



Alluvium Studios
hosting fourth annual
Solstice in Center

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Sinclair records hole-in-one

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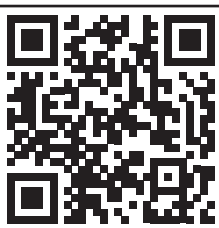
Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 21, 2024

\$1



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**SLV
Today**

**Forest
Specialist**

Series June 26

This month's Forest Specialist Series features Cari Conari, a local herb farmer and co-owner of SLV Apothecary, presenting responsible foraging practices and some plants to look for.

The online program will be held Wednesday, June 26, at 5 p.m. Visit the Forest website or Facebook page, for event information.

Conari will talk about some of the common edible and medicinal wild plants found in the area and how to harvest them in a responsible manner.

**REC meet
and greet at
community
center**

CREEDE — San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will host a meet and greet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, at the Creede Underground Mining Museum and Community Center. CEO Eric Ericksen, as well as Director Creede Hargraves, will be available to meet with members and discuss any issues or concerns.

**DN Food Bank
distribution
June 22**

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its June distribution on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. until noon. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

SLV WEATHER



Chance of Showers
78/49

Sat: Chance of
Afternoon Showers
80/50

Sun: Chance of
Afternoon Showers
83/50

INSIDE

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Deputies exchange fire with Monte Vista suspect

*Justin Trujillo faces
several felony charges*

By **KEITH R. CERNY**
Courier Publisher
ALAMOSA — A 28-year-old Monte Vista man was hospitalized early Wednesday morning after an exchange of gunfire with local law enforcement.

Justin Claude Trujillo sustained incapacitating injuries after allegedly firing at deputies with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Department (ACSO). Officers were still on the scene of a shooting Wednesday morning in the 1200 block of Third Street. Justin Trujillo, 28, of Monte Vista allegedly fired at Alamosa County deputies after a brief pursuit that started in the nearby Safeway parking lot.



Courtesy photo

Accused shooter Justin Claude Trujillo of Monte Vista.



Courier photo by Debra Sowards-Cerny

Officers were still on the scene of a shooting Wednesday morning in the 1200 block of Third Street. Justin Trujillo, 28, of Monte Vista allegedly fired at Alamosa County deputies after a brief pursuit that started in the nearby Safeway parking lot.



Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner

The original Alamosa County Courthouse at 4th Street and San Juan Avenue to be renovated to serve as a new facility for Valley-Wide Health Systems, offering 'excellent support services in a centralized location.'

Renovation and resurrection of historic county courthouse

*'Historic on the
outside, modern
on the inside'*

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter
ALAMOSA — Members of Alamosa's Chamber of Commerce got an exciting first look on Wednesday at Valley-Wide Health's plans to renovate and repurpose the historic downtown county courthouse.

Located at 4th Street and San Juan Avenue, the "old courthouse" is less than a block off Alamosa's Main Street, the main thoroughfare

that dissects the Central Business District. But it's more than location that makes the courthouse a key piece of the downtown landscape.

Built in 1936 as part of the Work Project's Administration, the building is an impressive structure built using more than 450,000 bricks that were produced at a kiln north of Alamosa using local sand and clay. Built in a U shape overlooking a courtyard, the historic courthouse is an excellent example of the Mission Revival style of architecture.

When the county built a new complex of offices for county services and courts on Independence Way, the

courthouse downtown was vacated, and it has been vacant ever since. That is, until 2023 when Valley-Wide Health Systems merged with SE Health Group, and the organization needed much more space to accommodate the increase in staff and services provided to the community.

Wednesday's presentation was made by Kristina Daniel, Chief Operations Officer of Valley-Wide Health Systems; Joe Aldrich, Director of Facilities; Krista Martinez, Director of Marketing and Services; and Jessica Massie, an architect with RTA Architects, the Colorado Springs-based consultant. ■ See **HISTORIC** page 3

ASD survey suggests community opposed to bond

*Only 3% of
survey population
responded*

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Slightly more than two weeks ago, 6,784 households in the Alamosa School District received a survey in the mail. Titled as a "Community Update and Survey," respondents were asked six questions related to the district putting a bond measure on the November ballot. Out of those 6,784 surveys sent out, only 274 surveys were completed, two of which were in Spanish.

Among those 274 respondents, there was not overwhelming support for the bond measure with 58% being definitely or probably opposed and 38% being definitely or probably in favor. The remaining respondents were unsure.

The measure would ask voters to approve a \$28 million bond, funding that would address maintenance issues that have been deferred for, in some cases, a number of years but simply can't be deferred any longer.

The impact on taxes, as explained in the Community Update. ■ See **SURVEY** page 3

CRT selects next Artistic Director

*Emily Van
Fleet is well
known at CRT*

CONTRIBUTED
CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre's (CRT) board of trustees recently announced Emily Van Fleet as the theatre's new Artistic Director. The company continues its momentum of an all-female executive team with Van Fleet joining Managing Director Morgan Manfredi in

a dual leadership role beginning Aug. 3.

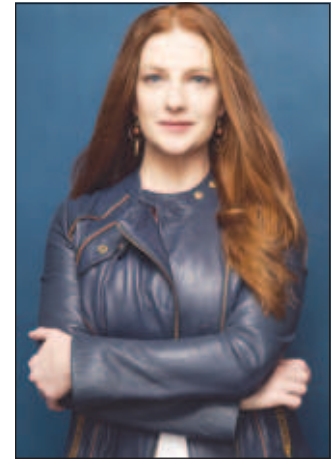
"I have known Emily for over a decade as a collaborator, friend, and fellow parent-artist," says Manfredi. "She comes to this position with a long history and deep love for CRT and our community. I am thrilled to welcome another multi-talented woman to our staff and work closely with her toward Creede Rep's bright future."

President of the Board of Trustees, Bob Johns, said "Of the many appli-

cants for the role, Emily stood out for her experience working in rotating repertory, her strong advocacy of education programs, and understanding the uniqueness of making theatre at 9,000ft. She has a beautiful vision for the theatre, and I believe CRT will thrive with her as our Artistic Director."

Van Fleet has been a part of CRT's seasonal acting company since 2012, most recently starring as the title character in "Always...Patsy Cline"

in 2022 and directing the 2018 production of "The Wizard of Oz," one of Creede Rep's most popular shows to date. This summer, she will direct CRT's gala fundraiser "Some Enchanted Evening: A Magical Night with Our Stars" at the Rio Grande Club in South Fork, and host and perform in the summer concert series, "On the Stage of Sondheim," a collaboration between CRT and Creede Musical Arts Collective. ■ See **CRT** page 3



Courtesy photo

Emily Van Fleet was tabbed as Creede Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Maria Elvira Valdez

Maria Elvira Valdez, 80, passed away on June 17, 2024, at St. Francis Medical Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., surrounded by her loving husband, children and grandchildren. She was born in the picturesque town of San Miguel, N.M., on May 5, 1944, to Leopoldo Marquez and Luisa Duran.

Maria led a life filled with cherished moments and beautiful memories with her husband of 58 years Pete. She had a special fondness for decorating during the festive seasons of Christmas and Halloween, often adorning her home with Native American decorations that reflected her heritage and love for culture.

Her personality was a blend of cherished traits - from reminiscing about her upbringing in San Miguel to her deep affection for all animals, especially chihuahuas. Maria was known for her caring nature, genuine concern

for others, resilience in the face of challenges, as well as being a great listener with a humble demeanor.

Throughout her life, Maria found joy in various hobbies and interests which included gardening, fishing, listening to country music, dancing to the rhythm of life, cooking delicious meals, watching Novellas on television, and trying her luck at bingo.

In the hearts of those who knew her well, Maria will always be remembered as a devoted wife to Pete B. Valdez, a loving mother to Pearl (Eric) Gutierrez, Stella Michelle (Kimberly) Valdez and Pete (Stacy) Valdez, a proud grandmother to Raul (Beki) Ramos, Rocio (Jesse) Varner, Devon Valdez, Jacob Gutierrez, Bryanna Valdez and Francisco Valdez and a cherished sister to Rosana P. Monge. Maria shared a special bond with her chihuahua Paloma who brought her com-

fort and companionship.

Maria was preceded in death by her parents Leopoldo and Louisa Marquez, her brothers Jose I. Marquez and Ubaldo P. Marquez as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

As we bid farewell to Maria may we hold onto the precious memories she has left us with - memories that reflect her spicy yet caring spirit, pure heart, genuine love for life and others around her.

Cremation was selected and a Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday June 28, 2024, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday June 29, 2024, also at the church.

To express condolences, watch the service live or view a video tribute, please visit www.mv-mortuary.com. Mountain Valley Mortuary is assisting the family.

Gerald Lester Corning

Long-time Alamosa resident and former business professor at Adams State University, Gerald Lester Corning, passed away on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Arvada, Colo.

Gerald or "Jerry" was born May 13, 1943, in a train depot in Dickens, Neb., to Lester and Hilda (Goodrow) Corning. His Dad was a telegrapher for the railroad which led the family to relocate often, including to Paoli, Colo., where Jerry played basketball and graduated from Haxtun High School. Jerry returned to Lincoln, Neb., to continue his education and ended up meeting his wife Susanne (Sukovaty). The two made their way back to Colorado, eventually settling in Alamosa where Jerry taught Accounting at Adams State for 35 years before his retirement in 2009. He enjoyed his profession and the numerous students he taught during those years and felt honored when a scholarship was later endowed in his name.

Along with his passion for teaching, Jerry's long-time hobby was that of an



amateur ham radio operator where he operated under the call sign KOMT. His children can still remember the sound of his keyer as he used Morris Code to send dits and dahs to people all around the world...in all hours of the day and night! Jerry was always trying to improve upon his signal reach. One time he even roped his kids into wiring pop cans together and erecting a very tall homemade aluminum tower.

Following retirement, Jerry moved to the Denver area to be closer to his wife, kids, grandkids, and his own mother until her passing at 103 years young! He enjoyed fishing, playing Yahtzee, watching sports on tv, eating at restaurants, playing Bingo and buying wild t-shirts at the thrift

store. His five grandchildren saw many funny faces, were given lots of bunny ears, and could often get a few bucks from him if ever they asked. Those he left will miss his sense of humor, his intellect, and his companionship.

Gerald is survived by his children Michelle Straight (Greg), Blair Corning (Becky Dillon), and Tammy Glasby (Trent), grandchildren Chloe, Bella, Sophia, Holden, and Braelyn, his sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lester and Hilda, his brother Raymond Corning (Mary Reichardt Corning Jones), sister Bonnie and her husband Orville Harms, his wife Susanne, son Travis Corning, and nephew Gary Harms (Vicky).

A celebration of Jerry's life with food, drink, and song will be held 11 a.m., July 7, 2024, at the Faversham Park Lake Pavilion at 6109 W. 73rd Ave., Westminster, CO 80003. Former students, friends, and family are all welcome to attend.

Virginia Marie (Carpenter) DePriest

Virginia DePriest, 92, passed away on May 19, 2024, in Sturgis, S.D. She was the wife of Leland DePriest. They shared 69 years of marriage together.

Virginia was born in Indianola, Nebraska on January 5th, 1932. She was the daughter of LT and Alice Carpenter. She graduated from Sargent High School and continued her education at Adams State College receiving her bachelor's in education and followed with her master's degree. She was a teacher at Sargent Elementary School until she retired.

Virginia enjoyed geology and hiked many volcanoes in Colorado and New Mexico, she also enjoyed sports, traveling, fishing, attending church and singing with her husband, but her passion was her family. Virginia enjoyed running and she competed in the pancake races in 1950's and later in life she competed in the Senior Olympics including State of New Mexico, Nationals in Norfolk Virginia, and World's in Utah. She will



be remembered for standing by her family in good times and bad.

Virginia is survived by her siblings Donnie Carpenter, Larry Carpenter (Connie), Carolyn Gustafson, Mary Ann Arnett, Teresa Harrison, and Vicki Jones (Art), sister-in-law Linda Hard (Keith), her children Marilyn Harris (Mike), Barbara Dennard, Dick DePriest (Mary Jo), grandchildren Claudia Strait, Jason Arndt, Chad Dennard (KaSandra), Colby Dennard (Kim), Randi Sneed (Malcolm), Jenny Hrusovski (Kirby), Kelly DePriest (Nicole), Beth Rodgers, Kristopher Rodger, great-grandchildren Crystal Finke (Kevin), Cheryl Rance, (Charlie) Aidyn Jacobs, Micayo

Dennard, Chloe Dennard, Serenity Dennard, Keleia Dennard, Deagan DePriest, Brenna Dennard, Allie Phillbern, Lea Phillbern, Gideon Hrusovski, Minnie Sneed, Rhome Dennard, Vivian Hrusovski, great-great-grandchildren Kaleigh Alexander, Blake Alexander, Emanuel Finke, Wyatt Rance, Jasper Rance, Jude Finke, Ezra Finke, Abigail Finke, and Elizabeth Finke.

She was preceded in death by her parents LT and Alice Carpenter, her husband Leland DePriest, her daughter Patty DePriest, her siblings Warren Carpenter, Isla Crawford, Harold Crawford, Gaylen Harrison, Bunky Arnett, Charles Gustafson, Billie Carpenter, and son-in-law Bob Dennard.

There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. on June 24 in Del Norte at Gateway Church located at 975 Grand Ave.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Serenity Dennard Foundation in care of Barbara Dennard or your favorite charity.

Nicolas (Nico) Salgado



The angels in haven are rejoicing; another one of God's children has come home. Nicolas (Nico) Salgado of Center, Colo., went home peacefully to heaven on June 16, 2024. He was born on May 11, 1944, in Santa Maria Del Oro, Durango, Mexico, to Jorge and Margarita Marungo.

Nico was known for his most good and thoughtful Christian nature. His love for God and his church was evident because of the time he spent working at his church, praying for others. His presence will be greatly missed. Cherished by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years; they were united in marriage on Nov. 23, 1974. He is also survived by sisters Maria (Alfredo) Montez from El Paso, Texas; Victa Marin

from Las Vegas, Nev.; Lydia (Geronimo) Cepeda from El Paso, Texas; one brother, Quirino Marungo from Delicias, Chihuahua. Can't forget his 4-legged companion RYKER, who was by his side always.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jorge and Margarita Marungo, Benito Marungo, Leocadio Marungo, Alicia Heredia, Flavio Marungo, Modesto Marungo. There were 10 siblings.

Joe Anthony Silva Jr.



LA JARA - Joe Anthony Silva Jr., a long-time resident of the La Jara, Colo., community, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on June 18, 2024, at the age of 55. Born on Jan. 14, 1969, in the same town he would later leave an indelible mark on, Joe's life was defined by his unwavering dedication to his family, his work, and his community.

Joe was the beloved son of Josie Montoya Silva and the late Joe Silva Sr. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Keylenz, and a loving father to his children, Clayton Comstock, Christopher Comstock, Jocelyn Comstock, Jeremy Silva, and Joshua Silva. Joe's joy was multiplied by the laughter of his grandchildren, Olivia, Asher, Tommy, and Matthew. His sisters, Becky (Jim) Vannoy, Sandra Drevland, and Lisa Silva, will remember him as the protective and caring brother who was always there for them.

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Joe Silva Sr., and his sister, Lori Mcguire.

Joe's legacy is one of love and service. For over 30 years, he owned and operated his own concrete construction

business, contributing to the growth and development of the San Luis Valley with his skilled craftsmanship. His work stands as a testament to his dedication to his community and his pride in a job well done. Joe's colleagues and clients knew him as a man of integrity, always willing to go the extra mile to ensure the satisfaction of those he served.

Joe was a man of the outdoors. His passion for hunting and fishing was only matched by his knowledge of the best spots in Colorado to enjoy these pursuits. He found solace and joy in the tranquility of nature, often sharing these moments with friends and family. Joe's love for the land extended to his ranch, where he cared for his cows and sheep with the same tenderness he showed to his loved ones.

Joe's selfless nature

He loved gardening, traveling, fishing, and being with his family, laughing with nephews and nieces.

His close family being Susie and Brad Stiens, Alex Stiens, Joseph and Nicole Stiens and kids. Krystal and Allen Salter and kids; Brother-in-law Joe Cisneros.

A big thank you to my niece Krystal Salter for the most excellent personal care and attention she provided for him!

Memorial service will be on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 7 p.m. to be held at Center Assembly of God church located on 565 E. 7th St. Center, Colo. Funeral services will be on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 11 a.m. to be held at the same church.

Arrangements in care by Strohmayr's Funeral Home in Monte Vista.

was evident in his commitment to the Capulin Fire Department, where he volunteered since 1998. His bravery and willingness to help others in their time of need earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters and the community at large. Joe's generosity knew no bounds, and he was always the first to offer a helping hand to anyone in need.

Joe cherished the time spent with his children, whether it was target shooting or simply enjoying each other's company. His grandchildren were the light of his life, and he took every opportunity to spoil them with ice cream treats and his undivided attention.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary, 205 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow the services at La Jara Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Joe's family, please visit www.Rogers-Funerals.com.

BIRTH

Atiyana Bayli Ornelas

Atiyana Bayli Ornelas was born on May 18, 2024. She weighed 6 pounds and 7 ounces and was 19 inches long. She was born to Ashley Ornelas from Monte Vista, Colo.,

and Antonio Ornelas from Monte Vista, Colo.

Her maternal grandparents are Yolanda Gonzalez and Miguel Gonzalez from Monte Vista and Cosme Javalera from

Arizona. Her paternal grandparents are Ma Ornelas and Antonio Ornelas from Center, Colo. Her great-grandparents are Richard and Stella Martinez.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to

achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting sched-

ules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website: slvaa.org

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Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@amosanews.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.

School Menu Friday June 21, 2024

BREAKFAST

Blueberry Muffin
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Sunbutter Sandwich
Cheese Stick
Grape Tomatoes
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunbutter Sandwich
Cheese Stick
Grape Tomatoes
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Sunbutter Sandwich
Cheese Stick
Grape Tomatoes
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School

Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

RGH Wellness Center ribbon cutting ceremony set for June 22

By LYNDISIE FERRELL DEL NORTE — After almost a year of construction, the Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center will be officially opening to the public, patients and staff on Saturday, June 22.

The center has been part of a long-time dream of the hospital and the greater San Luis Valley.

“We want this facility to be a place for the community to come and feel a sense of family and togetherness.

This is about preventative health, longevity living and so much more,” said RGH Development and Communications Officer Eva Timberlake as she walked through the freshly cleaned front lobby of the Wellness Center on Thursday, June 13. “We are promoting health in all forms and will be able to offer some help with that through this facility.”

Rio Grande Hospital’s vision for the Wellness Center began prior to 2020 as they began making plans and seeking funding from countless donors, but it was the COVID pandemic that stopped the project in its tracks until June of 2023 when the hospital broke ground.

“This is going to be amazing for the community and the hospital,” said Timberlake.

While venturing into the Wellness Center, one of the first things that catches the eye is the color scheme and the view. Panoramic windows capture the gorgeous colors of the La Garita foothills to the north of Highway 160 and offer a sense of peace and wellness that can only be found in this part of Colorado.

A drywall mural greets people thanks to the artistic talents of Casey McCoy.

Viewers will notice when they first look at the wall, that there will be a young woman meditating in a yoga exercise. However, unlike the traditional yoga meditation pose, where the hands are closed or face down on her lap, McCoy made her head look upward with her hands open. He made this change because he wanted to show the symbolism that this young lady is being open and ready to receive inspiration, revelation, guidance, direction, and change.

This little gesture has a big meaning behind it. McCoy has placed all sorts of symbolisms throughout this art piece and McCoy thinks it will be interesting to see what people will notice each time they see his finished work.

The front lobby opens to a wide-open space that will feature community



Photo by Lyndisie Ferrell

The Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center features a teaching kitchen, large conference space, cottages and an open lobby with expansive views and a welcoming mural.

happenings, resources for health and wellness and schedules for classes or events at the center for the public to enjoy.

Flowing off the main lobby is the teaching kitchen that, according to Timberlake, will serve as the heart of the Wellness Center that offers cooking and dietary classes for many to enjoy.

“We will even have a chef that can teach how to fit a healthy diet into your life and what you need for a

better lifestyle,” she said.

The kitchen then opens into a main conference room that boasts an interesting twist on the floor in the form of a walking maze. When the conference room is not in use, all the tables and chairs can be whisked away, and guests can walk the calming maze while enjoying the view that is like the one in the lobby.

Beyond the many features the Wellness Center offers, it will also serve as

a place for family and visiting physicians to stay whether it is in one of the cottages on the property or at the RV sites. The cottages are decorated in themes of places that have been proven to have longer living communities like those in Greece, Italy, Costa Rica, and Japan.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be at the Wellness Center just west of the main hospital on June 22 at 1 p.m.

Survey

Continued from Page 1
date and Survey, would be \$6 to \$8 per \$100,000 appraised value on residential property and \$25 per \$100,000 appraised value on commercial property.

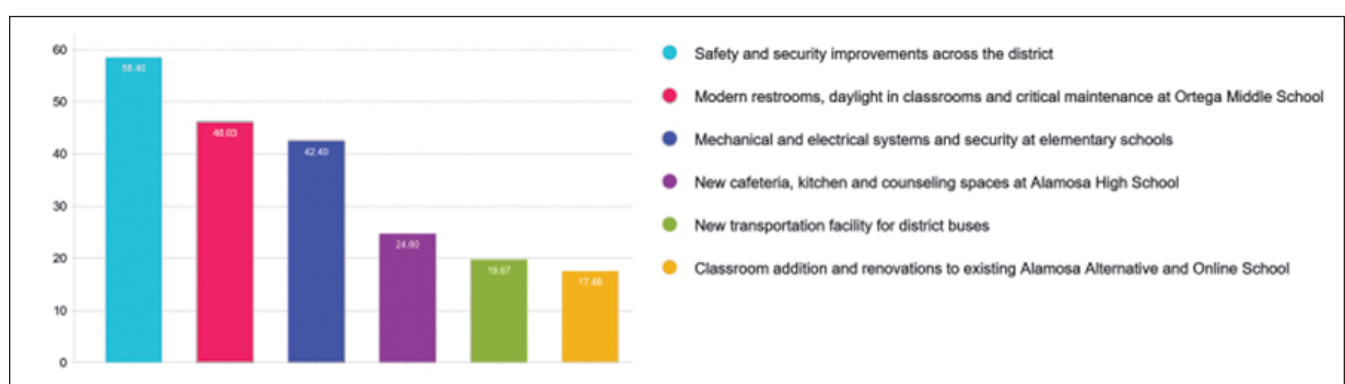
Other funds out of that \$28 million would also be dedicated to projects that were, with significant input from different stakeholders, outlined and prioritized in the Facilities Master Plan, such as building new ADA compliant rest rooms and bringing natural light into some of the classrooms at Ortega Middle School. A new cafeteria, kitchen and area for counseling services at Alamosa High School were also prioritized as well as expansion

to Alamosa Alternative High School and Online School, both of which are showing an increase in enrollment. A new transportation facility for district buses was also prioritized.

But those results may have been influenced by other factors that were revealed in responses as familiarity with the Facilities Master Plan also seemed to be an issue.

When asked, “Before receiving this informational mailer, how much would you say you have read or heard lately about the district’s Facilities Master Plan?”, 51.91 percent had heard “nothing at all” about the needs and less than 23 percent had heard some information.

Responses to a general opinion of the school district revealed what could be a lack of familiarity



The graphic depicting ranking of which elements are most important to the community in supporting a bond measure was included in the June 20 ASD agenda, showing school security as the most important and improvements at Alamosa Alternative and Online School as the least.

with recent accomplishments. When asked, “What grade would you give the district if you were to rate Alamosa Schools in the same way?”, 23.66% of respondents said A/B; 48.09% said C/D and 15.27% said F.

However, disapproval of the school district performance did not seem to be a reason to oppose the proposed bond measure.

When asked “Reasons to be No or Unsure on the ballot question” (i.e. in support or opposed) if you selected No or Unsure on the proposed question, please provide the most important reason for that decision, the top 3 reasons were property taxes are already too high in District, overall cost of the bond proposal is too large and concerned about inflation

and an economic slowdown.

A final question on the survey asked, should the bond measure appear on the ballot, which of a list of items would be the most important to the respondent’s support. Among the choices provided, safety and school security improvements ranked the highest while classroom addition and renovations for Alamosa’s Alternative and Online School ranked the lowest.

Many factors can influence responses on surveys, including familiarity with the issue, the wording of the question, the numbers of responses or the population surveyed. Bill Wray of WR Communications is on the agenda to discuss the results in more detail during the June 20th Alamosa School District meeting.

As of June 20, the ASD Board of Education had not yet voted on whether to approve putting the bond measure on the November ballot. Whether these preliminary results will impact that vote or not is yet to be determined.

Historic

Continued from Page 1
pany who is contracted to develop the design that will guide construction.

RTA Architects is known for working on health care, education and retail projects with special attention paid to community engagement and historic preservation, Massie said.

As she described the project, the courthouse is made up of four buildings, with the fourth – the jail – being added in 1938, two years after the building was completed.

The building is on the National Historic Register and the goal is to “keep it on the register,” so the renovation will only include “a light touch” to the exterior of the building.

It occupies a total of 19,000 square feet with its strongest element being the “arcade”, the succession of contiguous archways that run the lengths of the buildings.

As part of the renovation, those archways will be enclosed in glass, preserving the distinctive

look of the building’s exteriors while allowing more flexibility for entrances in the interior.

Valley-Wide has a goal of providing integrated care and the three buildings built in a U shape overlooking the courtyard will house Behavioral Health - in one building, Primary Care - in a second building, and Physical Therapy - in the third building. There will be a centralized reception area, supporting, as Daniel described it, the goal of offering “excellent support services in one centralized location.”

Massie also shared an interesting fact that only adds to the historic feel of the project.

In examining the building’s structure, it was discovered that materials from the railroad were also used in its construction, including at least one railroad tie that serves as a support beam. Woodwork around the tie helps it to aesthetically blend in with surrounding wood.

There is also a time capsule buried on the property that Aldrich, director of facilities, suggested might be excavated long enough to add new items from this age to serve as a reminder of the past when uncovered by future generations.

The project’s overall design includes some best practices when constructing spaces that support overall health. Opportunities for natural light (daylight) to be included in the design support the circadian rhythm, that 24-hour internal clock in the human brain that controls alertness and sleepiness. Different textures are also included in the design, which contribute to the reduction of stress. And finally, the design includes Safe Spaces for quiet, private conversations or opportunities for solitude and meditation.

The thinking, at least for now, is that the design of the courtyard may play a crucial role in creating those types of spaces. With the development of the design now completed, the “next steps” to completing this extraordinary renovation include submitting the construction documents, targeted for August, and completing the permitting process which will be ongoing

from August to November. In October, it is hoped that construction will begin with a completion date projected to be around September of 2025.

In his discussion, Aldrich made it clear that there were about 20 local contractors with the skill to be involved in the project and, while construction is ongoing, the courtyard will be used as the “lay down” for materials, minimizing any obstruction around the property with an emphasis on keeping the sidewalks along 4th Street and San Juan passable as well as the alleys.

While the timing of the purchase of the building may have been fortuitous for Valley-Wide, given how the organization is growing, it may also have been extremely so for the building, itself, which Massie said was “already showing signs of blight.”

Against that backdrop, not to mention a real step in revitalizing downtown Alamosa, the historic courthouse serving as a new facility for Valley-Wide can only be looked at as a win-win for all involved.

Shooting

Continued from Page 1

Officers returned fire injuring the suspect who was later flown out to a Colorado Springs hospital in serious but stable condition, according to a press release from Sheriff Robert Jackson. None of the three deputies involved were injured.

According to a Wednesday afternoon press release from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Trujillo’s injuries

are “non-life threatening” and he was in stable condition as of their report.

Just after midnight Wednesday, deputies attempted to contact a red Ford Explorer in the Alamosa Safeway parking lot due to reckless driving. When the deputy attempted to pull the vehicle over by initiating overhead emergency lights and siren the vehicle failed to pull over and attempted to flee, driving over a grassy area into a residential area, according to the CBI update.

After a brief pursuit, the driver stopped within the 1200 block of Third Street, exited the vehicle, and attempted to flee on foot while brandishing a firearm and firing at least one shot at pursuing deputies, who returned fire. The CBI report said Trujillo was struck two times, once in the abdomen and once in the leg.

Alamosa deputies provided medical intervention and then took him into custody.

All ACSO deputies involved in the incident

were placed on administrative leave until the conclusion of the investigation.

According to CBI, Trujillo will face the following charges: criminal attempt, murder in the first degree of a peace officer (Felony 2), assault in the first degree (F3), vehicular eluding (F5), menacing (F5), and possession of a weapon by a previous offender (F5).

Sheriff Jackson said this was an isolated incident and there is no risk to the community.

CRT

Continued from Page 1

“I knew from my very first season as a company member that I wanted to be a part of CRT’s future,” she says, “I was inspired by the way Creede Rep connected with audiences and the unique relationship it has with the town. This is a very special place that offers a deeper understanding of one’s self, encourages growth, and reminds us of what is important: genuine human connection. I am thrilled to be ushering CRT into this next phase and look forward to building lasting relationships with its patrons and community through entertaining, inventive, and inspiring storytelling.”

Van Fleet discovered a love of theatre at an early age. She received a Bachelor’s in Musical Theatre from the University of Northern Colorado and is an 18-year member of Actors’ Equity Association. Her regional acting and directing credits include productions at Arvada Center, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts,

Indianapolis Symphony, Little Theatre of the Rockies, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and Sierra Shakespeare Festival.

Kate Berry, who has served as CRT’s Interim Artistic Director since October 2023, will continue as Marketing Director.

“I have worked with Emily as an artist for many years,” Berry says of Van Fleet. “Her love of Creede, Creede Rep, and the art of repertory theatre are obvious. I could not be happier to welcome her as an artistic leader and community member.”

CRT continues its 2024 Season of Discovery which includes Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery,” Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein,” “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde, the world premiere of “Prima’s Guide to Funerals” by Leonard Madrid, and the concert series, “On the Stage of Sondheim.” Creede’s robust Education programming includes its Kid Show program, this year titled “Maximum Conflict: Eternal Strife” and bilingual Spanish outreach tour, “Coyote and the Counting Game.”



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Opinion

An ugly tower threatens Bears Ears National Monument

My Navajo homeland is the great expanse of land between four sacred mountains in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

It is our place of origin and Navajo spiritual traditions are rooted here. Even when we were forcibly removed from our homeland by the federal government's Army in the 19th century, our spiritual and cultural connection to these lands has never been extinguished.

Utah Navajos still make use of this historic homeland, which is now known as the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument, designated by President Obama in 2016. It is where we practice our ceremonies; gather herbs, firewood and cedar poles; hunt for game; rejuvenate our spirits and caretake our sacred places. Because the monument closely involves us, Navajo and other tribes in the area have been pushing for tribal management.

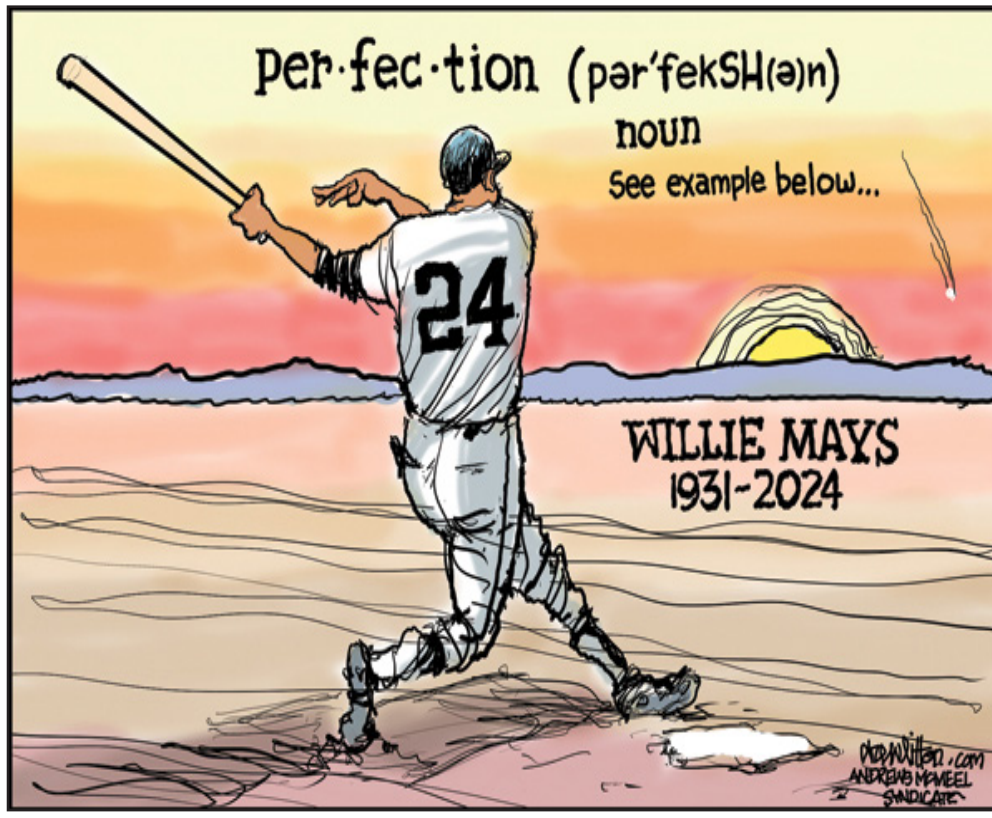
For many years, the Navajo and other local tribes — Hopi, Uintah, Ouray Ute, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute — worked together to gain federal protection for this land. But what we gained is now threatened by developments that defile and dishonor the cultural and spiritual significance held by Navajo and other Native peoples.

The most recent example is the plan to build a 460-foot telecommunications tower on a parcel of land owned by a Utah state agency, the Trust Lands Administration. The land that would house

Writers On The Range



Mark Maryboy



the tower is in the heart of the Bears Ears National Monument.

If erected, this alien-looking tower will be a spear in the heart of the Bears Ears area. I am also saddened to think there will likely be more inappropriate developments on Utah Trust Lands within Bears Ears, now that the state has derailed a proposed land exchange between the Trust Lands Administration and the federal government.

The land exchange would have helped ensure that Navajo homelands are managed to protect our cultural and spiritual traditions. Now these lands — our heritage — face death by a thousand cuts.

The company placing the telecommunications tower has applied for and received a conditional use permit from San Juan County. But the company must also apply for and receive a variance from the county, because any tower higher than 35 feet is prohibited. So far, it has not applied for a variance.

The National Park Service opposes the tower and has submitted comments

to both the Utah Trust Lands Administration and San Juan County. The federal agency said the tower would blight the viewshed, diminish the area's dark skies, and harm habitat for several threatened and endangered bird species.

For more than a century my people have had to fight for our rights. In 1868, when Navajos were finally allowed to return from forced exile, we were confined to a reservation south of the San Juan River. It was much reduced in size from our original homeland.

The prime lands higher up near the water and lush vegetation of Bears Ears were denied us. Nevertheless, these lands have always been a part of our cultural traditions, despite a documented history of racial injustices levied against Utah Navajos.

At every level, from county to state to the federal government, that history includes violations of voting rights, education and civil rights. All had to be litigated in federal court. Through all of that, Utah Navajos have fought to conserve

To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

and protect the public lands we traditionally used.

These lands need to exist as nature intended — to regenerate traditional plants and provide homes to wildlife that in turn sustain Navajo cultural traditions.

The Utah Trust Lands Administration and the federal government have a chance to do the right thing for Bears Ears. I urge the state of Utah and the federal government to restart discussions about a land exchange.

Otherwise, more out-of-place and in-harmonious developments such as this 460-foot blinking tower could come to dominate the Bears Ears landscape.

Mark Maryboy is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He served from 1984 to 2000 as a San Juan County, Utah, commissioner, and from 1990 to 2006, he was a delegate to the Navajo Nation Council.

Put the phones away

Washington Post, "research finds a correlation between cellphone use and lower grades and test scores." How could it be otherwise? Furthermore, "a recent Gallup poll shows teens spend an average of nearly five hours a day just on social media -- not including games and texts. A report by Common Sense Media finds teens check their phones an average of more than 100 times a day."

Social scientist Jonathan Haidt, who has made a personal crusade out of warning against what he sees as the dire effects of cellphone addiction, noted: "I recently surveyed my students at NYU, and most of them reported that the very first thing they do when they open their eyes in the morning is check their texts, direct messages and social-media feeds. It's also the last thing they do before they close their eyes at night."

Some think Haidt has contributed to what one academic critic calls a "moral panic" scaring parents needlessly. He counters by pointing to studies showing that the typical American adolescent "now gets 237 notifications a day, roughly 15 every waking hour."

I'm sorry, but that's crazy. And crazy-making, too. According to Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, writing in *The New York Times*: "The mental health crisis among young people is an emergency -- and social media has emerged as an important contributor. Adolescents who spend more than three hours a day on social media face double the risk of anxiety and depression symptoms, and the average daily use in this age group, as of the summer of 2023, was 4.8 hours. Additionally, nearly half of adolescents say social media makes them feel worse about their bodies."

It's not just in the United States,

either. Haidt has pointed out the skyrocketing rates of adolescent depression and suicide -- they rose more than 50% between 2010 and 2019, when widespread smartphone use began. "Similar patterns emerged around the same time in Canada, the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, the Nordic countries, and beyond," he said.

Basically, anywhere the wonders of the information superhighway were bestowed willy-nilly upon the young. Academic achievement began to slide around the same time. It's gotten to where a teenager reading a book is a rare phenomenon. We're raising a semi-literate generation. No wonder they're so easily bamboozled by Russian propaganda.

Nobody meant for these things to happen, but by encouraging near-universal cellphone usage among the young, with social media algorithms designed to lure users ever deeper into the online world, we've been conducting a vast, uncontrolled social experiment with unforeseen results upon the most vulnerable members of society.

Skeptics point to other potential causes -- financial panics, mass school shootings and active shooter drills, the COVID pandemic, the opioid crisis, even global climate change. But while these events might have been contributing factors in some countries, none can explain both the timing and international scope of the disaster.

The good news is that the damage can be reversed if we have the will. Washington Post columnist Kate Cohen writes of visiting a high school near Albany where cellphones have been banned to nearly everybody's satisfaction -- including students', many of whom say they're relieved not to have to deal with the constant intrusion.

That should happen everywhere, and for pretty much the same reason we don't serve whiskey sours in school cafeterias.

Kids can't handle them.

Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President" (St. Martin's Press, 2000). You can email Lyons at eugene-lyons2@yahoo.com.

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Contact: bennet.senate.gov

John Hickenlooper (D)
Washington office: B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-5941
Contact: www.hickenlooper.senate.gov

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Lifestyles



Courtesy photo

A photo of one of the artists designs in the window at the 2023 Solstice in Center.

Alluvium Studios hosting fourth annual Solstice in Center

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER – On Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22, Alluvium Studios is hosting Solstice.

The event is being billed as a beautiful and unique art experience, with an exceptional variety of experimental music.

Solstice is a celebration of the changing of the seasons, from spring into summer. There is so much creativity behind the event. There will be art on display. There will be pictures, paintings, and many other types of art, including large-scale sculptures. There will be music. The event is open to the public.

Alluvium Studios is at 342 Worth St., Center, but there will also be music and art at the Center Motor Car Garage, 335 E. Third St.

On Friday, June 21, the event will start at 7 p.m. and on Saturday,

June 22, the event will start at 10 a.m.

Some of the featured artists and musicians for the event will be Alexander Anderson, Marie Bannerot McInerney, Amy Kligman, Mark Cowardin, Caleb Taylor, Misha Kligman, and Cory Imig.

Alluvium Studios owner Steve Huey is excited about the annual event.

“It’s a free music and art event, and it’s open to anyone who wants to roll in. It’s going to be a great weekend event. There will be food vendors, so everyone can grab something to eat. There will be lots of art to see along with music. A real weekend for artists of all types, or just people who love art and music.”

There will be somebody coming in from Kansas, Huey said, that will be projecting pictures or video. If people walk down the alley behind M&M Liquor, there

will be these images or videos projected on the side of the old movie theater there. There are people coming in from Colorado Springs and Denver. We have numerous people involved.

Huey owns Alluvium studios with his wife Krystal Anton. They feel culture in the Valley is important.

“This gets bigger every year, and this is our fourth year. We will see how big it is this year. This is a way to bring artists to the Valley, and to make them aware of the culture of the Valley, which is pretty unique. The scenic beauty of the Valley is really something to see. This helps create a little community for our art, in the community. We are looking forward to it and hope to see everyone there,” he said.

Alluvium Studios is a functioning art studio for print, mixed media, collage, and induction.

San Juan Fiesta is coming to Center

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER – The beautiful and spirited San Juan Fiesta is coming to Center on Saturday, June 22, with a special mass beginning at 11 a.m., that will be held at Capilla De San Juan Bautista in La Garita and will be followed by a nice meal.

On Sunday, June 23, there will be a Bilingual Catholic Mass held at the Catholic Church at 10 a.m., and the San Juan Fiesta will begin at 11 a.m. at Casa Blanca Park and will run until 6:30 p.m.

The park will be filled with lots of food, plenty of wonderful music, kids’ games, a beer garden, drawings, a bake sale, a chicken dinner, and tons of vendors selling assorted items for everyone to enjoy.

Deacon Jerry LeBlanc spoke about the Fiesta and what it means for the town of Center.

“This is the first time in five years that we have celebrated the San Juan Fiesta. This used to be an annual traditional celebration that always took place right around the 24 of June,

which is the birth of Saint John the Baptist. A lot of people in our community have a devotion to Saint John the Baptist,” he said.

Deacon LeBlanc said the Fiesta was significant to many people as they have that special relationship with Saint John. LeBlanc also spoke of the mass that would take place in La Garita, and how the church in La Garita has recently been brought back to life.

“It has been completely restored, it was in horrible shape many years ago, it is now beautiful,” he said.

He said that anyone attending the mass in La Garita was also welcome to attend the meal afterward.

LeBlanc said that on Sunday there would also be mass held in Center at 10 a.m. and then a procession would take place from the mass to the Casa Blanca Park where the Fiesta would be held.

“The Fiesta will be outdoors, there’s a beautiful pavilion at the park where it’s being held. There will be

a variety of drawings. A nice chicken and taco dinner. It’s just going to be a great day. It’s just a way for people in the community to celebrate this holy mass, that is worthy, from our faith and spirituality. It is sponsored by the Catholic Church here too,” he said.

LeBlanc also said that one of the biggest purposes of the Fiesta is to gather people of all faiths together, but to also raise funds for the Catholic Church in Center. Last year in September, the roof of the Catholic Church in Center was torn off by intense winds. Since the incident some of it has been repaired.

According to LeBlanc, the southern half of the roof has been repaired but they still need to repair the northern half.

“We want to use the Fiesta to gather people together in their faith and help raise funds to repair the north half of the church. We have a very good community. We are hoping to see everyone at the Fiesta,” he said.

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Sports

Sinclair records hole-in-one



Courtesy photo

Eva Sinclair shot a hole-in-one on Sunday at Cattails Golf Course. Sinclair's ace came on the 13th hole. She used a 7-iron from the red tees. Witnesses include her husband, Matt, and her children.

Rockies Skill Challenge is Saturday at Lee Sports Complex

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado Rockies Skill Challenge will take place on Saturday at the Lee Sports Complex in Alamosa.

It is a free event and it is open to children ages 6-13 as of Aug. 19.

To register, go to the Alamosa Parks and Recreation web site at [www/alamosaRec.com](http://www.alamosaRec.com) or drop by the rec center at 2222 Old Sanford Road.

[alamosaRec.com](http://www.alamosaRec.com) or drop by the rec center at 2222 Old Sanford Road.



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Larry Holder golf tourney is June 29

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Larry Holder Golf Tournament will take place on June 29 at the Monte Vista Golf Course.

This year, the tournament features golf with a twist on the Front 9 and with a glowball on the Back 9.

The entry fee is \$70 per player or \$120 for a team. It includes as dinner, which will be between the Front 9 and Back 9, but a golf cart is not included in the fee. Registration is at 4:30 p.m. with tee time from 5:30-6 p.m.

There are several sponsorships. The Ruby Sponsorship is \$1,500 which includes four teams and four golf carts and 16 drink tickets. The Platinum Sponsorship is \$750 and includes two

teams and two carts and eight drink tickets. The Gold Sponsorship is \$400 and it includes one team and a cart (if available) and two drink tickets. The Silver Sponsorship is \$300 which includes one team and two drink tickets. The Bronze/Glowball sponsorship is \$250, and hole sponsors are \$100.

There will also be a \$10,000 cash prize for a hole in one which is sponsored by the Bruce Denton Farmers Insurance Agency.

For sponsorship or information, call Karen Holder at (806) 542-1649, Jeff Holder at (719) 580-7136, or Michelle Burkhart at (719) 588-1594. You can also go to the web site at www.larryholdersurvivorship.com.

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor **Ken Hamrick** on X. His handle is [@KenHamrick1](https://twitter.com/KenHamrick1).

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

PRCA Rodeo

Alamosa Round-UP, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

PRCA Rodeo

Alamosa Round-UP, 6:30 p.m.

ALAMOSA PARKS AND RECREATION BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

12-14 Baseball At Ortega Middle School south field

TUESDAY
 Sanford A vs. Pirates, 5 p.m.
 Sanford B vs. Blue Jays, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
 White Sox vs. Blue Jays, 5 p.m.
 Pirates vs. White Sox, 6:30 p.m.

12-14 girls softball At Lee Field #1

TUESDAY
 Salida vs. Alamosa (2), 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
 Gunnison at Alamosa (2), 4 p.m.

9-11 baseball At Cole Park

THURSDAY

Cubs vs. Rockies, 5 p.m.
 Dodgers vs. Angels, 6:15 p.m.
 Pirates vs. Red Sox, 7:30 p.m.

9-11 girls softball At Lee Field #3

TUESDAY
 Gunnison vs. Battitudes, 4 p.m.
 Gunnison vs. Ace of Bases, 5:30 p.m.

7-8 coed machine pitch At Sunset Field

WEDNESDAY
 Thunderdogs vs. Bat Busters, 5:30 p.m. (southwest)
 Sliders vs. Longhorns, 5:30 p.m. (northeast)
 Predators vs. Little Rascals, 6:30 p.m. (northeast)

Co-ed Tee-ball At Tee-ball field

MONDAY
 Little Giants vs. Little Hitters, 5:30 p.m. (north field)
 Sandhogs vs. Wolfpack, 5:30 p.m. (south field)
 Outlaws vs. Rug Rats, 6:30 p.m. (south field)

Men's softball league At Lee Field 2

TUESDAY
 Platinum vs. REC/Deuces, 7 p.m.
 REC/Deuces vs. Happy Mountain/NGNL, 8 p.m.
 Happy Mountain/NGNL vs. 99 Problems, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

WOLO vs. REC/Deuces, 7 p.m.

Platinum vs. WOLO, 8 p.m.
 99 Problems vs. Platinum, 9 p.m.

Regular season ends

Coed Leisure softball At Lee Field

MONDAY
 Where My Pitches At vs. WOLO, 7 p.m. (Field 1)
 Bros Before Throws vs. Battitudes, 7 p.m. (Field 2)
 War Turtles vs. Steel Line, 7 p.m. (Field 4)
 Top Notch vs. Tandberg's Angels, 8 p.m. (Field 1)
 Cutthroats vs. SOS Misfits, 8 p.m. (Field 2)
 Livingstone Trucking vs. Steel Line, 8 p.m. (Field 4)
 All Valley Towing vs. The Dirty Dozen, 9 p.m. (Field 1)
 The Undertakers vs. CRP Dust Devils, 9 p.m. (Field 2)
 The Misfits vs. Bomb Squad, 9 p.m. (Field 4)

WEDNESDAY

Tandberg's Angels vs. Bros Before Throws, 7 p.m. (Field 1)
 CRP Dust Devils vs. All Valley Towing, 7 p.m. (Field 2)
 Battitudes vs. Bomb Squad, 7 p.m. (Field 4)
 Tandberg's Angels vs. Cutthroats, 8 p.m. (Field 1)
 SOS Misfits vs. La Puente Homers, 8 p.m. (Field 2)
 Steel Line vs. War Turtles, 8 p.m. (Field 4)
 WOLO vs. The Misfits, 9 p.m. (Field 1)
 The Dirty Dozen vs. Livingstone Trucking, 9 p.m. (Field 2)
 The Undertakers vs. War Turtles, 9 p.m. (Field 4)

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MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following openings for the 24-25 school year: K-12 PE, HS SCIENCE, K-12 PRINCIPAL. Send inquiries/resumes to Mr. Stagner @ Stagnerb@valley.k12.co.us or call 719-655-2578. (7/10/24)

SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL is seeking DIRECTOR OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, and SCHOOL SAFETY MANAGEMENT for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Submit completed application to Mr. Kevin Jones, Superintendent by email to: kjones@sierragrandeschool.net. Applications are available at the District office, 17523 Hwy. 160, Blanca, CO 81123 or online at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Effective managerial, supervisory, and human relations skills, and computer skills. For more information, please contact Mr. Kevin Jones at 719-379-3259. Position open until filled. EOE. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. (7/17/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for a Full-Time CUSTODIAN. All candidates must pass background checks. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (7/10/24)

MECHANIC: JT TIMBER FALLING is hiring a full-time HEAVY EQUIPMENT and TRUCK MECHANIC in BLANCA, CO. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday - Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com to apply. (7/17/24)

THE CITY OF MONTE VISTA is seeking qualified applicants for position of POLICE OFFICER. Applicants must be POST certified as a Colorado Police Officer. Selected applicants must be able to pass physical, physiological evaluations, pre-employment drug test and extensive background check. Must be able to work all shifts. Starting hourly rate \$21.50 - 22.75, DOE. A \$5,000 hiring bonus is available with a signed two-year commitment. Application and complete job description may be found at https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources. Open until filled. (7/3/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

THE SLV LANDFILL is accepting applications for a PART-TIME SCALE CLERK. Requires working the front office, waiting on customers, weighing loads, processing credit cards, cash transactions, cleans and maintains the office. Also, fill in for Office Assistant as needed. Must be willing to work in all types of weather and be able to work a fluctuating schedule including alternating Saturday's. Position open until filled. \$16.00 per hour 20-30 hours per week. Applications can be mailed to officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned to the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (7/2/24)

VALLEY EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION is accepting applications for a TELLER/MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. Successful candidate should have excellent communication and customer service skills, ability to listen, follow directions and identify the needs of others. They should possess a positive, friendly attitude, integrity, be a team player and ability to multi-task. Prior teller experience is a plus. To apply, email resume to laura@vecuslv.com or stop by our office at 910 Main Street in ALAMOSA to pick-up an application. VECU has been serving the SLV community for over 60 years and is an equal opportunity employer. (6/29/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH is seeking a full-time FACILITIES MANAGER to join our team! This position will train, lead, and direct custodians and housekeepers in the EVS department with daily, weekly, and monthly tasks and projects. The pay range for this position is \$21.98 - \$30.69. For more information and to apply please visit our careers page at www.slvh.org. (6/28/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a MUSIC or THEATRE TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking an anticipated LEAD PRESCHOOL TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Level 2 in Colorado Shines and preferred Lead Teacher Certificate. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking to fill a full-time position for a **TELLER** in the DEL NORTE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 5pm, an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 705 Grand Ave, Del Norte or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (6/21/24)

TOWN OF DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK. Town of Del Norte is hiring **PART-TIME** Municipal Court Clerk. High school graduate or GED equivalent and two years of office, legal, and court clerical. Will work closely with Town municipal judge for operations and procedures of the municipal court system. With knowledge of legal terminology and practices. Oversees and maintains the court dockets, records of all pending and disposed cases, and ensures accurate and updated information. All administrative and technical duties in support of municipal court. Send resume to Town of Del Norte - Attention Town Clerk. Resumes may be submitted by email to delnorte1860@outlook.com or mailed to Del Norte Town Hall 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Co 81132. EOE. (7/17/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for **BUS DRIVERS** for the 2024-2025 school year. Must possess a valid Colorado driver's license and a commercial driver's license (CDL) or be able to obtain one. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and certifications at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. (vacant until filled). (6/25/24)

COME BE A part of the growing **CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM!** We are seeking applications for a **SECONDARY MATH TEACHER, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, PRE-SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL, PART-TIME CUSTODIAN, REGULAR BUS ROUTE or ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER,** and a **VARIETY OF SUBSTITUTES.** Positions will remain open until filled. Each position has unique responsibilities, yet all require the same application process. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit applications through <https://www.applitrack.com/centennialsschool/onlineapp> or email kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. All full-time positions qualify for a competitive benefits package and salary as outlined through our Master Agreement, which is available at centennial.k12.co.us. The starting pay range for certified staff is \$36,872 to \$49,509; 9-month staff is \$20,613- \$26,205; and 12-month staff is \$29,812-\$33,354; route/activity driver pay is based on route/mileage; substitute pay is \$120/day. We are doing great things in SAN LUIS; it's the perfect time to join our team. (7/3/24)

RIO GRANDE COUNTY is hiring! Available full-time positions with competitive pay and benefits include: **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE APPRAISER TRAINEE; PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE; ROAD & BRIDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR; SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION/DISPATCH DEPUTY;** Sheriff's Office **DETENTION/DISPATCH SERGEANT** and **CORPORAL;** Sheriff's Office **ROAD DEPUTY;** Sheriff's Office **JAIL COOK;** SOCIAL SERVICES **LEGAL TECHNICIAN MANAGER.** Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit www.riograndecounty.org for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, DEL NORTE, CO. (7/26/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

AT HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER needed at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Applicants must have a high school diploma and experience working with young children is a plus! Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

DIRECTOR FOR INFANT CARE CENTER needed at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

LEAD TEACHER FOR INFANT CARE CENTER needed at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS/LONG TERM SUBS needed at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scrutz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (7/3/24)

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS POSITION open at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEducator.** Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED FOR the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** CDL & NON-CDL DRIVERS. Will pay for CDL license and training with contract. Must be able to pass a background and pre-employment drug test. If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST / SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR, needed at **DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL** for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

307 - APPLIANCES

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324 - SEED & FEED

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341 - GARAGE SALE

2 FAMILY ESTATE SALE: Friday 6/21, Saturday 6/22/24, 9:30-3:00PM, 12155 County Road 109 S, ALAMOSA. (6/22/24)

GARAGE SALE: FRIDAY 6/21, Saturday 6/22, 7am-?. 307 14th St., ALAMOSA. Women's clothes. (6/22/24)

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

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360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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ACREAGE FOR SALE - \$2,000/ACRE. Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (7/6/24)

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

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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ALAMOSA: COZY 1 BEDROOM apartment near Cole Park. \$675 month, \$675 deposit. NO PETS. 719-580-5400. (6/25/24)

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR rent at 1016 West Ave., ALAMOSA. Call Mike- (719)850-1961.

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH. Appliances furnished. Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$2150/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available 6/1/24. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (7/9/24)

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

ROOMS FOR RENT: FURNISHED, ALAMOSA. 720-436-5550. (6/25/24)

634 - ROOMMATE WANTED

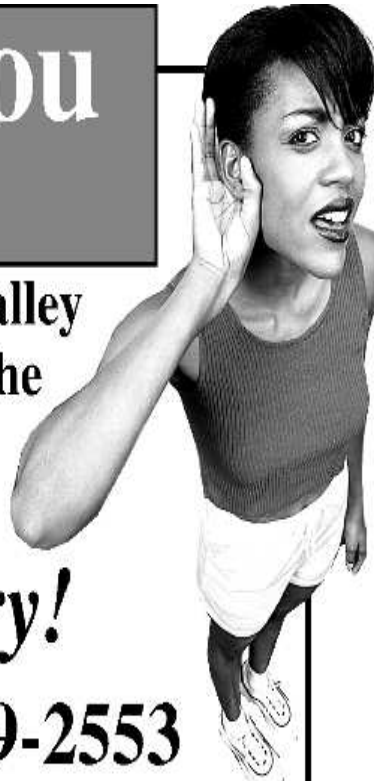
ELDERLY WOMAN TO share house in Monte Vista. 720-427-5953. (6/25/24)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor — Pesci
 - 4 Pisces symbol
 - 8 Sch. in the Golden State
 - 12 Harvest deity
 - 13 Voice in a choir
 - 14 Stir up
 - 15 "Certainly!"
 - 16 "The — of the Cave Bear"
 - 17 Go over like a lead balloon
 - 18 Salamander
 - 20 Money back
 - 22 "Matrix" role
 - 23 — and yang
 - 24 Sideways pass
 - 28 Cozy place
 - 31 Saharan
 - 32 Way to go
 - 34 100 yrs.
 - 36 OSS successor
- DOWN**
- 1 Delight
 - 2 Golf event
 - 3 All-important

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 4 Contributing element
- 5 Sick
- 6 Sheriff's badge
- 7 Term of endearment
- 8 Sophisticated
- 9 Water bird
- 10 Juicy fruit
- 11 Priestly vestment
- 19 Do a garden job
- 21 Tie
- 24 Fond du —
- 25 Song in opera
- 26 Curved path
- 27 Fly up and around
- 29 Holy book
- 30 Adolescent
- 33 Santa —
- 35 Holiday drink
- 37 — of Wight
- 38 Greek peak
- 40 "— Rogers' Neighborhood"
- 42 Greatest
- 44 Hill
- 46 Wings
- 47 Bar mixer
- 48 Verifiable
- 50 Govt. agent (hyph.)
- 51 At the back
- 53 Racket
- 55 Clothespin

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: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

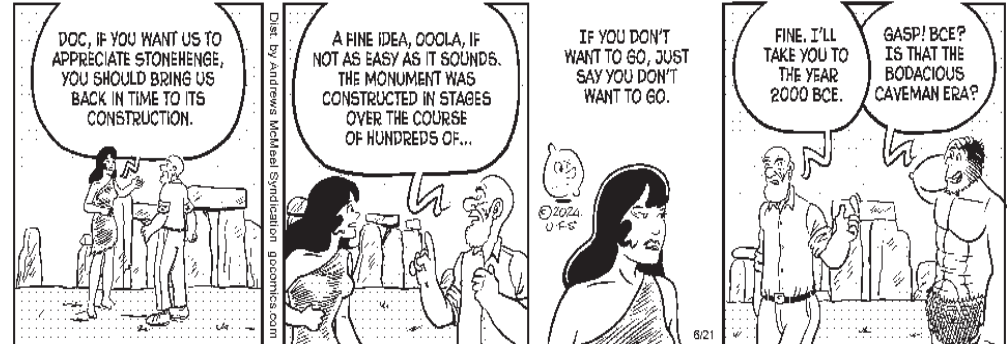
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN

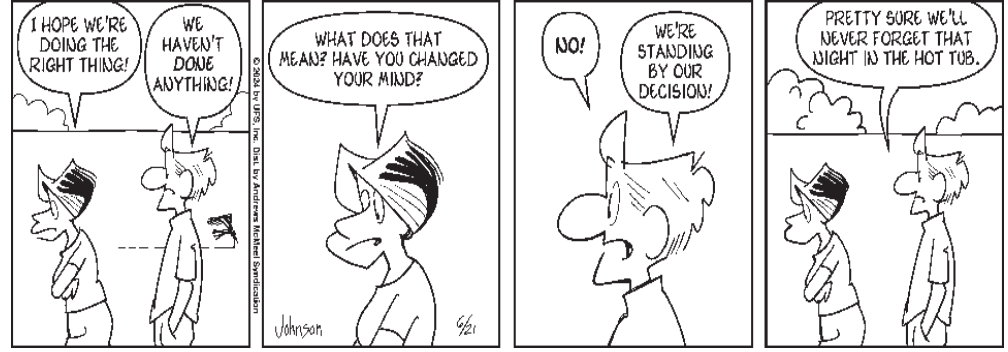


"That picture was taken when I was on the ground."

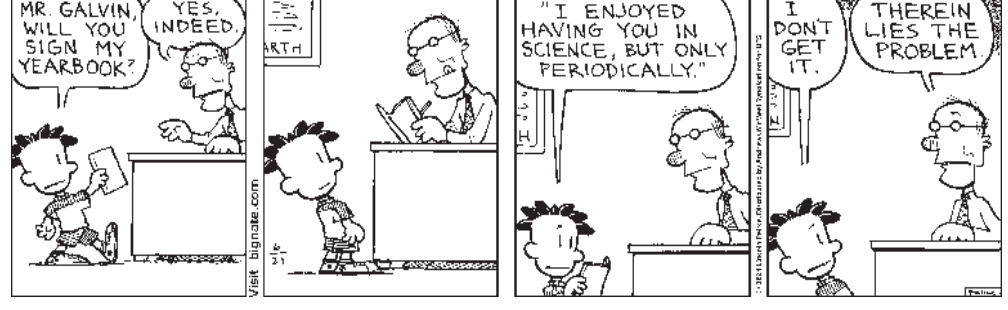
ALLEY OOP



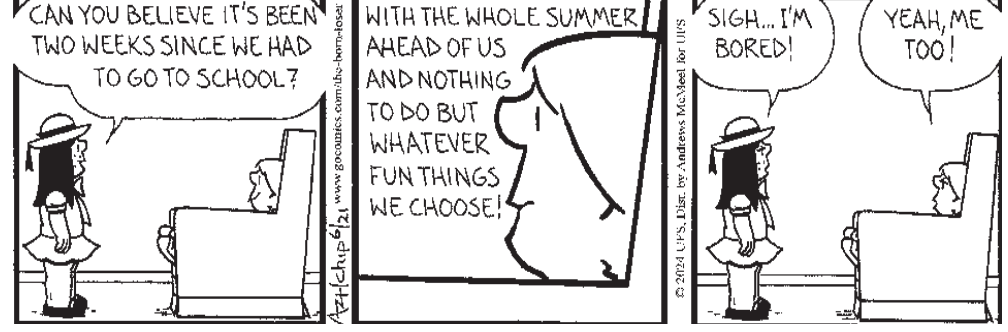
ARLO & JANIS



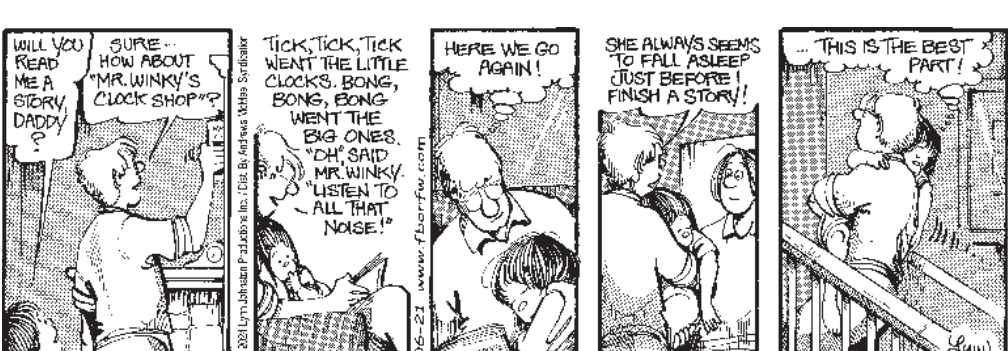
BIG NATE



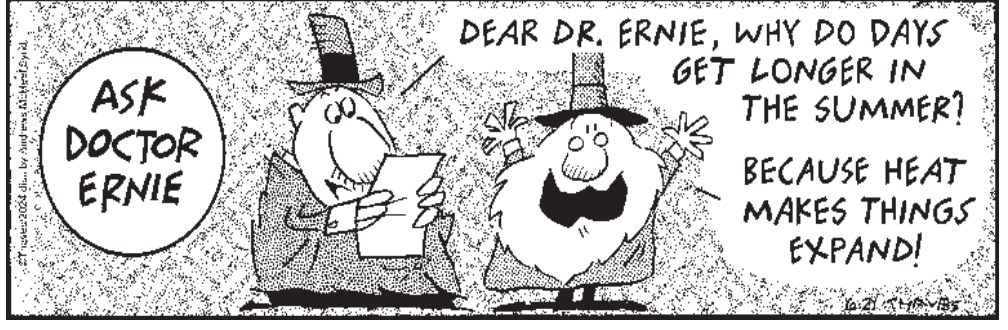
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



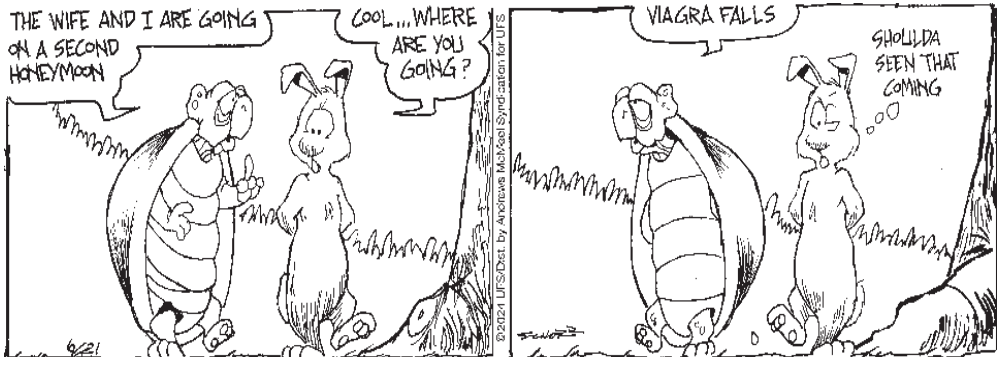
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PEANUTS



Suffocated girlfriend finally calls it quits

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I broke up after six years. Both of us have children from marriages that ended seven years ago. We reached a point a year and a half ago and started looking for a house together. After realizing we couldn't afford what she wanted in a home for our blended family, our relationship became strained. The last year has been our worst.

As she suffered through job loss and other outside forces affecting her mental health, I tried to offer her more support, but she felt suffocated. I am sometimes too intense trying to find solutions, even when she says she needs space. I have not kept up my end of giving her space.

We have had the best connection of our lives, so seeing her in pain has me distraught. She says she isn't able to give what I need in our relationship, while I have strived to be a good teammate in her times of need. Now she says she is done because I didn't give her space.

She is the love of my life. What do I do during this crushing and devastating time of my life? -- DAZED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DAZED: I'm sorry things didn't turn out better for you. You and your girlfriend have very different communica-

tion styles. She wanted to vent and be heard. You felt compelled to find solutions to her problems. When someone says they "need space," it often means the person feels pushed or smothered. It can also mean they want to dial back the relationship or may have met someone else.

Right now, your next step should be a giant one BACKWARD. Increase your exercise schedule, spend time with friends and do not sit around alone and brooding over something you can't change. If the two of you manage to get together again, I urge you to get into couples counseling so this kind of heartbreak doesn't happen again.

DEAR ABBY: Several months ago, I let the 49-year-old son of a dear friend move into my basement. "Jason" pays me rent plus utilities.

Last week, he informed me that he is not vaccinated for COVID. He was drinking at the time. Since my husband passed away with COVID in his system two years ago, I told Jason he would need to get vaccinated or find another place to live, but now I'm not sure he remembers the conversation.

How should I handle this? I don't want to alien-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

ate his mother (or him, whom I love like a son) over this. -- HEALTH-CONSCIOUS IN COLORADO

DEAR HEALTH-CONSCIOUS: Ask Jason if he remembers the conversation you had in which he mentioned that he has not been vaccinated for COVID. If he doesn't recall having made the statement, remind him. Then tell him that when your husband passed, he had COVID in his system, that you do NOT want to risk being exposed to COVID and that if he wishes to continue living with you, he will have to stay current on his vaccines. This need not be a confrontation if you approach the subject calmly.