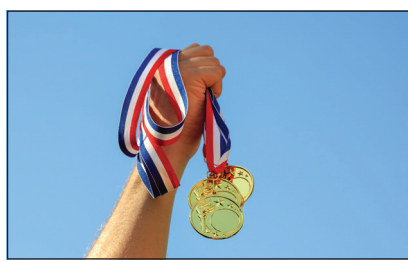




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VOLUME 98, NO. 120

Valley Courier

SATURDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

July 27, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Chip seal to begin July 30 on US 285

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Beginning Tuesday, July 30, the Colorado Department of Transportation will perform surface treatment on a 7-mile segment of US Highway 285 (Mile Points 94 to 101).

Motorists traveling between Saguache and the junction of Colorado Highway 17 should plan for additional travel time through Thursday evening. Motorists will encounter full stops, up to 30-minute delays and will be guided by a pilot car through the work zone.

CDOT reminds motorists that following posted speeds is necessary to avoid vehicle damage in the chip seal work zone. Additionally, traffic entering the highway from driveways or intersections must wait for a flagger.

All work is weather dependent. Motorists are encouraged to check the most current traffic impacts on COtrip.org.

Traffic Impacts
• Daytime work hours range from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

• Motorists should plan for 20-to-30-minute delays and should allow for extra travel time

• Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel and pilot cars

• Motorists entering the highway from a driveway or intersection must wait for a pilot car

• A speed reduction of 40 mph will be enforced through the work zone

Joint service at Little Shepherd in the Hills

The congregants of St. Stephen the Martyr Episcopal Church, Monte Vista, will join those of Little Shepherd in the Hills, Crestone, for an outdoor service of Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 28. A potluck lunch will follow the service.

All are welcome to enjoy the fellowship of community and the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist in a beautiful outdoor setting. Note that there will be no service at St. Stephen's on that day. Services resume the following Sunday at 10 a.m. at 3rd and Washington streets in Monte Vista.

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 83/48

Sun: Sunny, Breezy 85/46

Mon: Sunny, Breezy 86/48

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Conover celebrates 'Cheap Land Colorado' in paperback

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — On Tuesday, July 30, Ted Conover's highly praised book "Cheap Land Colorado: Off-Gridders at American's Edge" is coming out in paperback, and Conover is choosing Milagro's Coffee House in Alamosa as the first event of his publicity tour. Sponsored by Narrow Gauge Books, the evening will begin at 6 p.m.

"Cheap Land Colorado" is the product of four years Conover spent, off and on, among a community of off-gridders living in the San Luis Valley. Observing without preconception and then writing without judgment,

Conover tells the stories of people he came to know, in, some cases, very well. Their histories are as varied as one would expect among those who have deliberately distanced themselves from others, revealing some who are generous and welcoming, others who are angry and distrusting and still others on their way to becoming one or the other.

"Cheap Land Colorado" was first published in November of 2022 and was immediately hailed as another great work by the Pulitzer finalist and winner of the National Critics Circle Award who was described by the New York Times as "one of our great narrative journalists."

Reviewing for the Washington Post, Jennifer Reese wrote, "With his thorough and compassionate reportage, Conover conjures a vivid, mysterious subculture populated by men and women with riveting stories to tell. To read 'Cheap Land Colorado' is to take a drive through a disquieting, beguiling landscape with an openhearted guide, windows down, snacks in the cooler, no GPS. It's a ride I didn't want to end."

For those who have not yet read the book, Tuesday evening is an opportunity to pick up a paperback copy and listen to the man who lived the story.

■ See **CONOVER** page 3



Photo by Margo Guralnick
Author and journalist Ted Conover will be at Milagros on the evening of Tuesday, July 30, to tell stories and talk about his bestseller.

Unions are opposed to possible supermarket merger

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

VALLEY — In 2022, the Kroger Company proposed merging with Albertsons Stores, owner of Safeway supermarkets. As part of the proposed merger, 579 Safeway stores and distribution hubs will be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers to satisfy antitrust regulations and not concentrate supermarket ownership.

Kroger owns the City Market brand, and Albertsons owns Safeway; both have stores in Alamosa. The Alamosa Safeway store is included in the plan to sell stores to C&S.

The attorney generals of Colorado and Washington, the Federal Trade Commission, and unions have opposed the merger.

Many workers at the stores are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7 (UFCW), representing 23,000 members in the grocery, meat packing, food processing, healthcare, manufacturing, and cannabis industries across Colorado. The union is part of the Stop the Merger Coalition, including over 100 national, state, and local organizations that oppose the merger.

Manuel Medina is a union steward with the UFCW and has worked as a manager at the Monte Vista Safeway store for 15 years. In an interview with the Valley Courier, he said this



Courier photo by John Waters

The Safeway store in Alamosa may be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers as part of a plan to divest stores to facilitate a merger between Kroger and Albertsons Stores.

regarding the proposed merger, "It is scary. We don't know if they are going to close the store or keep it open. There are no guarantees on what they are planning."

Medina added, "They just announced they are going to sell us [Monte Vista] to King Soopers and Alamosa [Safeway] to C&S. There is no guarantee. In the past, when Albertsons bought Safeway, they told the workers the same thing, 'We're not going to close any stores. Everything is going to be fine.' And then all the sudden, they started closing stores...there is no guarantee."

In a statement issued by the Stop the Merger Coalition, Bill

Valdez, a UFCW member from Colorado Springs said, "As a member of our last collective bargaining team, I'm worried about how the merger would impact our ability to advocate for better wages, good health benefits and a strong pension."

Elizabeth Battiste, public information officer with UFCW told the Valley Courier, "There is no guarantee these stores will remain open, this creates a lot of uncertainty across Colorado and the country. We've seen in previous mergers that stores have closed. There was a disastrous merger between Albertsons and Hagen. This was considered to

■ See **MERGER** page 3

Deputy fatally shoots suspect near Crestone

Man attacked deputy with metal pipe, CBI reported

CONTRIBUTED CRESTONE — A pipe-wielding suspect was fatally shot by a Saguache County Sheriff's Office deputy Thursday afternoon near Crestone, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. CBI is now assisting the Saguache County Sheriff's Office with the investigation of the fatal shooting.

At approximately noon on Thursday, July 25, a SCSO deputy was driving near the town of Crestone to serve papers when he observed a 40-year-old white man walking about a mile from the entrance of the Baca Grande Subdivision. The deputy recognized the man as having an active warrant, CBI reported.

■ See **SUSPECT** page 3

MV hires McDonagh as new MVPD police chief

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA —

Sean McDonagh is excited to be Monte Vista's new police chief. McDonagh and his family moved to Monte Vista from Rocky Ford.

"The former police chief did such a wonderful job here," McDonagh said. "I feel good here. It's such a professionally run city. I feel very welcomed here. I look forward to trying to maintain what the chief has done, and safety is my number one concern always."

McDonagh was born and raised in Australia where he became a law enforcement officer. Mc-

Donagh held several different positions in law enforcement in Australia, including being part of an intelligence response team, he was highway patrolman, and a commander and a supervisor. McDonagh moved to the United States in 2016. He has traveled all over the 50 states with his family since moving to the U.S. McDonagh moved to Colorado in 2022.

McDonagh was most recently the chief of police in Rocky Ford, where he helped rebuild a police force that only had three officers on staff when he started.

"I had taken that de-

partment from being nothing short of a mess, to being fully staffed with a waiting list, when I decided to leave," he said.

When McDonagh heard of the vacancy in the Monte Vista Police Department, due to Chief George Dingfelder being hired in the same role

■ See **CHIEF** page 3

New Monte Vista Police Department Chief Sean McDonagh, left, takes a photo with MV City Manager Gigi Dennis, right, during the Stampede Parade. McDonagh was recently hired to be the new chief in Monte Vista.

Courtesy photo



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Record

Despite good natural conditions, human-bear conflict spiking across southwest Colorado

CONTRIBUTED DURANGO — Wildlife officers across southwest Colorado have seen a considerable increase in human-bear conflict in July, a worrisome trend well ahead of hyperphagia.

“We are having to handle a lot of bears right now,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta of Durango. “It’s been hot and heavy here for the last two or three weeks, and it’s not showing signs of slowing down.”

“We know people hear this from us all the time, but we really need the public to do their part right now. Properly securing your trash and removing attractants is the first thing people can do to help.”

Conflicts have risen to the point where officers from the Durango area office have had to set significantly more traps compared to the same date a year ago. CPW will not trap bears in every conflict situation but will instead aim to start with an assessment of potential attractants, education and discussions of ways to prevent conflict longer term.

“We always want to intervene before it’s necessary to set a trap, but too often we are getting reports weeks after the initial conflict and once prob-

lems escalate to the point where human health and safety is at risk,” Archuleta said. “If we can get reports the first time there is an incident, we can proactively work to educate, remove attractants and give advice on securing attractants so that a trap may not need to be set.”

During most years, bear activity ramps up in late summer and fall as bears enter hyperphagia, so the early conflicts already reported have wildlife managers concerned about the forecast for upcoming months.

“It’s weird because things are green, we’ve had decent moisture and natural food is available, so it’s hard to explain why we are having so many issues,” Archuleta said. “But what we know is that it’s critical for people to call our office when they first start having conflicts with bears so we can try to solve issues before they become conflicts.”

Conflict in La Plata and Montezuma counties has primarily been centered around juvenile bears that likely have not carved out their territory in the high country or in drainages. Conflicts in the high country have been relatively few, as there is a good supply of natural forage this year and conditions suggest a

strong acorn crop in the fall.

But bears living in marginal habitats can lead to increased human-bear conflict, making it even more important for humans to remove attractants from their homes or keep a clean camp.

“Incidents start with a bear getting into one cooler at a campground, and then a few weeks later, we have a bear getting into a tent or leaning on hard-sided campers,” Archuleta said. “Or you have a bear that gets into trash, pet food left outside or a bird feeder, and then a week later, bears are getting through screen doors and windows or walking into a house through an opened sliding door. The incidents people think are small – like that cooler or pet food – lead to behavior that presents a danger to human health and safety.”

Issues elsewhere in the Southwest Region of CPW are primarily related to hobby livestock.

“We’ve had a lot of food-source issues so far,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Rachel Sralla out of Montrose. “We are really encouraging people to protect hobby livestock, even when it’s close to a home, with electric fencing. Electricity is an excellent bear deterrent. Electric mats or ‘unwel-



Courtesy photo

An adult male (boar) black bear is released from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife trap after being relocated from underneath a porch in Pagosa Springs.

come mats’ can help keep bears out of unattended cabins and homes.”

Kevin Bryan, District Wildlife Manager in Cedaredge, said it is up to all of us to do our part to keep bears wild and away from human development. He recommends always cleaning a BBQ grill after use, safely securing trash and taking down bird feeders.

“When you live in bear habitat, there should be an obligation to mitigate conflict. It’s not asking too much to get rid of or bring in bird feeders at night, including hummingbird feeders,” Bryan

said. “Multiple people I have spoken with this year appear to not realize that bears are attracted to hummingbird feeders. Of course, trash remains our state’s No. 1 cause of human-bear conflict. Making sure you are securing your trash and not putting it out on the curb until the morning of pickup is always the most important thing you can do.”

“As this year is proving, just because you haven’t seen a bear in several years, doesn’t mean that one won’t show up this week and take advantage of a human food source. Make those food sources

unavailable and a bear will move on.”

One concern CPW is aware of from the public is a reluctance to report bear activity over a belief it will lead to the bear being put down. Data shows that of the 3,526 reports wildlife managers received on bears in 2023, only 1.8% led to euthanization. The vast majority of conflict reports led to wildlife officers getting involved early enough to intervene, reduce conflict and prevent the need to euthanize a bear.

To report bear activity, call the local CPW office directly.

Ladies Aid thanks community for continued support

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — The Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility was packed to the brim on July 17 with well over 200 people mulling around looking for treasures provided by generous donations and the efforts of Creede Ladies Aid Society. The annual Ladies Aid Rummage sale was off to a great start and there was no slowing it down.

Eager shoppers were greeted at the entrance by volunteers and members of the organization who were happy to offer a friendly smile and give personalized suggestions of where to start. From books of every genre to trinkets perfect for a country home, there was something for everyone.

Ladies Aid member Lori Dooley was one of the many organizers for the event and said, “We were so blessed this year. We have never had this amount of donations to deal with and luckily,

we have some great businesses down Valley who are willing to help us with what is left over. We were taking donations weeks before the actual event and our storage facilities were plum full. It is just so heart filling to have this much support for what we do and the community we serve.”

Creede Ladies Aid is the oldest organization in Creede and is celebrating their quasiquintennial year. For 125 years, this wonderful organization has served the community through their several charitable efforts.

The final numbers for the event have yet to be tallied.

The time and effort that goes into the preparation of this event is one that takes a village to create and each of the members along with a large sprinkling of volunteers is the sole reason the rummage sale brings so much joy to the community in Creede.

The following is a list of services Ladies Aid of-



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Creede Ladies Aid Rummage Sale was considered a success by the group that is celebrating 125 years as an organization.

fers the Creede community and where the money goes from the sale:

- assist with rent
- assist with medical bills
- assist with heating bills and firewood
- contribute to the Creede Early Learning Center
- contribute to the Mineral County Anti-

otic Program

- arranging bereavement dinners for local families, when asked
- contribute to the Senior Lunch Program
- contribute to the Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility
- contribute to the Creede Community Church
- contribute to the Creede Repertory Theatre’s Friday Youth Camp
- assist with veterinary bills
- provide sewn fabric bags (made by the Sewing Sisters) full of toiletries to migrant workers in the Valley
- provide fabric bags (sewn by the Sewing Sisters) and age-appropriate toiletries to kids placed in emergency foster care
- donate quilts, neck

pillows, walker bags, blankets, dining “coveralls” and more items sewn by the Sewing Sisters to Veterans at Homelake

• Sewing Sisters gift each new Creede baby with a handmade quilt.

- provide a cash gift, card and cookies at Christmas to Veterans at Homelake

Also, Ladies Aid:

- distributes homemade cookies at Christmas to local businesses as a token of thanks
- prepares food for Creede’s Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- sells cookbooks available in local shops as a fundraiser
- makes a chocolate treat entry for the town’s Chocolate Festival contest during Thanksgiving weekend

• sells homemade crafts during the Chocolate Festival and through December at the “Christmas Corner” set up in the Creede Community Church

• makes the “World Famous” chili rellenos casseroles to sell at the annual rummage sale

The organization is always seeking new members. Anyone who would like to be a part of this group, can reach out to President Janet Harrison at janetbalthesharrison@gmail.com.

OBITUARY

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, Ellie. 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.

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

School Menu
Monday
July 29, 2024

We hope you enjoyed your Meals! See you when school starts August 8th!

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

Valley News

Dark Sky program at Great Sand Dunes

CONTRIBUTED GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE — Join the park service on Aug. 3 at Great Sand Dunes in celebrating the dark sky. This

year the special presenter is Kozmic Kyle. The presentation will start at 8:45 p.m. Until modern times, every culture has looked to the skies to find their direction, set their calen-

dar, record their stories, and contemplate their place in this amazing cosmos. Rather than retelling the stories from the ancient Greek perspective, we will create new connections with the

stars based on your experiences. You will learn to use a monthly star map to find your new stories in the real night sky. This program is interactive and best for ages 7-adult (but all are welcome). If

you can, bring a red light and a pencil or pen for drawing on your skymap. Kozmic Kyle has been a planetarium educator for 25 years and helped set up planetarium education programs in the UK, Poland, Ghana, Kenya, and many places in the US. He is especially interested in helping empower Indigenous cul-

tures around the world to use modern planetarium tools to record, preserve and teach their own cultural knowledge in a good way. He looks forward to moving from cloudy, light polluted Seattle into the San Luis Valley's dark skies. Call the park at 719-378-6395, for exact location and other details.

Alamosa County employees



Photo by County Administrator Roni Wisdom

On July 24, the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners celebrated the outstanding third quarter employees. From left to right are, Commissioner Lori Laske, Bev Strnad, Lena Martinez, Sheriff Robert Jackson, Dan Garcia, Commissioner Vern Heersink, and Commissioner Arlan Van Ry. Not pictured: Diedre Todd.



Courtesy photo

A Dark Sky program is set for Aug. 3 at Great Sand Dunes.

Merger

Continued from Page 1
be an absolute disaster. We are very concerned about this merger and the impact on rural communities like Alamosa. These stores are a community hub where people go to get food and prescriptions filled and also the center of our communities." Albertsons purchased Safeway in 2015 and divested 146 stores to a supermarket chain called Haggen to secure regulatory antitrust approval. Haggen, which was majority-owned by a private equity firm, was unprepared to manage the expansion. Seven months after acquiring the stores, Haggen filed for bankruptcy and closed 127 of them. In 1998, Albertsons bought a Montana grocer, Buttery Food and Drug, and agreed with the Federal Trade Commission to divest 15 stores. An analysis by

the news site Boise Dev concluded 13 of the 15 locations divested had closed. According to a statement from Kroger, "The proposed merger will create meaningful and measurable benefits for America's consumers, Kroger and Albertsons Cos. associates, and communities that both Kroger and Albertsons Cos. serve by expanding access to fresh, affordable food and establishing a more compelling alternative to large, non-union retailers." Rodney McMullen, Kroger's Chairman and CEO said in a statement, "We have reached an agreement with C&S for an updated divestiture package that maintains Kroger's commitments to customers, associates and communities, addresses concerns raised by regulators, and will further ensure that C&S can successfully operate the divested stores as they are operated today." McMullen added, "Im-

portantly, the updated divestiture plan continues to ensure no stores will close as a result of the merger and that all frontline associates will remain employed, all existing collective bargaining agreements will continue, and associates will continue to receive industry-leading health care and pension benefits alongside bargained-for wages. Our proposed merger with Albertsons will bring lower prices and more choices to more customers and secure the long-term future of unionized grocery jobs." The Kroger Company's annual report boasts this regarding its employees, "We prioritized investment in our people. We strive to create a culture of opportunity for more than 414,000 associates and take seriously our role as a leading employer in the United States. In 2023, we invested more than ever in our associates by continuing to raise our average hourly wage

to nearly \$19, or nearly \$25, including industry-leading benefits." In 2023, McMullen received \$18.1 million in total compensation, and several executives were paid between \$4.3 million to \$5.9 million. Breaking up is hard to do. If either Kroger or Albertsons pulls out of the merger, Kroger is liable for a \$600 million breakup fee. According to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, "Parent will be obligated to pay a termination fee of \$600 million if the Merger Agreement is terminated by either party in connection with the occurrence of the Outside Date..." If the deal fails, Albertsons walks away with \$600 million. What might happen to Safeway employees if C&S buys the stores where they work? Rick Cohen is the executive chairman of C&S and the CEO of warehouse

robotic firm Symbotic. According to the company, "It is an automation technology leader reimagining the supply chain with its end-to-end, A.I.-powered [artificial intelligence] robotic and software platform. Symbotic reinvents the warehouse as a strategic asset for the world's largest retail, wholesale, and food & beverage companies... Symbotic enables companies to move goods with un-

matched speed, agility, accuracy and efficiency." In May, Symbotic posted quarterly revenue of \$424 million, which translates to almost \$1.7 billion worth of warehouse robots sold annually. The Kroger Albertsons deal is mired in litigation. Earlier this week, a Denver District Judge granted a preliminary injunction and canceled the Aug. 12 hearing on the matter. began performing life-saving measures, but the suspect was pronounced deceased at the scene. The deputy was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated and released for minor injuries. The identity of the decedent is not being released until his family has been notified, CBI reported. An autopsy is pending.

Suspect

Continued from Page 1
The deputy attempted to talk with the male suspect when the man began attacking the deputy with a 4-foot metal pipe, according to CBI. The deputy pulled out his service weapon and fired twice, hitting the suspect. The deputy immediately



Chief

Continued from Page 1
in neighboring Alamosa, McDonagh decided to apply for the position and got it. "I decided to rejoin law enforcement because of the recruitment and retention issues that are so prevalent throughout the country at police departments. I was retired from Australia, but I am not a citizen here, so there are only certain places in the country that I can work legally, Colorado is one of those places that's why I landed here," he said. McDonagh's introduction to the community was during the Ski-Hi

Stampede. He talked to a lot of people during the event. "I made a full effort for Stampede," McDonagh said with a chuckle. "What I understand from speaking with members of the public is that drugs are a real issue. The police department is really focused on that issue. I want to work on that." McDonagh said that he is involved in working on bills that are going through legislation, mentioning that many police chiefs network in Colorado, once a week, to talk about the bills, and how they can support them. "I think it's important for us in these rural areas to represent ourselves in

this legislative stage, otherwise the big cities dictate what happens otherwise. It's important to work with other chiefs on any laws that could benefit Monte Vista," he said. McDonagh said that he is also big on networking because he has seen a lot of positive changes come from it. "One thing I did in Rocky Ford was repair a lot of relationships that were severed with issues at the department. I rectified those relationships for them with the FBI, local agencies, and CBI. These are very important relationships to have. I am big on networking," he said. McDonagh said com-

munity involvement is important for him. "We need the community as much as the police department. That is how we achieve common goals and optimum public safety, is by working together," he said. "I know that it is such a broad term (public safety), but we need to use the powers that we are vested with to improve public safety." McDonagh also spoke of the importance of having good interactions with adults in the community and with children. "Children really need that good interaction, as sometimes their first interaction with law enforcement can dictate

their overall perception and can be negative. I want to improve that overall perception by interacting with kids in a positive way at an early age," he said. McDonagh said that the previous chief left the agency in a great place, and he is looking forward to building on that. "It's a very friendly place and I am enjoying it. I enjoy the community a lot. Community engagement balances out the negative sides of the job that we all experience. It makes you realize that there are still good people in the world. I am happy to be here," he said.

Conover

Continued from Page 1
And, for those who are already familiar with "Cheap Land Colorado," the paperback edition contains a new epilogue with updates on the book's main characters. When asked why he chose Alamosa as the inaugural site for the publicity tour, Conover says, "I will take any

opportunity to be in the Valley — this will be my third visit so far this year. Beyond that, the community really turned out for the book's original launch, in November 2022 — both for the original event at Milagros Coffee House and for my conversation with President David Tandberg at Adams State. And finally, it's particularly gratifying for an author to speak to

an audience that already knows something about the subject — that's something you can't find in New York!" During the event Tuesday evening, Conover plans to "give a talk and brief reading and take questions. I may also tell about the article I reported on for Outside this spring about the two sisters (and teenage son of one of them) who 'went off-grid' near Gunnison

the summer before last and died." He goes on to add, "And yes, I'll happily sign everyone's copies of the book." Anyone who has been to one of Conover's events connected with "Cheap Land Colorado" knows the man is a master storyteller who does not disappoint. So, mark it on your calendars: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 30, Milagros Coffee House, 539 Main St., Alamosa.

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Opinion

Hammering has stopped

By STEVEN ROBERTS

Can Kamala Harris beat Donald Trump? If not, can she at least help Democrats capture the House of Representatives and establish guardrails around a second Trump term?

Those are unanswerable questions right now. But a few factors are undeniable. Harris is not Joe Biden. She is 59, not 81. She doesn't stumble on stairs. She is not shackled by a dismal debate performance. She deprives Trump of his single best argument, Biden's age and frailty.

In fact, the age issue now focuses on Trump, who is 78 and would be older than Biden is today if he were to complete a second term. As Rachel Maddow put it on MSNBC, "The old man in the race now is Donald Trump."

With Biden's withdrawal, the biggest feeling among Democrats is simply relief. For the last month, they've been shocked and traumatized. When you've been hitting yourself on the head with a hammer for that long, it feels really good when you stop.

That relief has triggered a burst of energy. The Harris campaign announced they had raised \$81 million during her first day as a candidate, which The New York Times described as "one of the greatest gushers of cash of all time."

Until now, Democrats have been facing a severe intensity gap. An NBC poll recently reported that while 71% of Republicans were "satisfied" with Trump leading their ticket, only 33% of Democrats felt that way about Biden.

Intensity matters deeply in politics. Not all votes are equal. Energized supporters are more likely to give money, talk to their friends and find a way to vote, even if it's raining or the babysitter doesn't show up.

Harris is unlikely to convince a single red-hatted Trump loyalist to switch sides, but she doesn't have to. Her task is to motivate and inspire the Democratic base, which is a proven majority in most of the critical swing states.

Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Arizona all backed Biden in 2020. All have Democratic governors, and six of their eight senators are Democrats as well. Georgia and Nevada, which also favored Biden, have Republican governors but four Democratic senators.

Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn., told Politico that the sense of relief in party ranks after the president's decision was "really palpable ... It has lifted the angst that was like a pall over our party." Former Rep. Dale Kildee, D-Mich., stated: "I love Joe Biden, but I think it's a fact that we were having a difficult time activating our base. We have that problem solved."

Well, not quite. Harris is far from an ideal candidate. She ran a dreadful race for the party's nomination in 2020 and now faces the classic dilemma that plagues any vice president who tries to claim the Oval Office. You have to defend your record while arguing you're a change agent at the same time. That's an inherently mixed message, and she cannot escape the administration's damaging reputation on inflation and immigration.

Harris doesn't have Biden's age problems, but she comes with vulnerabilities of her own. Republican talking points are already branding her "an extreme San Francisco progressive" and highlighting her support for left-wing ideas like the Green New Deal and "Medicare for All."

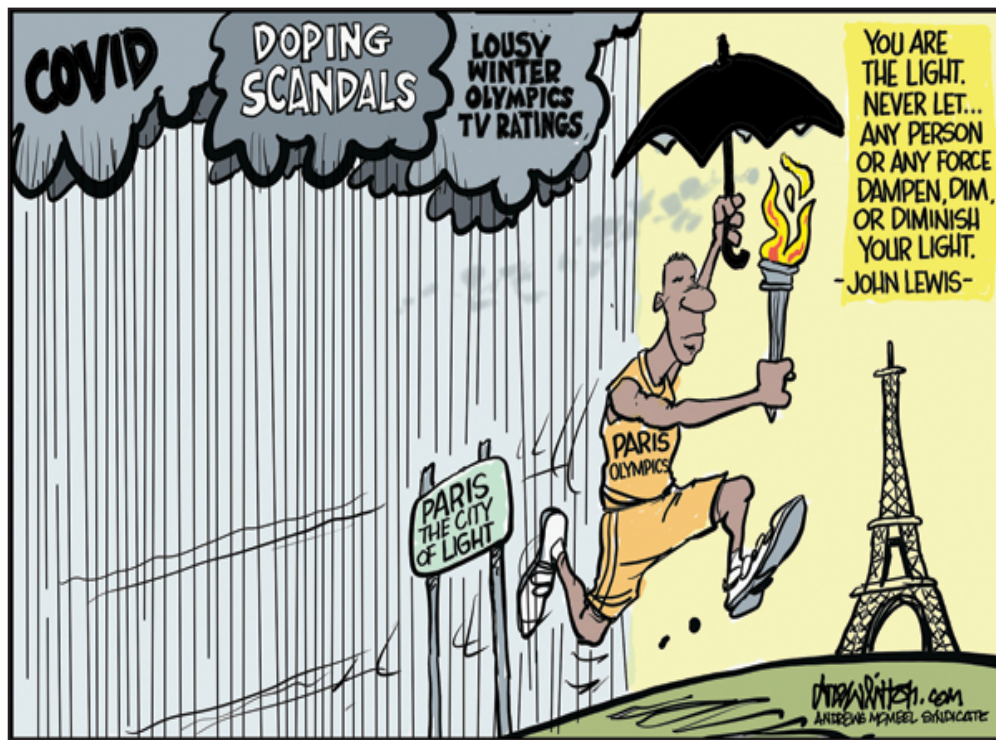
Like others who served in the Biden White House, she has to answer legitimate questions about why they concealed evidence of the president's obvious decline. And Trump, who used sexist tropes to help sink Hillary Clinton in 2016, is at it again, saying, "I call her Laughing Kamala. Have you watched her laugh? She is crazy."

But Harris also brings assets to the battle that Biden lacks. As a woman, she is far better equipped to emphasize the issue of abortion, which the Republicans fear so strongly that they barely mentioned the word during their convention. As a seasoned prosecutor, she is well-placed to remind voters that she's facing a convicted felon.

An attack ad she produced five years ago is now going viral with this prescient message: "I prosecuted sex predators. Trump is one. I shut down for-profit scam colleges. He ran one. I held big banks accountable. He's owned by them. I'm not just prepared to take on Trump, I'm prepared to beat him."

That's not at all clear yet. The election is 100 days away, and as The Economist puts it, "Ms. Harris still has room to rise -- or fall." But with her at the top of the ticket, Democrats are in better shape than they were just a few days ago. The hammering has stopped.

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.



To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

The prosecutor vs. the felon

By ANN COULTER

I see that Democrats are going with the image of Kamala Harris as a bad-ass prosecutor.

Hey, wait! Maybe now they'll finally have an opportunity to mention that Donald Trump is a CONVICTED FELON. Did you know he was found guilty of THIRTY-FOUR FELONIES by a jury? (I'm not sure where, but it must have been in a neutral jurisdiction.)

Thus, Harris' first speech since becoming the presumptive Democratic nominee began with her boasting about the cases she'd handled as San Francisco district attorney: "Predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump's type."

OK, Democrats, you want to make this campaign about crime? Game on. Guess who is one of the principal figures responsible for the crime wave currently engulfing California?

That would be Kamala Harris. As attorney general, it was her job to give propositions appearing on the ballot accurate titles and explanatory summaries. In order to fool the voters into passing Proposition 47 -- decriminalizing crime -- and Proposition 57 -- allowing the release of thousands of violent criminals -- Harris intentionally lied to the voters about what these laws would do.

Proposition 47 basically turned every crime into a "misdemeanor." Grand theft, commercial burglary and possession of illegal narcotics -- all misdemeanors.

Theft of anything worth less than \$950 -- even theft of a gun -- became a misdemeanor, no more consequential than a waiter giving a straw to someone who didn't ask for one. As Californians have since learned, that \$950 cap does not include the tens of thousands of dollars required to repair smashed car windows, store fronts or display cases.

As a result, smash-and-grab robberies have become the new sport in the Golden State, leaving entire inner-city neighborhoods without a pharmacy. The police don't even respond to thefts of less than \$950. Retail stores have to keep their entire inventory under lock and key, including ordinary items, like shampoo and toothpaste -- and those are the ones that aren't closing permanently. San Francisco's landmark Union Square shopping district is now

plastered with "For Lease" and "Going Out of Business" signs. Roughly 50% of all videos on the internet are clips of California "teens" dashing out of upscale stores with armloads of stolen goods -- Gucci, Prada, Burberry, Louis Vuitton.

Last year, Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco topped the list of the U.S. cities with the most retail theft, according to the National Retail Federation. A fourth California city, Sacramento, came in at No. 7. These days, when a customer tries to actually pay for something, the cashier calls the manager.

The shoplifting is so pervasive that, earlier this year, a Target shoplifter strolled out of the store right past Gov. Gavin Newsom. During a CNN report on the rash of thefts in San Francisco, three shoplifters hit the CVS as they were filming.

Also good for business: Tourists are warned not to rent cars, because they'll only be broken into. Drug addicts clog the sidewalks, writhing in their own needles and fecal matter.

How did Harris describe a proposition that would declare open season on the law-abiding? She titled Prop 47 "The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act," something I cannot even say without doing air quotes.

For her next act of breathtaking mendacity, Harris deceived voters about Prop 57, which allowed the early release of thousands of violent criminals, including those convicted of attempted murder, grand theft, child molestation, drug use and possession and drive-by shootings.

Among the violent offenders given early release because of Prop 57 is Gregory Gadlin, sentenced to 35 years to life for assaulting his girlfriend with a 7-inch butcher knife, slashing her in the face, back, stomach and hand, leaving her with limited mobility.

Gadlin had previously been convicted of raping his 11-year-old niece, forcing her to orally copulate him and urinating in her mouth.

And before that, Gadlin was convicted of rape and sodomy of a pregnant 17-year-old. He'd offered to drive the girl to a hospital after she'd been attacked by two girls but, instead, took her to his home, where he hit her in the face, raped her, sodomized her and forced her to orally copulate him.

Another violent criminal released under Prop 57 was Luis Steven Flores, convicted of assault with a deadly weapon (a semi-

automatic gun), battery on a peace officer and battery of another inmate.

And yet another violent criminal, Alfredo "Freddy" Casillas, shot a rival gang member and nearly beat him to death. His "good behavior" in prison consisted of stabbing a fellow inmate and hiding a homemade weapon in his cell.

The parole board conceded that both men had an "extensive history of violence" -- but then cited Prop 57 and released them both.

And how did Harris title Prop 57? "The Early Parole for Non-Violent Criminals and Juvenile Court Trial Requirements Initiative." Her summary told voters that "a 'yes' vote supported increasing parole and good behavior opportunities for felons convicted of nonviolent crimes ..." (Do you know how to do air quotes?)

Harris on attempted murder, the rape of a child, battery of a police officer: Let 'em all out!

But she's a real crime slayer when it comes to Trump describing his extortion payment to Stormy Daniels as a "legal expense" on a campaign finance report. (Democrats get to "34 felonies" because Trump wrote "Legal expense" on 34 different documents. It's like saying a bank robber who stole \$34 committed 34 bank robberies.)

On the plus side, maybe Harris' ludicrously pro-criminal record will finally convince Trump to stop bragging about all the black criminals he released in a quixotic (and moronic) bid to win the black vote -- following the advice of his trusted advisers, Jared Kushner and Kim Kardashian.

TRUMP: Let's see ... should I sacrifice the votes of millions of Americans fed up with crime in order to get up to 20% of 13% of the vote? Why, that's 2.6% of the vote. YES! Hey, guys! Biden called you "super predators." Did you know I'm letting people out of jail?

Instead of going on and on (and on) about his deep esteem for black criminals, here's a non-idiotic idea for Trump.

The 30-second spot:

(Footage of a mob mass looting a store)
"In California, this used to be a felony. Thanks to Kamala Harris, it's now a misdemeanor and effectively legal. She wrote the misleading wording for the ballot proposition that made it possible."

Ann Hart Coulter is an American conservative media pundit, author, syndicated columnist, and lawyer.

LETTERS

Harris just may be the worst possible candidate for Trump

Editor,

Byron York is chief political correspondent for the Washington Examiner and a Fox News contributor. The Washington Examiner is an American conservative news outlet that consists of a website and a weekly printed magazine owned by billionaire Philip Anschutz. Anschutz, the 45th richest person in the US, bought out his father's oil drilling company and earned a lot of money.

I suspect as a result he is a "Drill Baby Drill!" kind of guy, climate change be damned. He is also the namesake of CU

Anschutz.

So why am I not surprised that Byron's column in the Friday, July 26, paper says "Kamala Harris is the worst possible candidate"? He alludes to her last run for president in 2020. It's true that she failed miserably in that race. But she has been vice-president now for 3.5 years. She has learned a lot and, so far, her campaigning has shown it. She will attract many women, blacks, and young people.

Lastly, her message of "The Prosecutor vs The Felon" resonates with many. Former president and convicted felon Donald

Trump seems afraid to debate her. For good reason!

As Michael Steele noted, when she talks about his 34 felony convictions, what is he going to say? I suspect it will be the same old nonsense that he is persecuted for his admirable convictions to give tax breaks to the wealthy and to police women's bodies.

I think, like Steele does, that Trump does not want to run into that "buzz saw" in a debate. After all, she knows his type!

Yes, indeed, she just may be the worst possible candidate -- for Donald Trump!

Beth Kinney, Alamosa

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coloradopress
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Valley Courier
(ISSN 1047-1170)

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Religion

JD Vance focuses on 'wisdom from the book of Mamaw'

The young J.D. Vance was used to the melodramas surrounding his mother, Beverly Vance,

with her addictions to painkillers, heroin and alcohol, as well as the chaos caused by her five marriages and countless live-in boyfriends.

But his mother was trying to steer

a car during one pivotal clash with Bonnie Blanton Vance, the matriarch known to all as "Mamaw."

"There was a lot of screaming, some punching and driving, and then a stopped car on the side of the road," wrote Vance in his bestseller "Hillbilly Elegy," from 2016. "It's a miracle we didn't crash and die: Mom driving and slapping the kids in the backseat; Mamaw on the passenger side, slapping and screaming at Mom. ... We drove home in silence after Mamaw explained that if Mom lost her temper again, Mamaw would shoot her in the face."

Once he was safely home — to his grandmother's house — Vance approached her on the battered couch where

she napped, watched TV and read her Bible. He asked one question: "Mamaw, does God love us?"

On Religion



Terry Mattingly

She hugged him and began weeping.

What Vance calls "wisdom of the Book of Mamaw" guided his rise through the U.S. Marines to Ohio State University, Yale Law School, Silicon Valley, the U.S. Senate and now the Republican nomination to become vice president of the United States.

Mamaw was a lifelong Democrat who distrusted organized religion, including "holy rollers" and snake handlers, cursed like a sailor and, when she died, her house contained 19 loaded handguns. But the soft heart and steel spine of the family's "hillbilly terminator" provided stability when needed.

In "Hillbilly Elegy," Vance described what she taught him: "To coast through life was to squander my God-given talent, so I had to work hard. I had to take care of my family because Christian duty demanded it. I

needed to forgive, not just for my mother's sake but for my own. I should never despair, for God had a plan."

Mamaw wasn't much of a churchgoer, but no one doubted her faith. After one terrifying spinout on an interstate highway, she screamed: "We're fine, god(expletive). Don't you know Jesus rides in the car with me?"

Bonnie Vance died while her grandson was in the Marines, a stunning blow that helped push Vance into a flirtation with academia-friendly atheism.

"Much of my new atheism came down to a desire for social acceptance among American elites," wrote Vance in an essay for The Lamp, a Catholic journal. "I knew how the educated tended to feel about religion: at best, provincial and stupid; at worst, evil. ... I didn't think to myself, 'I am not going to be a Christian because Christians are rubes, and I want to plant myself firmly in the meritocratic master class.'"

As Vance began pondering a return to the Christian faith, he once again weighed the implications of his grandmother's credo. He also watched his

mother achieve sobriety.

"I felt desperate for a worldview that understood our bad behavior as simultaneously social and individual, structural and moral," he wrote in The Lamp. He sought a worldview "that recognized that we are products of our environment; that we have a responsibility to change that environment, but that we are still moral beings with individual duties; one that could speak against rising rates of divorce and addiction, not as sanitized conclusions about their negative social externalities, but with moral outrage."

Instead of embracing political slogans, Vance dug into centuries of Christian classics, including the 5th-century text "The City of God Against the Pagans" by St. Augustine of Hippo. In 2019, Vance converted to Roman Catholicism.

Vance was already headed in that direction in 2016, when I interviewed him as "Hillbilly Elegy" sales began to soar. He said it's clear that personal sin destroys far too many lives, but it's also impossible to ignore the systematic cracks in the public square.

"Which comes first: poverty and economic prob-

lems, or people making bad moral decisions that wreck marriages and homes?" he asked. "If it's just me and my mom and all her boyfriends, then I never would have made it out. ... The single individual, or even one stressed-out nuclear family, is not enough. You have to see the bigger picture."

Terry Mattingly is Senior Fellow on Communications and Culture at Saint Constantine College in Houston. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a Substack newsletter on faith and mass media.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

All-Denominational Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church 0432 Hwy 149, South Fork 719-873-5411 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-378-2080 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study San Luis Valley Christian Center 305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study Prayer House Church 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-298-0007 Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm	United Presbyterian Church of Antonito P.O. Box 665, Antonito Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am -12:00 Sunday -9:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Service Catholic Sacred Heart Church 715 4th Street, Alamosa Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass Hooper Church 3rd and Adams, Hooper Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship Meditation, Kriya Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)758-5876 United Church of La Jara 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-5250 Terry Buckman, Pastor Cell Phone: 339-8444 Office Hours: Mon, 9:00 am - 12:00 Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Christian Science Services 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.	First United Methodist First United Methodist Church 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243 *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am Community Churches United for Christ Community Church (SBC) *Community Centered Around Love* 7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am Bible Believer's Community Church 11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, CO 81101 719) 206-3239 Sunday worship 10:30 Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm www.bbchurch.co Presbyterian Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship Hispanic Pentecostal Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A. 907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546 Guadalupe Zalazar - Pastor Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship New Hope Church *The Church on the Hill* 25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154 Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202 www.newhopest.com Morning Worship -10:00 am Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45 Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 alamosafellowship@gmail.com Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church
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Bible Digest

Saturday, July 27, 2024

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." (Mark 13:26 AKJV)

Jesus is coming back. Are you right with God? If not, repent of sin and give your life to Jesus.

Sunday, July 28, 2024

"And call on me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalms 50:15 AKJV)

Are you troubled? Pray. Give your burden to the Lord.

Monday, July 29, 2024

"These things have you done, and I kept silence; you thought that I was altogether such an one as yourself; but I will reprove you, and set them in order before your eyes." (Psalms 50:21 AKJV)

Don't try to make God in your image. He is holy

and must be treated as such.

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

"The way of the LORD is strength to the upright; but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity." (Proverbs 10:29 AKJV)

God is the final book-keeper for the ways of man. Where do you stand with God?

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

"And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake; but he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." (Mark 13:13 AKJV)

Christian, don't be surprised if you are hated by the forces of this world. Look what they did to

Jesus.

Thursday, August 1, 2024

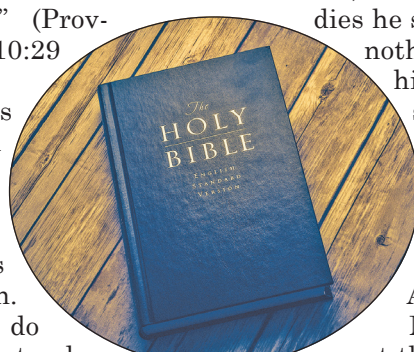
"Be not you afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dies he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him." (Psalms 49:16-17 AKJV)

Money is not the answer. Jesus is the answer. Follow Him.

Friday, August 2, 2024

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Psalms 51:17 AKJV)

God can heal broken lives that are truly sorry and repentant. Let Him heal you.



Laughter Is the Best Medicine

As a young woman, I was extremely serious. Because of the years of sexual abuse I endured growing up, I really never knew what it was like to have a childhood—to live care-free and just laugh and play.

I'll never forget the time I went to see a doctor several years back. As he examined me, he remarked, "You're an intense person, aren't you?" He was right. My personality is by nature a little more serious, but I had to learn how to enjoy my life.

Joy is a major part of God's plan for us. Romans 14:17 tells us that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It's part of His will for our everyday lives!

What is joy? It's not just about entertaining ourselves all of the time or doing something fun. As I mentioned, joy has been defined as everything from "extreme hilarity" to "a calm delight." Since I'm a more serious person by nature, the "calm delight" definition is usually my state of joy. But a good belly laugh is sometimes just what we need!

Joy is also a spiritual weapon. For instance, Nehemiah 8:10 (AMP) says, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength..." And Psalm 16:11 (AMP) tells us where to find joy. It says, "...in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

Like peace, God is our Source of joy, but we also have a choice. Life will never be perfect—we will always have circumstances to deal with. But it's how we respond to those circumstances that makes all of the difference. Proverbs 17:22 (AMP) contains some great advice if we will heed it. I know it's simple, but it's more powerful than we think. It says, "A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing..."

Take a moment and think about how you've been approaching life. Do you find yourself just trying to make it through the day? If you're honest with yourself, can you even remember the last time you had a good laugh? Well, I want you to know that the joy of the Lord can ease anxiety, depression, and emotional and physical pain...it can bring you a new level of satisfaction in life.

Laughter is the outward evidence of inward joy, and it is proven to make you feel better. I once heard someone say that laughter is like

internal jogging, and I think that is so true. Laughter improves emotional and mental health, it lifts our spirits, and it dispels worry.

It's almost impossible to laugh and be sad at the same time. This is why we would be wise to express our joy and take time to laugh every chance we get. God has given us the ability to laugh for a reason. It may seem like a little thing, but laughter is vitally important in the battle against discouragement, stress, anxiety, fear, and worry. It's a tool from God that benefits us in so many ways.

Interestingly, there have been studies done that show laughter has some exciting benefits: Laughter causes the release of endorphins, a chemical in the body that relieves pain and creates a sense of well-being.

It can raise your energy level, relieve tension and change your attitude. It increases antibodies and strengthens your immune system. A good belly laugh causes you to inhale more oxygen and stimulates your heart and blood circulation. It's like internal aerobic exercise!

Laughter lifts our spirit, improves our mental, emotional, and physical health, and de-stresses our mind. And (here is the best part)...it costs nothing.

We have a proven, God-given weapon against stress that is free of charge and that we can use at any time, day or night.

Maybe you haven't laughed—I mean really laughed—in a very long time. If that's the case, it's probably adding to the discouragement or depression you may be experiencing today. You'll find that you will feel better after a hearty laugh. Sometimes I feel clean and refreshed after a good laugh. If I am tired and weary from dealing with life's issues, I often feel like my soul is a dusty closet—stale and in need of fresh air. But when I take the opportunity to have a really good laugh, it seems to "air my soul out," refreshing me and lifting the load off my tired mind.

You may be thinking, "Well, Joyce, I don't have anything to laugh about!" Many times, I don't either, but when you do make the time, you'll be amazed at how different you will begin to view your job, your family, your relationships, yourself, and even your walk with God. You'll become a person whose first response to stressful situations is faith instead

Moving Up Higher
with **Joyce Meyer**

of fear—joy instead of sorrow. Philippians 4:4 (AMP) says, "Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, gladden yourselves in Him]; again I say, Rejoice!"

As you go about your day, make this your goal: Rejoice in the Lord! As the joy of the Lord gives you strength, you'll be able to face any problems you have to deal with, and you'll enjoy your life while you're doing it.

If you're like I was—if you're too serious about life—it's time to lighten up! Learn to laugh at yourself and the things that normally frustrate you. You don't have to laugh about your problems, but thankfully, you can laugh as you trust God to take care of them.

No matter what you're going through today—no matter how intimidating your situation feels, no matter how stressful things are, and regardless of how discouraging life may seem—always remember that God loves you.

You are special to Him, and He sees what you're going through. He cares about every detail of your life, and He is already working on a solution for the things that threaten to overwhelm you.

So, when things get tough and you feel like giving up, make a decision to run to God and place your trust in Him—decide to rejoice right in the middle of what you're going through. Because He's the One Who can take away all of your worries, cares and anxieties... and fill you with joy.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Joy and Enjoyment*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.com.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.com.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm

Apostolic
Alamosa Apostolic Church
510 First St., Alamosa
Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m.
2-3 p.m. - Lunch
3-5 p.m. - Worship Service
Antonito Apostolic Church
710 Main St., Antonito
Meets sundays
11-12 p.m. - Sunday School
12-1 p.m. - Worship service

Apostolic Pentecostal
Church of Champions, Acts 2:38
9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351
Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service

Assembly of God
River of Life Church
2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service

Center Assembly of God
7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
Sons And Daughters of God Ministry
677 Madison Street, Monte Vista
Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212
Sunday 10:00 a.m Service
Wednesday 7:00 p.m Prayer

New Life Fellowship
520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132
719-657-3360
Adult Sunday School, 10:15
Services - 10:00

Baha'i Faith
meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m on Zoom.
Email hartline@gojode.org for a Zoom invite

Baptist
Grace Community Baptist Church
431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista
Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451
Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Living Water Bible Fellowship
2910 Clark Street, Alamosa
719-589-6351
Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services*
Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade)
Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade)
Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group
Wednesday 8:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-8th grade)
Wednesday 8:30 pm Rejoin Youth Group (6th-12th grade)
Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service**
Small Groups meets throughout week, please call for info
**Nursery is available (twice-week)

College Heights Baptist Church
2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa
719-589-6814
Pastor Jesse Ciccone
Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

San Luis Valley Baptist Church
930 State Avenue, Alamosa
719-589-5938
Pastor R.L. McDonald
Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship
Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot
Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020

Calvary Bible Chapel
7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word
Small group studies meet during the week.

Calvary Blanca
Pastor Mathew Leonard - 719-379-3317
Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study
Sunday, 11:00 am - Service
Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You

Calvary Baptist Church
2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship
Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

South Fork Baptist Church
0130 Four Seasons Dr.(Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork
(East side near laundromat & car wash)
Sunday Scool, 9:30am
Sunday, 10:30am - Worship
For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702

Church of the South Fork
0116 Landen Dr., South Fork, Co. 81154
Sunday are at 9 am - Services
School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday
at 6pm during the summer months
with a final practice at 8:15am on
Sunday

Christian
Bethel Christian Church
Pastor Erik Lira
Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bilingual Services
Monday Free Music Classes
Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Word of Faith Christian Center
401 Sante Fe, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night

The Peak Community Church
510 San Juan, Alamosa
Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship
Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More

Pentecostal
Alamosa Pentecostal Church
184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475
Pastor Carl Sutter
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45
Worship 2:00-3:00

Christian Fellowship Church
The Door
1300 West 12th St., Alamosa
Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival

Christian Independent
Alamosa Christian Church
410 McQuerry, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group

Churches of Christ
Alamosa Church of Christ
408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study
Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step
group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.

South Fork Church of Christ
205 Birch St., South Fork, 719-873-1259
Nathan Wheeler Pastor
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Central Church of Christ
200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811
David L. Baker Preacher
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study

San Luis Valley Church of Christ
704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114
Sunday Bible Study 9 am
Sunday Worship 10 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm

Cornestone Community Church
Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical
Clinic
Pastor Mark 719-657-9107
Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast
Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary
Worship & Children Sunday
School
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship,
teachings

Episcopal
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
607 4th Street, Alamosa
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service
Visit website at www.valleynaz.com for online
bulletins and service information or call the
number above.

Saint Stephen the Martyr
729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10 am Service
First Christian Church
518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa
589-6805
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study

Valley Fellowship
240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary
Worship, Prayer and Bible Study
*Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Alamosa Y S A Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa
Second Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Alamosa Third Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Alamosa Fourth Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language)
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lutheran
St. Peters Lutheran Church & School
Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista
School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Services
School: K-8, Monday-Thursday

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week
-Pre-School through 5th grade
Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271

Conejos Canyon Community Chapel
20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20)
Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Mountain Valley Church
408 State St. 17, Alamosa
Pastor: Richard Pinkerton
589-2899 or 588-7662
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista
702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista
719) 852-2555
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Seventh-day Adventist
Seventh-day Adventist Church
315 Craft Drive, Alamosa
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship



5 athletes to keep an eye on at summer Olympic Games

(METRO) – Sports fans across the globe will be glued to their televisions this summer, when the historic city of Paris hosts the Olympic Games. Beginning with the Opening Ceremony on July 26, the 2024 Olympic Games is sure to feature awe-inspiring athletic accomplishments that mark the culmination of years of hard work on the part of competitors.

Once the games commence, fans can keep an eye out for these five notable athletes who figure to put their stamp on this summer's competitions.

1. Simone Biles: Few athletes at this summer's Games are as recognizable as American gymnast Simone Biles. Biles' accomplishments are already too numerous to mention, but the 27-year-old can pad her legacy even further by earning just one more medal this summer in Paris. Should she accomplish that feat, Biles will have earned more Olympic medals than any American gymnast in the history of the Games.

2. Daiki Hashimoto: A two-time gold medal winner at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo (which were held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), Hashimoto, who will turn 23 during this summer's games, will be seen as the athlete to beat in men's gymnastics. Hashimoto is a four-time world champion, and NBC Sports

notes three of those titles were earned in 2023.

3. LeBron James: The National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer is no stranger to the Olympic Games, but the 39-year-old James has not played on the Olympic stage since 2012. Over the last several years, James made no secret of his desire to return to Olympic competition, suggesting this summer's games will be the last time to see arguably the greatest player of all time compete at this level.

4. Léon Marchand: Born in Toulouse, France, in 2002, Marchand figures to be the center of attention this summer. Some suggest Marchand could

put on a performance not unlike his fellow swimmer Michael Phelps' efforts in the pool years ago, as the Frenchman is coached by Bob Bowman at Arizona State University. Bowman famously coached Phelps during his time at the University of Michigan and beyond, and swimming fans will be curious to see how the hometown hero Marchand performs in the pools of Paris this summer.

5. Summer McIntosh: The pride of Canada made a name for herself at the tender age of 14 during the 2020 Games, where she was the youngest athlete named to the Canadian team. McIntosh finished fourth in the 400-meter freestyle in



METRO graphic

The Summer Olympics return this summer in Paris, and many talented, exciting athletes figure to make this year's competitions as exciting as ever.

Tokyo, narrowly missing a seasoned 17-year-old, a medal in that event but McIntosh returns to the still breaking the Canadian Olympic stage this summer. Now

Notable moments from past Summer Olympics

(METRO) – The world is treated to a sports-related spectacle every four summers, and in 2024 the celebration of competition and competitors known as the Summer Olympics returns in Paris. Athletes from across the globe will gather in France to compete for their home countries this summer, and fans will tune in to see who takes home the gold in a variety of sports.

No one knows which special moments will unfold in Paris this summer, but fans of the Summer Olympics can look to history and learn about many of the Games' more notable moments from years past.

• Women compete for the first time in 1900: Many a notable woman athlete has made a name for herself on the Olympic stage, but that was not possible prior to 1900. The 1900 Olympics, held in Paris like this year's games, marked the first time women athletes were allowed to compete. Though women athletes' participation was limited to lawn and tennis and golf in 1900, the barrier was officially broken, and women athletes may find it especially meaningful to compete in the City of Light this summer.

• Jesse Owens dominates at the 1936 Summer Olympics: Tension surrounded the 1936 Games in Berlin, Germany, where the National Socialist German Workers' Party, also known as the Nazi Party, ruled over the country. Known for its racist, antisemitic ideology, the Nazi Party lent an air of tension to the Games, as the party's official newspaper argued that Jewish and Black athletes should not be allowed to participate in the Games. Party leaders, including Adolf Hitler, ultimately relented when other nations threatened to boycott the Games altogether. Against that backdrop, American track and field star Jesse Owens, who was Black, won

four gold medals in Berlin, a feat no one would repeat for almost half a century.

• Wilma Rudolph inspires anew in 1960: American sprinter Wilma Rudolph overcame childhood polio to compete in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia, where the sixteen-year-old earned a bronze medal in the 4 x 100-meter relay. But Melbourne proved to be just a preview of what was to come, as Rudolph, whose left leg was briefly paralyzed as a child, returned to compete in the 1960 Games in Rome, where she became the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Games.

• Tragedy looms over the 1972 Games: The Summer Olympics are intended to be a celebration of competitions and competitors, but issues far away from the arena of sports have often cast a shadow over the Games. Such was the case in 1972, when members of a Palestinian militant organization infiltrated the Olympic village in Munich, Germany and killed two members of the Israeli Olympic team before taking nine others hostage. Before the situation was resolved, the nine athletes and coaches initially taken as hostages were killed.

• Michael Phelps sets the record for gold medals in 2008: Among the most accomplished athletes of all time, American swimmer Michael Phelps won eight gold medals at the Beijing Games in 2008, breaking fellow American swimmer Mark Spitz's record for gold medals earned during any single Games. Perhaps fittingly, Phelps earned his eighth gold medal at the Beijing Games by setting a world record in the 200-meter individual medley.

History is made every four years at the Summer Olympics, and this year's games in Paris are sure to provide a host of record-breaking, inspiring achievements.

Unique facts about the Olympics

(METRO) – The 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris will attract spectators from all corners of the globe. Whether fans are in the City of Light for the competitions or watching at home, there will be plenty of awe-inspiring athleticism on display in Paris this summer.

Here are some unique facts about this time-honored and beloved tradition:

• It's an understatement to say the Olympic games have a lengthy history. Historians believe the first Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece, in the eighth century B.C. However, those ancient competitions likely shared little in common with the modern Games, which Olympics.com traces to Athens, Greece, in 1896.

• The competitions that began in the eighth century B.C. were banned in the fourth century A.D. So when American James Connolly won the triple jump competition in 1896, he became the first Olympic champion in more than 1,500 years.

• In hindsight, it's perhaps fitting that an American athlete became the first modern Olympic champion, as the most deco-

rated athlete in the history of the modern games is an American as well. Swimmer Michael Phelps holds the distinction of winning the most medals of any Olympic athlete, and he even won the first medal of his storied Olympic career in Athens in 2004.

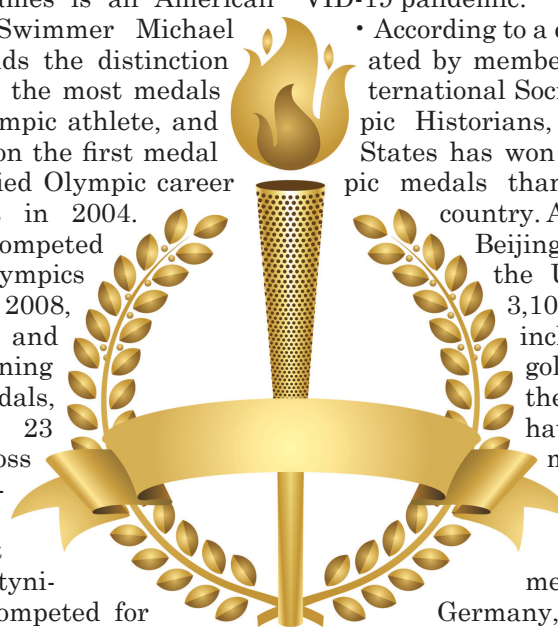
Phelps competed in the Olympics in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016, winning 28 medals, including 23 golds, across those competitions. Gymnast Larisa Latynina, who competed for the Soviet Union, is second on the all-time medals list with 18.

• Though millions look forward to the Olympics every four years, there have been times since 1896 when the Games were scheduled to take place but did not. The 1916 Olympic Games were not played due to World War I, and the 1940 and 1944 Games did not occur because of World War II. The 2020 Games in Tokyo were

delayed a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• According to a database created by members of the International Society of Olympic Historians, the United States has won more Olympic medals than any other country. As of the 2022 Beijing Olympics, the U.S. claimed 3,105 medals, including 1,229 golds. In fact, the Americans have more gold medals than any other country has total medals, as Germany, the country with the second most medals, has won 1,211 overall.

• The Guinness Book of World Records cites the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 as the most watched competition in the history of the Games. Perhaps in part due to Phelps' historic effort during the Beijing Games, at which he won a record-setting eight gold medals, 4.7 billion people tuned in to watch the Games in 2008.



15TH ANNUAL Car Show

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Public Notices

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUES CURRENT TAX & INTEREST	DELINQUENT TAX & INTEREST	MISCELLANEOUS	CHECKING ACCT. & INVESTMENTS	DISBURSEMENTS DISBURSEMENTS	TREASURERS FEES	CHECKING ACCT. & INVESTMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
COUNTY GENERAL	13,514,641.05	4,893,375.79	8,766.25	6,465,903.92	568,302.24	-8,840,314.21	-147,078.00	.00	16,463,596.37
ROAD & BRIDGE	4,395,704.51	241,234.27	.28	1,446,263.84	.00	-1,059,533.27	.00	.00	5,023,669.63
SOCIAL SERVICES	3,157,604.56	694,217.91	1,484.14	1,869,063.06	.00	-1,824,048.05	.00	.00	3,798,321.62
COUNTY NURSING SERVICE	1,083,979.01	.00	.00	967,362.05	.00	-1,055,211.40	.00	.00	996,129.66
PUBLIC SAFETY	10,327.78	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	10,327.78
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSARY	197,515.98	.00	.00	301,926.51	.00	-338,597.64	.00	.00	160,844.85
MOSCA GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DIST	31,793.31	.00	.00	108,676.00	.00	-75,717.30	.00	.00	64,752.01
MOSCA WASTEWATER SYSTEM	7,514.05	2,501.30	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	10,015.35
ALAMOSA COUNTY LODGING TAX	166,197.84	.00	.00	123,399.61	.00	-195,000.00	.00	.00	92,597.45
ALAMOSA LOCAL MARKETING DISTRI	851,325.26	.00	.00	229,968.59	.00	-283,448.67	.00	.00	798,245.28
TREASURER'S FEES	312,602.51	.00	.00	288,997.41	.00	-310,027.17	.00	.00	291,572.75
CONSERVATION TRUST FUND	723,925.89	487.05	.00	45,058.82	.00	-83,746.34	.00	.00	705,725.42
COUNTY RETIREMENT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
COUNTY CONTINGENT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	85,626.23	.00	.96	300,000.00	.00	-129,883.87	-0.03	.00	255,743.29
HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	91,913.97	.00	.38	1,079,024.56	.00	-1,093,073.79	-0.01	.00	77,865.11
AMBULANCE DISTRICT	5,474.92	646,885.95	1,205.00	43,791.72	.00	-572,380.78	-19,403.26	.00	105,573.57
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
UNDESIRABLE PLANT MANAGEMENT F	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
STATE TAX CLEARING ACCOUNT	14,402.83	.00	.00	155,786.54	.00	-173,663.00	.00	.00	-1,473.63
FEDERAL TAX CLEARING ACCOUNT	8,366.30	.00	.00	1,151,363.77	.00	-1,149,553.09	.00	.00	10,176.96
TASC FLEX SYSTEM CLEARING ACCO	406.53	.00	.00	11,507.80	.00	-13,551.89	.00	.00	-1,437.56
CODERA CLEARING ACCOUNT	141.03	.00	.00	1,125.96	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,286.99
AFLAC CLEARING FUND	-3,067.46	.00	.00	14,987.69	.00	-11,194.18	.00	.00	726.05
VSR CLEARING FUND	3,213.02	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	3,213.02
PREPAID TAXES	1,070.86	.00	.00	-747.47	.00	.00	.00	.00	323.39
INDIVIDUAL REDEMPTION	17,746.11	.00	.00	124,747.93	.00	-124,753.26	.00	.00	17,740.78
STATE OF COLORADO	3,006.57	.00	.00	1,086.00	.00	-1,086.00	.00	.00	3,006.57
NOTOR VEHICLE	1,548.70	.00	.00	1,114,618.85	.00	-1,114,618.85	.00	.00	1,548.70
COUNTY LIBRARY	146.96	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	146.96
AIRPORT FUND	1,212,202.43	.00	.00	1,816,974.14	.00	-2,263,169.18	.00	.00	766,007.39
AIRPORT - SAVINGS	109,858.13	.00	.00	232.89	.00	.00	.00	.00	110,091.02
DOPPLER RADAR FUND	49,918.64	.00	.00	10,000.00	.00	-5,718,667.65	.00	.00	5,206,428.62
JUSTICE CENTER	4,800,822.11	.00	.00	2,126,474.16	.00	-4,396,275.80	-10,100.49	.00	83,669.89
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE11J - GENERA	40,354.12	4,040,964.49	11,274.28	397,453.29	.00	.00	.00	.00	4,454,086.18
SCHOOL DIST RE11J - CAPITAL RE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE11J - B & I	15,771.02	1,000,479.82	4,916.59	75,712.94	.00	-1,078,584.66	.00	.00	18,295.71
SCHOOL DIST RE22J - GENERAL	10,135.57	1,050,430.93	5.96	77,097.24	.00	-1,118,320.19	-2,625.43	.00	16,724.08
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE23J - B & I	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE23J - B & I	2,632.99	256,153.69	1.57	18,400.62	.00	-273,018.62	.00	.00	4,170.25
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE33J - GENERA	1,745.02	184,455.05	.00	12,706.51	.00	-185,995.21	-461.14	.00	2,450.23
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE33J - CAP RE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE33J - B & I	551.06	57,255.23	.00	3,944.57	.00	-60,969.24	.00	.00	781.62
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE1J - GENERAL	251.82	25,300.38	.00	2,046.31	.00	-27,151.07	-63.24	.00	384.20
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE1J - CAP RES	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE1J - B & I	105.71	10,336.93	.00	811.66	.00	-11,093.47	.00	.00	160.83
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE6J - GENERAL	114.49	12,091.85	.00	951.63	.00	-12,959.00	-30.21	.00	168.76
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE6J - CAP RES	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE6J - B & I	34.88	3,967.87	.00	278.33	.00	-4,225.93	.00	.00	5.15
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE26J - GENERA	47.16	5,418.24	.00	396.48	.00	-5,774.82	-13.55	.00	73.51
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE26J - CAP RE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT RE26J - B & I	15.80	2,090.43	.00	143.20	.00	-2,221.05	.00	.00	28.38
MOSQUITO CONTROL	*5,898.96	782,346.82	1,632.92	53,201.05	.00	-685,257.61	-23,466.83	.00	134,355.31
RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION	3,145.65	367,830.59	899.28	23,081.47	.00	-325,598.21	-11,033.18	.00	38,515.50
SIV WATER CONSERVATION DIST.	787.49	91,513.73	167.61	5,791.50	.00	-80,489.52	-2,745.03	.00	15,025.78
ALAMOSA - LA JARA WATER CONS.	11.75	1,072.47	.00	94.02	.00	951.12	-32.17	.00	194.95
OTHER INCOME	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
EAST ALAMOSA WATER & SANITATIO	689.93	90,896.28	1.08	5,129.19	.00	-82,033.11	-1,963.71	.00	12,719.66
SIV IRRIGATION	.00	294,962.88	.00	.00	.00	-283,111.77	.00	.00	11,851.11
WAVERLY DRAINAGE	.00	31,957.58	.00	.00	.00	-29,161.78	.00	.00	2,795.80
CANNEL DRAINAGE	.00	345.64	.00	.00	.00	-332.81	.00	.00	12.83
RIO GRANDE SUBDISTRICT 1	.00	2,716,022.17	.00	.00	.00	-2,530,831.59	-27,154.50	.00	158,036.08
RIO GRANDE SUBDISTRICT 2	.00	143,297.76	.00	.00	.00	-118,363.05	-4,431.27	.00	23,503.44
RIO GRANDE SUBDISTRICT 6	.00	494,828.17	.00	.00	.00	-452,846.00	-4,946.62	.00	37,035.55
TRINCHERA	.00	500.00	.00	.00	.00	-500.00	.00	.00	.00
CITY OF ALAMOSA	433,677.02	721,020.51	13,125.83	2,770,708.84	.00	-3,369,253.52	-14,699.97	.00	554,578.71
TOWN OF HOOPER	2,472.13	776.52	.00	2,058.21	.00	-2,472.13	-15.53	.00	2,829.20
ALAMOSA FIRE	40,126.78	82,939.39	9.92	9,416.61	.00	-40,126.78	-2,411.46	.00	89,954.46
CENTER FIRE	485.17	666.03	.00	214.05	.00	-485.17	-19.98	.00	860.10
NORTHWEST CONEJOS FIRE	269.25	2,650.76	.00	160.03	.00	-269.25	-79.49	.00	2,731.30
ALAMOSA WEED CONTROL	141,227.78	2,615.75	.00	257.33	.00	-1,248.07	.00	.00	142,852.79
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	664,316.72	17,384.98	.18	1,421.00	.00	-3,661.33	.00	.00	679,465.55
DEER VALLEY MEADOWS IMP TRUST	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
ADVERTISING	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
FACILITIES EXPANSION FUND	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
LEASE SERVICING FUND	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
DEBT SERVICE	264,035.63	6,953.98	.38	-35,848.70	.00	.00	.00	.00	235,141.29
PUBLIC TRUSTEE TRUST & AGENCY	45,554.72	.00	.00	81,738.62	.00	-1,821.40	.00	.00	125,471.94
CLEARING ACCOUNT FUND	6,470.19	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	6,470.19
TREASURER CLEARING ACCOUNT	.00	.00	.00	6,759.59	.00	-6,479.69	.00	.00	279.90
REDEMPTION CLEARING FUND	2,308.46	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,308.46
INTERNAL SERVICES FUND	145,526.06	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	145,526.06
TREASURER DEEDS FUND	1,790.53	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,790.53
Grand Totals	36,369,765.80	2,853,188.05	1,376.79	3,628,328.08	192,237.65	-5,452,184.77	-40,692.53	.00	37,552,019.07

I, Amy McKinley, County Treasurer in and for the county of Alamosa in the State of Colorado, hereby certify that the above is a true statement of the condition of the various funds as they appear from the records in my office at the close of business on 06/30/24

Amy McKinley
County Treasurer

Mari Felix
Mari Felix, Alamosa County Clerk & Recorder
Filed and held in my office the 24th day of July, 2024

Received and examined by the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners this 24th day of July, 2024

Chairman



No 4046
Published in the Valley Courier on July 27, 2024.

TOWN OF SOUTH FORK ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK, COLORADO, PROVIDING STANDARDS FOR OPTIONAL PREMISES LIQUOR LICENSING.

WHEREAS, the Town desires that food and beverage (alcoholic and non-alcohol) service be available both in a restaurant and on sporting and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, having this service at sporting and recreational events relates to the Town's vision by continuing the Town's reputation as a center for recreation in San Luis Valley and tourism for both the local community and outside visitors; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-47-310 C.R.S. permits a municipality to pass an ordinance to provide optional premises licenses for restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages on their premises to include an adjacent recreational facility in their license; and

WHEREAS, service of alcoholic beverages at sporting and recreational events would benefit the Town as a source of revenue; and

NOW THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK DOES HEREBY ORDAIN THAT:

Section 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this ordinance, the following words or phrases shall have the meaning set forth.

a. Optional premises means the same as that defined in the Colorado Liquor Code under § 12-47-103(22) and 12-47-310, C.R.S. The only type of license authorized in this ordinance is a "restaurant with optional premises," which may be referred to as "optional premises" unless otherwise stated.

b. Licensee, for the purpose of this license, means the applicant who demonstrates possession of the optional premises by means of a lease, deed, concessionaire contract or other possessory method.

Section 2. Standards. The following standards are for the issuance of an optional premises license for the restaurant that holds a liquor license and has an outdoor sports and recreational facility. The standards are adopted pursuant to the provisions of § 12-47-310 C.R.S. The standards adopted shall be considered in addition to all other standards applicable to the consideration of and/or issuance of licenses under the Colorado Liquor License Code and any and all applicable local laws, rules and regulations.

Section 3. Form of Application. Application for the optional premises shall be made to the City Clerk on forms, which shall contain the following information in addition to information, required by the State. The application shall be heard publicly by the local hearing officer.

1. A map or other drawing illustrating the optional premises boundaries and the location of the proposed optional premises license requested; and

2. Proposed location(s) for permanent, temporary or moveable structure(s) which are proposed to be used for the sale or service of alcoholic beverages and a statement as to whether mobile carts will be used for the sale or service of alcoholic beverages; and

3. A description of the method which shall be used to identify the boundaries of the optional premises license when it is in use and how the licensee will ensure alcoholic beverages are not removed from such premises; and

4. Proof of the applicant's right to possession of the optional premises including a legal description or supporting documentation to the satisfaction of the local licensing authority; and

5. A description of the provisions, including a description of facilities, which have been made for storing the alcoholic beverages in a secured area on or off the optional premises and for future use in the optional premises if or when alcoholic beverages are not served; and

6. A description of the provisions which will be implemented to control over-service and prevent underage service of alcoholic beverages.

Section 4. Eligibility. The licensee is a holder of a hotel-restaurant license which is located on or adjacent to a sporting or recreational facility.

Section 5. Size of Premises. There is no minimum size of the optional premises license or number of optional premises licenses for the licensee.

Section 6. Additional Conditions. Nothing contained in this ordinance shall preclude the Licensing Authority in its discretion, from imposing, restrictions or limitations on any optional premises license in order to serve the public health, safety and welfare. Any such conditions may be imposed when the license is initially issued, issued for any specific event, or renewed. The Authority shall have the right to deny any request for an optional premises license or it may suspend or revoke the optional premises license in accordance with the procedures specified by law.

Section 7. Notice filed with Liquor Licensing Authority. It shall be unlawful for alcoholic beverages to be served on the optional premises until the optional premises licensee has filed written notice with the State and the Town Clerk stating the specific days and hours during which the optional premises will be used. Notice must be recorded with the Town Clerk 48 hours prior to serving alcoholic beverages on the optional premises. No notice shall specify any period of use in excess of 180 days nor shall it specify any date more than 180 days after the date of the original notice. The licensee may file with Town Clerk more than one such notice during a calendar year; however, should any special or unusual event be anticipated to occur during any extended period of time, no less than 48 hours written notice should be given to the Town Clerk, which shall have the authority to impose any conditions reasonably related to serving the public health, safety and welfare or it may deny the use after hearing. The Town Clerk may grant renewal of the optional premises license if the same criteria is met for renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses outlined in the Rules of the Local Liquor License Authority.

Section 8. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction invalid, such judgement shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2024, by the Board of Trustees of the Town of South Fork, Colorado, and determined by a roll call vote as follows:

Mayor Schmidt	absent
Major Pro-Term Sparrow	yes
Trustee Stickens	yes
Trustee Entz	yes
Trustee Butcher	yes
Trustee Woolf	absent
Trustee Miller	yes

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05 PASSES X / fails /
DONE AND SIGNED this 23rd Day of July 2024.

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

DIRECTOR: CENTER HEAD START is searching for a highly motivated DIRECTOR. Required to have a Bachelor's degree. The Head Start director takes total responsibility for administration of the program, including the planning, implementation, and evaluation. He/she will supervise all Head Start staff and is responsible for community involvement in the program. He/she maintains a good working relationship with the Regional Office. Ensures that the Head Start program is in compliance with Performance Standards and all policies of the National Head Start Program. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

I NEED HARVEST HELP & TRUCK DRIVERS needed for POTATO HARVEST starting September 3. Please text me at 719-850-2137. (8/28/24)

LAND USE & PERMITTING ADMINISTRATOR: The Baca Grande Property Owners Association, 68575 County Road T, CRESTONE, CO 81131 \$50,000 - \$60,000 a year - Full-time. <https://www.indeed.com/job/land-use-permitting-administrator-c201b-92d488ea125>. (8/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

BUS DRIVER/ CUSTODIAN: CENTER HEAD START is in search of a BUS DRIVER/ CUSTODIAN. Must have a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with P25 endorsement. A good driving record. Able to do a pre-trip inspection to ensure functioning maintenance of bus. Ability to work with children, parents, other staff, and community people. Custodian must take responsibility for the overall maintenance of the Head Start facility. Knowledge and understanding of safety and sanitation regulations and perform routine repairs as needed throughout the building. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of **ELEMENTARY TEACHER PRIMARY GRADE**, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/3/24)

THE UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a full time JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DEL NORTE Jr./Sr. High Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (8/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

THE BOE OF CENTER SCHOOLS is now accepting applications for **CHILDCARE** in the **INFANT ROOM** for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks and continuing education as needed. For information and application materials, please visit the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/3/24)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL MANAGER: The Baca Grande Property Owners Association, 68575 County Road T, CRESTONE, CO 81131 \$90,000 - \$130,000 a year - Full-time. <https://www.indeed.com/job/executive-director-general-manager-a959c-74f16ac2c01>. (8/28/24)

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 or contact Kathy Garcia at 719-341-0128 for more information. Application deadline: Until filled. (8/13/24)

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)

JR/SR HIGH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (8/7/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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/employment-opportunities> 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)

POTATO WAREHOUSE IN CENTER IN NEED OF WORKERS. There are SEVERAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Hours 8:00 am-???. Competitive wages. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO. (8/7/24)



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

ACROSS

- 1 Cheer from the stands
- 4 Baseball's Ripken
- 7 Quarrel
- 11 Clean air org.
- 12 Island near Java
- 13 Two
- 14 "Do — say ..."
- 15 Border on
- 16 Unseen emanation
- 17 Clemency
- 19 Butted in
- 21 Female animal
- 22 Caviar
- 23 Degree recipient
- 24 Dye vessel
- 25 — Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 28 Methods
- 29 In shape
- 30 Went down
- 31 "— a Kick Out of You"
- 32 Sheltered side

DOWN

- 33 Hodge-podge
- 34 Sailor
- 35 Forefoot
- 36 Parking lot sign
- 37 Liquor
- 38 "Born in the —"
- 39 "— and Old Lace"
- 43 Town in Georgia
- 46 Costa —
- 47 Proboscis
- 49 Nest egg letters
- 50 Apple product
- 51 Well-behaved
- 52 Pinna
- 53 Gainsay
- 54 Harvest goddess
- 55 Like a fox

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			

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"How come the dog gets lean beef and gravy and I get a cheese sandwich?"

Reverberations continue after falling out at work

DEAR ABBY: I worked for 11 years in the accounting department of a busy law firm. During my tenure, my three much younger colleagues married and started families. Due to the inevitable trials of raising kids, planned, unplanned and often simultaneous absences became commonplace, which left me to run the department alone.

During my last performance review, which I presumed to be confidential, I shared with our boss my exhaustion and health-impacting stress. My appeal for additional personnel was rejected. Rather than address the matter in the context of firm productivity, our boss informed each of my co-workers that I had complained about their chronic absenteeism, drawing charges that I, a middle-aged male with no children, was "insensitive" to their familial obligations.

I mended fences to the best of my ability but resigned shortly thereafter. I never confronted my boss, and he was never aware I had any knowledge of his manipulation. He now contacts me monthly to feign concern for my health and tell me how much I am missed, all of which is disingenuous.

As my former colleagues have now left the firm and face no retribution, I would like to end his contacts with

an appropriate expression of my contempt. Or should I simply block him and be done with it? -- MOVED ON IN ARIZONA

DEAR MOVED ON: As a former employee of that firm, you are under no obligation to have ANY more contact with your former boss. If you are still in the working world, refrain from venting about your contempt. Simply express that you prefer he not call you again. If he asks why, you would be within your rights to tell him you know he violated your confidence, which is why you left the firm.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, I reconnected with a childhood friend. We met for dinner a few times with our husbands, and everything seemed fine. They keep asking us to take a trip together, but I don't feel we know them well enough to spend that much time with them. I'm also becoming uncomfortable when we are together.

She says things like she told her mother she was meeting me for dinner and her mother said, "I'm jealous." Her husband tells me she says I'm her favorite person, EVER. She constantly sends me silly things on social media. I have now backed off even meeting them for dinner because I feel crowded by her.

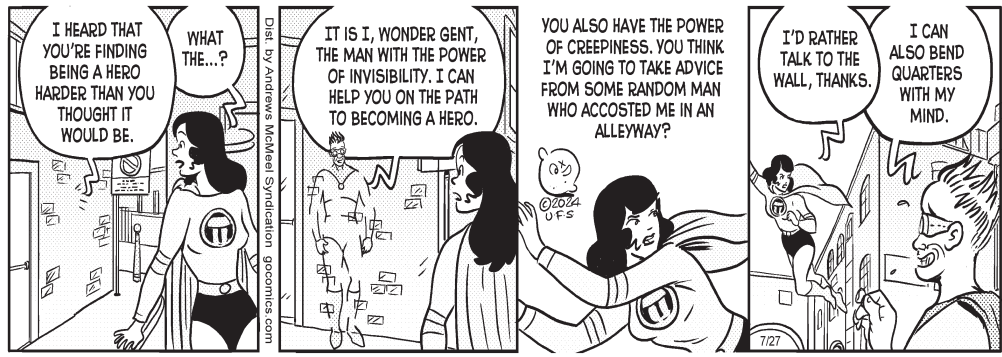


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

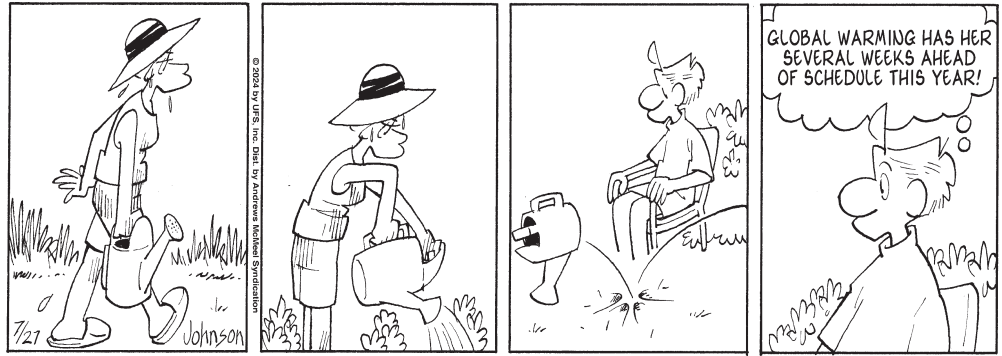
She recently texted me asking if she had done anything to offend me. I explained that I had a lot of work issues right now and was not good company -- I hoped it would be enough. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't want to encourage her friendship, either. Should I leave it alone, or say something more? -- SMOTHERED IN GEORGIA

DEAR SMOTHERED: Listen to your intuition. I don't think you need to do more than you are already doing, which is distancing yourself. If you are confronted directly again, remind her that you and your husband are busy people and you do not have the time to devote to cultivating a closer social relationship.

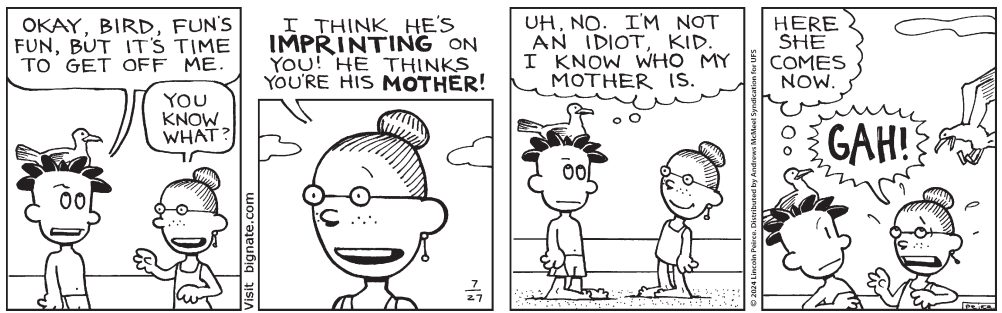
ALLEY OOP



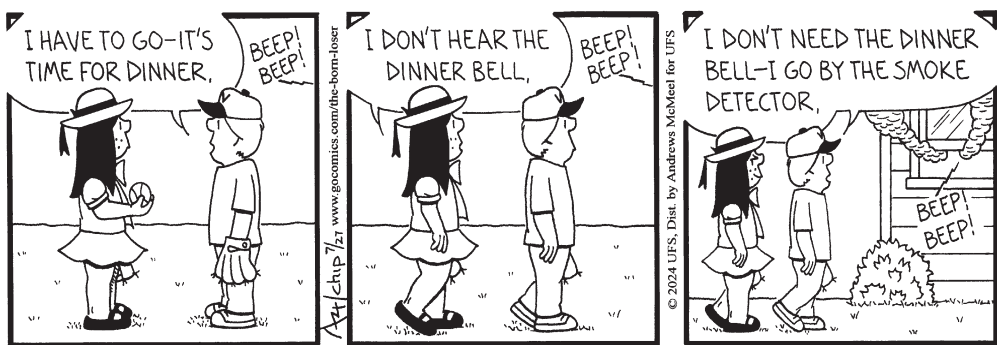
ARLO & JANIS



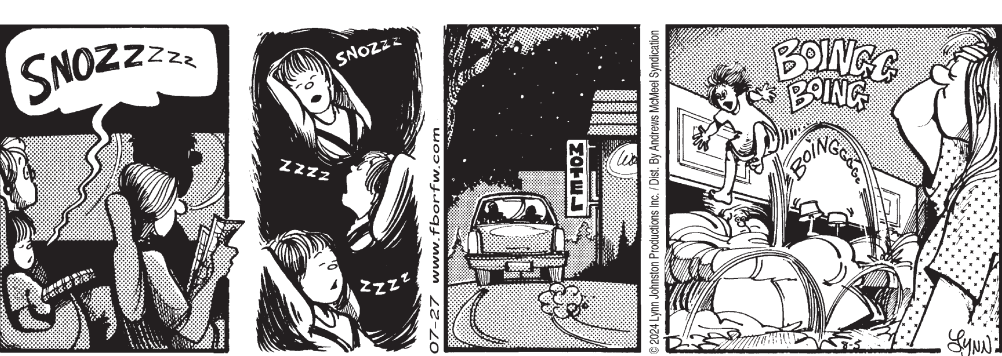
BIG NATE



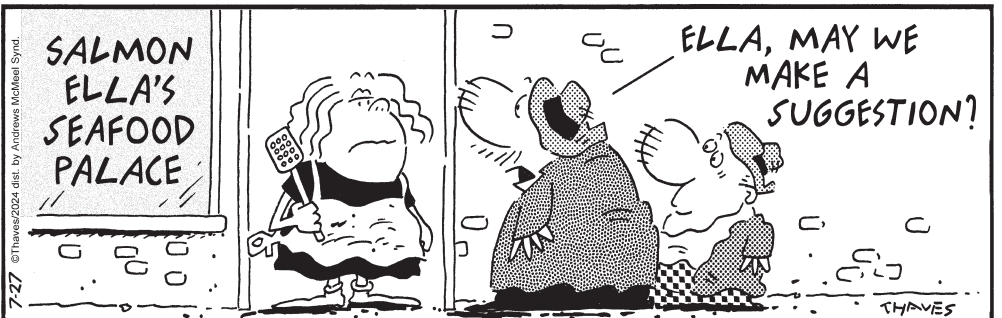
THE BORN LOSER



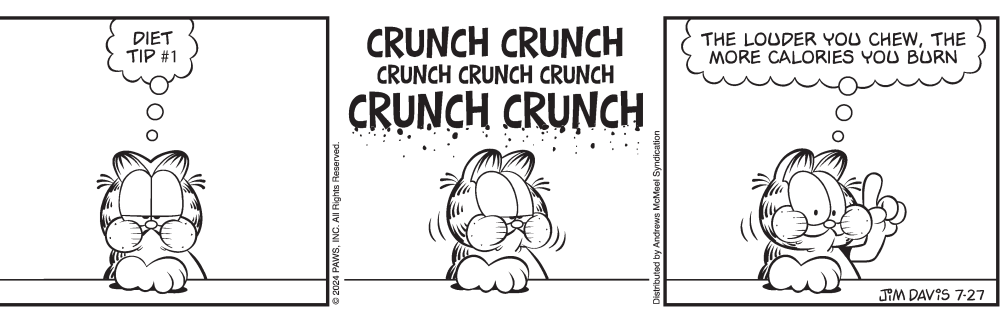
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



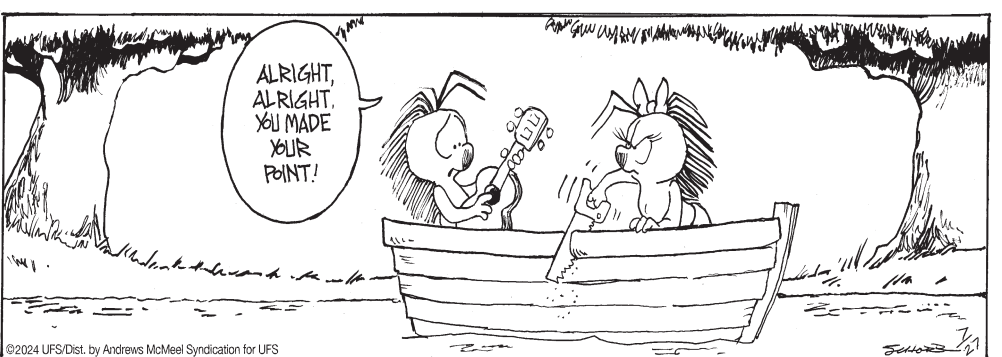
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GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

