



Chapel of South Fork hosting Valley duo

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NHSFR ended on Saturday

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

July 24, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### Saguache County alerts

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — Saguache County has launched TextMyGov, a new service that allows residents to quickly access county information and report issues via text. To get started, save the county's text messaging number 719-746-444,2 and text Hi. Then Text: SAGUACHEALERTS to: 91896.

### Family Friday bike rodeo

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Bicycle Coalition will hold a bicycle rodeo from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday at the Rio Grande Farm Park. There will also be a session to build bat boxes with Jim Relyea.

### Public meeting on future of St. Benedict

**ALAMOSA** — The recent Supreme Court decision on City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson overturned previous legal precedent guiding local government enforcement of no-camping ordinances set by the Ninth Circuit in Martin v. Boise in 2018. It was this 2018 decision that partially led the City of Alamosa to create St. Benedict in 2020.

With the recent decision, the City of Alamosa no longer needs St. Benedict to enforce the no-camping ordinances on public property — sidewalks, parks, trails, alleys, etc. Given this significant shift, the Alamosa City Council will be hosting a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 14 at City Hall to receive input from the public and to discuss the future of St. Benedict.

City council encourages everyone who has an opinion to attend the meeting. Anyone not able to attend, can share their thoughts with Alamosa City Council members through their contact forms found on the City website <https://cityofalamosa.org/departments/city-council/>.

The public meeting will also utilize zoom, which allows for public comment as well at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744>.

## SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 84/48

Thurs: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 85/51

Fri: Afternoon Showers Likely, Breezy 84/49

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# SLV Commissioners hear from DA

## Suicide prevention, proposed conservation area also part of meeting

By JOHN WATERS  
News Editor

**ALAMOSA** — District Attorney Anne Kelly requested the commissioners approve a resolution honoring the assistance her office received from

the Boulder DA's office in prosecuting the Los Saucos case, involving Adre Baroz, his brother Julian and Francisco Ramirez at the meeting of the San Luis Valley Commissioners Association on Monday.

Kelly said, "Little did they know that the web of the investigation was going to get so large that we were able to charge four different individuals with heinous and evil crimes, when I came down here that was the first thing I heard about." The com-

missioners unanimously approved the resolution.

Kelly also introduced new Assistant District Attorney Wesley Stafford.

Larry Brown with CSU Extension and JC Carrica with Valley-Wide Health

■ See **MEETING** page 3

**Assistant District Attorney Wesley Stafford (left) is introduced by District Attorney Anne Kelly to the members of the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association meeting on July 23.**

Courier photo by John Waters



Courtesy photo

Tecia McKenna, Merna Lewis, Micki Fuhrman and Mary Kay Holt are "Gone with the West", performing Friday, July 26 at Society Hall, 400 Ross.

# Merna Lewis: 'Music is in my blood'

## Monte Vista fiddler returns with band 'Gone with the West'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter

**ALAMOSA** — Merna Lewis may not have been born with a fiddle in her hand, but she came about as close to that as a person can get.

A native of Monte Vista and part of a large family of farmers, entrepreneurs and musicians, Merna's mother — Bobbie Heersink, Aunt Bettie and Uncle Dan Freel plus her Aunts Bonnie and Billie would gather to-

gether after church on Sundays for a jam session. Named for the Bowen Community Methodist church in Monte Vista, the Bowen String Band played at weddings and funerals, festivals, blue grass jams and contests.

"I grew up listening to that music and, from the time I was itty bitty, I was drawn to the fiddle," Lewis says. "My mother tells the story that, in the middle of a jam session, I would run up to my Aunt Bettie and ask her to put the fiddle under my chin so I could pull the bow across the strings. I just loved it. I grew up listening to that music and I've told this story before the time I was itty bitty."

Lewis explains that the violin and the fiddle are the same instrument. The difference is in the style of music that's played. "Call a fiddler a violinist, and it's a compliment. But call a violinist a fiddler, well, they're going to get offended," she says. Finally, when she was seven years old, Lewis' parents said she was old enough to learn.

The presence of music in her family goes way back past the band practicing after church. Lewis says her great ("or maybe it was great-great") grandfather played the fiddle — left-handed, no less — and her great grandmother, Merna, played the piano. But her

■ See **MERNA** page 3

# Alamosa mural block party on Thursday

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a mural block party from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, at 407 State Ave., Alamosa. The event will celebrate three murals in downtown Alamosa it has commissioned including the Alamosa Adventurer mural sponsored by Jade Communications.

At the mural location on Tuesday, Jordan Wehe with Jade told the Valley Courier, "Jade has been around for about 30 years and we have really, really been trying to pour back into our community, not

■ See **PARTY** page 3

**At the Alamosa Adventurer mural on State Avenue in downtown Alamosa are from left to right, Anthony Stidham, Ty Hagerdorn, Nathan Shipp, Thomas Jacobs, Alex Jacobs, Shaye Vanderbille, Amy Lopez, and Jordan Wehe. On the scaffold are Brandon Waybright, left, and Cat Flaherty-Ng. The mural, at 407 State Ave., is the site of a block party the public is invited to from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 25.**

Courier photo by John Waters



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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Keith E. Magowan

Keith E. Magowan, born on May 2, 1973, in Harvard, Ill., passed away on June 15, 2024, at the age of 51 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Keith dedicated his professional life to civil engineering, following in the footsteps of his ancestors as a third-generation engineer. He proudly worked for the Colorado Department of Transportation, where he not only contributed significantly to various projects but also formed lasting friendships.

Keith's love for nature was evident in his choice of residence near the Great Sand Dunes Park in Mosca, Colo., and in his daily evening walks with his beloved dog, El-

lie. His commitment to the environment was not just professional but deeply personal.

Educated at U W Platteville WI, Keith earned a degree in Environmental Engineering, and then attended New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M., where he graduated with a degree in Geological Engineering, building on a foundation laid during his years at Walworth Grade School and Big Foot High School. His educational and career choices reflected a deep-rooted family legacy of engineering that began with his great grandfather, an engineering professor in Iowa City, Iowa, and continued with his grandfather in

the state of Illinois.

Keith leaves behind his loving parents, Kenneth and Marilyn Magowan, his brother Charles, and a large extended family of uncles, aunts, and cousins, all of whom will miss him deeply. He also leaves behind treasured colleagues at the DOT in Alamosa whom he deeply respected and enjoyed working with.

Keith's life was a testament to his passion for engineering, his love for family and friends, and his commitment to the environment. His legacy will live on in the many lives he touched and the projects he brought to fruition, ensuring a safer and cleaner world for future generations.

### Joe Anastacio Martinez

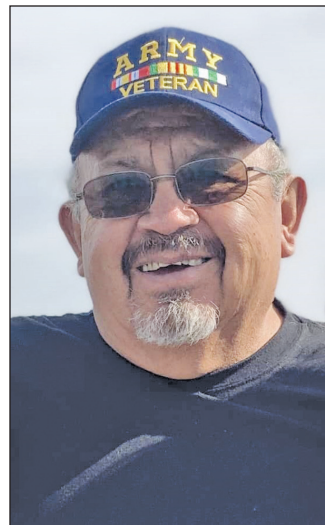
Joe Anastacio Martinez passed away Friday, July 19, 2024. He was the beloved son of Ruby Ernastina Martinez (Velasquez) and Joe Ignacio Martinez.

He is survived by his brothers, John and Andrew (Eileen) Martinez, and his sisters, Nelly Fisher and Becky (Eddy) Medina.

He was preceded in death by siblings Edna Martinez and Richard Martinez.

Joe is survived by his children with whom he shared with Roberta Martinez: Caesar (Peggy) Martinez, Sahara (Andy) Paoella, Diego (Gail) Martinez, and Tasho (Diana) Martinez, and his grandchildren, Royce, Brandon, Maya, Joaquin, Emilio, Galilea, Shivanni, Rio, and Kai. He was also blessed with a great-grandchild, Gabriel.

He is survived by his spouse of 38 years, Fabiola Donovan, and his stepchildren, Michelle (Daren) Jones and Nikki Donovan, and his grandchildren Emilee, Makaela (Ryan), Morgan, Zach, Brendan,



Dylan, and Kamille.

Joe was a Heavy Equipment Operator (MOS 62B2) with the 34th Engineer Company B, and served honorably in 1969 and 1970; stationed in Laikia in Fuloy.

As a very caring and loving father, Joe was a father figure to many extended friends and family. His laid-back attitude and

carefree nature made him a very easy person to talk to.

"Hito, if I die, it's okay. I've lived on borrowed time since the war." We were all blessed to have his borrowed time. His attitude of not taking things too seriously and the immense amount of help he outpoured to his friends and family, from roofing a home to repairing wires and countless projects for friends and family, made him an invaluable presence. He was constantly working to make things better around him. Friends and family are immensely blessed by his life and deeply hurt by his loss.

Funeral services will be held at River of Life Church in Alamosa on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 10 a.m. followed by full military honors where his ashes will be buried at Homelake Veterans Cemetery at noon. In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome donations to the River of Life Church; envelopes are available directly at the church.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of his arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort please visit [www.Rogers-Funerals.com](http://www.Rogers-Funerals.com).

### Ronny Dean Freel

Ronny Dean Freel, also known as Ron, Rod, and Hot Rod (as a young kid) passed away at his home in Belen, N.M., on April 30, 2024, at the age of 70. He was born in Alamosa, Colo., on May 9, 1953, to Harold (Pont) and Winifred Maxine (Feenie) Freel.

Ron was a proud father of two daughters, Tandy Freel (Todd Burt) of Sandia Park, N.M., and Blair (Brian) Lopez of Albuquerque, N.M., and especially proud of his two grandsons, Joseph and Alex Lopez of Albuquerque, N.M.

Ron graduated as valedictorian from Moffat High School where he enjoyed playing basketball. He also rode rough stock and bulldogged at high school rodeos. Outside of school, he worked at the family ranch driving heavy equipment and tractors, a love he never outgrew.

In 1974, Ron and his wife, Lynette, moved to Bloomfield, N.M. Ron worked at a gravel query



and Plateau Inc. before joining Giant Industries as a crude oil truck driver. Ron worked for Giant/Western Refining for over 20 years where he managed a fleet of crude trucks along with personnel and always loved to work and drive the big rigs. Ron was also an outdoorsman who loved fishing and hunting big game in Colorado and New Mexico.

In retirement, Ron lived on an 8-acre farm that he cared for with much passion. He tinkered with tractors, raised hay, cared for livestock, and maintained a great group of friends. He especially loved his "four-legged kids" that accompanied him during work and play, they were always by his side.

Ron was preceded in

death by his parents Harold L. and Winifred M. Freel, his two brothers, Terry (Ted) Freel and Robert (Bob) Freel, his brother-in-law, David (Dave) Stagner, and his "forever brother-in-law", Robbie Clark.

Ron is survived by two daughters, two grandsons, his sister, Linda Stagner of Moffat, Colo., and two sister-in-law, Bonnie Buzard of Tucson, Ariz., and Kathy Freel of Moffat, Colo. Ron is also survived by his nephews, Pete (Lynn) Stagner, Brady (Kelly) Stagner, Scott (Judy) Freel, Darrel (Kim) Freel, and Clint (Dana) Stagner, nieces, Amy Freel, Robbie Kay (Jay) Bertelsen, and Tina (Bill) Eastman, and several great-nieces and -nephews.

A grave side memorial service will be held on Aug. 3, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the Rito Alto Cemetery, County Road X, Moffat, Colo., with lunch to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Rito Alto Cemetery.

## Chapel of South Fork hosting Valley duo



Courtesy photo

The Chapel of the South Fork, 116 Landon Dr., will be hosting Valley duo Lorraine and Amy at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 26, for a live worship concert. Lorraine and Amy have been writing and sharing their original music with churches and public venues since 2017. They are looking forward to sharing songs from their first, second and third CDs, as well as a few new ones. Lorraine and Amy will be joined by musicians Kathy Herrera on bass guitar and flutist Heather Hefner. The concert is free to all.

## Colorado Secretary of State certifies the State's 2024 State Primary

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**DENVER** – Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold has announced the certification of the 2024 State Primary and CD-4 Congressional Vacancy Election, making the results of the election official and final.

"This concludes our second successful election of the year, and I thank all Coloradans who have participated in our democratic process," said Secretary Griswold. "As always, thanks also to the many county clerks, election workers and judges, and Department of State employees for their dedication to making sure Colorado has the best elections in the nation."

After the election, the

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

Returning a mail ballot was the preferred method for voters with 99.24% of voters choosing to cast their mail ballot during the 2024 State Primary and CD-4 Congressional Vacancy Election – accounting for 981,137 total ballots returned – and 0.76% of voters choosing to vote in-person – 7,493 total ballots returned.

2024 State Primary and CD-4 Congressional Vacancy Primary Election:

- Total Active Voters: 3,872,503

- Turnout among Active Voters: 25.53%

- Ballots cast by Unaffiliated Voters: 348,101 (35.21% of total ballots cast)

- Ballots cast in Democratic Primaries: 504,396 (51.02% of total ballots cast)

- Ballots cast in Republican Primaries: 482,759 (48.83% of total ballots cast)

- 1,404 voters used TXT2Cure to cure a signature or ID discrepancy with their ballot in the 2024 State Primary and CD-4 Congressional Vacancy Primary Election

## ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department report for July 7 to July 16, 2024

Laura Dominguez, 51, of Manassa was cited for limitations on/unsafe backing.

Juan Lucero, 44, of Alamosa was cited for defrauding an innkeeper.

Kevin Guodace, 36, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Alex Candelaria, 32, of Capulin was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance.

Jarrold Candelaria, 31, of Denver was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance.

Juan Mateo, 26, of Alamosa was cited for careless driving, dui-alcohol, driving under restraint, uninsured vehicle, failing to notify police of accident, possession of open

alcoholic container.

Melissa Demoga, 64, of La Veta was cited for limitations on/unsafe backing.

Tiffany Ortiz, 23, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance.

Jason Ulibarri, 41, of Alamosa was cited for obstruction.

Danielle Jojola, 47, of La Jara was cited for theft under \$300.

Alliyah Roman, 23, of Alamosa was cited for 2nd degree assault, unlawful sexual contact, resisting, false imprisonment, domestic violence.

Shalonda Saenz, 34, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful possession of controlled substance.

Franklin Calvert, 47, of Houston was cited for harassment.

Denileigh Bonzales-Romero, 22, of Alamosa was cited for eluding, changing lanes when unsafe, expired tags 1-29 days, possessed an open alcoholic container, possess open marijuana container.

Jeremy Sanchez, 29, of La Jara was cited for unauthorized absence.

Christian Martinez Melendez, 24, of Eastland, Texas was cited for DUI-alcohol, speeding 10-19 over, failing to obey traffic control device.

Jamyll Munoz, 24, of Albuquerque was cited for uninsured vehicle, making right turn from wrong position or lane.

Marcus Reyes, 18, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 10-19 over.

## COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on [www.alamosanews.com](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee. Please email obituaries if possible to [squintana@alamosanews.com](mailto:squintana@alamosanews.com) If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

## School Menu Wednesday July 24, 2024

### BREAKFAST

Pancake On A Stick  
Fruit & Milk

### ELEMENTARY

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce  
Garlic Bread  
Broccoli  
Fruit & Milk

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce  
Garlic Bread  
Broccoli  
Fruit & Milk

### HIGH SCHOOL

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce  
Garlic Bread  
Broccoli  
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

## 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 affili-

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

# Valley News

## Merna

Continued from Page 1  
grandmother, Marie Bond Rigenbach, made music part of the foundation of her family's life.

"Grandma Rie", as Lewis calls her, was a virtuoso violinist who graduated from the prestigious Julliard School of Music, as well as a "teacher of violins," at Brearley School for Girls in New York City and, when she returned to the San Luis Valley, founder of the Rigenbach School of Music in Alamosa.

When Grandma Rie gave birth to four daughters, she required they all learn to play the piano first and then, after a few years, they could choose another instrument. "A couple picked up the violin, a couple chose the cel-

lo. My mom hated all of it so she chose the guitar."

With Grandma Rie as their teacher, all four daughters were classically trained. The same would likely be true of Lewis but for her Aunt Bettie who took the music in a different direction.

"When she was in her thirties, she married Dan Freel. He was also from the Valley and he was a bluegrass picker. He told Aunt Bettie he would teach her how to play the fiddle."

And that is how Lewis first got her start. "If Aunt Bettie hadn't learned that, I probably would be playing classical today."

Lewis continued to play all through school and then things took a more serious turn.

"My Aunt Bettie was teaching 40 students and

playing gigs part time. Then, when I was in high school, she got very sick - she had breast cancer and fought it for many years. So, I helped out with both of those things. When she was going through treatment and was just too sick to play, she taught me the standard fiddle tunes." Lewis lists them off without even thinking. "Amarillo by Morning, Much Too Young to Feel this Damn Old, Orange Blossom Special, Gotta Have a Fiddle in the Band, Louisiana on a Saturday Night, Devil Went Down to Georgia."

During those times when Bettie was too sick to perform, Lewis said, "...my parents would bring me to the bar at fourteen and I would get up and play with the band." Sadly, Aunt Bettie passed away when Lewis was seventeen

years old.

"Music has always defined me," Lewis says. She knew it was what she wanted to do with her life and, after going to college, felt Nashville was the place to do it. But after a few years on the music scene in Nashville, she just got "burned out" and left music for eight years. She got a job tangentially connected to music and the steady income was helpful.

"Then, one day, I'm on the phone listening to some guy yell at me because he didn't get his order on time and I thought...what am I doing? My soul is dying, and this isn't what I'm supposed to be doing. Music is in my blood."

But it was another thought that brought her back to music and has kept her there ever since.

"I remembered my

aunt...she fought so hard to play. Even on her deathbed, she played until she drew her last breath. And I thought of others I've known who've lost a limb or been diagnosed with something where they couldn't play anymore. I realized I'm blessed with a gift and I want to share it with the world."

After returning to music, Lewis' extraordinary skill and talent has become increasingly well known, leading to tour opportunities with Trent Williams and Tanya Tucker as well as studio music recordings. In 2023, she was nominated as International Western Music Association's Best Musician of the Year.

And now, in a serendipitous, circle-of-life kind of development, Merna Lewis has found her own "three sisters" to play with

— award winning singers/songwriters/musicians Mary Kay Holt, Micki Furrman and Tecia McKenna. Described as having "exquisite harmony, superb original songs and fresh takes on Western classics," this all-woman band is called "Gone With the West".

At the close of the interview, Lewis was asked what she thinks her Aunt Bettie would say about where she is now. She was quiet for a moment before answering. "A lot of people have told me I favor her. I feel her presence sometimes when I play."

Gone with the West will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26, at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Doors open at 6 p.m. Buy tickets at the door or online at www.societyhall.org.

## Days

Continued from Page 1  
in the region. This rotating opportunity occurs every four years in the San Luis Valley region, composed of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network (RAN), a statewide program of Community Resource Center that builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and fuels regional collaboration leading to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

"Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences stand as flagship events

in rural Colorado," says CRC Co-Board Chair, Leslie Baldwin. "These conferences are born out of collaboration with community leaders, fostering dialogue and tackling key topics shaped by their firsthand experiences. This platform allows nonprofit professionals to engage directly with statewide funders, partake in professional development opportunities, and connect with fellow community leaders from across the region. Whether aiming to lay the groundwork for new initiatives or amplify existing efforts, RPD offers a vital space for networking and growth."

Rural Philanthropy Days brings together com-

munity organizations and foundations to amplify their missions, sustain meaningful collaborations, and surpass fundraising goals. Community Resource Center anticipates over 75 funders and grant makers to attend the September conference. In addition to connecting rural nonprofits to these resources, the conference offers professional development, educational opportunities, and relevant panel discussions pertaining to the promises and obstacles of operating a nonprofit in the San Luis Valley region.

The conference will be held at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista with evening receptions in

downtown Alamosa. The third day will be an optional half-day of self-care and wellness with a keynote speaker followed by breakout session activities including experiential and interactive programming to put core themes of wellness into practice. There is also an optional Fort Garland and San Luis Valley Tour for grant makers.

Jason Medina, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley notes that "Rural Philanthropy Days are the perfect opportunity for urban nonprofit funders to gain a deeper understanding of rural challenges and opportunities, build relationships with local leaders and

communities, and address the unique needs of rural nonprofits. This allows funders to build more inclusive and effective funding strategies, to make more sustainable and meaningful impact, and to promote greater equity in their investments in rural work."

Featured events include facilitated tours in the San Luis Valley, a San Luis Valley regional town hall, a panel discussion highlighting actionable change told through lived experiences, networking receptions, and capacity building sessions on the economic impact of nonprofits, building effective coalitions, and intersectionality in the nonprofit sector. During the San Luis Valley Nonprofit Community Fair on Sept. 11, regional nonprofits and local governments will have the opportunity to host a table where their

peers, statewide leaders, and funders can approach them to connect and learn more about their work. Through this session, funders and nonprofit organizations can develop a mutual understanding of one another in a relaxed environment.

"This conference is so important because of its lasting impact," said event Co-Chair, Karla Shriver. "Participants learn new skills, network with other non-profit leaders, governmental staff, business leaders and potential funders from all over the state. You can draw a direct line from the impact of this conference to increased support for non-profits and individuals living in the San Luis Valley."

For additional information and questions, visit [craamerica.org](http://craamerica.org) or contact Katy Sawyer at [katy.sawyer@craamerica.org](mailto:katy.sawyer@craamerica.org).

## Meeting

Continued from Page 1  
discussed the partnership between the two organizations in preventing suicide among ag producers called "The Coffee Break Project." Earlier that morning, Brown, Carrica, Bruce Fickenscher with CSU Extension, and others held a brainstorming session on the project and other issues at the extension service office in Monte Vista.

During the commissioner meeting, Carrica said, "We are trying to get people to start having the tough conversations and work through the stigma of suicide prevention, and not just on prevention, but on well-being. How do we check on each other?"

Brown has said previously the motto of the group is, "Do you look after your neighbors as close as your crop or herd?"

Fickenscher added, "People forget this is agriculture, it is a culture just like anything else. You have to be accepted into it. What is nice about our group is we are already part of the culture, we know the culture, and we know you guys. We are already involved and that is where we make the connection."

Later during the meeting, Joshua Lowenstein,



Courier file photo by John Waters

**A proposed National Conservation Area by the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council was discussed at the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association meeting on July 23. Land managed by the Bureau of Land Management around the Lobatos Bridge pictured here, would be part of the proposed National Conservation Area.**

a resident of Conejos County, briefed commissioners on his opposition to a proposal of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council to create a federally designated National Conservation Area (NCA) on Bureau of Land Management land.

Lowenstein offered, "There is no Conejos County grassroots support," and "opposition to the proposal grows at each meeting." Lowenstein said some proponents of a conservation area also mentioned the possibility of creating a national monument.

According to the Bu-

reau of Land Management, it manages 19 national conservation areas and 30 national monuments nationwide. In Colorado, the Bureau manages three conservation areas and two national monuments. Under federal law, a National Conservation Area is created by an act of Congress. National monuments are created by presidential executive authority under the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Anna Lee Vargas with the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council told the commissioners, "This is premature, we have been

having public meetings in Conejos County since June just to get the feelings of the community and how they feel about protection along the Rio Grande Corridor."

Although the Ecosystem Council is proposing the federally designated area, there is no legislation pending to create the area.

Stephanie Sales with the South Central Seniors briefed the group as did Sarah Stoeber with the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group. There was a discussion regarding elections and no action was taken.

## Party

Continued from Page 1  
only through broadband infrastructure, and also in support of artwork and nonprofits. We have partnered with the chamber to celebrate Alamosa in the period 2010-2020.

"What we will have here on the mural is multiple stories that are one cohesive story of Alamosa. We have small pieces of Alamosa sprinkled through each arch and when you look at all seven it is one continuous story of the whole region."

that is still being painted, Wehe said, "For example, this is an animal tamer and represents the alligator farm, one of the main reasons for tourism."

"This piece is the UFO Watch Tower in Mosca. In this central piece, we have the sand dunes, that run through every one of the seven arches that will be included in the mural. This tan color in all of the arches represents the sand dunes. All of the panels will represent an Alamosa adventure and then people can go see that landmark when they are here," said Wehe.

Erin Keck, chief ex-

ecutive officer of the chamber told the Valley Courier, "The Alamosa Chamber is thrilled to be facilitating the installation of three new community murals this July as part of our greater 100-Year Mural project. The completed project will include 10 unique murals, to be designed by 10 different local artists, and will each be representative of a decade in our most recent 100 years of history."

"It will also include a walking tour brochure as well as a website with information on the cultural and historical highlights

from each mural and period, activities for kids, details on the murals and artists, and showcasing our gracious sponsors who have made this project possible."

The Alligator Adventurer mural was designed by a team from Jade that included Wehe, Cat Flaherty-Ng, Shaye Vanderbilt, and Brandon Waybright. Regarding the design Wehe added, "This was a community project, the four of us put our heads together, there is not just one of us. Today we are lucky to have volunteers who are helping us."

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**Marion Malouff**  
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AUGUST 1, 2024  
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# Opinion

## Mountain bikers push to ride through wilderness

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed...", said Wallace Stegner.

The goal of the Wilderness Act, now celebrating its 60th birthday, was to set aside a small proportion of public land in America from human intrusion. Some places, the founders said, deserved to be free from motorized, mechanized and other intrusions to protect wildlife and wild lands.

But now, a handful of mountain bikers have partnered with a senator from Utah to gut the Wilderness Act.

This June, the Sustainable Trails Coalition, a mountain biking organization, cheered as Utah Republican Senator Mike Lee introduced a bill (S. 4561) to amend the Wilderness Act and allow mountain bikes, strollers, and game carts on every piece of land protected by the National Wilderness Preservation System. Stopping these intrusions would take each local wilderness manager undertaking a cumbersome process to say "no."

The U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law on September 3, 1964, to "preserve the wilderness character" of 54 wilderness areas totaling 9.1 million acres. Today, this effort has become a true conservation success story.

The National Wilderness Preservation System now protects over 800 wilderness areas totaling over 111 million acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico, making it America's most critical law for preserving wild places and the genetic diversity of thousands of plant and animal species. Yet designated wilderness is only 2.7% of the Lower 48, and still just about 5% if Alaska is included.

The protections of the Wilderness Act include a ban on logging, mining, roads, buildings, structures and installations, mechanized and motorized equipment and more. Its authors sought to secure for the American people "an enduring resource of wilderness" to protect places not manipulated by modern society, where the ecological and evolutionary forces of nature could continue to play out mostly unimpeded.

By DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

Ronald Reagan had it, Jimmy Carter didn't. George H.W. Bush had it until he didn't, and the same can be said for his successor, Bill Clinton. Joe Biden had it, lost it, regained it and lost it again. Donald Trump has it in surfeit.

It's the most underrated but perhaps the most potent element in politics: luck.

Trump was born to riches. He skated through college, transformed millions into billions, won celebrity in reality television, gave elective politics a try. He won an election no one -- not even the candidate himself -- thought was within his grasp against a pioneering woman who had been a senator and secretary of state -- a combination that in the 19th century was a sure bet for the White House.

Then, this year, he drew the card of running for a second presidential term against a rival who, though an incumbent, had problems proving he had the physical stamina and mental acuity for a bruising campaign, let alone for four more years in the toughest job on the face of the Earth. (Let's wait a bit to see how potent that Trump luck looks after Election Day, but right now it looks fairly powerful.)

And of course, Trump had the luck of turning the other cheek -- a gesture not ordinarily in his portfolio -- as a bullet



Writers On The Range



Kevin Proescholdt

Grandfathered in, however, were some grazing allotments, while mining claims were also allowed to be patented until 1983. Many private mining claims still exist inside designated wildernesses.

Senator Lee's bill is premised on the false claim that the Wilderness Act never banned bikes, and that supposedly, the U.S. Forest Service changed its regulations in 1984 to ban bikes. But bicycles, an obvious kind of mechanized equipment, have always been prohibited in wilderness by the plain language of the law. ("There shall be...no other form of mechanical transport....") The Forest Service merely clarified its regulations on this point in 1984 as mountain bikes gained popularity.

Unfortunately, bikers in the Sustainable Trails Coalition are not the only recreational interest group that wants to weaken the Wilderness Act to. Some rock climbers, for example, are pushing Congress to allow climbers to damage wilderness rock faces by pounding in permanent bolts and pitons rather than using only removable climbing aids. In addition, trail runners want exemptions from the ban in wilderness on commercial trail racing. Drone pilots and paragliders want their aircraft exempted from Wilderness Act protections, and recreational pilots want to "bag" challenging landing sites in wilderness.

The list of those seeking to water down the Wilderness Act is growing.

Most of these recreational groups say they support wilderness, understanding how important it is when most landscapes and wildlife habitats have been radically altered by people. At the same time, they want to slice out their own

headed his way.

Now have a look at some of the past unlucky characters in Trump's new line of business.

Herbert Hoover had a resume without peer: successful engineer, savior of starving European masses, longtime Cabinet member. He bombed as president, and even though (here come the revisionists!) he might not deserve the opprobrium he has as Father of the Great Depression, he's considered a presidential failure.

His presidential cousin, eight times removed, was Carter. He was an Annapolis grad, a successful governor, a remarkable political campaigner. No one ever got so far by carrying his own suitcase and contorting his face into a "smiley" cookie.

As president, he was America's unluckiest man. Inflation raged, and so did the Iranian militants who took 52 American diplomats hostage. Then Carter had the bad luck of running against a former governor of California with a smooth Grand Marnier style. Reagan sent Carter into early retirement and into the global role he was born to play: advocate of human rights and guarantor of elections around the world. Yet still he is a symbol of bad luck.

Of course, people make their own luck, good or bad. Carter's bad luck was reinforced by his self-image as an



Photo courtesy of Wilderness Watch

Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

piece of the wilderness pie.

Must we get everything we want in the outdoors? Rather than weakening the protections that the Wilderness Act provides, we could try to reinvigorate a spirit of humility toward wilderness. We could practice restraint, understanding that designated wildernesses have deep values beyond our human uses of them.

Meanwhile, in response to growing demand for mountain biking trails, the Bureau of Land Management invites over a million mountain bikers each year to ride its thousands of miles of trails. And the U.S. Forest Service already has a staggering 130,000 miles of motorized and nonmotorized trails

## Lucky!

uber-rectitude figure sent to Washington to cleanse the body politic and eliminate the loopholes in the tax code.

The first President Bush got blamed for an economy he set on the road to recovery. Defeating Iraq and presiding with dignity and grace over the fall of communism wasn't enough to salvage him politically. He joined John Quincy Adams, William Howard Taft and Gerald Ford as good men with bad luck -- and only one term.

Trump's supporters believe the 45th president made his good luck. But he got a good start from birth -- America once prided itself on good starts, a kind of national myth mixed with national hope -- and then, after years of mischief, mariages and misbegotten investments, he achieved his lifelong goal: to be the most important person in the world. What he did with that status will be debated for generations, but try this test: Is it possible to go through an entire meal outside your home without the word "Trump" being uttered by someone?

I thought not.

There was, of course, a time when it looked as if Trump's luck had run out. Defeat by Biden at the polls. A cockamamie accusation that the election was fixed. Five dozen court cases that deliv-

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### 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](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

available to mountain bikers.

Do mountain bikers and others pushing for access really need to domesticate wilderness, too?

Let's cherish our wilderness heritage, whole and intact. We owe it to the far-seeing founders of the Wilderness Act, and we owe it to future generations.

Kevin Proescholdt is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana.

ered defeat after mortifying defeat. A January speech that prompted a riot at the Capitol that will be forever part of his legacy, no matter how many tall tales are told about it, no matter how much historical revisionism is deployed, no matter how many second-term Trump pardons and reprieves are given -- if there is a second Trump term. Some discolorations and smudges defy even the 22-ounce Resolve trigger-spray bottle of stain remover employed with disturbing regularity in our household. The stain of Jan. 6, 2021, is one of them.

And yet for Trump, luck is a boomerang.

His luck was on full display in a 40-hour period beginning in Butler, Pennsylvania.

He was the target of an assassin's bullet. He survived, and instantly was transformed, if public images are to be believed, from convicted felon to miraculous survivor and national symbol of fortune and fortitude. His critics reviled him no less, to be sure, and deplored the way he turned misfortune into advantage. But even from some of them, there was the sense that nothing could keep the old yeller and congenial liar down. They hated that, but recognized it, too.

Then came the ruling from Judge Aileen Cannon throwing out the hidden national-security documents case on the grounds that special counsel Jack Smith's appointment violated the Constitution. Appeals are certain. But appeals are the lifeblood of Trump. He makes them, and his opponents' appeals shield him from prosecution before Election Day. As Frank Sinatra sang in another time: Luck be a lady tonight.

Now that Trump has the most famous ear since Vincent van Gogh, the question is whether his luck continues.

It is America's good luck that, as Otto von Bismarck once said, "God has a special providence for fools, drunkards and the United States of America." As this campaign drones on, let us pray that that remains the case. It will require a large measure of luck.

David M. Shribman is the former executive editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

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# Valley Courier

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

# Lifestyles

## Click It or Ticket summer enforcement period begins

**CONTRIBUTED**  
 Don't let a seat belt citation get in the way of enjoying a beautiful summer day in Colorado. The Colorado Department of Transportation is supporting efforts by the Colorado State Patrol and 61 law enforcement agencies to get more people to buckle. The Click it or Ticket (CIOT) campaign runs from Monday, July 22 through Friday, August 2. During that time there will be increased awareness and enforcement of Colorado's seat belt law. Recently Jefferson Police Department, Larimer County Sheriff's Office and Loveland Police Department reported the highest number of seat belt citations during the April and May CIOT enforcement periods.

Last year, nine counties in Colorado reported that all of their passenger vehicle deaths involved people who were not using seat belts. The state average is 50%. These counties included Eagle, Summit and Las Animas counties. Also, July 2023 was the deadliest month in Colorado history with 91 traffic deaths, 30 of which were unbuckled drivers and passengers.

"This summer Colorado State Troopers are doubling down on our education and enforcement of seat belt use because we know that the decision to buckle up can save your life. If these numbers aren't a wake-up call, a citation may be the reminder you need to be responsible with your life and those you transport," said Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "While folks rush to work or run an errand, no one plans to be in a crash. Do your part to ensure every person in your vehicle."

In 2023, 2,999 cita-

tions were issued during the April and May Click It or Ticket enforcement periods, 52% higher than in 2022. The growing number of citations has continued this year, with 3,201 handed out during the first two enforcement periods of 2024.

"Colorado's seat belt usage rate is trending upwards, but it is still far below the national average. As a state, we must continue to improve our usage, which should, in turn, reduce traffic fatalities," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "This is a serious matter and a simple way to protect yourself in a crash."

There was an 8% decrease in unbuckled fatalities in 2023 compared to 2022 as more people were buckling up, according to CDOT surveys. All types of vehicles saw improvements in seat belt usage, from pickups to SUV's.

Fifteen children aged five or younger were killed on Colorado roadways in 2024, representing 25% of all deaths in that age range in the last decade. With nearly 80% of Colorado parents and caregivers reportedly not using their child's car seat correctly, now is a crucial time to educate yourself on how to secure your child correctly in a seat belt or car seat. Learn more about child car safety at CarSeatsColorado.com.

### Colorado's seat belt laws

Colorado law requires the driver and every front seat passenger of a motor vehicle and the driver and every passenger in an autocycle equipped with a safety belt system to wear a seat belt whenever the vehicle is in operation on a street or highway.

• Adults — Colorado has a secondary en-

forcement law for adult drivers and front-seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

• Teens — Colorado's Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their ages, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

• Children — Colo-



rado's Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained child under age 16 in the vehicle. ing the driver can be strained or improperly restrained or improperly restrained child under age 16 in the vehicle.

## Anglers, hunters invited to virtual Southwest Region Sportspersons meeting July 29

**CONTRIBUTED DURANGO** — Sportspersons from across southwest Colorado are invited to a virtual opportunity to meet with Colorado Parks and Wildlife managers the evening of July 29.

The Southwest Region Sportspersons Caucus will be held virtually from 6 to 8 p.m. July 29. It will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube channel and Zoom.

The meeting will provide anglers from across the region the chance to meet new CPW Southwest Region Senior Aquatic Biologist Jim White, a longtime biologist in the Durango area. White will give an update on fisheries management and projects across the region and will discuss his background and take angler questions.

Mia Anstine and Roger Cesario, representatives of the Southwest Region of CPW to the statewide Sportsperson's Roundtable, have highlighted additional topics to be covered during the meeting and will lead a round-

table discussion of other matters of importance to the sportspersons community.

CPW staff, including Region Manager Cory Chick, will be in attendance to present information regarding the agenda topics, such as the recent Parks and Wildlife Commission decision on Big Game Season Structure for the 2025-29 hunting seasons.

CPW will also put out a call to interested candidates for election as region delegates. Anstine and Cesario's terms will expire at the winter meeting in 2025, and two new delegates will need to be voted in during the winter 2025 meeting. Information will be provided on how prospective new delegates may apply.

To see the full meeting agenda, go to the CPW website.

To watch the meeting on Zoom and participate in the live chat, register at cpw.info/Summer24SWCaucus. The passcode to join the Zoom is 196593.

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# Sports



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick

Klayt Staudt of Saguache competes as a heeler in team roping at the Alamosa Round-UP in June. Staudt was in two events at last week's National High School Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs, Wyo., and he was also the Colorado boys all-around champion.

## NHSFR ended on Saturday

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

**ALAMOSA** – The National High School Finals Rodeo came to a conclusion on Saturday. The event took place at the Sweetwater Events Center in Rock Springs, Wyo.

Four SLV performers competed at the NHSFR this year.

Klayt Staudt of Saguache was entered in two events this year – boys cutting and team roping with Rett Coors of Loveland.

In boys cutting, Staudt scored 130 points in his first run last Wednesday morning and 137 in his second run on Wednesday evening for a total of 267 points. That total had him tie for 54th place overall.

Staudt and Coors did not record a time in either of their performances.

Despite not placing high at the NHSFR, it was an outstanding year for Staudt as he was Colorado's boys all-around champion.

Another Saguache competitor, Rivers Hill, participated in barrel racing. She had a time of 17.983 seconds in her first go round on Wednesday morning and she ran her second go in 22.846 seconds on Wednesday evening. Her total of 40.784 had her finish 131st.

Two members of the Sittler family also competed at the NHSFR.

Ben Sittler competed in bull riding. However, he did not record a score in either of his attempts.

Alex Sittler took part in shooting sports. He first competed in the rifle shoot which took place at the Green River Shooting Range in Green River, Wyo. on Tuesday. He tied for 128th with 179 points.

He then competed in trap shooting which was at the Sweetwater Trap Club in Rock Springs on Thursday. He tied for 138th with 63 points.

The next NHSFR will be July 13-19, 2025 also in Rock Springs.

## Sports Bulletin

**ALAMOSA PARKS AND RECREATION BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL SCHEDULE Men's softball league End of Season**

**Tournament TUESDAY, JULY 9**  
Happy Mountain/NGNL 13, 99 Problems 4  
REC/Deuces 25, Happy Mountain/NGNL 24  
WOLO 24, Platinum 14  
**TUESDAY, JULY 16**  
REC/Deuces 19, WOLO 18  
Platinum 19, 99 Problems

3, 99 Problems eliminated  
Platinum 25, Happy Mountain/NGNL 24, Happy Mountain/NGNL eliminated  
**THURSDAY, JULY 18**  
WOLO 23, Platinum 20, Platinum eliminated  
REC/Deuces 26, WOLO 21, WOLO eliminated

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# Lifestyle

## From the Librarian's Desk- new arrivals

Look at what's new at Conejos County Library, Maria De Herrera Branch, for your reading pleasure

• **The Ghost Orchid** by Jonathan Kellerman  
Summary: "Psychologist Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis are faced with their most perplexing case yet when a double homicide investigation leads them to stolen identities and long-buried secrets worth killing for in this riveting thriller from the #1 New York Times best-selling author"— Provided by publisher.

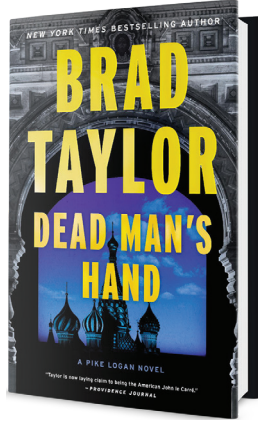
• **Sheltering Angel:** a novel based on a true story of the Titanic by Louella Bryant

Summary: "From a working-class family, Scotsman Andrew Cunningham stewards for wealthy travelers aboard elegant cruise ships of the early 20th century, but he resents those who flaunt their inherited wealth. New Yorkers Florence and Bradley Cumings, first-class passengers traveling aboard Titanic, are the exception, and the three discover an ancestral connection. As the ship sinks on the fateful morning of April 15, 1912, Florence watches in horror from her lifeboat. In the darkness of night, she searches the water for her husband and

recognizes the man swimming through the frigid water toward her is Andrew." — Back cover.

• **Dead Man's Hand** by Bradley Taylor

Summary: "Pike Logan goes head-to-head with Putin's henchmen. To finally end the war between their nations, a rogue band of Ukrainian partisans known as the Wolves teams up with members of Russia's military intelligence to assassinate Vladimir Putin. But Putin is aware of the traitors in his midst and assigns the loyal commander of the Russian National Guard to root them out. It's a mission Victor Petrov is expected to undertake after he prevents Sweden from joining NATO—by assassinating a deputy minister of foreign affairs. After receiving intelligence about the threat in Sweden, the United States sends Pike Logan to identify Petrov's target—only for him to get caught in the crossfire between Putin's agents and the Wolves. When the smoke clears, Pike makes no effort to stop the Wolves on their ultimate mission, believing it just, until he discovers that their operation has unimaginable consequences. For Putin is preparing a devastating activating the Dead Man's Hand nuclear response that will launch Russia's



missiles in the event of his death."

• **The New York Game:** baseball and the rise of a new city by Kevin Baker

Summary: "A hugely entertaining history of baseball in New York City, bursting with bigger than life figures, and long-forgotten heroes, spanning the game's founding to the early 1940s."— Provided by publisher.

• **The Lost Bookshop** by Evie Woods

Summary: The Keeper of Stories meets The Lost Apothecary in this evocative and charming novel full of mystery and secrets. "The thing about books," she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of." On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found... For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives. But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder...where nothing is as it seems.

We have a great selection of books for all ages. Come by the Conejos County Library Maria De-Herrera Branch at 17703 Highway 285, La Jara; the

Antonito Branch at 112 Main St. in Antonito; and at the Capulin Branch at

8047 State Highway 15 in Capulin.  
If you would like to check

out a book, come by one of the locations or call 719-274-5858, for more information.



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## CDOT, local officials holding public meetings

Summer, fall meetings to touch all four corners of Colorado

CONTRIBUTED

As Colorado prepares to update future transportation plans and develop the state's 2050 transportation and transit plan, CDOT and local communities are holding a series of public meetings throughout the summer and fall to solicit input from the public on recent infrastructure development and future needs.

The meetings will be held in each rural transportation planning region, the 10 groupings of counties that allow for local officials to collaborate on area needs. These gatherings will allow technical staff to share progress and accomplishments on completion of 10-Year Plan projects to date, as well as discuss needs, data and trends with members of the public.

Similar conversations in the state's metro areas will be led by the respective metropolitan planning organizations: the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG); Grand Valley MPO (GVMPO); North Front Range MPO (NFRMPO); Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG); and Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG).  
More information

on Colorado's transportation planning process can be found at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/planning-process>.

Upcoming TPR meetings, along with dates, times, and links to additional details, are listed below.

- Southeast, July 24, 10 a.m. to noon, Lamar
- South Central, July 25, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Walsenburg
- Northwest, July 25, 9 a.m. to noon, Virtual
- Southwest, Aug. 8, 9 a.m. to noon, Durango
- San Luis Valley, Aug. 22, 10 a.m. to noon, Alamosa
- Gunnison Valley, Aug. 29, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Montrose
- Upper Front Range, Sept. 5, 1 to 4 p.m., Fort Morgan
- Eastern, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Akron
- Northwest, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, Fraser
- Central Front Range, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Cripple Creek
- Southwest, Oct. 10, 9 a.m. to noon, Durango
- Intermountain, Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to noon, Eagle
- Southeast, Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to noon, Lamar
- South Central, Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Trinidad
- San Luis Valley, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to noon, Alamosa
- Gunnison Valley, Nov. 14, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Montrose
- Eastern, Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Limon
- Upper Front Range,

Dec. 5, 1 to 4 p.m., CDOT Region 4 office

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End Date	06/30/24										
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0000 WORKING FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0100 PETTY CASH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0110 CLERK'S OFFICE OPERATION	\$216,112.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$119,149.63	\$0.00	(\$1,527.09)	\$0.00	\$333,735.26	
0120 COUNTY SPECIAL CONTINGEN	\$2,491,226.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,359.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$704,554.44)	\$1,798,031.64	
0130 H.B. 1084 (CONSERV. TRUS	\$165,026.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,258.30	(\$17,481.39)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174,803.68	
0140 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0150 COUNTY GENERAL	\$4,564,614.57	\$1,413,887.29	\$135.70	\$0.00	\$137,896.27	\$3,947,299.53	(\$3,779,261.01)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,284,572.35	
0160 ROAD & BRIDGE	\$1,217,868.27	\$90,177.66	(\$8.59)	\$666,069.45	\$9,257.76	\$1,149,563.76	(\$2,241,553.45)	(\$12,765.57)	\$0.00	\$878,609.29	
0170 CONTINGENT	\$336,511.65	\$18,984.38	\$1.08	\$0.00	\$1,651.57	\$5,194.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$362,543.60	
0180 PUBLIC WORKS	\$1,022,358.85	\$18,984.38	\$1.08	\$0.00	\$1,651.57	\$9,529.59	(\$41,954.26)	(\$698.37)	\$0.00	\$1,010,072.84	
0200 PUBLIC WELFARE	\$1,973,439.69	\$341,720.44	\$19.69	\$0.00	\$33,327.98	\$725,177.20	(\$862,565.51)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,191,119.49	
0250 PUBLIC TRUSTEE TRUST & A	\$9,615.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,570.40	(\$3,805.26)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,381.03	
0700 TREASURER'S ESCROW FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0800 SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAX D	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0310 CAPULIN CEMETERY DISTRICT	(\$2.54)	\$5,846.21	\$0.07	\$0.00	\$571.09	\$1,318.45	(\$6,762.05)	(\$213.15)	\$0.00	\$758.08	
0320 LA JARA CEMETERY DISTRICT	\$35.05	\$15,003.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,528.33	\$3,288.00	(\$17,008.74)	(\$548.69)	\$0.00	\$2,297.03	
0330 NEW CONEJOS-LOS CERRITOS	\$21.29	\$19,029.66	\$11.79	\$0.00	\$1,793.77	\$4,836.00	(\$23,525.46)	(\$716.30)	\$0.00	\$1,450.75	
0340 MANASSA/ROMEO CEMETERY D	(\$22.49)	\$19,291.76	\$32.98	\$0.00	\$1,831.12	\$4,596.11	(\$22,629.16)	(\$716.96)	\$0.00	\$2,383.36	
0350 SANFORD CEMETERY DISTRICT	(\$2.42)	\$19,121.35	(\$1.79)	\$0.00	\$1,787.77	\$4,269.00	(\$6,890.56)	(\$701.60)	\$0.00	\$1,781.75	
0280 MORGAN DRAINAGE DISTRICT	(\$0.09)	\$1,033.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$50.00)	\$0.00	\$983.79	
0290 CARMEL DRAINAGE DISTRICT	\$0.00	\$805.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$282.81	(\$958.36)	(\$50.00)	\$0.00	\$80.36	
0300 S.L.V. DRAINAGE DISTRICT	\$4,710.98	\$1,510.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,709.75)	(\$50.00)	\$0.00	\$1,461.35	
0470 GUADALUPE WATER ASSOCIAT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0650 SUBDISTRICT #3 - RIO GRA	\$0.00	\$608,265.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$599,302.20)	(\$6,082.65)	\$0.00	\$2,880.40	
0660 SUBDISTRICT #6 - RIO GRA	\$0.08	\$608,286.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$542,977.90)	(\$6,082.87)	\$0.00	\$59,226.09	
0420 TOWN OF ANTONITO	(\$322.85)	\$45,172.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,460.74	\$25,502.40	(\$66,077.11)	(\$1,509.44)	\$0.00	\$7,225.99	
0430 TOWN OF LA JARA	(\$248.10)	\$71,795.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.98	\$33,469.82	(\$94,720.04)	(\$2,388.92)	\$0.00	\$14,909.32	
0440 TOWN MANASSA	(\$507.29)	\$60,308.31	\$406.81	\$0.00	\$5,340.69	\$30,272.69	(\$80,693.12)	(\$1,892.60)	\$0.00	\$13,235.49	
0450 TOWN OF ROMEO	\$41.34	\$6,198.23	\$2.06	\$0.00	\$893.45	\$4,499.16	(\$10,304.21)	(\$205.30)	\$0.00	\$924.73	
0460 TOWN OF SANFORD	(\$185.11)	\$23,490.02	(\$8.10)	\$0.00	\$2,085.75	\$11,981.92	(\$31,593.99)	(\$641.61)	\$0.00	\$5,128.88	
0360 NORTH WEST FIRE PROTECTI	\$167.91	\$143,577.78	\$1.80	\$0.00	\$14,235.29	\$30,503.00	(\$164,825.78)	(\$5,222.43)	\$0.00	\$18,437.57	
0370 NORTH EAST FIRE PROTECTI	(\$54.76)	\$59,865.19	(\$6.44)	\$0.00	\$5,670.42	\$13,552.00	(\$21,669.19)	(\$2,202.35)	\$0.00	\$55,154.87	
0380 CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT	\$1,751.05	\$42,781.75	\$104.85	\$0.00	\$4,017.42	\$10,901.52	(\$21,528.05)	(\$1,611.51)	\$0.00	\$36,417.03	
0390 SOUTH CONEJOS FIRE DISTR	\$57.27	\$102,914.13	\$27.23	\$0.00	\$9,804.39	\$23,341.00	(\$121,166.76)	(\$3,785.35)	\$0.00	\$11,191.91	
0490 RE 1-J NORTH CONEJOS SCH	\$36,783.77	\$833,101.04	\$703.30	\$0.00	\$82,858.77	\$161,601.85	(\$869,889.86)	(\$2,095.47)	\$0.00	\$243,063.60	
0500 RE 1-J BOND FUND	(\$50,566.39)	\$340,856.40	\$117.12	\$0.00	\$33,900.96	\$756.54	(\$279,142.33)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,922.30	
0540 6-J SANFORD SCHOOL DISTR	(\$74.38)	\$241,327.11	(\$25.54)	\$0.00	\$22,789.28	\$71,328.67	(\$230,677.37)	(\$604.05)	\$0.00	\$104,063.72	
0550 6-J SANFORD SCHOOL BOND	(\$2,977.37)	\$78,562.51	(\$7.78)	\$0.00	\$7,418.93	\$258.06	(\$68,729.53)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,524.82	
0580 RE-10 SOUTH CONEJOS SCHO	\$1,627.14	\$690,038.51	(\$367.52)	\$0.00	\$65,752.61	\$26,775.65	(\$683,974.99)	(\$1,729.32)	\$0.00	\$98,122.08	
0590 RE-10 SOUTH CONEJOS BOND	(\$14,794.15)	\$375,830.12	(\$290.50)	\$0.00	\$35,812.19	\$0.00	(\$356,496.40)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,061.26	
0630 RE-11-J SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$3,080.86	\$64,471.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,206.17	\$1,214.13	(\$67,355.67)	(\$161.17)	\$0.00	\$8,456.13	
0640 RE-11-J BOND FUND	(\$4,036.94)	\$15,980.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,786.22	\$0.00	(\$11,929.24)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.94	
0210 LIBRARY	\$48.38	\$152,710.84	\$8.12	\$0.00	\$14,893.89	\$91,829.82	(\$234,843.58)	(\$5,593.93)	\$0.00	\$19,053.54	
0220 LODGING TAX	\$52,622.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,619.18	(\$4,941.83)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,300.55	
0230 WEED CONTROL DISTRICT CO	\$50.90	\$19,577.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,902.02	\$2,304.00	(\$20,979.90)	(\$856.45)	\$0.00	\$2,197.59	
0250 CONEJOS WATER CONSVY. DI	(\$137.88)	\$263,710.79	\$182.44	\$0.00	\$25,027.70	\$56,708.00	(\$304,017.52)	(\$9,615.66)	\$0.00	\$31,857.87	
0260 RIO GRANDE WATER CONSVY.	\$40.67	\$121,500.54	\$7.76	\$0.00	\$11,849.93	\$30,130.96	(\$143,825.00)	(\$4,545.21)	\$0.00	\$15,159.65	
0270 ALAMOSA-LA JARA WATER CO	\$38.73	\$17,734.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,757.07	\$4,224.00	(\$20,539.20)	(\$658.74)	\$0.00	\$2,556.20	
0410 ANTONITO STREET IMPROVEM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0740 TAYLOR GRAZING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
0770 NURSE FUND	\$64,614.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,484.99	\$13,547.46	\$229,976.94	(\$342,276.05)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,347.73	
0780 P.C.P. FUND	\$299,311.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,972.42	(\$246,512.36)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$127,771.98	
0810 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL	\$12,387,846.98	\$6,953,453.32	\$1,047.62	\$704,554.44	\$571,509.56	\$6,961,416.61	(\$12,689,898.62)	(\$75,322.76)	(\$704,554.44)	\$14,110,052.71	

Mack Crowther, County Treasurer in and for the County of Conejos and the State of Colorado do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and just copy of the fund balances, receipts and disbursements of my office, to the best of my knowledge and belief, for a period of six months, starting on January 01, 2024, and ending at the close of business on June 30, 2024.

*Mack Crowther*  
Conejos County Treasurer For six months - Ending: June 30, 2024.

Received and examined by the Board of County Commissioners, this 18th day of July, 2024.

*Michelle Garcia*  
Chairman of the Board Filed in my office this 18th day of July, 2024.

*Ned Frazier*  
Conejos County Clerk Published in the County Paper: 24th day of July, 2024.

No. 4036  
Published in the Valley Courier on July 24, 2024.

099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Permittum, LLC,** a software designer that specializes in web-based law enforcement services, the **ALAMOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (ACSO)** is announcing the implementation of a **NEW SCHEDULING AND PAYMENT SOFTWARE FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR OR RENEWING THEIR CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT.** This new software will allow applicants to schedule their CHP appointment, upload the necessary documents, submit their ID photo, and make their payment online ahead of time. The link is now available on the Alamosa County Sheriff's website at <https://alamosacounty.colorado.gov/departments/sheriff>. Effective August 1, 2024. (7/30/24)

163 - LOST & FOUND

**LOST: YOUNG FEMALE TORTOISE-SHELL CAT.** Fixed, no chip or collar. Lost from NAVAJO TRAIL ANTIQUES, ABOUT 3 MILES EAST OF ALAMOSA ON HIGHWAY 160. REWARD for safe return! Linda, 729-580-4463

**LOST: BLACK CAT,** named BLACKIE. Lost at 8735 INDEPENDENCE DR., ALAMOSA, BY FOOD BANK, June 27. If found alive or dead, please call. There is a REWARD! 719-649-0911. (7/24/24)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**PRIVATE HOME HEALTH:** I can help keep your loved one at home. CNA 20+ years experience, excellent references, reasonable rates. 512-293-1448. (8/28/24)

**LICENSED PLUMBER DOES** all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

221 - HELP WANTED

**RANCH / FARM HELP; PART-TIME.** 719-274-0380, (8/17/24)

**ALAMOSA STATE BANK** 719-589-2564  
2225 Main St. Alamosa  
A Real Community Bank  
Local Ownership. Local Commitment.

Alamosa State Bank (ASB) is seeking a Full Time Operations Assistant to join our team in the Alamosa office. The position is responsible for a variety of administrative and clerical support duties including reconciliations, making routine calculations, making entries, and tracking various transactions. Assignments will be in operational areas including general ledger, bookkeeping, and auditing. The position requires critical thinking, organizational skills, and attention to detail. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated ability to work independently as well as cooperatively in a team environment. A bachelor's degree and/or experience in banking, accounting, or finance is preferred but not required.

Compensation for this position is commensurate with your qualifications and experience. ASB offers a comprehensive benefit program that includes a discretionary bonus, medical, dental and vision plans, 401(k) plan, life insurance, and paid leave benefits. Applications are available at ASB and should be submitted to [Kate@alamosastatebank.com](mailto:Kate@alamosastatebank.com). This position will remain open until August 10, 2024.

Member FDIC - An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Medcl Lab Scntst - (Alamosa & La Jara, CO), San Luis Valley Health:** Pfrms all antbdy screening, idntification & cross mtching prcdres req'd in the admnstrtion of blood & blood comp. Stnd corp benfts. Salary \$68,556.80. EOE. Reqs: Bach (or frgn equiv) in Medcl Tech, Chmstry, or rlted fld, & 2 yrs' of exp as a Medcl Tech, Lab Scntst, or rlted role req. Email resume to [len.gross@slvrvc.org](mailto:len.gross@slvrvc.org), Attn: Len Gross, Ref: 2078.

**MONTE VISTA HEAD START** is accepting applications for a LEAD TEACHER. This position is full time 38 hours/ week. Must have an AA or BA in ECE or related field. Starting Pay is 17.00 to 22.00 Depending on education and experience. Applications are available at Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Ave., MONTE VISTA Colorado. For more information, you may contact the Director by email, [Director@MVheadstart.org](mailto:Director@MVheadstart.org) or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (7/26/24)

**MOFFAT SCHOOLS IS** now hiring for; K-12 SCHOOL COUNSELOR and SCHOOL SECRETARY. Job descriptions and applications can be found on the District website, [www.moffatschools.org](http://www.moffatschools.org) or contact Kathy Garcia at 719-341-0128 for more information. Application deadline: Until filled. (8/13/24)

**HOME HEALTH AIDE** for individual needed near LA JARA. CNA helpful but not required, on the job training. Good pay, flexible hours, must pass background check. Call or Text 719-580-9633. (7/24/24)

**COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION**  
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 961-24  
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
On April 26, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.  
Original Grantor(s) Ashanti L Montoya AND Johnathan A Rangel  
Original Beneficiary(ies) MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ADVANCE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS  
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC  
Date of Deed of Trust May 03, 2023  
County of Recording Alamosa  
Recording Date of Deed of Trust May 03, 2023  
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 388825  
Original Principal Amount \$212,121.00  
Outstanding Principal Balance \$211,499.33  
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.  
LOT 10, MCCLAIN-FINK SUBDIVISION, COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, STATE OF COLORADO  
APN #: 54131520202  
Also known by street and number as: 1408 Edison Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101  
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.  
NOTICE OF SALE  
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 08/28/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
First Publication: 7/31/2024  
Last Publication: 7/31/2024  
Name of Publication Valley Courier  
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;  
DATE: 04/26/2024  
Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado  
By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee  
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
Alison L. Berry #34531  
Lynn M. Janeway #15592  
Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (303) 706-9990  
Attorney File # 24-032056  
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015  
No. 4013.  
Published in the Valley Courier on July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2024.

**COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION**  
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 962-24  
To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
On May 1, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.  
Original Grantor(s) BillieJo Cooper and Curtis B Cooper  
Original Beneficiary(ies) Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for AmCap Mortgage, Ltd. DBA Major Mortgage  
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC  
Date of Deed of Trust May 03, 2019  
County of Recording Alamosa  
Recording Date of Deed of Trust May 06, 2019  
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 373104 Book: N/A Page:  
Original Principal Amount \$221,212.00  
Outstanding Principal Balance \$204,851.58  
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.



# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**JOB OPENING: PART-TIME SECRETARY at SACRED HEART CHURCH.** Monday thru Friday – hours 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (25 hrs. a week). Should be bilingual and have experience with Microsoft programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) and google email/calendar knowledge. Should be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church. Must pass a criminal background investigation; must have a good driving record, current Colorado Driver's License, and automobile insurance. Please submit a resume to admin@sacredheartalamosa.org or come to the office for an application. If you have any questions, please call the office at (719) 589-5829, ext. 11. (8/10/24)

**SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** is looking for an energetic full time teacher for our MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ WEIGHTLIFTING POSITION. All applicants must have the appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application and resume to Brandon Mizokami Principal at bmizokami@sierragrandeschool.net or contact Mr. Mizokami at 719-379-3259 by July 25, 2024. Applications can be found online at www.sierragrandeschool.net. (7/24/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for HS ASSIST. BOYS BASKETBALL COACH. Qualifications: Applicants must be over 18 years of age, pass a background check. Applications can be found on our website www.sierragrandeschool.net. Applications must be submitted to mshawcroft@sierragrandeschool.net by July 25, 2024. (7/24/24)

**MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for a ROUTE BUS DRIVER. Preference will be given to applicants that hold a CDL, but the transportation department will work with the right candidate in obtaining the license. For additional information contact Mark Hotz, Maintenance/Transportation Director, at 719-852-2881. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Transportation Personnel Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website – Employment Opportunities page. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities by July 31, 2024 or until the position is filled. For questions regarding the application process contact the Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (8/6/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE SUPPORT (DES).** LA PUENTE is our community's response to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services, where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive. Seeking Director of Employee Support who will assist with hiring, onboarding, training facilitation, conflict management, and strengthening organizational culture. Seeking experienced independent professional with strong people skills and understanding of holistic staff support and development. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of helping others. Salary \$55k-60k DOE. Full benefit package. Send cover letter, resume, request job description: hr@lapuente.net La Puente: P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101; 719/589-5909 (Ext 238); www.lapuente.net. (8/17/24)

**SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH** is hiring C.N.A.'s! Come work for a great organization with amazing benefits and make a difference in patients' lives. A C.N.A license is required but assistance is available for those that need to take the state test. To learn more about this incredible opportunity check out our careers page at www.slvh.org or call 719-587-1200. (7/31/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**DEL NORTE POLICE OFFICER.** The TOWN of DEL NORTE 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 a physical, physiological evaluation, pre-employment drug test, and extensive background check. Must be able to work all shifts. Salary \$45k-\$48k DOE, plus excellent benefits and retirement. Must be at least 21 years of age. Send resume to Del Norte Police Department email: delnorte1860@outlook.com or apply at delnortecolorado.com or can be picked up at Del Norte Police Dept. 525 Grand Ave., Del Norte, Co 81132. Deadline until position filled. EEO/ADA. (8/23/24)

**CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26JT** is looking for a MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH for the 2024-2025 season. Qualifications: Must be over 18, have a high school diploma/GED and be able to pass a background check, or, such alternative qualifications as the Board may find appropriate and acceptable. Non-Certified Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities or contact the District Office at (719)754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/2/24)

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**dylan brown agency**  
**Local Medicare Help**  
719-350-6941  
2415 Mullins Avenue  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
Dbrown1@farmersagent.com  
Katrina.dbrown1@farmersagency.com  
\*Medicare Advantage \*Supplements \*Part D Prescription Plans

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

**HEATING & GAS**  
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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Air safety org.
  - 4 Recipe amt.
  - 7 Attempt
  - 11 "Abbott Elementary" network
  - 12 Mocking remark
  - 13 Writer — Bombeck
  - 14 Links item
  - 15 Skeletal part
  - 16 Busy bee
  - 17 Walk leisurely
  - 19 Cultured dairy product
  - 21 City in Italy
  - 23 Yanks' foe
  - 24 Fight
  - 27 File folder projection
  - 29 Drug letters
  - 32 Birds
  - 33 Elevator name
  - 34 Promise of a kind
  - 35 Cash dispenser, for short

- 36 Stuff
  - 37 Cut
  - 38 "The — & Stimpny Show"
  - 39 Fond du —, WI
  - 40 Score in golf
  - 41 Chicken — king
  - 43 Position of control
  - 45 Gaming hall
  - 48 Disinclined
  - 52 Diva's song
  - 53 Flower holder
  - 55 Succor
  - 56 Aspersion
  - 57 Say positively
  - 58 Dust cloth
  - 59 Male animals
  - 60 Youth
  - 61 Actress — Irving
- DOWN**
- 1 Singer — Domino
  - 2 Aid and —
  - 3 Computer brand

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 4 Reveals
- 5 Yen fraction
- 6 Say grace
- 7 Marsh plant
- 8 Causing worry
- 9 Can.
- 10 Homer's son
- 12 Actress — Andrews
- 18 Magnum —
- 20 Spheres
- 22 Affix
- 24 Slightly open
- 25 Appraise
- 26 Workout venue
- 28 Goal
- 30 Earth
- 31 Trick
- 33 "Are you a man — mouse?"
- 36 Sept
- 37 Matching
- 40 Young eel
- 42 Dishonest ones
- 44 Facilitated
- 45 Play group
- 46 Singer — Guthrie
- 47 Racetrack
- 49 — avis
- 50 Thailand, formerly
- 51 Nervous
- 54 Actress — Gardner

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: ★☆☆☆☆

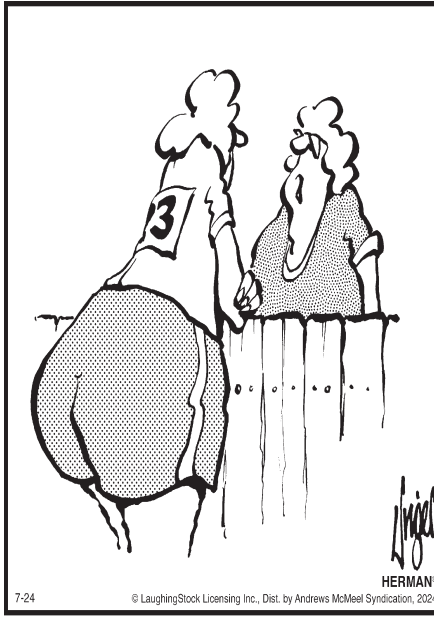
8			5	3	9	1			6
1						2			9
			6		8				5
		9	3	1					
	4	8				7	3		
				7	5	9			
	8			6		4			
	9		8						7
4	2	7	9	1					5

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



"That jogging certainly seems to be getting your weight down."

# Room assignments unclear for visiting 'throuple'

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son lives with his two girlfriends, who are also romantically involved with each other. They share a single bedroom. One of them has a baby due this week, and the other has made noises about wanting a child.

I don't approve of this arrangement and can't see it ending well. I love my son and I have a good relationship with all three of them, but it flies in the face of my upbringing and beliefs.

My question: How do I deal with this threesome if they come stay at my house? I don't want this going on under my roof, but I don't know how to assign bedrooms. If it were just two of them in a committed relationship, I could suck it up and put them together, but all three?

I think my son knows me well enough to (hopefully) make that decision before coming here. I'm afraid if I assign bedrooms according to my convictions, it will lead to a falling-out. Any advice? -- CONFLICTED DAD IN OHIO

home, you prefer the three of them (or four, once the baby arrives) not share one room, and let HIM decide where everyone sleeps. (This would include staying in a nearby hotel or motel during their visit, which might be more comfortable for them.)

DEAR ABBY: After 40 years, I just started talking to my daughter again. I explained why I hadn't been in her life, which was not at all what her father had told her. He told her I abandoned her and her brother and wanted nothing more to do with them -- this is NOT TRUE. Those kids were my life. Now, she can't understand why her father lied to them all these years.

I have no idea how to comfort her or even build a relationship after all this time. I gave birth to her brother at 15 and to her at 16. Their father was older and very controlling. We live in two different states, which doesn't help. I have never stopped loving and missing my kids. I have asked multiple people for suggestions, and they have nothing to offer. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. -- RECONNECTING IN TENNESSEE



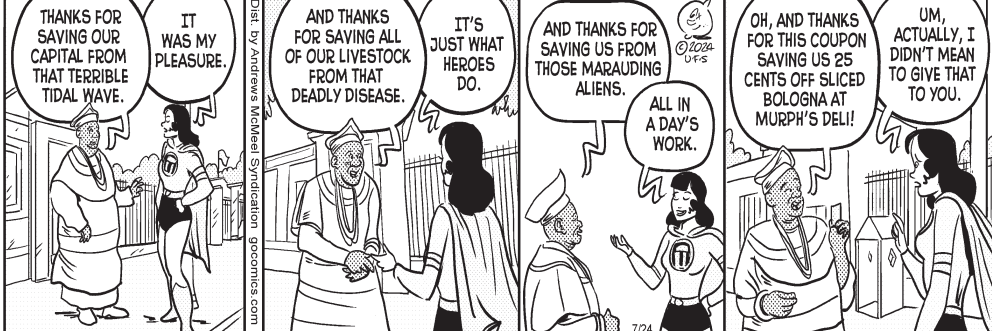
## ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

make a connection with your daughter. Please, take it slowly, one step at a time. She will need to understand how young you were when she and her brother were born, and the imbalance of power in your relationship with their older (and controlling) father.

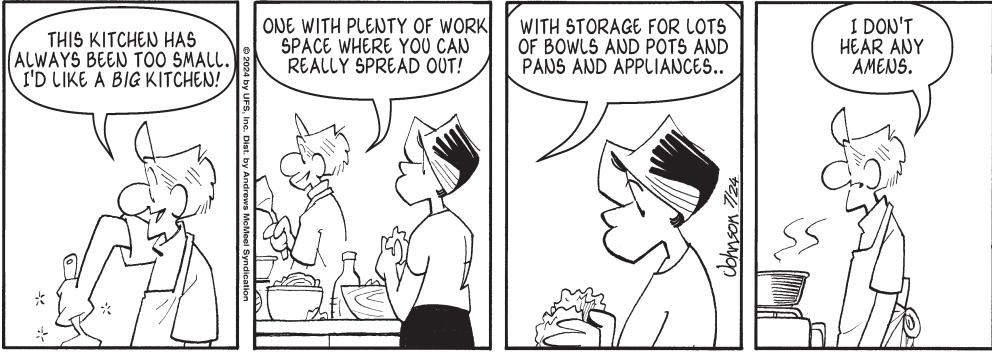
Your daughter should know you always wanted her in your life, but that the estrangement was their father's punishment for you. Reinforce that you never stopped loving, missing or thinking about them and they are part of you. Living in different states may make things more challenging, but you may be able to establish a friendship and visit your daughter in the future.

DEAR RECONNECTING: It is wonderful that after all these years you have finally been able to

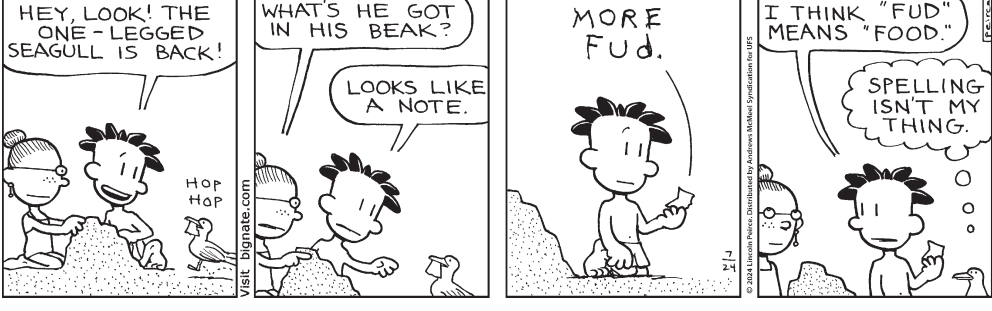
## ALLEY OOP



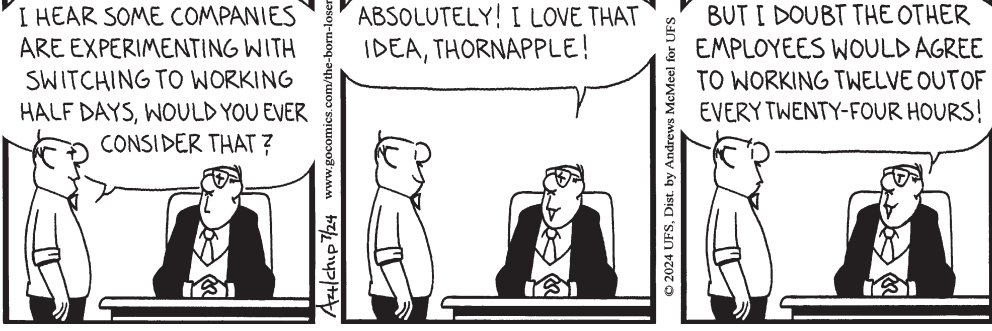
## ARLO & JANIS



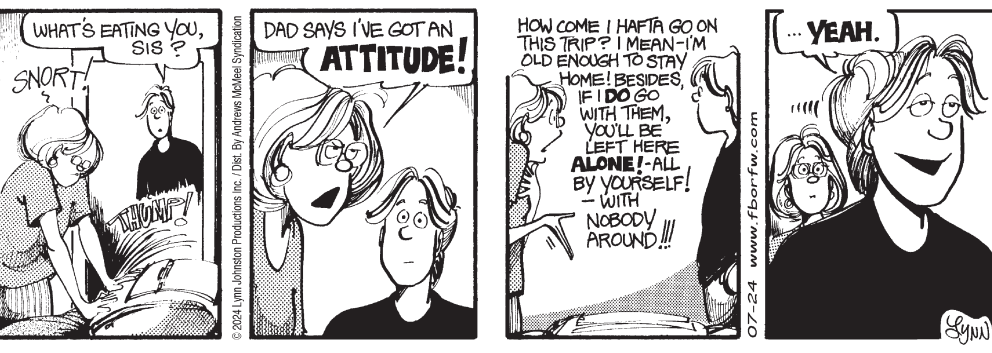
## BIG NATE



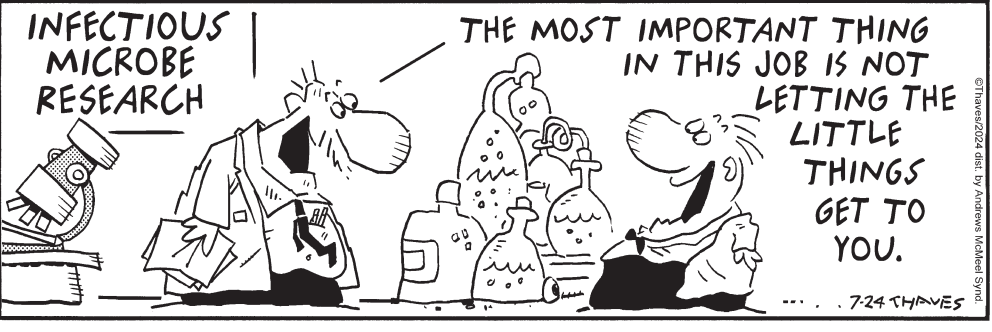
## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



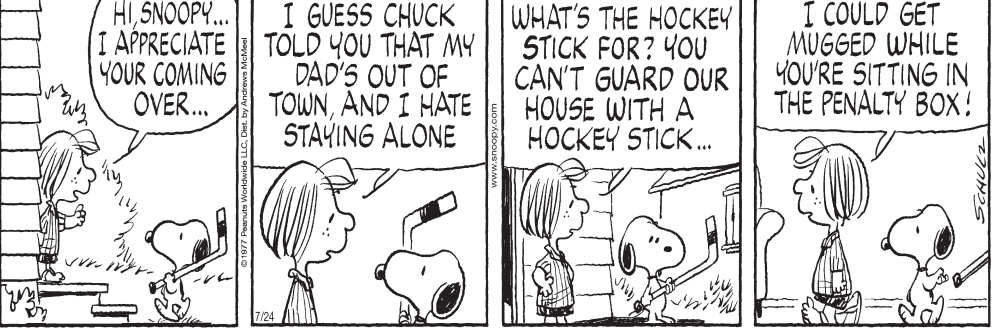
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



# Lifestyle

## What to expect at your next eye exam

(METRO) – Regular eye examinations are important components of a personal health regimen. Visiting an eye doctor can alert a person to potential vision impairments, and certain symptoms that show up in the eyes could be indicative of notable health problems. The American Academy of Ophthalmology says everything from brain tumors to aneurysms to high cholesterol can be detected in the eyes.

For those who do not have any apparent vision problems, most doctors recommend following a chart based on age. The insurance experts at Aetna suggest the following age-

based intervals:

- Ages 20 to 39: Every five years
- Ages 40 to 54: Every two to four years
- Ages 55 to 64: Every one to three years
- Ages 65 and up: Every one to two years

Individuals who wear glasses or contact lenses, have a family history of eye disease, or have a chronic condition that puts them at risk for eye disease, like diabetes, should get vision exams more frequently.

Despite the significance of eye exams, many people do not visit an eye doctor until something is amiss with their vision or eyes. Perhaps individuals would

be inclined to visit the eye doctor more frequently if they knew what to expect during an exam. Here's what people can expect the next time they step into a private eye doctor's office or a vision center, courtesy of The Cleveland Clinic and Warby Parker.

- Visual acuity: The eye doctor will ask you to read an eye chart while looking through a device called a phoropter. This device has several lenses that can be adjusted to help you see better and find the right corrective lens prescription.

- Visual field: The doctor will check peripheral vision by holding up a finger or an object and mov-

ing it gradually to the side of your face. Additional movements may include up and down. Some offices use a computer program to conduct this test.

- Automatic refraction: Visual acuity can be measured with this test, during which an autorefractor shines light into the eye and measures the eye's response. It's commonly used with children or adults who may struggle to communicate what they're seeing.

- Pupil function: The eye doctor will briefly shine a handheld light into each eye and then move the light away to watch how the pupils constrict and dilate.



METRO photo

These are some of the things people may experience during a comprehensive vision exam.

- Slit lamp exam: This test involves a slit lamp, which is a type of microscope that enables the eye doctor to see the eyes in close detail.

- Tonometry measurement: Glaucoma occurs when intraocular pressure is high. Some eye doctors will conduct tests to determine the pressure. One way is with a non-contact tonometry test, which is a puff of air squirted at each eye. With applanation tonometry, the doctor first administers a mild numbing agent to the eye, and then uses a pressure-sensitive instrument to gently tap on the surface of the eye to get a pres-

sure reading. A rebound tonometry test requires a handheld device that makes brief contact to the eye and doesn't require local anesthesia.

- Pupil dilation: The eye doctor will administer eye drops that dilate the pupils, which enables a better view of the retina, optic nerve, cornea, and surrounding blood vessels during an ophthalmoscopy.

- Special photography: The eye doctor may utilize specialized imaging equipment that will take digital images of the eyes to diagnose various retinal, optic nerve and corneal conditions.

## Conservative group submits 200,000 signatures for property tax cut measure

By CHASE WOODRUFF  
*Colorado Newswire*

Two conservative groups backing a 2024 ballot measure to slash Colorado's property tax rates say they've submitted nearly 200,000 voter signatures in support of their initiative to the secretary of state's office.

That total far exceeds the minimum threshold of 124,238 valid signatures required for Proposed Initiative 108, backed by Advance Colorado and Colorado Concern, to qualify for the 2024 ballot, where it would join Proposed Initiative 50, a companion measure supported by the same groups. Initiative 108 would cut property tax assessment rates beginning next year, while Initiative 50 would cap their future growth at 4% annually.

A nonpartisan state fiscal analysis estimates that Initiative 108's property tax cut would blow a \$3 billion hole in state and local budgets beginning in 2025, a shortfall that would rise in subsequent years, especially if Initiative 50 is passed alongside it.

In a press release, Michael Fields, president of Advance Colorado, called the group's proposals a "common-sense plan to cut and cap Colorado property taxes."

"We can responsibly cut taxes back to near-2022 levels, protect local services, and cap future tax increases so these massive tax hikes can't happen again," Fields said.

Advance Colorado is a so-called dark money nonprofit that has spent millions in recent years to influence state elections but is not required to disclose its donors. Colorado Concern is an influential business group governed by a board of Colorado-based corporate executives.

At 0.55%, Colorado's effective property tax rates were the third-lowest of any state in the nation in 2021, according to data from the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation. Since then, in response to a spike in home values, state lawmakers have cut assessment rates twice to drive the rate even lower, but Advance Colorado and Colorado Concern say it's not enough.

If enough of the 200,000 signatures the groups submitted Tuesday are deemed to be valid by the secretary of state's verification process, the measure will qualify for the November ballot. Initiative 50, which as a constitutional amendment must receive at least 55% of the vote to pass, was certified for the ballot last year.

City and county governments, school districts, fire districts and other local jurisdictions would be substantially impacted by the cut-and-cap plan. Three-quarters of the \$3 billion shortfall for local taxing districts would be reimbursed from the state's general fund and other

sources, but that would in turn reduce the amount of state funding available for higher education, Medicaid and other services.

Supporters of bipartisan tax relief legislation passed by state lawmakers in May warned of the consequences of Initiatives 108 and 50, which

Scott Wasserman, former president of the Bell Policy Center, said would be "disastrous." State Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer, a Weld County Republican, said at the time that going any further with cuts to property taxes would result in "seriously crippling the state's budget."

MANY CHILDREN BEGIN SCHOOL AROUND AGE 5 OR 6 BY ENROLLING IN THIS GRADE.

ANSWER: KINDERGARTEN

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Educate  
**SPANISH:** Educar  
**ITALIAN:** Istruire  
**FRENCH:** Instruire  
**GERMAN:** Ausbilden

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9			10
	7	10	20
15		8	28
27	12	19	

*Solution*

8	5	51
01	7	8
1	0	6

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

- 1854: AMERICAN WRITER HENRY DAVID THOREAU PUBLISHES HIS MEMOIR "WALDEN."
- 1907: THE FIRST BOY SCOUT ENCAMPMENT CONCLUDES AT BROWNSEA ISLAND IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND.
- 1999: RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN FIRES HIS PRIME MINISTER SERGEI STEPASHIN.

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

N I F D R Y U O S E K D

*Answer: Find your desk*

### New word

**MATRICULATE**

to be enrolled in a college or university

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### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

*ANSWER: SCHOOL LUNCH TRAY*

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