



Costilla County Fire Department honored by Grace Chapel

— Page 5



Mustangs knock off Chargers to advance to semifinals

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 8, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### Second Round 2024 Event Sponsorship Program

ALAMOSA — If you are hosting an event in the City of Alamosa that will be held this July through December, you can apply for the City of Alamosa's Sponsorship Program. Applications will be accepted until April 14. Visit [www.cityofalamosa.org](http://www.cityofalamosa.org), to find a copy of the application or contact Jasmine Husmann at 719-587-2024 or [jhusmann@ci.alamosa.co.us](mailto:jhusmann@ci.alamosa.co.us).

### Congreso de Acequias in San Luis is March 9

COSTILLA COUNTY—The annual Congreso de Acequias: Celebrating our Land, Water, and Community will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Centennial School in San Luis. There will be awards to students, a free lunch and music. Call 719-496 1708, for more information.

### Holy Week Remembrance is March 26

SAN LUIS — The Sangre de Cristo Parish in San Luis invites you to a poignant and profound Holy Week Remembrance, depicting the Passion of Christ through scripture and song with "It Is Finished", a Tenebrae Service, on Holy Tuesday, March 26, at 2 p.m., presented by the Sangre de Cristo Vocal Arts Ensemble.

"We are excited for you to join us at the Stations of the Cross Chapel in San Luis for this very special Holy Week Remembrance," organizers stated.

If you wish to walk the Stations of the Cross before the musical presentation, give yourself an extra half hour. If you wish to come just for the musical presentation, you can drive up to the chapel and park, without having to walk up the Stations of the Cross path. Call or text 719-635-3000, for more information.

### SLV WEATHER

Chance of Snow, Breezy 44/19

Sat: Mostly Sunny 46/15

Sun: Sunny 51/17

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## Alamosa City Council initiates a necessary conversation about crime



Members of city council tackle the difficult conversation of crime in Alamosa.

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa City Council held a workshop Wednesday night related to public perceptions of crime and if city ordinances are adequate to address current challenges. The workshop was held in response to council members receiving multiple comments from constituents who have expressed concerns about illegal activities they feel aren't being adequately

addressed by local authorities.

The first comments were made by city attorney Erich Schwiesow who briefed the council on a court case in Rifle that may have impact on the power of local municipalities to enact stricter ordinances than the state for similar types of offenses.

In *Mobley v City of Rifle*, Rifle has an ordinance that provides for up to 6 months in jail and a \$1,000 fine for theft. In this case, ■ See COUNCIL page 3

## Just in time for MV Crane Festival

A Sandhill Crane lands in a grain field at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday morning, just in time for the 41st annual Monte Vista Crane Festival on March 8-10. Each year between 20,000 and 30,000 Sandhill Cranes descend on Colorado's scenic San Luis Valley for a six-week stopover to rest and refuel before continuing their northward spring migration. The cranes typically arrive mid-February and leave by early April. Peak migration usually occurs in early March. The Crane Festival has tours and events planned for all three days, including the Craft and Nature Fair at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex. For more information, visit [online.mvcranefest.org](http://online.mvcranefest.org).

Photo by Brian Williams



## Alamosa County is updating the Comprehensive (Master) Plan

By JOHN WATERS  
*Courier News Editor*  
ALAMOSA COUNTY — The last time Alamosa County wrote a Comprehensive Plan was in 2008. Currently, the county is in the process of writing a new one.

According to the website of Alamosa County, "Comprehensive Planning seeks to engage community residents and stakeholders in a process of future-thinking — to determine what values and resources are important, determine priorities among competing needs and interests,

and establish a framework of goals and actions to aid current and future decision making. Such effort assesses the current physical, social, and economic environments to establish a baseline community identity, builds community capacity, and informs adaptation/mitigation. Per statute and our planned approach, Alamosa County will include thoughtful analysis and conversations around attainable housing, economic development, social justice, and equity, the planned expansion of the

City of Alamosa, and its overlap with infrastructure development paradigms. Most importantly, as nothing can happen in the SLV without legally and physically adequate water supplies, a primary focus of our update will be a deep dive into water issues, building on 2022 Growing Water Smart."

As part of the process to "engage community residents and stakeholders," as mentioned above, next week Alamosa County will host public listening sessions and roundtable meetings

to discuss the plan.

The Valley Courier reached out to Alamosa County Land Use and Building Director, Richard Hubler, to discuss in detail what the Comprehensive Plan is.

Hubler on the plan: "The short version of the Comprehensive Plan is a strategic, higher level planning document that helps the county understand the desires and potentials of development across the unincorporated portion of the county."

Hubler: "This is an update to ■ See PLAN page 3

## Del Norte Town Board votes to send Anzalone case to Colorado Supreme Court

By LYNDISIE FERRELL  
DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Town Board voted 4-3 to appeal the decision made by the Colorado Court of Appeals in the case of former Trustee Laura Anzalone vs. The Town of Del Norte to the Colorado State Supreme Court during a special meeting on March 6.

This is the result of a two-year battle between

■ See BOARD page 3



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Town of del Norte held a special meeting on March 6 at 3 p.m. to decide whether to move the case of former Trustee Laura Anzalone vs. the Town of Del Norte to the Colorado Supreme Court. After a brief discussion it was voted in a 4 to 3 roll call vote to move forward and send the case to the supreme court.

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# Spring forest road closures begin soon

## Short-term annual closures protect the road surface

**CONTRIBUTED DEL NORTE** — The Rio Grande National Forest announced March 6 that annual spring road closures have begun across the forest. Each year, as temperatures rise and the snow melts, the forest roadbeds are prone to softening and are at an increased risk of damage from vehicle traffic. Road repairs can be costly and may not happen very soon. Wheels often create ruts in roads, creating a rough road and possibly increasing water run-off velocity which could lead to subsequent erosion. Increased silting into local water sources can damage the waterway and aquatic life within. Vehicles on soft roads can also cause large mud holes. To avoid these

problems, roads are closed for short periods of time, to allow for drying and hardening of the roadbed. The closures typically last from three to six weeks. "These short-term closures help protect your national forest resources," said Dennis Kuhnel, forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest. "They typically don't last long and, by respecting them, we can together provide a damage free roadbed to use the rest of the year." Kuhnel recognized that the restricted access to your favorite locations can be frustrating but encourages the public to help prevent the potential for widespread negative effects. As soon as it is determined that the roadbeds

will not be damaged by heavy vehicles, the closed roads are opened. It is important to note that some roads may appear to be dry in lower elevations near the closure, but they will remain closed until the higher sections of the roads are also appropriately dry enough for vehicle use. Current road conditions can be found on the Rio Grande National Forest's home page by navigating to the individual ranger district's "road conditions" link on the right side of the page. All travel on the RGNF is regulated by the Motor Vehicle Use Maps found online. For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374



Courtesy photos Rio Grande Hospital begins thanking the many donors who have helped bring the Wellness Center from a dream to reality. A huge thanks went out to Del Norte bank, RG Bank and San Luis Valley Bank for their contributions.

# Health fair in Center will be on April 12

**CONTRIBUTED CENTER** — Center Head Start, in conjunction with Rio Grande Hospital, is planning to have a health fair again. The health fair will be from 7 to 10 a.m. on Friday, April 12, at the Center Head Start building, 301 E. 3rd St. Due to the COVID-19

pandemic, the health fairs were not held. People can come and have blood work done at the health fair. There will be free screenings, including height, weight, blood pressure and blood glucose finger sticks. For a free the following can be done:

Chemistry Panel, including TSH for \$30; PSA for \$30; hemoglobin A1C for \$30; blood type for \$25; CBC for \$20 and Vitamin D for \$45. For more information on screenings, the health fair, or to have a booth at the fair, call Center Head Start at 719-759-9259.

# Messages from Hidden Lake reception March 15

**CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA**— The Friends of the Alamosa Library invites the public to the reception for the latest and final issue of their literary magazine, Messages from Hidden Lake. The reception will take place Friday, March 15, at 6 p.m., in the City

Council Chambers, 301 Hunt Ave. Messages features prose, poetry, art and photography from local authors and artists. This final issue includes the 2024 entries and a retrospective of the first-place winners from all past issues. Copies will be avail-

able for purchase. The 2024 issue is dedicated to the late Arvilla Weldon, a lifetime Friend of the Library and dedicated volunteer. Refreshments provided by the Women's Citizenship Club. Dawn Krebs will be the Master of Ceremonies.

# RGH gives update on Wellness Center, thanks donors

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**  
**DEL NORTE** — Rio Grande Hospital announced recently that the new Wellness Center currently being built near the hospital will be finished by early summer and thanked everyone who has donated to the project. According to Development and Communications Officer Eva Timberlake, the Wellness Center is on track to open by June and the hospital plans to celebrate the grand opening in style. "We are on track for the finish of the Wellness Center and our hope is to have a community grand opening by early summer. Construction on the project is nearing completion and we can't wait to share it with the community," she said.

The Wellness Center project began before 2020 to not only offer patients at the hospital and their families a place to stay but also to offer patients a way to learn about how to be healthier living through several different programs. At the beginning of the planning phase of the project, Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms looked at what are termed Blue Zones throughout the US and through her research and

with the help of several different organizations and people they began to form a plan for what the Wellness Center would look like. Blue Zones are in about five or six different countries throughout the world and are known for their healthy living lifestyles and longevity of the residents. One group here in the US is known for the healthy living habits formed by its members which is group of Seventh-day Adventists. The group is in the Loma Linda area in California. The group has made headlines in certain circles for their residents who live almost a decade longer than the average person and they attribute this fact to their lifestyle. The Wellness Center will have a community center where members of the community can come to host meetings, meet for coffee or utilize resources offered by the center. It will be an intersection for employees who can take their breaks there, there will be games, books and computers to use, and help families that have members in the hospital. The center will also house a teaching kitchen so that families can come and learn how to cook healthy meals; a greenhouse and herb garden;

**School Menu**  
**Friday**  
**March 8, 2024**

**No School**

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Alamosa School District  
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## OBITUARY

### Serena Gayle Hard

San Luis Valley resident Serena Gayle Hard, 37, passed away on March 5, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa. Serena was born on June 18, to Donald and Shannon (Wells) Hard in Alamosa, Colo.



While the sadness of her passing is felt by many, Serena's life was marked by her unwavering love for her children and the immeasurable joy she found in simple pleasures. She was a beacon of creativity, often found sewing, reading, engaging in arts and crafts, capturing life's moments through photography, or crocheting beautiful pieces for her loved ones including beautiful blankets. Serena relished the freedom of swimming, the thrill of singing, and the excitement of traveling to new places. Serena's life was a journey of exploration, both of the world around her and of the depths of her own artistic talents. She was a gentle guide to her chil-

dren, teaching them the importance of embracing life with open arms and a curious mind. As the sixth child in her family, Serena's place was unique, and her siblings will hold onto the memories of their collective adventures and the unity they shared. Serena is survived by her daughters Emma Bell Anderson-Hard of Blanca, Colo., Eva June Anderson-Hard of Blanca, Colo., son Peyton Riley Anderson-Hard of Blanca, Colo., father and mother Donald and Shannon Hard of Blanca, Colo.; siblings Charity (Lito) Gomez of Blanca,

Colo., Coleasha (Dave) Gonzales of Fort Garland, Colo., Ethan (Elizabeth) Hard of Blanca, Colo., and Evan Hard of Dickinson, N.D. Serena was preceded in death by her child Angel Rose Anderson-Hard, and her siblings Amberina Hard, and Douglas Hard; her Grandma and Grandpa Hard and Grandma and Grandpa Wells. Her passing leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew her, but her spirit continues to inspire those she touched. A Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9, 2024, followed by a Funeral Service at 11 a.m. both at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa, Colo. Interment will take place at the Blanca Cemetery with a meal to follow at the Fort Museum. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, words of comfort and tributes for Serena's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## PENDING OBITUARY

### Haley Rae Quintana

Alamosa resident Haley Rae Quintana, 39, died March 4, 2024, at the Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs. Funeral Services are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Haley's family, visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

# Valley News

## Trump, Biden easily win with SLV voters

**STAFF REPORT  
SAN LUIS VALLEY**

— Mirroring results from across the state, former President Donald Trump and current President Joe Biden were the clear projected winners of the Colorado presidential primaries on March 5.

Trump was the top vote getter in the Republican presidential primary in all six San Luis Valley Counties with 5,733 votes. Challenger Nikki Haley was second with 1,556.

Biden was the winner in the Democratic presidential primary with San Luis Valley voters with 3,767 votes. The “noncommitted delegate” option on Colorado’s Democratic presidential primary ballot was in second with Valley voters at 399.

The noncommitted



delegate option is essentially a none-of-the-above choice. The noncommitted delegate would have to receive 15% of the vote to be sent to the Democratic National Convention.

Colorado was one of 15 states that held their presidential primaries on Super Tuesday, March 5.

Up for grabs in Colorado were 86 Democratic delegates and 37 for Republicans. Colorado is not a winner-take all state.

Both parties allocate delegates proportionally through a complicated algorithm based on how they perform statewide and in each congressional district. Democrats require candidates to receive 15% of the vote before they start receiving delegates, while the GOP threshold is 20%.

It appeared Trump would earn all 37 Republican delegates and Biden would receive 69 Demo-

cratic delegates. Overall, Biden swept all 64 counties in Colorado on Super Tuesday, grabbing an overwhelming 83.6% of the vote. Trump won with 63% of the vote won in 57 counties and Haley (34%) won in seven, including Denver, Boulder, Summit, Pitkin, Routt, San Miguel and San Juan.

Colorado’s primary election for other offices, including the state’s eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, will be held in June. The 2024 general election is Nov. 5.

### SAN LUIS VALLEY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS

Results are unofficial until the election is certified.

Alamosa County Democratic Biden 1,059 votes,

80.84%  
Noncommitted Delegate 108 votes, 8.24%  
Marianne Williamson 46 votes, 3.51%  
Alamosa County Republican  
Trump 1,678 votes, 74.81%  
Haley 481 votes, 21.44%  
DeSantis 34 votes, 1.52%

• Total Alamosa County voter turnout 36.84%  
Rio Grande County Democratic  
Biden 754 votes, 81.25%  
Noncommitted Delegate 73 votes, 7.87%  
Marianne Williamson 36 votes, 3.88%

Rio Grande County Republican  
Trump 1,780 votes, 75.94%  
Haley 493 votes 21.03%  
De Santis 13 votes 1.58%

• Total Rio Grande County voter turnout 42.46%  
Saguache County Democratic  
Biden 610 votes, 79.32%  
Noncommitted delegate 79 votes, 10.27

Marianne Williamson 33 votes, 4.29%  
Saguache County Republican  
Trump 681 votes, 73.30%  
Haley 209 votes, 22.50%  
Binkley 11 votes, 1.18%

• Total Saguache County Turnout 39.85

Costilla County Democratic

Biden 483 votes, 79.44%  
Noncommitted Delegate 68 votes, 11.18%  
Perez--Serrato-14 votes 2.30%

Costilla County Republican  
Trump 304 votes, 76.57%  
Haley 81 votes, 20.40%  
Christie 6 votes, 1.51%

• Costilla County Total voter turnout 36.06%  
Conejos County Democratic  
Biden 735 votes, 80.24%  
Noncommitted Delegate 58 votes 6.33%

Armando Perez-Serrato 40 votes, 4.37%  
Conejos County Republican  
Trump 1043 votes, 80.79%  
Haley 215 votes, 16.65%  
DeSantis 17 votes, 1.32%

• Total Conejos County voter turnout 43.33 %  
Mineral County Democratic  
Biden: 126 votes 77.30%  
Noncommitted Delegate 13 votes 7.98%

Marianne Williamson 10 votes 6.13%  
Mineral County Republican  
Trump 247 votes, 73.73%  
Haley 77 votes, 22.99%  
Cristie 5 votes, 1.49%

• Total Mineral County voter turnout 57.90%

## Board

Continued from Page 1

The Town of Del Norte and former Trustee Anzalone, who was censured by the board in 2021. The state court of appeals sided with Anzalone and invalidated the censure, concluding that the town board violated Colorado Open Meetings Law. The Colorado Open Meetings Law ensures that government bodies conduct the public’s business in public, with only a few exceptions.

Anzalone filed an open-meetings lawsuit against the Town of Del Norte in 2022 after being censured by the board during a closed executive session in October of 2021. The Del Norte Town Board passed the censure of Anzalone alleging misconduct related to her involvement in the enforcement of town codes.

According to Anzalone, she proposed to begin a request for proposal to seek new staff members and was questioning how the town follows ordinances such as performance evaluation requirements and public speaking during discussion periods.

Anzalone’s lawsuit in 2022 was initially dismissed by Rio Grande County District Court Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen, who concluded that the board’s opinion of her “performance as a trustee, which took the form of a censure,” is not subject to the law because a censure does not concern the “formation of public policy.”

Anzalone appealed to

the Colorado Court of Appeals which ruled in her favor in late February. The three-judge panel said that Newmyer-Olsen “failed to recognize that the censure was a formal action and therefore ... involved the Town’s policy-making powers.”

The ruling by the second-highest court in the state reversed the judge’s decision, invalidated the censure, and prompted Wednesday’s special meeting by the Del Norte Town Board.

The Del Norte Town could accept the ruling or seek to have it go before the state’s highest court.

Del Norte Mayor Chris Trujillo opened the special meeting stating that he would allow only a few members of the public to speak on the topic and then open it to discussion by the board.

The first person to speak was resident Martha Williamson, who talked about an email that she sent to the board that morning.

“Following last week’s executive session where you allowed members of the public to speak, there was a discussion about considering the costs associated with this case to date and then any potential financial impacts the town may have moving forward,” said Williamson.

Williamson said that from that conversation she understood that the town would use insurance to cover the cost of the lawsuit. Williamson then submitted a CORA request for the financial document that showed the expenses for the case

up to date and found that the insurance capped at \$25,000 and an additional \$6,296.05 had been spent beyond the insurance coverage.

Williamson addressed the board and asked them to consider the financial implications this may have on the town.

“My request is the same this week as it was last week. Would the town board please consider and communicate to the public the financial tradeoffs for pursuing this case to the Colorado Supreme Court. What is the financial impacts going to be when you consider things like the town’s infrastructure which the town so desperately needs,” she said.

Other issues raised by the public included the concern for the financial repercussions and whether pursuing this case to the Colorado Supreme Court was in the best interest of the community.

Local homeowner Karie Lichtenfeld said, “Moving forward with this, the question is at what cost to our town? We need to move forward.”

The last person to speak was resident Pat Thompson who said, “I have lived in this town for 35-plus years. My question, and I don’t know all of the details, but I look at the infrastructure of the town and my question is, as a taxpayer, do we really want to spend money on something that is not improving our streets or our water or our sewer? How will this benefit us? And if it doesn’t? Then why are we doing it?”

After the public com-

ments, Mayor Trujillo said, “We have been working on projects that are in the works. COVID caused a pause in some of the things we are doing but we are getting them done. No one knows the full story. No one knows what was happening here at town hall or that there was harassment of town staff.”

Trujillo then opened the discussion up to the board.

Trustee Marty Asplin said, “Not moving forward doesn’t stop the money from already being gone. The money has been spent. That ship sailed in the first lawsuit. The second one allowed the ship to sail even further. It’s not like we get money back by stopping here. Basically, what we are doing if we stop is leaving other municipalities throughout the state as well as us in a position to have to go through this again and again and again.”

Asplin said he felt it was the duty of the board to move it forward.

Trujillo called for a roll call vote and the motion to move the case to the Colorado Supreme Court was passed 4-3. Trustees Brenton Williams, Asplin, Bob Muncy and Mayor Trujillo voted for the motion. Trustees Shelly Burnett, Louie Velasquez and Leigh Anne Lobato voted against.

Lobato, Velasquez, Muncy and Trujillo were also board members when the censure occurred. After the ruling by Newmyer-Olsen, Anzalone decided not to run again once her term had expired.

## Plan

Continued from Page 1

the 2008 plan, we’ve been operating under that and it is called the 2008 Alamosa Master Plan. Comprehensive Plan and Master Plan are used interchangeably in the industry and the state.”

Hubler on the public meetings, “We are starting those next week and they will be a combination of things, we do have scheduled roundtables. They will be semi-formal, none of them are super-formal, and we will have a short presentation and have some guided small group discussions that we will get feedback on from the public. We will have particular items we will want feedback on. We will also have several drop-in sessions where there will be county staff and consultants at several different venues around town. Our goal is to get feedback from people; what they like about the county, what would they like to see different about the county,

and what concerns they have about development in the county. These will be even less formal than the roundtable sessions.”

“Next week we do have a county commissioners meeting and a planning commission on Wednesday [March 13] about the process.” [The Board of County Commissioner meeting is at 8:30 a.m. and the Planning Commission meeting is at 6 p.m., both are in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa.]

On March 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alamosa County will hold a roundtable meeting at SLV Federal Bank at 401 Edison Ave. in Alamosa. There will be a listening session at 5 p.m. at Spare Keg Brewerks on Main Street in Alamosa.

On March 12 at 8 a.m., the county will have a listening session at the Mosca Pit Stop on Highway 17.

For details, visit the website of the Comprehensive Plan at [www.imaginealamosa.com/#tab-47987](http://www.imaginealamosa.com/#tab-47987).

## Council

Continued from Page 1

it involved the defendant shoplifting an item costing around \$30.

In contrast, state statutes outline different penalties: for theft of items under \$300, the maximum fine is \$300 with the possibility of ten days in jail.

When Moley’s case went to court, the defense counsel argued that the local ordinance violated “equal protection under the law”, outlined in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and filed a motion to dismiss the charges.

The local judge denied that motion and said that the city of Rifle, as a home rule municipality, was empowered to set their own fines. The American Civil Liberties Union then joined the defense and filed a petition for the case to be heard by the State Supreme Court. The Supreme Court responded with a ruling that they would take the case under consideration.

At that point, “Rifle backed down,” Schwiesow said, “and changed their fines.”

Schwiesow said that the case may have implications for the city of Alamosa’s ordinances, such as the penalty of jail for someone who has been convicted of violating a city ordinance four times in two years.

Schwiesow then brought up a prior ordinance passed by the council that empowered the city to notify property owners that their property was being used as a “trap” house – private property used specifically for drug purposes – and they had 30 days to evict the tenants engaging in such practices or prepare for the house to be boarded up for 364 days.

Schwiesow said the ordinance was written based on the assumption that the property owner resided elsewhere, and 30 days would be enough time to evict those using the house, avoiding it being boarded up by the city.

However, an Alamosa Police Department (APD) detective contacted Schwiesow asking what he could do to circumvent that 30-day period as the APD is monitoring a situation where the waiting period is exacerbating the problem. That detective

also shared with Schwiesow that Monte Vista does not have a grace period; they immediately shut down a house confirmed to be a “trap house,” resulting in “all those people coming to Alamosa.”

Schwiesow indicated to the council that he would look at the ordinance and structure language to remove the 30-day period when the property is being occupied by the owner.

“The owner doesn’t need 30 days to get out. They just need to straighten up and fly right.” Schwiesow clarified that involving the court in ordering an eviction is still needed as due process is a legal right of every individual; his suggestion applies to situations where it has been proven that the property is being used for distribution of drugs. “We’ll still give notice but something like five days should be enough for the owner to either straighten up or move out.”

When asked what frustrations police officers are experiencing, Interim Police Chief Joey Spangler said, “Our frustrations echo the community’s on what we can and can’t do, whether it’s taking someone to

jail or, in other cases, letting someone go on scene.

“Alamosa is a felony only jail with exceptions for mandatory arrests like restraining order violations warrants, domestic violence and warrant arrests. Most of our frustrations are the repeat offenders. They, for example, shoplift in one store, we give them a citation, release them and they go to the next store and shoplift something else. The perception is that we’re not doing our job but our hands are tied because, for example, shoplifting is a misdemeanor and the jail only takes felonies. This goes back years.”

The decriminalization of certain crimes at the state level, such as possession of a controlled substance, has also caused problems for the APD since possession is now a misdemeanor.

“When people ask why aren’t these people going to jail, our hands are tied. If it’s something more serious like distribution of a controlled substance, then we can arrest a person but that’s only for distribution. But you have to prove that with scales, baggies, cash. Fentanyl has

been recriminalized where possession of small amounts is a felony but other drugs, no.”

The Council reiterated the perception that people breaking the law are not being held accountable, including the municipal judge typically delivering sentences that could be viewed as lenient. Schwiesow, who prosecutes for the city, said council could discuss asking for prosecution to include stiffer penalties for repeat offenders.

Councilor Carson asked about the efficacy of higher fines versus going to jail or community service or the possibility or potentially creating a “break point” where, after a number of repeat offenses, consequences increase in severity. Councilor Hensley discussed the need for taking steps to strongly encourage people to address problems that are the cause of them committing a crime. Based on his own experience, Councilor Dominguez said that, if there is not a line drawn somewhere, the criminal behavior will continue.

At the conclusion of the work session, it was clear the topic warranted significantly more discussion.

# Opinion

## Get the lard out

Anyone that has ever been involved with sports has had a coach yell “get the lead out” usually paired with an anatomical part of your body that is synonymous with your neighbor’s donkey. That phrase has been used “since Hector was a pup” and generally means to get moving faster.

Many attribute “getting the lead out” to soldiers who had to reload lead balls faster or, more likely, to horse racing where lead was added to the saddles to even up the differences in the jockey’s weight and thus even the competition.

But wherever it came from, it’s been used a lot to get slowly moving people into a more generous state of propulsion.

Just the other day Ol’ Dutch got to thinking -- a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie -- about what he had read on the Internet about lard.

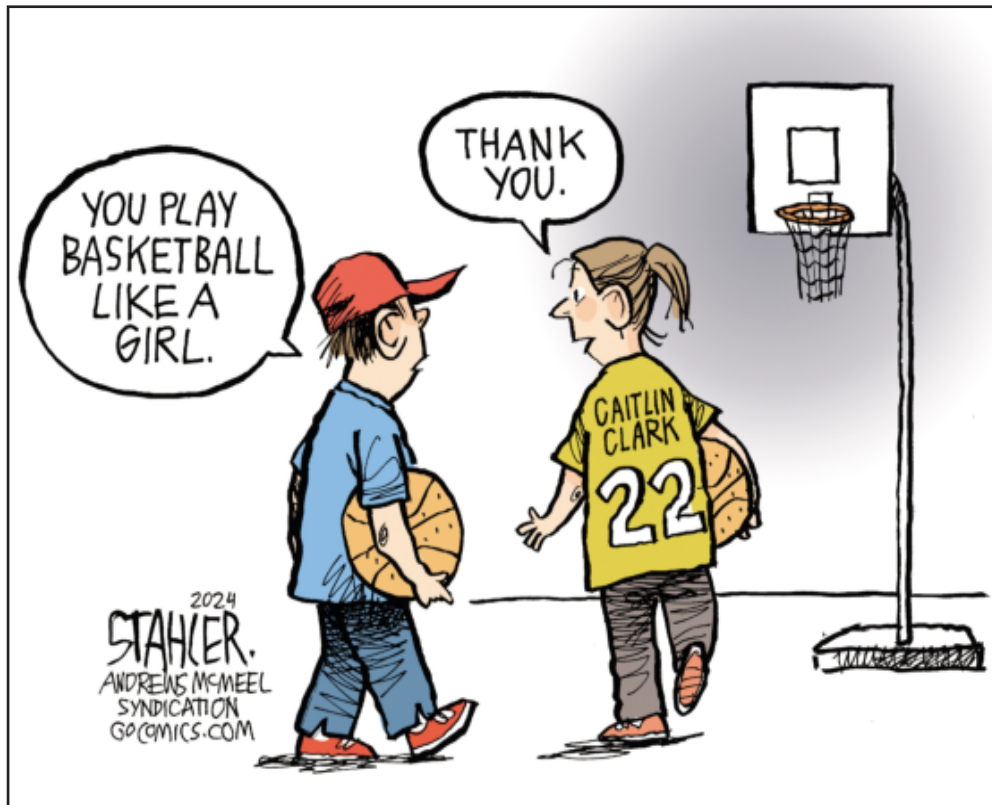
Yes, that lowly concoction made from the fat of animals that grandma used to cook everything from grits to fried chicken.

Old fashioned lard, just like a lot of things that we were sold a bill of goods for lately, was given a death sentence many years ago in favor of mass-produced oils. We were fed a continuous crock of bull about the dangers of lard and the great things to come from the new oils. We were then given Corn Oil, Canola Oil, Vegetable Oil, Sunflower Oil, Rape seed Oil and of course to go

### Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



with that last one, Virgin Olive Oil.

Not to be outdone on the last one we also have Extra Virgin Olive Oil but for the life of me I don’t have a clue how you can rate virginity on any kind of scale regardless of its purity. But they do and people buy it for an inflated price.

But regardless of semantics, the food industry proclaimed the dangers of using lard and they laughed all the way to the bank with the proceeds from the sale of the bottled oils that they produced. Now it seems that using lard like your grandmother did is better for you than all the processed, preservative-laden slickness they sell in clear bottles at the store.

This rush to supposedly better products also included the replacement of butter with oleo, margarine and other unrecognizable mixtures of chemicals which were supposed to be better for

you. And of course, they now find out that the plain old butter is better for you.

And you may ask just why they would do such a thing and I can tell you this. No matter the situation in this old world, if you follow the money trail long enough you will come to the reason something occurs. So yes, people made a killing producing oils from all kinds of things and selling them to people under the guise that it was better for you than what your own past generations had used and prospered on. And they seemed to do just fine too.

Of course, the key to anything we consume is not so much what we eat but how much of it we let go down the old gullet. But I am sad to think that for most of my life I have been deprived of the scrumptious goodness of fried chicken cooked in a cast iron

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.”

skillet filled with lard.

I cannot see that eating all those other concoctions has really benefited me a whole lot either and that adds to the disappointment that I have for missing out on so much good food. Of late Ol’ Dutch has had to put a whip to himself and Miss Trixie to “get the lead out” as we are building a house and doing a lot of the work ourselves.

And now I am going to start a new campaign to “get the lard out” and start having some tasty fried chicken, okra, steaks, gravy and cornbread. I’ll at least be living the last years of my life in comfort and satisfaction.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

## Correction: Here’s why a drop in San Luis Valley’s aquifer levels hasn’t, and won’t, throw Colorado out of interstate compact compliance

By CRAIG COTTEN

On Feb. 8, the Valley Courier reprinted an article from the Colorado Sun, “Cost to water crops could nearly quadruple as San Luis Valley fends off climate change and fights with Texas and New Mexico.” According to several local water officials, that article contained several inaccuracies that are highlighted in a letter the Colorado Sun published on Feb. 28. Here is their letter:

The unconfined aquifer has seen declines since 2002, yet Colorado has not failed to meet its obligations

There’s a serious problem in Colorado’s San Luis Valley. Farmers and ranchers in Subdistrict 1, located north of the Rio Grande River in the central portion of the valley, are pumping more water from the ground than is being replenished.

Drought and climate change have made the circumstances worse. The situation is unsustainable and worrisome for local agricultural producers who have made the valley their home, most of them for multiple generations.

This is the reason the San Luis Valley’s largest groundwater subdistrict, known as Subdistrict 1, has set aggressive goals to reduce groundwater pumping in the coming years. The intention is to use less water to ensure the unconfined aquifer is restored to a sustainable level, as required by state law, while keeping agriculture as productive as possible. As reported by The Colorado Sun, Subdistrict 1’s proposed plan, which was approved by the state engineer, will only allow groundwater pumping that is fully replaced by surface water supplies.

Unfortunately, this same story — “Cost to water crops could nearly quadruple as San Luis Valley fends off climate change and fights with Texas

and New Mexico” published Feb. 7 — falsely reported that this is also an interstate issue, among other inaccuracies. This is where we would like to set the record straight.

The story falsely claims that the efforts to restore the aquifer in Subdistrict 1 are somehow also tied to staying in compliance with the Rio Grande Compact — an agreement that requires Colorado to send a certain amount of water downstream to New Mexico and Texas each year. The article falsely stated that a drop in the aquifer in Subdistrict 1 could endanger the supplies flowing in the Rio Grande, which could cause Colorado to fall out of compact compliance.

To suggest that there is even a remote risk that Colorado may be pushed out of compliance with its compact obligations due to a drop in the aquifer in Subdistrict 1 is unfounded and simply untrue. That is not how this local water system works. The unconfined aquifer in Subdistrict 1 is mainly within an area known as the “Closed Basin.” By definition, that means there is limited interaction between this specific aquifer and the Rio Grande.

The unconfined aquifer in this area has seen significant declines in groundwater levels since 2002, yet Colorado has not failed to meet its compact obligations during that time period. In fact, Colorado has never come close to being out of compact compliance during that time. Subdistrict 1 is required by the state engineer, and by its own water management plan, to ensure that they replace any injurious depletion to the Rio Grande or the compact due to their groundwater pumping. They have fully met those obligations since the formation of the subdistrict, even during the years when the aquifer

dropped significantly.

In addition, Subdistrict 1 has the added requirement of keeping an emergency portfolio of water and funds in order to ensure continued replacement of water to the river even in the event that the subdistrict ceases to exist.

The Sun’s article also shows a fundamental misunderstanding of how Colorado manages its Rio Grande Compact obligations. Essentially, the state of Colorado, depending on the year’s flows, must send a portion of the rivers’ water to the state line. The level of the unconfined aquifer in Subdistrict 1 is immaterial to the flow at the state line, and any suggestion otherwise is misleading and uninformed.

Water managers in the Rio Grande Basin are already under great pressure to work collaboratively to restore aquifer levels. We do not need added pressure from the downstream states worrying about an unfounded risk of Colorado falling out of compliance with the Rio Grande Compact.

This inaccurate reporting also impacts local farmers and ranchers, who are already greatly concerned about the possibility of a widespread well shutdown in Subdistrict 1 if the aquifer cannot be restored to sustainable levels.

There are plenty of newsworthy aspects to what is happening in the San Luis Valley. The state’s Division of Water Resources, along with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Water Conservancy Districts and our agricultural producers are working hard and with intent to tackle the tough and sometimes heart-rending issues with the aquifer in Subdistrict 1. However, the outcome of these sustainability efforts by water users in the San Luis Valley will not trigger

noncompliance with the compact by Colorado, and reporting the contrary is false.

Craig Cotten is the division engineer for Division of Water Resources, Division 3. Heather Dutton is the general manager of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District. Amber Pacheco is the deputy general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Nathan Coombs is the general manager of the Conejos Water Conservancy District.

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# Lifestyles



Photos by Diane Drekmann

**The Costilla County Fire Department was honored for their selfless work on March 3 at Grace Chapel in San Luis.**

**Right: Costilla County Fire Department firefighter Leon Casias holds the appreciation plaque the department received on March 3.**



## Costilla County Fire Department honored by Grace Chapel

By **DIANE DREKMANN**  
**SAN LUIS** — The Costilla County Fire Department was honored on March 3 by Grace Chapel, a Spanish Christian church in San Luis. Grace Chapel Pastor Joel Talamante gave heartfelt “appreciation, thanks, honor and love for all of you. May God protect you all.” Talamante said although the job is dangerous, he wanted to recognize the fact that a firefighter risks his life for the community. He acknowledged the fami-

lies, who never know if they will see their loved ones again. He wanted to become a firefighter he became a pastor instead. CCFD Chaplain Robert Dale said, “It is something inside of us. I always thought we do what we do if we can save one person or one house...” Dale and his fellow firefighters have been able to help many people. The firefighters were presented with a plaque which showed the community’s appreciation for what they do. The plaque read, “Great-er love hath no man than

this. That a man lay down his life for his friend,” which is from the Bible, John 15:13. The firefighters were treated to a delicious meal. There are several fathers and sons working side by side for the department, like Raphael Maestas and his son Russell and Robert Espinoza and his son Juan. Isaiah Montano is the grandson of one of the church members. This past November the Helping Hands Foundation helped the Costilla County Fire Department obtain badges and new uniforms.

## Moffat archers capture state titles

By **JACK SCIACCA**  
*Moffat Pk-12 Archery Coach*

Moffat Pk-12 Schools recently competed in the Colorado State National Archery in the Schools Program 2024 Virtual Tournament. A total of 474 archers from around the state submitted scores. It was one of the largest state tournaments in recent history. The Moffat Middle School Team placed second. Moffat’s Middle School, 12-person team, was 88 points behind Olathe Middle School with a team score of 2,900 points. East Grand Middle rounded out the podium with a third-place finish and a score of 2,824 points. Moffat’s coed team effort was made possible by the performances of the following archers: Romeo Eisenhauer, Caiden Cross, Kandra Pollard, Tanner Shellabarger, Matthew Baker, Kyren Plumley, Javad Taylor, Sean Gibson, Madison Payne, Colton Baldwin, Xander Schwartz, and Tori Gibson. Shelby Morley, ninth grade, turned in the highest score across all divisions in the tournament, for the second year in a row, to be named the 2024 High School Colorado State Champion Girl. She scored 282 out of a possible 300 points. This was her fourth time representing Moffat at the podium and the second time capturing a state championship title. Eisenhauer, in eighth grade, was named the Middle School Colorado State Champion Boy. This was his first season in the National Archery in the Schools Program. He edged out Garrison Reinier of Olathe Middle School,



Photo by Alex Moore-Guenther

**Moffat School’s Shelby Morley, ninth grade, executes a perfect shot in the 2024 Colorado National Archery in the Schools Program State Championship Tournament. Shelby captured the title of Colorado State Champion, High School Girls Division.**

by one point, to secure the title. The following Moffat archers placed in the top 10 in their divisions:

- Caiden Cross (3rd Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Ariceni Alvarez (4th Place - Elementary Girls Division)
- Tanner Shellabarger (4th Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Chase Shellabarger (4th Place - High School Boys Division)
- Matthew Baker (5th Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Kandra Pollard (6th Place - Middle School

- Girls Division)
- Javad Taylor (8th Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Kyren Plumley (9th Place - Middle School Girls Division)
- Alexandra Alvarez (9th Place - High School Girls Division)

Moffat coaches, Jack Sciacca and Megan Shellabarger plan to take Moffat’s top contenders to the 2024 NASP Western National Tournament in Sandy, Utah, in late April. Donations to offset travel expenses are appreciated and can be made by contacting the school.

# Celebrating the San Luis Valley Nonprofits

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In our community, the key to success is togetherness. As a team, we have to unite to promote the San Luis Valley and all that we have to offer. Valley Courier and Valley Publishing are proud to present a publication in which we will be doing just that!

In honor of Nonprofits in the San Luis Valley, we’ll be publishing a special edition on March 27th. This publication will be created and distributed through the Valley Courier, Monte Vista Journal, Del Norte Prospector, South Fork Tines, Mineral County Miner, Center Post Dispatch, and Conejos County Citizen.

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# Sports

## Mustangs knock off Chargers to advance to semifinals

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**LOVELAND** — Three Sanford High School boys basketball players scored in double figures as the sixth-ranked Mustangs defeated third-ranked and previously undefeated Crowley County 52-43 in the Class 2A State Tournament quarterfinals Thursday at Blue Arena.

Lincoln Reynolds and Ben Sittler gave Sanford an early 4-0 lead, but Gunner Hughes put the Chargers on the board with a layup. Cash Caldon drove for a layup, but Malaki McNeil scored to cut the lead to 6-4. Caldon came back with two free throws and Tracen Gartrell scored five points and the Mustangs led 13-4.

Hughes scored again to bring the Chargers within 13-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Elijah McNeil opened the second quarter with a 3-point basket, and Hughes and Malaki McNeil both scored to tie the score at 13-13. Reynolds gave the lead back to the Mustangs, but Hughes scored eight points including two threes, and Malaki McNeil two and Crowley County led 24-17 at halftime.

Elijah McNeil knocked down a jumper to begin the second half, but Ben Sittler answered for the Mustangs. Anthoni Walter put the Chargers up 28-19, but Reynolds scored five points to bring the Mustangs within a 28-24 deficit.

Hughes split at the line, but Gartrell and Caldon both scored to cut the Char-



Sanford High School's Trason Gartrell (21) looks to put up a shot in Thursday's Class 2A State Tournament game against Crowley County. The Mustangs defeated the Chargers 52-43.



Sanford High School's Cash Caldon (5) drives past Crowley County's Aiden Vowles in Thursday's Class 2A State Tournament game.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

ger lead to 29-28.

Elijah McNeil made two free throws, but Alex Sittler scored and Sanford trailed 31-30 at the end of the third quarter.

Hughes made one of two free throws, but Reynolds tied the score at 32-32. Hughes scored in the paint, but Roj Larson did the same. Elijah McNeil drove for a layup, but Gartrell tied the score

again, and then Caldon drained the Mustangs' only 3-pointer of the game to give Sanford the lead for the first time since early in the second.

Reynolds scored two more layups, and Ben Sittler made two free throws for a 45-36 Mustang lead. Hughes made two out of three free throws, but Sanford made eight out of 10 free throws in the final 1:32

to ice the victory.

Reynolds led the Mustangs in scoring with 16 points, followed by Caldon with 12 and Gartrell with 11.

Hughes led all scorers with 24 points. Elijah McNeil scored 10.

Sanford (21-4) will play second-ranked Merino in the semifinals today at 8:30 p.m.

Sanford 52, Crowley

County 43

Sanford — A. Sittler 1 1-2 2, Caldon 3 5-6 12, B. Sittler 2 4-6 8, Reynolds 7 2-5 16, Gartrell 5 1-2 11, Larson 1 0-0 2, E. Larsen 0 0-0 0, C. Canty 0 0-0 0, T. Canty 0 0-0 0. Total 19 13-21 52.

3-point goals — Caldon 1. Total 1.

Crowley County — Mal. McNeil 3 0-0 7, Walter 1 0-1 2, Cuckow 0 0-0 0,

Hughes 9 4-7 24, E. McNeil 3 3-6 10, Vowles 0 0-0 0, Maj. McNeil 0 0-0 0. Total 16 7-14 43.

3-point goals — Hughes 2, E. McNeil 1, Mal. McNeil 1. Total 4.

Sanford 11 6 13 22 — 52

Crowley County 6 18 5 12 — 43

Fouls — Sanford 15, Crowley County 23. Fouled out — Walter.

## Basketball update

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**Yuma 35, Centauri boys 34**

**DENVER** — The Centauri High School boys basketball team's season came to an end on Thursday as the Falcons lost to Yuma 35-34 in the Class 3A State Tournament Thursday at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gym.

Scores by quarters and individual statistics were unavailable.

Centauri finished the season with 18 wins and six losses.

**Yuma 44, Centauri girls 29**

The Centauri girls also saw its season come to a conclusion as the Lady Falcons lost to Yuma 44-29 in the Class 3A State Tournament Thursday at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gym.

The Lady Outlaws led 12-8 after the first quarter, 24-14 at halftime and 34-25 after the third quarter.

Individual statistics were unavailable.

Centauri's record was 17 wins and seven losses.

Denver Jewish Day 55,

Sierra Grande 44  
**GREELEY** — The Sierra Grande High School boys basketball team was defeated by defending state champion Denver Jewish Day 55-44 in the Class 1A State Tournament Thursday at the University of Northern Colorado's Bank of Colorado Arena.

The Tigers led 10-9 after the first quarter, 22-18 at halftime and 40-33 after three quarters.

Individual statistics were unavailable.

Sierra Grande (18-6) will play Peetz in the consolation bracket today at 5:30 p.m.

## Sports Bulletin

### SCOREBOARD

**Wednesday**  
 College men's lacrosse  
 Adams State 15, Colorado State Pueblo 11

**Thursday**  
**Prep boys basketball**  
 Denver Jewish Day 55, Sierra Grande 44  
 Sanford 52, Crowley County 43  
 Yuma 35, Centauri 34  
**Prep girls basketball**  
 Yuma 44, Centauri 29  
**Prep baseball**  
 Glenwood Springs 12, Alamosa 2, 5 inn.

### SCHEDULE

**Friday**  
**Prep boys basketball**  
 Sierra Grande vs. Peetz (Class 1A State Tournament at Greeley), 5:30 p.m.  
 Sanford vs. Merino (Class 2A State Tournament at Loveland), 8:30 p.m.  
**Prep baseball**  
 Alamosa vs. Eagle Valley (Montrose Invitational), 10:30 a.m.  
 Monte Vista at Gunnison, noon

Sargent at Antonito, 1 p.m.

**College women's basketball**  
 Adams State at Regis (RMAC Tournament), 5 p.m.

**College indoor track and field**  
 Adams State at NCAA Division II Championships (at Pittsburg, Kan.), TBA

**College men's wrestling**  
 Adams State at NCAA Division II National Championships (at Wichita, Kan.), TBA

**College women's wrestling**  
 Adams State at NCAA Division II National Championship (at Cedar Rapids, Iowa), TBA

**College baseball**  
 Regis at Adams State, 2 p.m.

**Saturday**  
**Prep boys basketball**  
 Sanford vs. Simla or Limon (Class 2A State Tournament at Loveland), 3:30 or 6:30 p.m.

Sierra Grande/Peetz winner vs. Idalia/Flatirons Academy winner (Class 1A State Tournament at Greeley), TBA

**Prep girls basketball**

Centauri at Class 3A State Tournament (at University of Denver), TBA

**Prep baseball**  
 Alamosa vs. Summit (Montrose Invitational), 12:30 p.m.

**Prep track and field**  
 Center, Monte Vista at CSU Pueblo Early Bird Invitational, 9 p.m.

Alamosa at Banana Belt Classic (at Dutch Clark Stadium, Pueblo), 10 a.m.

**College women's basketball**  
 Adams State at RMAC Tournament (at Regis), TBA

**College indoor track and field**  
 Adams State at NCAA Division II Championships (at Pittsburg, Kan.), TBA

**College men's wrestling**  
 Adams State at NCAA Division II National Championships (at Wichita, Kan.), TBA

**College baseball**  
 Regis at Adams State (2), noon

**College women's softball**  
 Adams State at Black Hills State (S.D.) (2), noon

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**ELEMENTARY BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST / SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR / RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION COORDINATOR** needed at DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co) or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: [urtigers.co](http://urtigers.co). (3/26/24)

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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

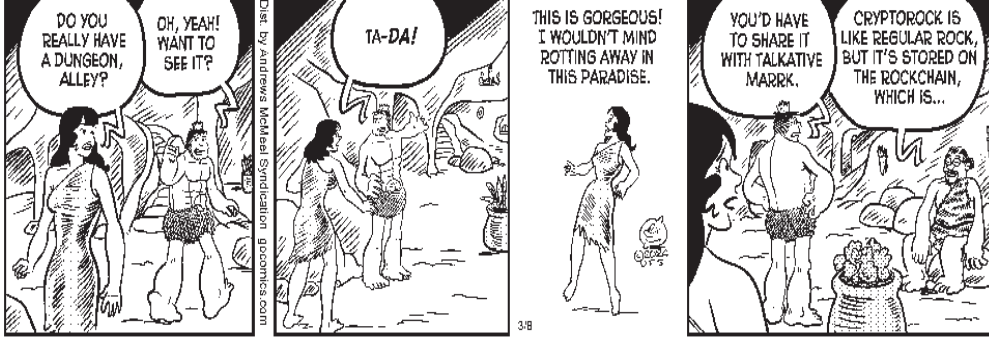
- ACROSS**
- 1 Assignment
  - 5 Fast plane
  - 8 — breve
  - 12 Competent
  - 13 From — Z
  - 14 Usual fare
  - 15 Floatability
  - 17 “— it a pity?”
  - 18 D’Urber-villes girl
  - 19 Sycophant
  - 20 Toll rd.
  - 22 — relief
  - 23 Bank customer
  - 27 Make lace
  - 30 Hot spot
  - 31 Adage
  - 32 Sport on horseback
  - 33 Remove
  - 34 Thickness measure
  - 35 Cogito — sum
  - 36 Discarded bit
  - 37 Heavenly
  - 39 Iota
  - 40 Regret
  - 41 Pasta shape
- 44 Humorist — Bombeck**
- 47 “Under the Cherry —”**
- 48 Outlines**
- 52 Horse hair**
- 53 Cuckoo**
- 54 Help desk client**
- 55 Does sums**
- 56 At the most**
- 57 Afternoon socials**
- DOWN**
- 1 Barfly’s bill
  - 2 Touch on
  - 3 — gin fizz
  - 4 Arch’s top piece
  - 5 Dec. follower
  - 6 Common abbr.
  - 7 Bauble
  - 8 “So long, amigo!”
  - 9 Actress — Kudrow
  - 10 Furnish
  - 11 ABA member

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 16 Legless creatures**
- 19 Roof coating**
- 21 Fate**
- 22 Rounded hat**
- 23 Extinct creature**
- 24 At any time**
- 25 Hit**
- 26 Follow**
- 27 Actress — Spelling**
- 28 Pond organism**
- 29 Implement (2 wds.)**
- 32 Fizzle**
- 37 Bovine animal**
- 38 Fat**
- 39 “Indiana — and the Temple of Doom”**
- 41 Stone or Watson**
- 42 Burden**
- 43 Investment option**
- 45 Think**
- 46 Length x with**
- 48 Engine part**
- 49 “— Clear Day You Can See Forever”**
- 50 Veto**
- 51 Ret. folks**

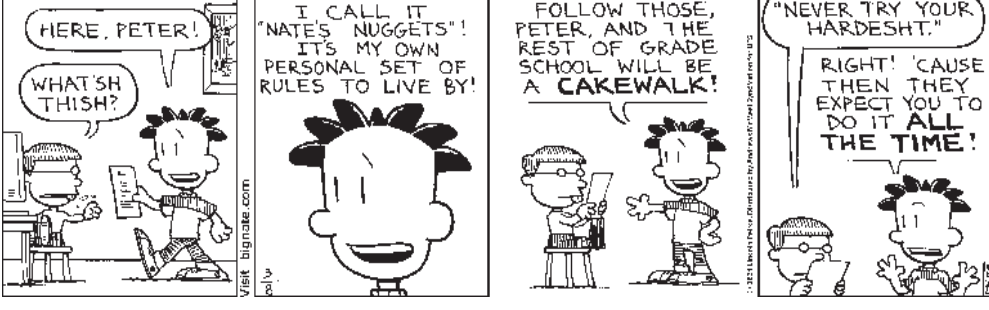
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



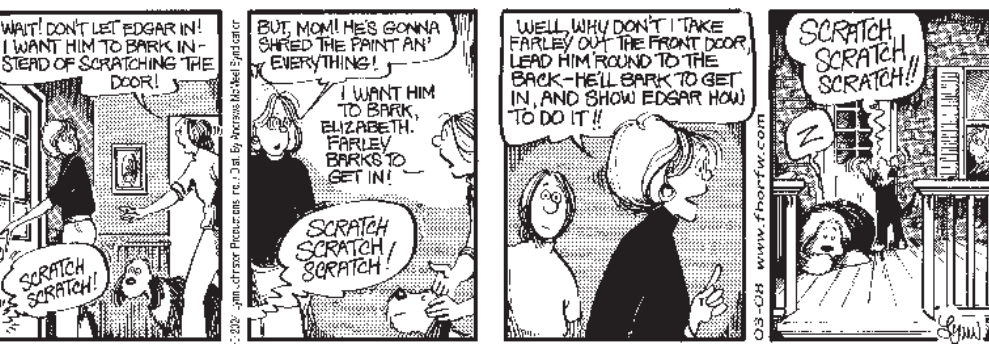
## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



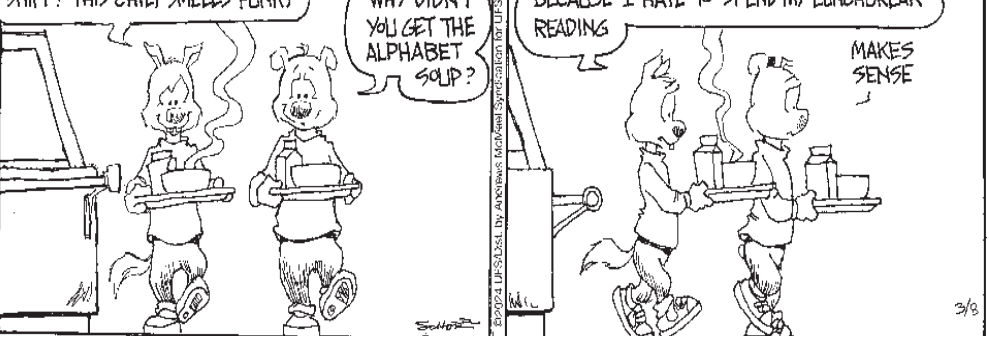
## FRANK & ERNEST



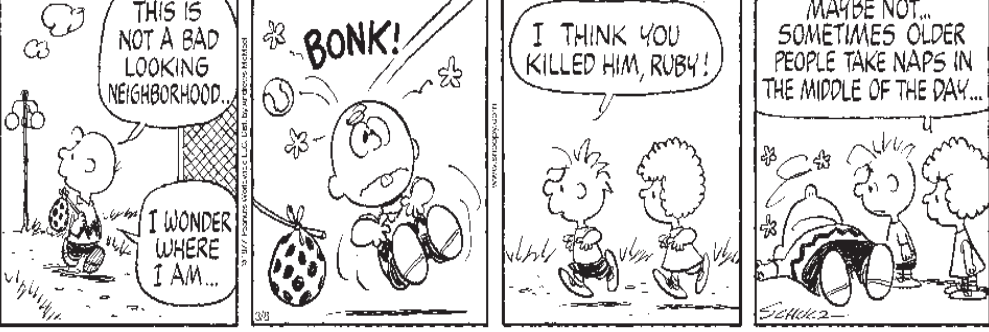
## GARFIELD



## 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		

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

## Discovery of lunch plans derails couple's marriage

DEAR ABBY: I have known my husband for 10 years. We have been married for four. We love each other very much, but I did something that has caused him to no longer trust me, and he won't forgive me. I went to a pub while my husband was at a class. I told him I was going to the pub and he was fine with it. We know everybody who works there very well. The problem is, a nice man sat down a seat away from me and we started talking about all kinds of stuff. At the end of the evening, we exchanged phone numbers. He texted me a week later wanting to know if I could meet him for lunch. I said yes -- big mistake -- but we DIDN'T meet because I realized it would be wrong. My husband saw his text on my phone, and he is upset and angry. He hasn't spoken to me since. It's been almost a week. He said he can no longer trust me, and he won't accept my apologies or forgive me. What can I do? -- LOSING LOVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOSING: Although your intentions may have been innocent, for your husband to have found out about the planned lunch the way he did couldn't have been worse. Had you told him

you met someone "nice" and had been invited to lunch, it might not have made him angry. I don't blame him for feeling he may not be able to trust you. Remind him that you did not GO to that lunch. Tell him you love him and ask what you need to do to earn back that trust. Ask if he would go to counseling with you. However, if you are unable to do that, accept that your marriage is toast. What a shame. DEAR ABBY: My sister "Claudia" recently asked me on a Saturday to take her to the eye doctor the following Tuesday. Well, I forgot. She didn't call me the night before (like normal people do) to remind me, nor did she call me the next day to confirm. She did call our cousin to take her. (She should have called me that day instead of calling our cousin.) Now Claudia is mad at me. I think it was both our faults -- mine because I forgot. (There is a lot going on here. My mother-in-law, who has dementia, lives here and it has grown worse.) It was also Claudia's fault for not calling me. She told me it was an important follow-up appointment and she was really upset. Is she being childish? By the way,



HERMAN



## ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Claudia is 13 years older than I am and has always been jealous of me. Please give me your opinion. -- JUST PLAIN FORGOT IN OHIO

DEAR "FORGOT": Oh, my goodness. You are human and you forgot! I don't think it was a hanging offense. However, Claudia managed to come up with a Plan B and the cousin saved the day. See how resourceful she can be in a pinch? In the future, when your hands are full -- and from what you have described about your mother-in-law, it is safe to assume they will be -- when Sissy asks you to take her to a medical appointment, perhaps Plan B should become Plan A.