaks Development Services. One member was working at two jobs.

Being part of People First also helps to teach its members to be advocates for themselves.

"We need to be good, strong self-advocates," says Amanda. "That means speaking up for ourselves. We don't let our disabilities stop us."

"Feeling strong" and "feeling good about myself," were other answers that were offered.

When asked if, as a group, they have felt the Alamosa community was welcoming, most agreed they felt "somewhat" welcome. But others felt people still needed education.

"We have disabilities," says Elvira, vice-president of the club. "But that doesn't mean we're different from other people." The members of the club have the same interests, talents, strengths and desires that others have. "We're just like everybody else, we just have a disability."

That comment drew a

chorus of agreement from the group.

Lavern Valdez, another People First advisor, says the pandemic was very difficult on the group. Prior to the pandemic, members spoke to the Elks, Rotary Club and other groups in Alamosa, experiences that not only helped them gain more confidence but also was a great way to educate other members of the community about what it means to have developmental disabilities.

Since the pandemic, she says the group has not quite gotten back to that level yet.

However, that does not mean they don't have goals on their horizon.

"We're going to learn technology," says Karie.

"We want to show people that [SLV] People First doesn't just sit around do-

ing nothing," says Amanda. "And we're also hoping to walk in the Pioneer Days parade to maybe recruit new members and do fundraisers."

As stated in the information shared by Zaragoza, "The members of People First want to show people who don't know about disabilities that people with developmental disabilities, "are able to live and work among them. They contribute a lot to the communities and enrich those areas where they live."

The members are also clear that they want to have direction in their own lives. As the back of their t-shirt says, "Don't talk about us without us!"

People First meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Alamosa Public Library. Meetings begin at 1 p.m.

County

Continued from Page 1

the community attended the meeting on Wednesday morning, either in person or on Zoom. Members of the public were allowed 3 minutes to state their opinion. Some became emotional, and nearly all took the entire amount of time allowed. Over 20 people spoke against the resolution and two spoke in favor.

At the beginning of the meeting, Commissioner Vern Heersink recommended deletion of two points in the current resolution: one, citing "significant public health and safety risk to the community posed by illegal immigrants," and the second, "the cascading impacts relocation of migrants from Denver," that "pose a risk to Alamosa County."

Heersink also advocated for a significantly shorter resolution.

"I would also be in favor of a very short resolution that basically says, 'Alamosa County does not have resources and therefore we are not a sanctuary county,'" he said. Heersink further asked that the reference to unreimbursed care by SLV Regional Hospital be removed.

Commissioner Lori Laske said, "The purpose of this is to notify other entities in the state of Colorado that we do not have the additional resources for the overflow to provide. The title [of the resolution] is a little misleading because that is not the intent of it, the

intent as we've heard is there is the potential for overflow from Arapaho, Denver, Aurora, Boulder, Jefferson County and they're looking for places and we want to just be very transparent that we're struggling with resources."

When, per protocol, the public was allowed to comment, there was frequent mention of the resolution being "divisive", "racist", "unwelcoming" and contrary to what Alamosa aspires to be.

Former Alamosa City Council Member Charlie Griego told the commissioners, "To turn people away is wrong. This week we are celebrating Holy Week, and our Lord Jesus Christ, tells us to love each other and take care of each other and not to fight each other."

Father Carlos Alvarez spoke of his family history, "a story unfortunately of racism and discrimination that led to the disunity of the family." Alvarez continued, "We have to look at the law of unintended consequences by making this resolution and joining other counties and cities. I think the unintended consequences would say to our community of workers from Mexico, our community of

workers from Guatemala who are in the San Luis Valley, 'You are here, but you are not really welcome. When we needed you and your work, you were fine, but now that things are difficult you are not welcome.'

"I know that is not the intent of the resolution," he continued, "the intent of the resolution is to protect all of us taxpayers and all of us who live here and love the San Luis Valley... as Charlie [Griego] mentioned, this is Holy Week and I think of Saint Matthew's gospel, 'when I was hungry you fed me, when I was naked, you clothed me.'"

"Why," asked Dr. Helen Sigmond, former Alamosa County Commissioner. "What are you doing this for? This is unnecessary."

"I have lived in Alamosa for 45 years," said Flora Archuleta, executive director of SLV Immigrant Resource Services. "I am angry and embarrassed to witness that Alamosa County is declaring on paper that they are no longer a welcoming county."

Rev. Kim Nipple, who spoke in favor of the motion said, "I am here in support of this resolution...when I look at this resolution and listen to

the statistics that have been given, I think of the people who are here who need help. I think of the people who are asking for public assistance who can't survive without it, I think of the people who are here who are desperate for help in our community."

At the conclusion of public comment, Heersink said, "Our intent of this resolution was not received as we thought it would be. Our intent was strictly financial and resources position. We missed the mark with the wording of this resolution. Our intent was certainly not received as we had hoped."

Laske said, "I can tell you from my heart, my intent was to be good to this community and to take care of the community and make sure we could do for all of our people who are here right now as opposed to increasing that and maybe not being able to take care of anybody. That did not come through in the resolution."

Shortly before voting on the matter, Commissioner Heersink said, "It is my feeling that no matter what we do to this resolution, the intent is not going to be received as we want

to hear lots of people sharing their thoughts. I'm very glad the commissioners were listening."

Commissioner Laske told the Valley Courier there are no plans to reintroduce the motion. "We, the San Luis Valley Emergency Managers from the San Luis Valley, have been working on an emergency response plan for refugees/South West Boarder Migrants influx. The major points to the plan is this is a very temporary response to assist in the life sustaining needs to help the individuals continue to find their final destination. The intent is to make a very temporary shelter, 24-48 hours so they will not freeze, get them set up with resources and help assist them to travel to their final destination."

"We do not have the adequate resources, staffing or finances to have a sustained response."

"The plan is in final development with a meeting with our local partners on Monday and we hope to have a presentation to each of our local Commissioners in the next two weeks according to a statement from Alamosa County Emergency Manager Eric Treinen," she said.




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May 1, 2024
3:00 p.m.
SLVH Educ/Conf Center
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Please RSVP and let us know if you would prefer to attend virtually
donna.wehe@slvrmc.org or 719.587.1209

Community Health
Needs Assessment
and
Hospital
Transformation
Program
Annual Meeting

Opinion

Easter bonnet

Looks like this year is really on a roll of late and time is flying by like a goose headed North in the Spring migration. And for those of you not familiar with geese, that's fast.

It seems like we get done with one Holiday or special time and another is sprung upon us. Of course,

we all know that most of the Holidays are probably an invention of the retailers out there looking to turn a buck on decorations and such. And no small part of that is The Plan to keep us all distracted while the wheelers and dealers deal us out of our money. Regardless of the reason for having so many holidays, we all line up like pigs at a trough to get the bounty that each special day presents.

So, get ready, Ol' Dutch wants to give you the heads up that Easter is around the corner, like literally this weekend.

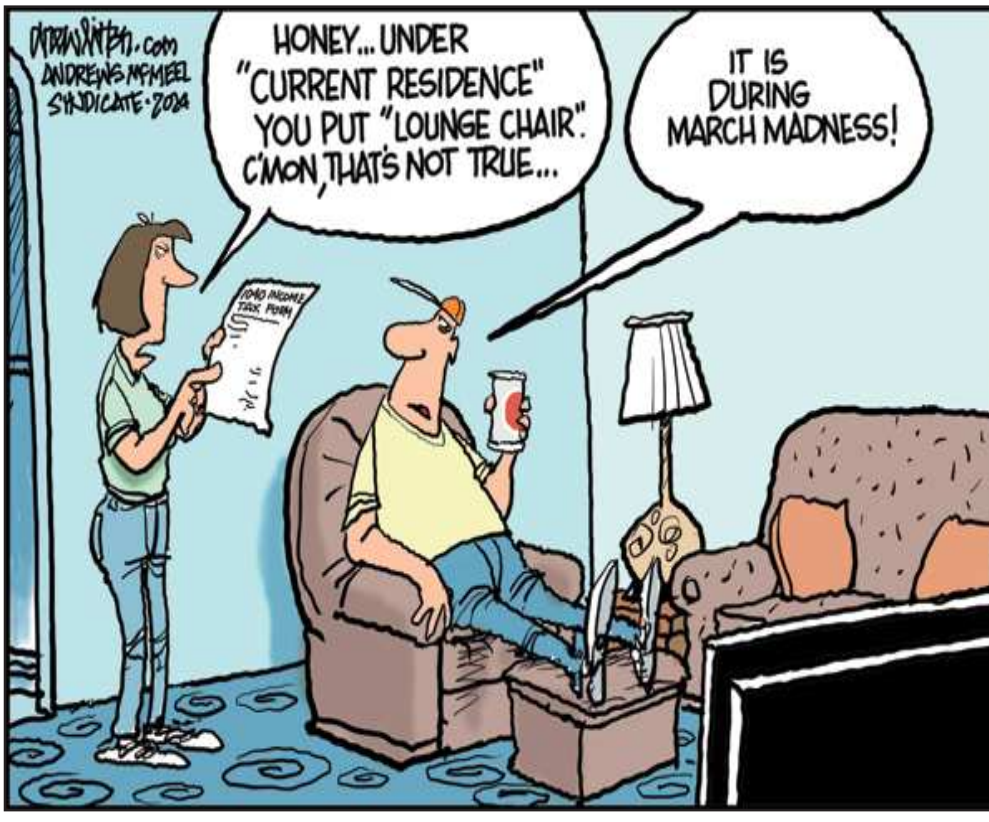
Of course, most people celebrate Easter for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb, so they dress up and head off to church even if that is not normally a part of their Sunday routine. Nothing like a little fire insurance that they think they're getting by attending church once a year. And heck, I guess once is double of nothing — unless you're a mathematician and a stickler for accuracy.

I can remember how our home church attendance would swell on Easter Sunday with people all duded out in their best clothes. All the kids were wound up like a nine-day clock and out of control from sugar ingestion of the candy they got that morning in some funky straw

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



basket.

Solemnly they sat until the preacher got Christ out of the tomb for the year and then off they'd go to the lake or golf course enjoying life. One thing that did happen ever so slowly over time was the tendency of people to drop any attempt at dressing up for such a celebration.

When I was a kid — which Trixie said was long before fire was invented — everyone got new clothes to wear to church. The women all had their hair done special, the men got out the "good" suit and they all came into the building in a fine display of Americana family picturesque perfection.

There was even a song written about such doings, called "Easter Parade." Written by Irving Berlin in 1933, it became very popular and such stars as Bing Crosby, Judy Garland and Fred Astaire covered it in records and a movie.

Sing along with me to the tune of "Easter Parade" of course.

In your easter bonnet, with all the

frills upon it,

You'll be the grandest lady in the easter parade.

I'll be all in clover and when they look you over,

I'll be the proudest fellow in the easter parade.

On the avenue, fifth avenue, the photographers will snap us,

And you'll find that you're in the rotogravure.

Oh, I could write a sonnet about your easter bonnet,

And of the girl I'm taking to the easter parade.

So, I guess people used to stroll up and down the street showing off the first non-winter hat they purchased and for some reason they decided to call that hat a bonnet. Who knows, right?

As I was saying, over time people began to dress more shabbily on Easter and soon you had blue jeans-wearing dads, women in culottes and kids in their school rags and tennis shoes. Peo-

To submit news, email:
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To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

ple stopped doing the traditional things and now no one even dyes Easter Eggs, with a whole generation of kids missing out on that vinegar-laden concoction that emanates from the dye we used.

Plastic eggs and plastic bunnies have taken the place of chocolate ones all in the name of convenience, less mess and slowing down Johnny's sugar fit tantrums. What fun is that?

The Grands will want Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie to make the drive over to attend church with them on Easter Sunday. And, of course, they usually get whatever they want out of Grandpa and Trisis so we will probably wind our way over there, bonnet-less and blue jeans clad and hopefully be inspired to keep the faith for one more year.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

Trump lawfare: The next stage begins

Donald Trump was first indicted nearly a year ago, on April 4, 2023, when Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg announced charges against the former president over a non-disclosure agreement Trump used to buy the silence of porn actress Stormy Daniels, with whom he had apparently had a brief sexual encounter. Bragg, an elected Democrat, won office by promising to go after Trump, and go after Trump he did.

Resurrecting an allegation that more responsible law enforcement agencies had declined to prosecute, Bragg came up with 34 felony counts against Trump, each of which carried a maximum sentence of four years in prison, which theoretically would result in 134 years behind bars for the former president. On Monday, Judge Juan Merchan announced that the trial will begin April 15.

The indictment was weak in a variety of ways. First, the main charge, that Trump falsified business records in 2016, was a misdemeanor with a two-year statute of limitations. Even if Bragg could somehow jack the charges into a felony, which carries a five-year statute of limitations, the time in which Trump could be charged had passed.

But wait — during the pandemic, when courts virtually shut down, New York, in a one-time-only move, extended its statute of limitations to six years, which allowed Bragg to get the Trump charges in right under the wire.

But only if he could charge Trump

with a felony. So Bragg contended that Trump committed the misdemeanor of falsifying records in the act of committing another crime, which elevated the falsification charge to a felony. The problem was, Bragg has never clearly said what the other crime was. He appears to be relying on a dubious theory that Trump violated federal election law — a theory that didn't work when the feds used it against John Edwards — which Bragg, as a local prosecutor, does not have the authority to enforce.

Those are the legal defects of the case. Then there is its political import, which is heading into a new phase.

Before April 4, 2023, nobody knew how being indicted might affect Trump's candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. Back then, Trump led GOP challenger Ron DeSantis by around 15 points. After Bragg's indictment, Trump's support shot up and DeSantis' support trended downward. A 15-point lead became a 30-point lead.

Subsequent indictments have either further increased Trump's support among Republican primary voters or had no effect at all. Those voters have processed the whole indictment issue, and many have come to the conclusion that the charges are politically motivated attacks by elected Democrats, like Bragg or Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis, or by the special counsel chosen by the Biden administration, Jack Smith. In all, Trump, now the presumptive Republican nominee, is in a stronger place politically than he was before he was first indicted. As he said in an interview recently, "Who would have thought that?" Now the indictments, or at least one

indictment, will turn into a trial. A deep-blue Manhattan jury is likely to convict Trump on at least some of the charges. What might happen then? That is the prospect that raises Democratic hopes, at least for now. They have seen a number of polls that show some portion of voters who are now open to voting for Trump say that they would not vote for him if he were a convicted felon. From a campaign standpoint, that is the great promise of the Bragg indictment. It can turn Trump into a convicted felon before the election, even as the other criminal cases against Trump sputter with delay after delay. Bragg, some Democrats believe, could have the power to turn voters in Biden's direction. Or perhaps not. There is another Trump conviction political scenario. Back when Bragg indicted the former president, some Democrats were uncomfortable with the fact that the first of several anticipated indictments against Trump was also the weakest case. Democrats know as well as anyone else that Bragg's case is a bad one, and some worried that by going first, the weakest case would cause some voters to dismiss all the Trump prosecutions as weak and politically motivated. Now, what if the effect of a conviction in the Bragg case is to diminish the prosecution, and not the defendant? And then, by extension, to diminish all of the prosecutions against Trump? Not in the eyes of the Democratic base or many in the media, of course -- nothing would diminish their opposition to Trump -- but in the eyes of voters who might seriously be considering voting for Trump as the better of the binary choice with Biden. I am not saying that will happen. But

I am saying that so far, the Democratic lawfare campaign against Trump has had some unintended consequences, and there is no reason to believe that, once a trial begins, everything will finally start going according to the Democratic plan. There could be more surprises to come.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Write them

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SCOREBOARD TUESDAY
Prep baseball
 Monte Vista 11, Ignacio 8
Prep girls soccer
 Durango 10, Alamosa 0

THURSDAY
Prep baseball
 Sierra Grande 17, Sargent 7, 5 inn.
College men's lacrosse
 Adams State at Westminster (Utah) - late

College women's softball
 Metropolitan State-Denver 6, Adams State 5
 Metropolitan State-Denver 22, Adams State 7

SCHEDULE FRIDAY
Prep baseball
 Alamosa vs. Sterling (Jim Sullivan Invitational at La Junta), 10 a.m.

Swink at Centauri, 11 a.m.
 Alamosa vs. Coronado or La Junta (Jim Sullivan Invitational at La Junta), 12:30 or 5:30 p.m.

Antonito at Dolores Huerta, 1 p.m.
Prep track and field
 Alamosa, Antonito, Center, Monte Vista, Sanford, Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande at Wayne Thomas Memorial Invitational (at Mosca), 9 a.m.

College women's softball
 Metropolitan State-Denver at Adams State (2), 11 a.m.

College outdoor track and field
 Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo Open, TBA
 Adams State at Stanford Invitational, TBA

SATURDAY
Prep baseball
 Del Norte at Ignacio (2), 11 a.m.
 Rocky Ford at Centauri, 11 a.m.
 Sargent at Monte Vista (2), 11 a.m.

Sierra Grande at Cotopaxi (2), 1 p.m.
 Alamosa at Jim Sullivan Invitational (at La Junta), TBA
Prep girls soccer
 Trinidad at Del Norte, 11 a.m.
 Harrison at Alamosa, 1 p.m.

Prep track and field
 Centauri, Del Norte, Sargent at Pine River Invitational (at Bayfield), 9 a.m.
 Sangre de Cristo at Salida Invitational, 9 a.m.

College men's lacrosse
 Adams State at Colorado Mesa, noon
College outdoor track and field
 Adams State at Stanford Invitational, TBA

MONDAY
Prep baseball
 Centauri at Walsenburg, 3 p.m.

TUESDAY
Prep baseball
 Alamosa at Gunnison, 3 p.m.
 Center at Sanford (2), 3 p.m.
 Centauri JV at Sierra Grande, 4:30 p.m.
 Centennial at Custer County, 4:30 p.m.

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

Panthers defeat Farmers in season opener

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
SARGENT SCHOOL - The Sierra Grande High School baseball team won its season opener on Thursday as it defeated Sargent 17-7 at the Farmers' field.

The Panthers took the early lead by scoring four runs in the top of the first. Brian Ontiveros drew a leadoff walk and he stole second. He took third and scored on wild pitches for a 1-0 lead.

Derek Martinez also walked and Patrick Sanchez singled. Martinez scored on a passed ball, and Adrian Casados and Bryant Tijerina both walked to load the bases. Rolando Najera also walked to drive home Sanchez, and Eugene Allaart also walked to plate Casados.

The Farmers scored three runs in their half of the first. Trenton Paskett walked and he stole second and took third on an error. Corbin Castillo also walked, and Paskett scored as Sargent successfully executed the double steal. Castillo went to third on a wild pitch and scored on a balk.

Kade Temple also walked and he too scored on a wild pitch. Sierra Grande scored one run in the second. Kobe Mizokami reached on an error and he stole second. He went to third and scored on wild pitches.

Sargent scored a run in the bottom of the third. Trenton Lovelace received a leadoff walk and stole second. Jaycien Sierra and Mitchell Peterson both walked to load the bases, and Lovelace scored on Cadyn Wright's infield single.

The Panthers blew the game open with an 11-run fourth. Ontiveros led off with a single and stole second. Mizokami also singled to plate Ontiveros and an error in the outfield put him on second. Luis Roybal was hit by a pitch and Sanchez walked to fill the sacks.

Casados singled to bring home Mizokami, and another outfield error allowed Roybal to come home. Tijerina's single plated Sanchez, and after Najera walked, Giovanni Jacquez was safe on an error to drive in Casados.

Carlos Lopez received a base on ball to score Tijerina, and Ontiveros cleared the bases with a triple for a 14-4 advantage.

Mizokami singled home Ontiveros, and Mizokami stole second and third and scored on a wild pitch.

Sierra Grande added a run in the fifth. Jaydn Martinez walked and stole second. He went to third on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch for a 17-4 lead.

The Farmers attempted a



Sierra Grande High School's Rolando Najera throws out a Sargent batter in Thursday's game. The Panthers won 17-7.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

comeback in the bottom of the fifth. Sierra, Peterson and Wright all walked to load the bases with nobody out. Castillo doubled to score Sierra and Peterson, and after Temple walked to load the bases, Lovelace also walked to drive home Wright.

Sargent was unable to score any more runs and the game ended on the 10-run rule.

Casados started on the mound for the Panthers and he allowed three runs and no hits with four walks. Mizokami relieved Casados in the first and he gave up one run and one hit with nine strikeouts and six walks to earn the win. Najera finished the game and he surrendered three runs and one hit and he struck out three and walked five.

Temple was the Farmers' starting pitcher and he allowed four runs and one hit and he struck out two and walked six and he was dealt the loss. Paskett went to the mound later in the first inning and he gave up five runs and two hits and he struck out seven, walked one and hit one

batter. Castillo relieved Paskett in the fourth and surrendered seven runs and two hits and he had two strikeouts and four walks. Peterson finished the game and allowed one run and no hits with one strikeout and three walks.

Sierra Grande had eight hits and was led by Ontiveros who went 2-3 with a triple and three RBIs, Sanchez who went 2-4, and Mizokami who went 2-5 with two RBIs.

Sargent was led offensively by Wright who went 1-1 with one RBI, and Castillo who went 1-3 with a double and two RBIs.

Sierra Grande (1-0) will travel to Cotopaxi on Saturday for a doubleheader. Sargent (0-2) will play a doubleheader at Monte Vista also on Saturday.

Sierra Grande 17, Sargent 7

Sierra Grande	410 (11) 1 - 17 8 1
Sargent	301 03 - 7 2 4

Casados, Mizokami (1, W), Najera (4) and Sanchez. Temple (L), Paskett (1), Castillo (4), Peterson (5) and Sierra.



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Lifestyles

CPW releases updated collared gray wolf activity map

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DENVER — An updated map was published today on Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website to

continue informing the public, recreationists, and livestock producers on where collared wolves have been in the past month. CPW will update this map with new infor-

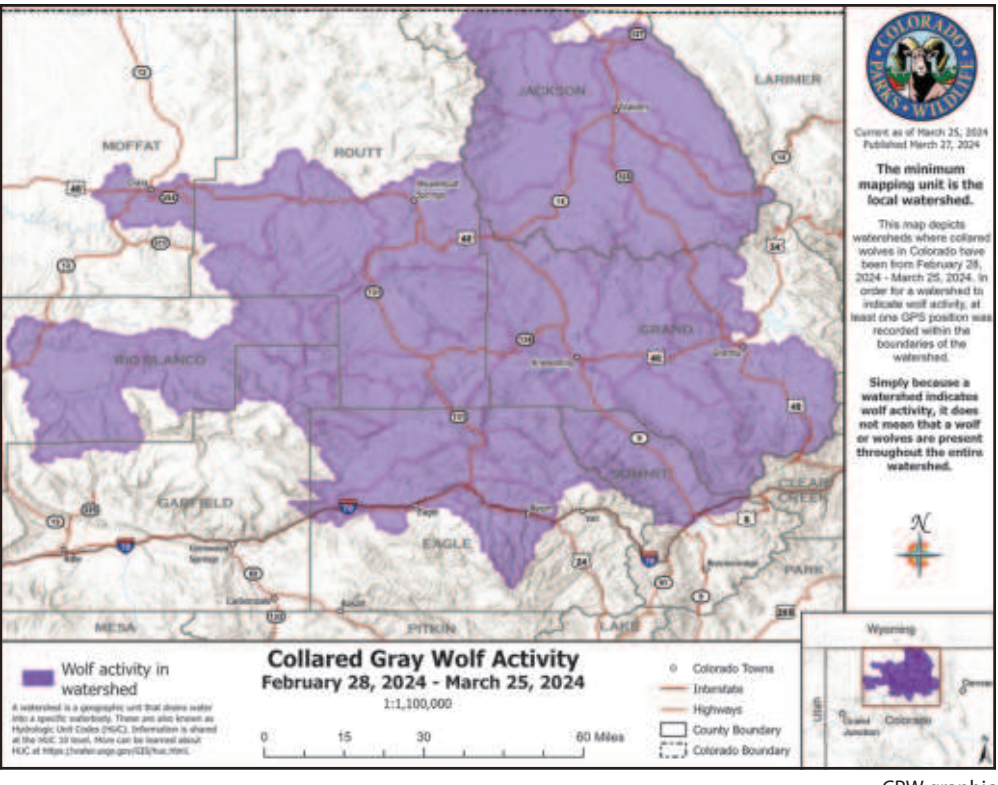
mation monthly to reflect data for the past 30 days or so, produced on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Notable Updates
This map was created us-

ing GPS data from all functioning collars in Colorado. One of the collars placed on a wolf translocated from Oregon is no longer providing signals to CPW biologists. The animal with the failed collar is traveling with another animal with a functional collar, which currently allows CPW to monitor that animal. CPW has confirmed that the animal with the malfunctioning collar is still alive based on visual confirmation from an airplane.

A collar on another wolf has been identified as partially functional and may not be fully functional soon. There have been no wolf mortalities in Colorado and no reported livestock depredation in the last 30 days.

CPW staff can learn where wolves have been, but they cannot tell where wolves are at a current point in time, nor can they predict where the wolves will go. To protect the wolves, specific GPS data will not be shared.



CPW graphic

Collared gray wolf activity recorded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife from Feb. 28 to March 25. A larger map is linked below and available at cpw.state.co.us.

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Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

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.

Advertising

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*3 month commitment

Stucco

Sanchez Plastering & Masonry

Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint

Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
(719) 486-6781

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Jim's Tire Store

711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-589-9690

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Great Service!

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Construction

5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
Free Estimates

Mervin Fisher **719.992.1396**
14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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...

221 - HELP WANTED

SKYLINE POTATO CO. in CENTER, CO is looking for a SHIPPING CLERK/ ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR for their bulk division...

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HS HEAD BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH...

221 - HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE (FT). Skilled multipurpose person needed to support on-going repairs/maintenance of facilities...

221 - HELP WANTED

VEGI EDUCATION & GARDEN MANAGER. VEGI (Valley Education Gardens Initiative) teaches both youth and adults the craft of gardening...

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

SOLD MY WHEELCHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US!

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

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)

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

EAST ALAMOSA: SINGLE STUDIO, \$615/monthly, \$700/ deposit, utilities included, no smoking, lease, references. 719-580-3710. (3/30/24)

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)

2017 CHEVY TRAVERSE SUV: 96,000 miles, new tires, good condition. \$12,000 OBO. 1-832-683-3533. (3/30/24)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a RELATIONSHIP MANAGER with 3+ years of commercial loan experience...

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)

SDECC 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...

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...

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...

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...

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)

SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education is seeking applications for the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year. ELEMENTARY READING INTERVENTIONIST: Full-time position, starting salary Step 0 \$35,845.00, placement on the salary schedule will be based on years of experience up to 10 years...

SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education is seeking applications for the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Salary/Benefits: \$90,000 to \$110,000/Full family medical insurance coverage Negotiable. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the general management of the schools of the district...

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/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442...

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/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442...

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/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442...

MACKEY 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)

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 & COW HAY: 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)



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Laughter These days, we could all use a little more laughter. Try Our Comics! Daily!

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

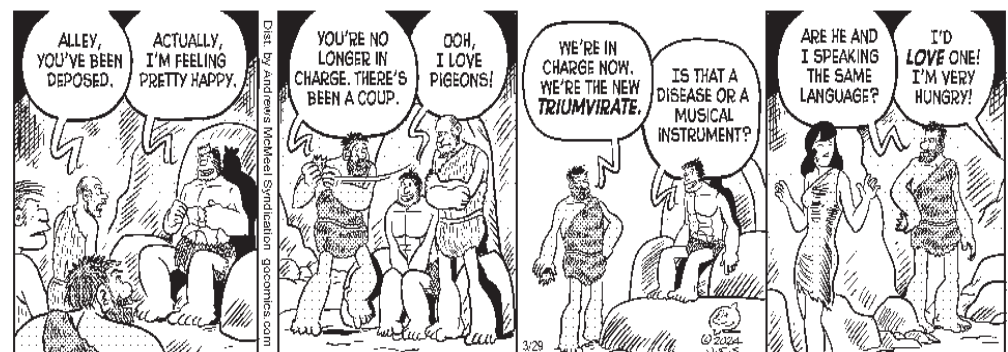
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beer buy
 - 5 Doggie doc
 - 8 Mystery man — John —
 - 11 Detergent brand
 - 12 Particular
 - 14 Appropriate
 - 15 Croft of "Tomb Raider"
 - 16 Granny
 - 17 Get bronzed
 - 18 Too elaborate
 - 20 Arboreal animal
 - 22 "Lord of the Rings" writer
 - 25 Ovenware material
 - 28 "So soon?"
 - 32 Lane
 - 33 Thickness measure
 - 34 Owns
 - 35 No longer trendy
 - 36 Curve shape
 - 37 Skeleton part
- DOWN**
- 1 Leg part
 - 2 Open a bit
 - 3 Rani's garment
 - 4 High-flown
 - 5 LP material
 - 6 Greek vowel
 - 7 Playing card
 - 8 Info
 - 9 Fall birthstone
 - 10 Lab burner
 - 13 Manufacturer
 - 19 Smoked salmon
 - 21 Count start
 - 23 Old German ruler
 - 24 Maladies
 - 25 Brace
 - 26 "How Deep Is — Love"
 - 27 Evaluate
 - 29 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
 - 30 Hamlet, for one
 - 31 River in Belgium
 - 33 Tableland
 - 37 Sanctified
 - 39 Metered car
 - 40 "Ebony and —"
 - 41 Royal flush card
 - 43 — Hebrides
 - 44 Nevada city
 - 45 Love god
 - 46 Not talking
 - 48 Ocean motion
 - 49 Singer — Redding
 - 50 Smell
 - 53 Milk type
 - 54 Chicken — — king

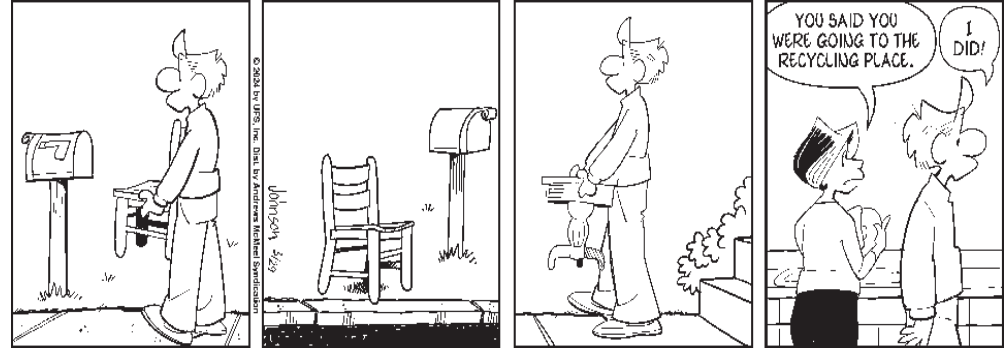
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

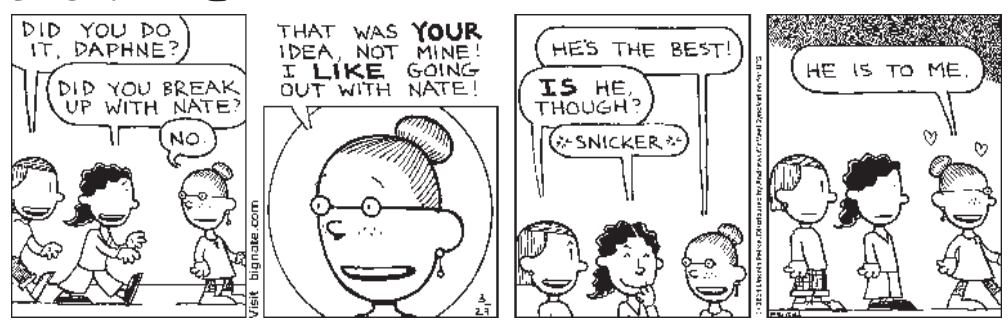
ALLEY OOP



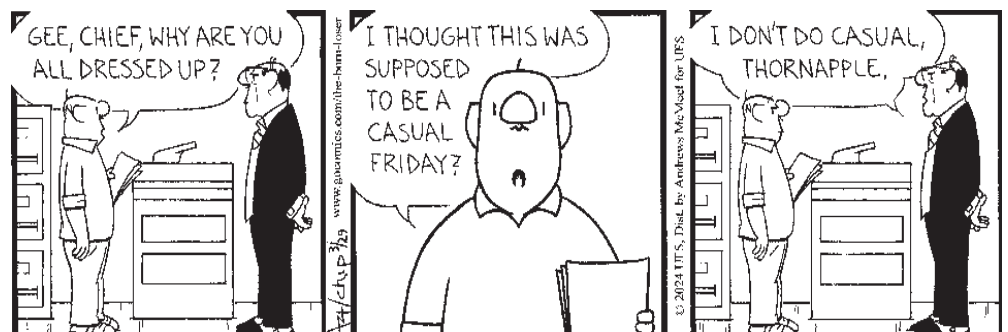
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



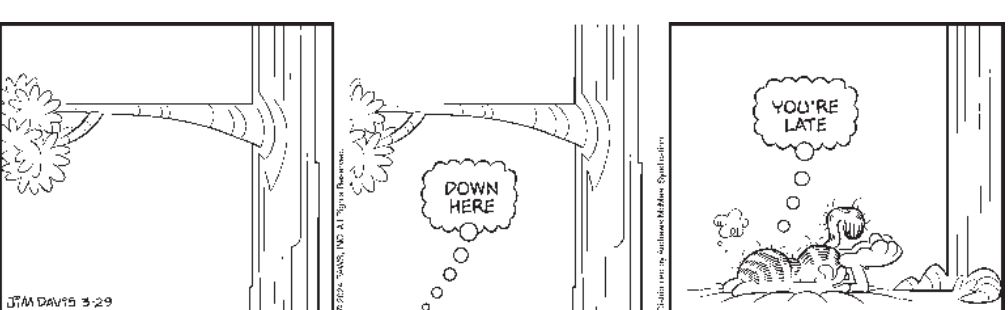
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



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					61		

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"I strongly recommend the only thing we've got left."

Relationship with friend flows only one direction

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who talks non-stop. Honestly, I can put the phone down and go make a cup of tea, and she'll still be talking when I get back. I don't think she even takes a breath. I want to tell her she sometimes needs to ask questions or seek the opinions of others. How can I do this without hurting her feelings?

She has many good qualities. She's knowledgeable on many topics, she's artistic and she's a good cook. She is just exhausting to be around. I feel bad for her and her husband. Her children are good, productive citizens. But man, oh man, I dread getting a call from her. Advice? -- OVERWHELMED IN GEORGIA

DEAR OVERWHELMED: There's a reason why you are drained after those phone calls. Your friend is a compulsive talker and a "sapper." (A sapper is someone who gains energy by draining it from others.) The next time she calls, have a stopwatch handy and make a note of the length of time she rambles on and on. Then point out that although she may be unaware of it, she talked at you for (insert number) minutes. Then suggest she dial

it back and consider asking an occasional question and including you in the conversation, because what she has been doing is exhausting. She may not like what you are saying, but she really needs to hear it.

P.S. Consider screening your calls so that if you don't have the energy to talk with the woman, you can avoid listening to her.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are planning a cruise to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary as well as his retirement next year. We invited my brother and his wife, "Rita," to join us. Because my brother has always wanted to visit our cruise destination, they accepted.

Rita then shared our cruise plans with her brother and his wife, "Jewel." Jewel expressed interest in the destination and said she wouldn't mind going. In response, Rita welcomed them to join us! When I was told this, Rita said her brother doesn't like cruises and probably wouldn't want to go, so I just let it go. Still, I am annoyed at her presumptuousness.

Am I wrong to feel the way I do about her inviting her family without first asking if it was OK



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

with me and my husband? Rita did say she was sorry for inviting them, but I'm still annoyed. I love my brother and sister-in-law, and I'd hate to cause family drama. I'd welcome your thoughts. -- CRUISING IN HAWAII

DEAR CRUISING: I agree that what Rita did was presumptuous. It was also thoughtless. She did not have the right to invite anyone along on your holiday. If Jewel tells Rita that she and her husband HAVE decided to come, it will then be Rita's responsibility to straighten the matter out by rescinding the invitation, and you should "sweetly" make that clear to her.