

# THE SOUTH FORK TIMES



Gateway to the Silver Thread

Volume 94, Number 47 Thursday, November 24, 2022 South Fork, Colorado 81154 75¢



## MORSELS

### Bowen Drainage District annual meeting Dec. 6

**MONTE VISTA** — Bowen Drainage District annual meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Dec. 6 at the Monte Vista High School administration building.

### Family and Community selling Creede throws

**CREEDE** — Nonprofit Family and Community Education in Mineral County is selling Creede throws at the Holy Moses Gift Shop to raise funds for the group.

### Ski and outdoor gear swap Dec. 10 in Alamosa

**MONTE VISTA** — The San Juan Nordic Club, with the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, will be holding its annual ski and outdoor gear swap from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, 2222 Old Sanford Rd., Alamosa.

Drop off items to donate or sell from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 or from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Pick up unsold items from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

If you wish to sell items, a \$1 fee will be charged to non-members of the nordic club. Ten percent of the sales will go to the San Juan Nordic Club to support the grooming of nordic ski trails in the San Luis Valley. Currently, those trails are at Big Meadows, east of Wolf Creek and at Rock Creek, south of Monte Vista.

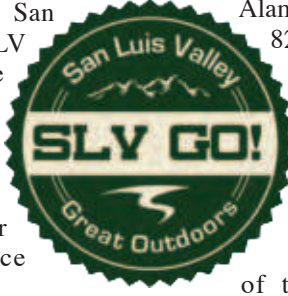
For more information, or if you wish to volunteer at the swap, contact Adam at 336-607-4465 or erinadamoo@gmail.com.

## SLV GO! releases Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Survey

CONTRIBUTED

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) Coalition recently released the San Luis Valley Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Survey that will collect community input in regards to resident and visitor satisfaction, priorities, and perceptions of outdoor recreation and natural resource management in the SLV.

Survey participants will have the opportunity



to win a gift card from Kristi Mountain Sports in Alamosa, a free ski or snowboard rental at 8200 sports in South Fork, or a half-day raft trip for two with Mountain Man Rafting out of South Fork. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes and is available in both English and Spanish. To take the survey, go to [www.slvgo.com](http://www.slvgo.com).

The SLV GO! Coalition is part of the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative, a statewide initiative

funded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado to support efforts that advance conservation and outdoor recreation planning at the regional level. The SLV GO! Coalition was selected as one of seven regional partnerships in 2021 to develop a regional conservation and recreation plan, in which regionally identified priorities will help inform the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Through an extensive and inclusive public engagement process, including but not limited to the survey, the coalition is

*Please see SLV GO! on Page 7A*

## Colorado Pacific Railroad wins auction for SLRG

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — The auction to purchase the San Luis Rio Grande (SLRG) railroad concluded in court on Thursday morning, Nov. 17, with a result that could not have been predicted several weeks ago.

Colorado Pacific Railroad, LLC, which submitted a bid to purchase the SLRG on Nov. 5, ultimately came out on top with a winning bid of \$10.7 million, beating out Big Shoulders Capital and OmniTRAX with an 86% increase over that company's original bid of \$5.7 million.

"The auction was very spirited,"

said William Brandt, the bankruptcy trustee. "This is great news. (This is) a responsible operator for the railroad in the Valley. And given the value that was created in the auction, the creditors and the others will be thankful. There will be some money to pay bills."

Stefan Soloviev is the owner of Colorado Pacific Railroad, which currently owns the 156 miles of track in southeastern Colorado known as the Towner Line, running from the Kansas state line west to the interchange at N.A. Junction just east of Boone.

In addition to other holdings, from being pulled up and scrapped for Soloviev also has established its high-quality tracks

significant acreage in production — both farming and livestock — in Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico.

In support of his own investment and other ag producers in the region, several years ago, Soloviev invested significant resources in purchasing, resurrecting and rehabilitating the Towner line that, before he stepped in, was literally weeks away



"I'm very pleased and very proud to be the new owner of the SLRG Railroad, implementing it with the CPRR and working with the people of Colorado on a personal level as I have since arriving in this region 23 years ago," Soloviev said.

"This is just another piece to the larger part of creating the first-  
*Please see SLRG on Page 2A*

## Wetherill prepares for new role in Mineral County

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**MINERAL COUNTY** — There will be a change in leadership at the Mineral County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 10, 2023, when newly elected Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill will be sworn into office.

Wetherill won the position in the 2022 election in a close race with current Sheriff Fred Hosselkus. Hosselkus served Mineral County diligently for the past 16 years.

Though Wetherill will not be sworn in for another two months, he is setting the stage for the next four years and is beginning with creating a foundation of trust within the community he

will be serving.

Between now and Jan. 10, Wetherill will be gathering data and talking with the community to gain perspective on what is needed throughout the county.

"I want to know what is needed of me so that when I do take office, I can get boots on the ground and get moving," said Wetherill.

While collecting data and community perspective, Wetherill will be doing the same within the sheriff's office as well.

"This is my opportunity to set the foundation in the department with employees," he said. "I need to know their concerns as well. I will also

be working with Mineral County Commissioners on policies and procedures so that my expectation of employees is also clear."

The Mineral County Commissioners are working with Wetherill to create a budget that will allow him to continue training and to purchase some much-needed equipment.

"We are figuring out the priorities," Wetherill said. "Some things are more important than others, especially in equipment and training. I will be doing an integrated preparedness planning workshop in coming weeks so that we can look at where our strengths are and what we need to

*Please see WETHERILL on Page 2A*

## DA charges Absolute Shine employee with arson in MV Fire

STAFF REPORT

**MONTE VISTA** — An Absolute Shine Auto Body and Paint employee was charged with arson in the Monte Vista Fire that destroyed several homes on April 20, according to the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

The DA's office issued a press release on Monday, Nov. 21, detailing what led to the charge of arson, a class three felony, against Darrius Garcia.

The complaint alleges that Garcia recklessly started a fire endangering property valued between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000,

according to the DA's Office.

At approximately 12:15 p.m., the Monte Vista Police Department, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Land Management and the Monte Vista Fire Protection District and more agencies from

**An Absolute Shine Auto Body and Paint employee was charged with arson in the Monte Vista Fire that destroyed several homes on April 20, according to the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office.**



File photo

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# OBITUARIES

## Dr. Jack L. 'Doc' Brown

Dr. Jack L. "Doc" Brown passed away on Nov. 2, 2022, at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake in Monte Vista surrounded by family after 98 years of life full of love, service and adventure. Dr. Brown was born on Aug. 17, 1924, in the small town of Stratton, Neb., to Dr. Lionel B. (L.B.) Brown and Nina (Hostetter) Brown.

Young Jack and his two brothers, Al and Dick, were blessed with parents who appreciated their sons' shenanigans. Together the three brothers had the run of their small, western Nebraska town and they had a childhood filled with legendary adventures. Jack regaled the generations that followed with stories of his childhood. He was an excellent student and a star athlete, excelling in six-man football and basketball.

Dr. Brown was proud World War II veteran. He enlisted in the Marines and served in the Military Police in Pearl Harbor. He was discharged from the Marines in California in 1945 where he worked in construction for six months while he waited for his brother, Dick to return from the War. As soon as Dick was discharged, the two brothers rode a 1945 Indian motorcycle from California home to Stratton. Always the patriot, Dr. Brown, raised, lowered and folded an American flag in his front yard every day until he moved to assisted living after which the flag continued to fly at his home in his honor.

After the war, Dr. Brown enrolled in the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry. He returned to Stratton on his summer vacations where he met a young nurse's aide living and working at the Stratton Hospital. Jack and Phyllis League were married on Aug. 4, 1952 and became an inseparable pair, returning to Lincoln together where Jack completed Dental School and graduated in 1954.

Dr. and Mrs. Brown made a leap of faith and moved to Monte Vista, Colo., opening the Dental Office at 136 Adams St. Many will remember following the sign that read "Painless

Dentist Upstairs" and climbing the stairs to the second-floor dental office where Dr. Brown practiced dentistry with Phyllis at his side for the next 30 years. Dr. Brown provided more than dental care for generations of Monte Vista residents — he was equal parts dentist, entertainer, friend and confidante. He cared for his patients as if they were his family. Dr. and Mrs. Brown passed their gifts for caring for their friends and neighbors to their children and grandchildren amongst whom are multiple caregivers and medical professionals.

Dr. and Mrs. Brown raised four children: Sherry, Shirley, John and Kim. An avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman, Jack and his family enjoyed fishing and camping in the summers at Santa Maria reservoir. He was animal lover since early childhood and four-legged friends were ever-present in the Brown house. The family once kept a pet racoon (until she wore out her welcome) and there was almost always a dachshund sitting upright with Jack in his armchair.

After retirement from Dentistry in the mid-1980s, Jack and Phyllis filled their days with the pursuit of their multiple hobbies. They were known for their beautiful garden which they tended together well into their 80s. There were apples to press into cider in the fall, rhubarb to make into pies, and raspberries for the little ones to eat right from the bushes. Everyone could count on a treat from the garden or the kitchen when they visited the Browns. The two could often be found enjoying a cool drink in the yard and visitors could hear a story from the early days in Stratton while Jack kneaded bread at the wooden chopping block in the middle of the kitchen.

Jack and Phyllis loved to shoot trap and were long-time members of the Del Monte Gun Club where he was known for his home-re-loaded shotgun shells (which packed varying degrees of power). Dr. Brown always loved riding motorcycles and he and Phyllis



enjoyed cross-country trips on their BMW. There was nothing that he could not fix or weld from scrap metal and potato digger-links. He passed his love of hunting to his children and grandchildren — freezing cold San Luis Valley mornings hunting ducks with Grandpa are treasured memories.

Dr. Brown was preceded in death by his parents Dr. L.B. and Nina, his brothers, Al and Dick, sister-in-law Delores Campbell, and his beloved wife of nearly 70 years, Phyllis.

He is survived by children Sherry King, Shirley (Lynn) McCullough, John (Kimberly) Brown and Kim (Cyndy) Brown as well as his brother-in-law Dick Campbell, sister-in-law Norma Thomas, niece Rita Crose, nephew Mike (Teresa) Brown and niece Lori Campbell-Miller. He is additionally survived by his eight grandchildren and their spouses, and many great-grandchildren.

Dr. Brown's contributions to the world through his love for his family, adventurous spirit, humor, and service to his country and his many patients will not be long forgotten.

A private family service will be held at a later date. To express condolences to the family, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com) Memorial Contributions can be made in care of Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa, Colo.

## Donald Lee Howard

Donald Lee Howard was born in Fort Collins, Colo., on Aug. 11, 1960, to John Howard and Sandra Strickland Howard. He passed away on Nov. 9, 2022, after a month-long illness.

Surviving are his parents, John and Sandra Howard of

Creede, Colo., his daughter Lacye Mills and her husband Don Mills of Clovis, N.M.; his daughter Ashley Twite and her husband Craig Twite of Creede, Colo. He leaves behind eight grandchildren: Austin and Cadence Mills of Clovis, N.M.; John Twite, Trenea Carpenter, Jaden Twite, Taylor Carpenter, Jazlynn Twite, and Tatum Twite of Creede, Colo. Surviving are also his Aunt, Judy Shue and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lyman and Geraldine Howard of Center, Colo., and Leroy and Jane Strickland of Monte Vista and Canon City, Colo., and Jan Borren of Fredericksburg, Texas.

Don had a very successful career as a thoroughbred jockey, riding at many of the major racetracks in the country. He was involved in a number of other enterprises following his retirement from racing.

Services for Don will be held at the Rio Grande Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022, at 2 p.m.



## 12th annual Alamosa Christmas Light Parade Dec. 17

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The 12th annual Alamosa Christmas Light Parade is just around the corner.

The parade will kick off at 6 p.m. on Dec. 17 on Main Street in Alamosa.

Floats covered in Christmas Lights will travel down Main Street and turn South on Alamosa Ave.

The Alamosa Christmas Light Parade is put on each year by The Alamosa Round-UP Rodeo Committee. With the help of sponsors, the parade is able to give Christmas stockings, caps and candy cane socks to the hospital, so that each new born baby in December gets to be sent home in a super fun way.

This year's Christmas Light Parade sponsors include RG Bank, Friday Health Plans, 1st Southwest Bank,

North River Green House, SLV Federal Bank, Asphalt Constructors, US Tractor and Harvest, Blessed Brews-Roots, SLVREC/Ciello, Hogues Glass, The Valley Courier, SLV Health, Viaero Wireless, Monte Vista Coop, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Colorado Potato Administration, Sweet Optics, Schulz Realty and Honeycutt Rodeo. Without the help of these sponsors, this parade would not be possible.

Floats range from semi-trucks, tractors, snow plows, horses and Harleys will hit the streets. Parking will be prohibited on Main Street to leave room for the floats, so dress warm and enjoy a night out with family in Alamosa.

The parade judges are local enforcement officers.

## WETHERILL

Continued from Page 1A

work on."

One of Wetherill's main focuses moving forward is the need to reevaluate the progress of the department.

"We will need measurable metrics as we move forward so that we can measure progress," he said. "This is how we observe results and know how to move forward through each phase of this first term."

In addition to the work Wetherill is doing in preparation for his new

office, he will continue to work with Mineral County Search and Rescue and continue to serve as Mineral County Emergency Manager until a replacement is hired.

In his first few months, Wetherill plans to continue work with the Creede School District as it navigates security protocols and changes at the school, intends to strengthen his relationship with the City of Creede and other law enforcement agencies throughout the San Luis Valley.

## SLRG

Continued from Page 1A

ever vertically integrated agricultural business. From seed to farming to harvest to storage to rail to a dedicated port to vessel to end-user, wherever that end-user is in the world.

"I hope to take the people of Colorado and western Kansas on this journey with me that I started in Topeka, Kansas in 1999. I truly believe together we can be larger than Cargill, work together and change the grain business as we know it.

"I'm coming out there at the end of November and will ride the rail the entire way and game plan it. I'll have a lot more information on what we're going to do to the line and how we're going to improve it after I've been there. We're going to make this much more profitable than it's been."

Brandt said that "will be music to everyone's ears" and reflected on the past three years.

"As a trustee for the railroad, I did the best that I could to obviously improve its service and its reliability and others," Brandt said. "But when I was pitching potential customers for new business, I had to consider their viewpoint that a chapter 11 trustee is plugging the railroad. Why take that economic risk if the trustee has to do that?"

"I think there are all kinds of people who have been waiting with bated breath to see some semblance of financial security put behind the railroad. I'm convinced, once that's there, there will be some heavy growth

in the valley. As people pick up on this and everybody knows what the future will be and how well-heeled the purchaser is, I expect great things for both the railroad and the Valley."

The Valley Courier reached out to OmniTRAX for comment but received no response by press time on Thursday.

A final decision will not be issued from the bankruptcy judge until Nov. 28, during which time Brandt will submit his recommendation concerning the bidder. After that, the sale will have to go before the Surface Transportation Board for final approval, which is anticipated to likely take place shortly after the end of the year.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Gobble, gobble

By the time most of you read this you will have already found yourself elbow deep inside a cavernous turkey carcass trying to stuff it with old bread. At least that is how it used to be before people found out you could make dressing in a casserole dish much easier.

Yes, those were the old days, I guess, but many of our memories revolve around Thanksgiving as families came together to celebrate their plenteous larder. Which then led to plenteous lard around our middles from all the calories consumed.

Thinking back on those early Turkey Days with all the grandparents and extended families present is a trip down memory lane for Ol' Dutch. Even though they didn't have much as far as this world is concerned, there was always plenty of home-cooked food to go around and love aplenty for everyone present. And the food they did bring, too.

There was always turkey and oyster dressing, cranberries and salads, pickles and pie, and a plethora of things I cannot recall. And of course, the one amazing item brought by the wealthy family member purchased just that morning from the local grocery store that Ol' Dutch thought was so special but was in fact the least of the food there.

We all sat around filling our gullets with goodies and then after the dishes were done a long afternoon of visiting was enjoyed between the gatherers.

With my family that was a non-stop four hours of everyone talking at once and no one listening, so it seemed. But, boy, did they love one another. We got to hear about Aunt Alice's recent surgery, Uncle Henry's gout, stories about their growing up, and being church going people, many a story about God's blessings to them during the past year.

Not having much in the way of earthly treasures among those family members made it a lot easier to not have family fights as sometimes occur at gatherings of such. Mostly these fights happen when the conversation turns to who got Grandma's China and Grandpa's pocket watch in the Will, which in our case was easily avoided as none of our family had such items to cherish and lust after. My grandma didn't have any China and grandpa used a sundial to tell time.

And matter of fact any items that were passed along to us were usually in the form of something like an old treadle sewing machine that if you were unlucky enough to become the progeny to inherit, you were forced to keep for the rest of your life. Not only did you have to keep it but it had to have some place of prominence in



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

your home so that visiting relatives could see it and be assured you were keeping it safe. They made sure to mention that they sure wished they had room for it but alas, their house was already full.

And so there you were stuck with a toe stubbing ole piece of heavy iron covered with a doily adorned with a picture in a frame of people you didn't know.

I am fortunate enough to go with Miss Trixie to her family gatherings, now, and have to say they are much the same as mine as the people there love each other with a passion that cannot be imagined and to sit and listen to the stories being told brings many a memory to Ol' Dutch about his early years.

Now her people have plenty of money to have purchased food for all there, but they take special pride in baking and cooking and batching and mixing a meal fit only for a King and sure to either cause diabetes or gout. It's always a Texas gathering for them, and celebrate they do.

Space here does not allow me to share about the first Thanksgiving but rest assured, it was a time of extreme hardship by the Pilgrims who came to America seeking freedom from persecution. And finding that here, they took the time to be with friends and thank God for His blessings upon them.

So, this week if you are fortunate enough to have family to gather with, thank God for your blessings that day and remember others in your prayers that they too may find somewhere to have a meal and share some conversations with others. Happy Thanksgiving to all and may God Bless and keep you in the days ahead.

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



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### Arcturus

The two stars that I seem to mention the most are Arcturus and Spica. Since I wrote about Spica last month, I thought it was time to tell you about Arcturus. You know the drill: find the Big Dipper and follow the arc of its handle to Arcturus.

The fourth-brightest star in the sky is a red giant. It's 25 times the diameter of our sun and radiates 100 times the light of our sun. The orange color signifies that with a temperature of 7,300 degrees it's several thousand degrees cooler than our sun. All of this is due to its old

age of 7-8 billion years.

What's interesting about Arcturus is that it's moving at a tremendous rate of speed perpendicular to the disc of the Milky Way. It's highly unusual for an object to do that rather than orbiting in the disc. It's moving with a group of old stars known as the Arcturus Stream. In about 4,000 years it will be closest to us before it begins to move away.

Arcturus is part of the constellation Boötes the Herdsman, a kite shaped form with Arcturus near the bottom as a foot. Boötes is the guardian of the Great Bear, Ursa Major, which contains the Big Dipper asterism.

It's one of the few stars mentioned in the Bible. You can find it in Job 9:9 and Job 38:32. Because of its position in the sky, Arcturus is visible all year. Currently it's high in the southwest.

Saturn's rings and three moons, galaxies, globular clusters and shooting stars! So, go out on a clear night and enjoy what we have and protect it for future generations by avoiding light pollution.

Happy Thanksgiving!



## LETTER

# Americans are faced with many concerns

Editor,  
As we approach Thanksgiving Day 2022, Americans are faced with many concerns, frustrations, and uncertainty. Increasing inflation, high energy costs and the concern about winter heating costs, rising crime rates, a humanitarian crisis at our southern border, the destruction of lives due to unchecked flow of fentanyl across the southern border into all parts of the country are reasons for anxiety and worry.

The war in Ukraine, China's aggressive actions toward Taiwan, the unpredictable leadership in North Korea and Iran add to our concerns. Finally, Americans are weary of the division among our citizens caused by partisan politics and differing ideologies.

In October of 1864, our country was in the throes of a civil war. Despite the grave challenges facing President Abraham Lincoln, he issued a proclamation that the fourth Thursday of every November hence forth would be set aside as a day for all Americans to express thanks and

gratitude for all the blessings of the past year. This was a time when the divisions among Americans could not have been worse.

Yet in his proclamation, President Lincoln expressed thanks for abundant rewards granted us as a result of "the labor of our workmen in every department of industry." He adds, "He (meaning Almighty God) has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions."

The Book of Common Prayer is the liturgical guide for those in the Episcopal and Anglican worship communities. It contains many prayers for many purposes. Page 820 contains the "Prayer for our Country."

It contains the petition to Almighty

God to "bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues."

The prayer further petitions for wisdom to be granted for those in authority of government, for justice and peace among the nations of the world.

In times of great challenges and discord we can be tempted to forget that we are blessed to live in the United States of America. May the above words of wisdom and admonition guide our thoughts and actions as we prepare to offer thanks on this 158th observance of our National Day of Thanksgiving.

"In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail." (BCP p. 820)

Susan Robinson  
Alamosa



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# Winners of Valley Publishing's Fall Photo Contest

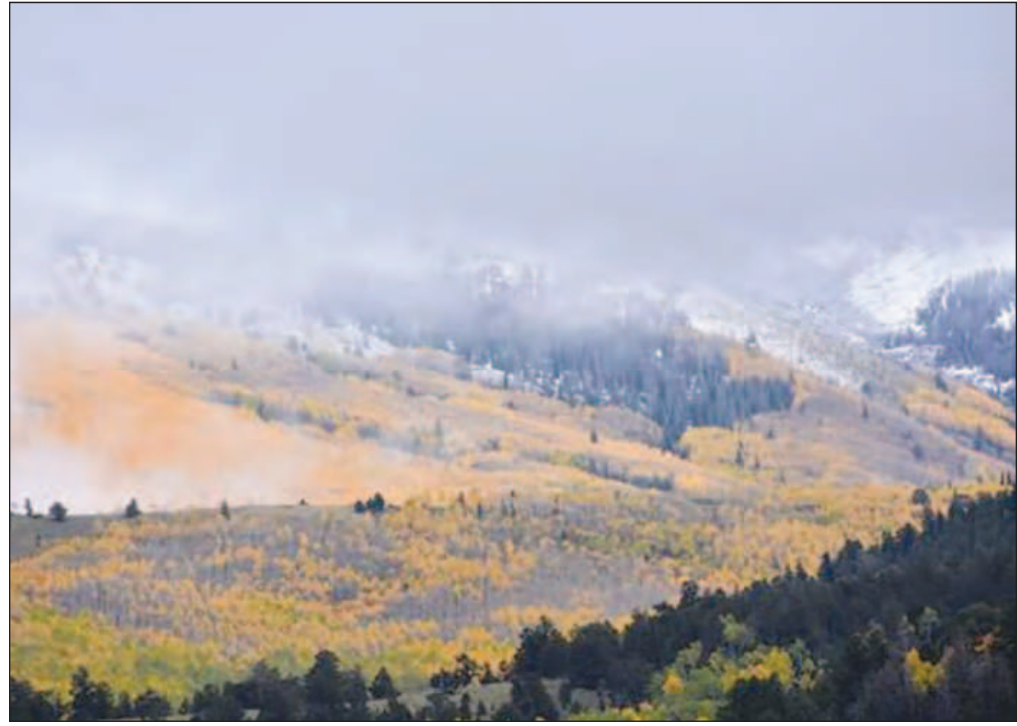
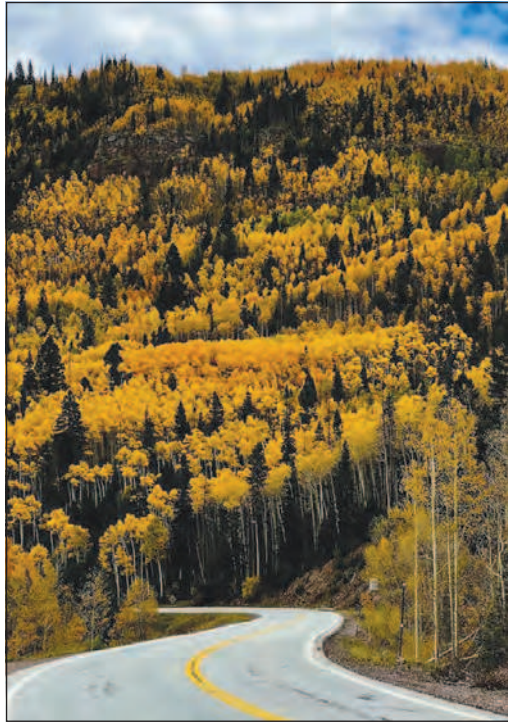


Photo by Joslin Gilleland

Third Place, Winter Fall

Photo by Cain Christina

**Second Place**  
**Bugles and Beauty**  
The aspen trees were definitely in their prime this day on Cumbres Pass.  
**Left: First place**  
**Enchanted Forest**  
**Del Norte to Summitville**  
Photo by Cynthia Rutledge

## CHARGES

Continued from Page 1A

across the San Luis Valley responded to reports of a spreading fire in the area of the 800 block of Acequia Drive in Monte Vista.

The origin of the fire was determined to be a burn pit at Absolute Shine Auto Body and Paint located at 859 Acequia Dr., Monte Vista, according to the DA's Office.

Garcia's next court appearance is at 11 a.m. on Dec. 8 in Rio Grande County District Court.

"This is an ongoing investigation, and the Office of the District Attorney recognizes the tremendous work of our first responders in their quick and efficient response to this incident," the DA's Office stated.



File photo

## Center Kiwanis Club delivers dictionaries



Courtesy photo  
Third-gradestudents in area schools recently were the recipients of dictionaries provided by the Kiwanis Club of Center. The dictionaries were delivered to third-graders at the following elementary schools: Center, Sargent, Bill Metz in Monte Vista, Mountain Valley, Moffat, Crestone Charter, Sangre De

Cristo, and to the Amish and Mennonite schools. Kiwanis members making the deliveries were Janet and Don Noland, Lewis Entz, Dick Ramstetter, and Skip McClure. Kiwanis International is a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Center has been serving the children in the area for over 90 years. Pictured is the third-grade class of Heather Smith at the Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista.

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# Third state record brook trout caught in 2022

## Previous mark had stood for 75 years

CONTRIBUTED

**LAKE CITY** — As Colorado Parks and Wildlife celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2022, it may be long remembered as the year of the brook trout.

Only five months after CPW certified a new state record for brook trout for the first time in 75 years, the record was again reestablished by Matt Smiley of Lake City. He caught an 8-pound, 9-ounce brook trout on Oct. 8 from Waterdog Lake, located on the east side of Lake City in Hinsdale County within the Uncompahgre National Forest.

The fish measured 26.25 inches in length and had a girth of 16 inches.

“The experience of this catch has been surreal, and it took a few days to soak in. It’s a really special fish,” Smiley said. “The toughest thing for me with this whole deal was deciding to keep the fish. I’ve released so many over the years, but it was one of those deals where I made a quick decision and wanted to give this fish the recognition it deserves.”

In May, Tim Daniel of Granby reeled in a 7.84-pound brook trout from Monarch Lake in Grand County. That fish, measured at 23.25 inches with a girth of 15.375 inches, broke the previous state record of 7.63 pounds from a brook trout caught in 1947 out of Upper Cataract Lake in Summit County. That had been the longest-standing fishing record in the state.

Since Daniel’s catch on May 23, the record has been broken twice, with both caught at Waterdog Lake.

The weekend before Smiley’s triumph, Larry Vickers of Lake City had caught an 8.22-pound brook trout. While Vickers knew he had a record fish, he opted not to go through the certification process and decided to eat it to not let the meat

go to waste. CPW aquatic biologist Dan Brauch was notified of the catch, and word spread across the region.

Smiley, who sells tackle for the company Favorite Fishing, has chased large brook trout in lakes across Colorado for a decade. He was eager to get in the high country for some fall fishing, and Vickers’ catch was stuck in his mind. So, he set up the Waterdog Lake trail with a 3.9-mile hike and 2,400 feet of elevation gain between him and the lake nestled in the timberline bowl beneath Mesa Seco at 11,130 feet.

After a day of catching smaller fish, Smiley was about ready to pack up and head home to watch college football. But 20 seconds after he had that thought, he felt the tug of a large fish on his Favorite Fishing Jackhammer rod and set the hook on his artificial lure.

“After fishing for a bit and only seeing smaller fish, I thought I wasn’t going to see any real good ones,” Smiley said. “But then the rod got heavy, I set my hook and could tell I had a really big fish.

“When it surfaced and I could see it, all I could think was, ‘Wow.’ I’ve caught big brookies in the past around the state, but when I saw this one, it was just different. It had way more length than any of the big ones before.”

Smiley battled the fish and waded into the water to try to get it in his net. He was able to net it, but with one forceful roll, the trout was free of the net and the fight resumed. It once again took his line out to the middle of the lake.

“I went into the ‘I can’t lose this one’ mode,” Smiley said. “She pulled and rolled and was doing crazy things. My heart sank when she flopped right back out of the net, but she stayed hooked up and I brought her in a second time. It was a wild, crazy deal.”

Finally with the trout in his hands, Smiley had another 3.9-mile hike down the steep trail with the

fish in his backpack.

He took it directly to the Lake City post office where it was weighed by Emily Dozier, who happily obliged Smiley’s request to have the fish weighed.

After further inspection from Brauch, the local CPW aquatic biologist, it was declared the new state record brook trout.

“Having sampled that water, I know the shoreline is loaded with scuds,” Brauch said. “So, I am not too surprised this fish came from that lake, but it is a smaller body of water. It’s not a lake that handles a lot of use or fishing pressure and is difficult to access. Seeing two record fish in one week caught from there, it’s a cool story.”

Smiley thanked Brauch for meeting him over the weekend to inspect and certify the fish as well as his friends who helped get him in contact with CPW.

The brook trout, introduced to Colorado in 1872, is a member of the char genus of the trout and salmonid family. It is a beautifully colored fish with pink or red spots surrounded by blue halos along the sides and a distinctive marbled pattern over an olive-green back. Brook trout, which are native to Northeastern United States, often grow anywhere from 11 to 23 inches in length.

Smiley and a friend have enjoyed fishing for brook trout around the state together. Smiley said they have run into plenty of large fish over the years.

“We’ve been doing this for 10 years pretty hard across Colorado. We just love backcountry brook trout,” Smiley said. “There are several lakes with really good fish in them, and we’ve been close a few times. My friend got one five years ago that would’ve broken the record, and on the spot he released it. He had one earlier that day he lost that was even bigger. The way lakes cycle, a couple of years go by and there are no big brookies left in it as things change.”

Smiley said the decisions to keep the fish, certify it as a record brook trout and have it mounted were



Courtesy photo  
**Matt Smiley of Lake City poses for a photo with the new state record brook trout he caught Oct. 8. The fish lost some of its color after a long hike down from the mountain lake where it was caught.**

all difficult.

“I’ve let some really big ones go, and then you see them later and age has not been kind to them as they’ve regressed and gone the other way when they aren’t getting the nutrients they need to maintain that size,” he said. “This one, it was in peak condition, and I made the decision to give that fish the recognition it deserves. But it’s been the toughest thing for me with this whole deal. We learn none of them live forever, but it’s just a crazy deal when it all happens at once and you have to make that quick call.”

Now, the oldest fishing record in Colorado is for white bass, dating back to 1963. The oldest trout record in the state is for native cutthroat, dating back to 1964.

To see the full list of state record fish by weight in Colorado, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/RecordsbyWeight.aspx>.

# November is Diabetes Awareness Month

CONTRIBUTED

**DEL NORTE** — November is Diabetes Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to this fast-growing, life-threatening epidemic. Currently more than 37 million Americans have diabetes, and this number is expected to increase to 54.9 million by 2030.

Increases have been attributed to a rise in obesity rates and an aging population, but new research shows that younger people are being diagnosed with the disease. From 2001 to 2017, the number of people under age 20 living with diabetes increased by 45 percent, and the number living with type 2 diabetes grew by 95 percent. This troubling development is expected to further challenge the healthcare system in the coming decades.

As the number of newly diagnosed diabetics increases, the incidence of complications including diabetic foot ulcers and related amputations is also on the rise. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted young people with diabetes due to sudden and extended social isolation,

sedentary lifestyles, treatment delays, and a general lack of consistency in disease management. Recent data reveals a 29 percent increase in diabetes-related deaths for younger people last year.

“Over the last decade we have seen a steady increase in younger people coming in with chronic wounds and diabetic foot ulcers, sometimes as young as their early 30s,” said Christina Le, CNO of Wound Care Advantage, a leading national consulting firm for outpatient wound care and hyperbaric medicine programs. “It is a disturbing trend, and we are waiting for more data, but it is definitely cause for concern.”

**Diabetic Foot Ulcers: The Most Common Cause of Hospitalization Among Diabetics**

The most common cause of hospitalization among diabetics is a diabetic foot ulcer (DFU), or an open sore on the lower limb that becomes infected. DFUs typically develop on weight-bearing areas of the foot, most commonly the bottom of the big toe, the ball of the

foot or the heel. Approximately 15 to 25 percent of individuals with diabetes will be diagnosed with a DFU at some point in their lives, and one in five of these patients will undergo a lower limb amputation. In fact, every 20 seconds a diabetes-related amputation is performed. The five-year mortality rate is upwards of 74 percent for patients with lower extremity amputation - higher than those for several types of cancer including prostate, breast, and colon combined.

**Why Are Diabetics More Vulnerable to Foot Ulcers and Chronic Wounds?**

Uncontrolled blood sugar levels deprive the blood vessels of much-needed oxygen and nutrients, which are necessary for healing. To complicate things further, many individuals with diabetes have a loss of sensation in the lower limbs stemming from diabetic neuropathy. They may be unaware that a wound exists. On occasion, a trip to the ER for a high fever results in the discovery of a non-healing wound that has become infected. Many individuals

with diabetes also have peripheral artery disease causing compromised blood flow to the feet, exacerbating the severity of the wound.

**What Do People with Diabetes Need to Know?**

A simple cut or scrape can quickly develop into a severely infected wound that does not heal and may be life-threatening. If a diabetic ulcer is suspected or discovered, a physician should be contacted immediately for an evaluation and possible referral to a wound care specialist. The general rule of thumb for most people is if a wound hasn’t healed on its own within 30 days, it should be evaluated. But if a patient has diabetes, early intervention is critical. With proper treatment, complications can be avoided.

“It’s important for people to know that a chronic wound in a diabetic patient can become infected quite quickly because of poor circulation,” said Eva Timberlake of Rio Grande Hospital. “If a patient gets evaluated early on,

commits to treatment and is compliant with instructions, it will help prevent amputation.”

**Wound Care Tips for Individuals with Diabetes:**

- Check your feet on a regular basis, including the bottoms; contact a physician if a wound is discovered
  - If you’re already in treatment for a chronic wound, keep all appointments and follow instructions
  - To help promote healing, consume a nutritious diet with an appropriate mix of protein, fruits and vegetables, healthy fats and whole grains
  - Limit alcohol consumption and avoid smoking. Smoking reduces circulation and impedes healing
- Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care Center uses advanced wound care modalities to quickly and successfully treat non-healing wounds. Chronic wounds can be diagnosed, effectively managed and ultimately healed, oftentimes within eight weeks. Call 719-657-3277, for more information.

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# Boebert wins CO-3 as Frisch concedes

*Incumbent bests Democrat challenger by a slim margin*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert will win re-election as representative for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

Democratic challenger Adam Frisch conceded to Boebert on Friday, Nov. 18.

Although the results are yet to be certified, according to the latest update posted Friday afternoon on the Colorado Secretary of State website, Boebert won the district by 554 votes out of a total of 327,110 votes cast. That translates to a .16% margin of victory, well below the .5% mark that, by state election

law, mandates an automatic recount.

Thursday evening, before Frisch had conceded, the recount had been announced nor had the race been called, Rep. Boebert declared herself the winner, via a video posted on Twitter.

After describing the recount process, Boebert assured voters that the results will not change and that her "campaign staff and her lawyers will make sure everything will be done correctly.

"Come January, you can be certain of two things: I will be sworn in for my second term as your congresswoman and Republicans can finally turn Pelosi's house back into the people's house," she said.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to spend the last several months traveling this district and meeting with the people of Western and Southern Colorado," Frisch said during his concession speech on Zoom. "While an automatic

recount is on the horizon, we don't expect the outcome to change. I called Congresswoman Boebert to concede this race because it is vital to our Democracy to trust and accept the results of our elections.

"With the closeness of this race, we have defied incredible odds and delivered a moral victory for the people of CO-3; many of whom crossed party lines to reject extremism with their vote,"

"This is a testament to the bipartisan coalition we have built throughout this campaign, and I'm confident that coalition will continue to grow into the future."

**U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert will win re-election after Democratic challenger Adam Frisch conceded on Friday morning.**

Colorado Sun photo by William Woody



## RGNF announces holiday office hours and Christmas tree permit sales options

*Firewood permits and other forest products also available*

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Friday, Nov. 18, its planned

office hours for the remainder of the year. In addition, the RGNF is offering multiple opportunities to purchase Christmas tree permits this holiday season.

How to obtain

Christmas tree permits

Permits can be purchased at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) by searching "Rio Grande Christmas Tree."

Rio Grande National Forest district



offices have permits for sale. Below are current vendors that have permits.

- Kristi Mountain Sports – 3223 Main St., Alamosa
- South Fork Visitor Center – 28 Silver Thread Lane, South Fork
- Monte Vista COOP – 1901 US-160, Monte Vista
- San Juan Sports – 102 S Main St., Creede
- Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce – 904 S. Main St., Creede

**RGNF office hours**

Normal RGNF office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Conejos Peak Ranger District will offer Christmas tree sales daily through the RGNF's partner,

San Juan Mountains Association. On Wednesdays, through Dec. 21, the District will offer firewood and other forest product permits for sale at the office. Alternatively,

firewood permits can be purchased over the phone, Monday-Friday, by calling the Divide Ranger District at 719-657-3321. The tags will be mailed to the purchaser.

The Del Norte office of the Divide Ranger District will have extended hours on Tuesday, Dec. 6. The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Stop by to purchase your Christmas tree permit and visit the new bookstore layout.

The Creede office of the Divide Ranger District will be open from 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. Books, maps, and other products

will also be available for purchase through the San Juan Mountains Association.

The Saguache Ranger District will remain open with normal business hours and product sales opportunities through Dec. 23.

The Forest Headquarters in Monte Vista is no longer selling any forest products or providing visitor information services, in preparation for our pending office move to Del Norte after the first of the year.

All RGNF offices will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2 in observance of the Christmas and New

Year holidays and to allow staff to spend time with their families.

Normal office hours will resume on Jan. 3, 2023. At that time, firewood permits for 2023 will not be on sale until the new permits arrive, which is typically in March.

For more information, contact:

- Conejos Peak Ranger District at 719-480-9892
- Divide Ranger District – Del Norte at 719-657-3321
- Divide Ranger District – Creede at 719-658-2547
- Saguache Ranger District at 719-655-2547

### A Simple Truth That Makes Everyday Life Better

I love the Bible because it is our instructional manual for life! It contains an answer for every problem we face, including how to make a bad day better...and increase our joy every single day.

For example, if you're having a bad day, one of the worst things you can do is to keep thinking about yourself and all of your own problems. The best thing you can do is get your mind off yourself and help someone else.

The apostle Paul says in Acts 20:35: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (NIV).

So, if I'm having a bad day, this scripture tells me I can be happier by simply getting myself off my mind and helping someone else.

Helping others isn't something you may feel like doing—it requires a decision, especially when you're concerned about a problem or just feeling down. But making a choice to be good to others actually helps you and them. It's so true that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

It's really amazing how just a few words of encouragement can change someone's entire day. Sometimes it can even change their life!

It can be as simple as picking up the phone and calling a friend who's been going through a rough time, letting them know you're thinking about them and praying for their situation. Or maybe you can send someone a text message to let them know how valuable they are and how much you care.

If you're wondering, "How does helping someone else make me happier?" then just think about Christmas morning.

You've spent time shopping for gifts, spending your money and sacrificing financially. You've also

wrapped them and placed them under the tree for your family or friends. And now it's finally time to open them!

Sure, it's fun to receive a gift and open it; however, the best part is watching others open their gifts. Why? Because you have sacrificed, spent your time and money and really invested something into this. So, as you watch them open and enjoy what you did for them, great joy is released in your life.

I recently read a tremendous story on this topic about William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army. It was Christmas Eve, 1910, and due to sickness, he wasn't going to be able to attend the organization's annual convention. He had become an invalid, and his eyesight was failing.

Normally, Booth would speak to the workers and share an encouraging message with these men and women who had spent long hours in service during the Christmas season. But this year, knowing he couldn't attend, he decided to send a message by telegram that could be read to all those in attendance.

Booth searched his heart and mind and reviewed his years of ministry, looking for a message that would summarize his life and the mission of The Salvation Army. He wanted to compose a speech that would encourage these men and women.

That night, when the thousands of delegates met, the moderator shared the news that William Booth would not be present due to his failing health. They were disappointed; however, he conveyed that Booth had sent something he wanted to share with them in his absence.

The moderator opened the telegram, then read William Booth's one-word message: "Others."

This story really speaks to me! It's so easy to always focus on ourselves—what we want and what we think. But we often have it backward. Remember

Moving Up Higher

with

Joyce Meyer



Acts 20:35: God is saying that when we make others our priority, then everything else will fall into place... and we will end up wonderfully happy.

Here's another scripture that says it well: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33 NIV).

God's Word clearly shows us that when we have a need in our own life, helping others is one of the most powerful things we can do!

Would you like to make every day better? Would you like to find joy even in the midst of difficult times? Then begin taking just a few minutes every day to think about what you can do to help someone else.

You'll find that when you make others your focus, God's blessings will always come back to you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *Simplify Your Life*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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 *LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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# LIBRARY LINKS

By MELANIE HART

Some new books this week are: "Clive Cussler's The Sea Wolves" by Jack Du Brul, "The Passenger" by Cormac McCarthy, "Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six" by Lisa Unger, "Desert Star" by Michael Connelly, "A Christmas Delivery" by Anne Perry, "The Cloisters" by Kathy Hays, "How Full is Your Bucket?" by Tom Rath and Don Clifton, and "The Giant Book of Tiny Homes: Living Large in Small Spaces" by John Riha.

Some new children's books this week are: "Middle School: Winter Blunderland" by James Patterson and Brian Sitts, "Cursed" by Marissa Meyer, "Charm" by Tracy Wolff, "Wish Upon a Crowdad" by Curtis W. Condon, "The Wingfeather Saga: North! Or Be Eaten" by Andrew Peterson, "The Wingfeather Saga: The Monster in the Hollows" by Andrew Peterson, "The Wingfeather Saga: The Warden and the Wolf King" by Andrew Peterson, "Wingfeather Tales: Seven Thrilling Stories from the World of Aerwiar" by Andrew Peterson, "Secret Santas and the Twelve Days of Christmas Giving" by Courtney Petruzzelli, "The Snowman's Song" by Marilee Joy Mayfield, "The Lights in the Church" by Marilee Joy Mayfield, "Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn" by Kenard Pak, and "How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids" by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer.

The Carnegie Library, South Fork Branch will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, through Sunday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen on Monday, Nov. 28, at our regular

winter hours. We hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday.



Come in and try out the Puzzle Exchange! Bring in a gently used puzzle and take out a new-to-you puzzle. Please make sure that the puzzle has all its pieces and that all the pieces are secure in its box.

The library now has eBooks and audiobooks available to our patrons with the help of Libby by Overdrive. Just download the Libby app on your device or go to <https://libbyapp.com/welcome>. Please visit with a Carnegie staff member to verify your Username and Password before you download the app and log-in for the first time. To log in, open the app, select (touch, tap or click) "Yes" for the first question: do you have a library card? Select "I'll search for a library", enter zip code 81144 then select "Across Colorado Consortium, At Carnegie Public Libraries". Then enter your username and password and begin your search. If you have any questions, please call 719-873-5079 and speak with one of our staff members.

To use the OPAC catalog go to our website at: [www.colorado.gov/carnegiepubliclibraries](http://www.colorado.gov/carnegiepubliclibraries) Click on the "Our OPAC Catalog" tab at the top of page. The browsing function is available without logging on. For your specific account info and to reserve items: click on the "Log On" button at top right of screen. To log on enter your username: (your last name, lowercase) and your Password: (your patron number). The "My Items" page will display info about your accounts,

checkouts, due dates, reserves. If you need help with logging on, please contact the librarian at the Carnegie Library, South Fork Branch.

Available through our website are links to various other websites that can teach you Technology Proficiency. Some of the things these websites can assist you with are: Basic computer skills, Word processing, Internet and web browsers, Email, File Management, Digital Camera and Images, and much more. Please go to our website at: [www.colorado.gov/carnegiepubliclibraries](http://www.colorado.gov/carnegiepubliclibraries)

and scroll down our homepage to find the links drop down menus.

Our computer lab is free to the public; the only charge is for printing at 10 cents per page for black and white print, \$1 for color pictures and 50 cents for black and white pictures. We have 15 public computers available for patron use and the library also has wireless access. Should you need an electrical outlet, we can find you a place to sit by an outlet. Our staff is always here to

help you if you need anything, so don't hesitate to ask. We also have a copier. The cost is 10 cents per copy for black and white and \$1 for color. Faxes cost \$1.50 per page.

We hope that you will visit us often. Our winter hours run from October through May: Monday through Thursday from noon to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Sunday. Our summer hours run from June through September.

## SLV GO!

Continued from Page 1A

seeking community input to identify conservation and outdoor recreation priorities that will build the foundation of the valley-wide conservation and outdoor recreation plan. This plan will provide actionable strategies and tactics for coalition partners to ensure conservation and outdoor recreation are in balance.

In 2014, the SLV GO! Coalition underwent a similar process in which they developed the SLV Trails and Recreation Master Plan to lay the foundation for improving the San Luis Valley's outdoor recreation opportunities. The plan sought to address common themes that emerged from public outreach and the 2014 survey:

- The need for better information (e.g. maps, guides, signs) and more promotional media/tools to raise awareness of existing recreational opportunities.
- The desire for more connectivity among communities and linkages between existing trail systems, towns and recreation areas.
- The desire for more trails and a

variety of trail experiences

- The concern for lack of recreational activities and programs geared towards SLV youth

- The desire for a wide range of recreational experiences across the Valley that caters to a broad base of residents and visitors.

Almost nine years later, it's time for the coalition to revisit their work and see if SLV GO! and partners have made progress addressing these community needs. The only difference is that now, the SLV GO! Coalition is planning with conservation at the forefront. In addition to building increased awareness of the region's recreation resources and facilitating greater exploration and enjoyment of the SLV's outdoors, the coalition is asking our community "What are your conservation values, and how do we maintain these values while managing for increased recreation?"

The coalition recognizes proactive management solutions, combined with public education, are necessary to care for land, water and wildlife, and to provide the protections

needed to maintain quality recreation opportunities.

For more information about the SLV GO! Coalition and the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative, visit [www.slvgo.com](http://www.slvgo.com).

The San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) Coalition was formed in 2013 as a coalition by a group of citizens, educators, and community leaders who recognized the tremendous opportunity to enhance recreational experiences, improve wellness, and connect communities across the six-county region of the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. Today, the coalition is a partnership between land management agencies, land trusts, local government, nonprofits, economic development agencies, agricultural entities, outdoor recreation users, sportsmen, and conservationists. Since the coalition's formation in 2013, partner collaboration has been a focal point in outdoor recreational development while ensuring the long-term sustainability and conservation of our region.

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# SAN LUIS VALLEY

November 26

# Shop Small Saturday



## SLV Small Business Saturday Bingo

Visit the following businesses, make a purchase at each and have them stamp your card! The first three people to turn in a blacked-out bingo card by Dec. 16 will win a prize — Wolf Creek Ski Area lift tickets!! Turn in card to Valley Publishing, 835 1st Ave., Monte Vista

Owners: Evans & Benny Gonzales 412 San Juan Ave. Alamosa, Colorado



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# Lifestyles

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Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## Creede sweetens up the holidays with Parade of Lights and Chocolate Festival

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**CREEDE** — Several business owners, the City of Creede and volunteers from all walks of life showed up at Basham Park in Creede on Saturday, Nov. 12, to begin decorating the town for the coming holiday season.

The town has planned to turn it into a winter wonderland with the help of local organizations, businesses and residents, and will be hosting a variety of events beginning Nov. 26 through Christmas.

The goal is to light up Creede and make it a holiday destination for the San Luis Valley and beyond. These efforts began last year and **See HOLIDAYS on Page 2**

**Volunteers gathered Saturday at Basham Park in Creede to begin decorating the town and creating a Colorado winter wonderland. The town will be hosting the annual Chocolate Festival on Nov. 25 and 26 with a Parade of Lights and a lighting ceremony on the evening of Nov. 26.**

Courtesy photo



File photo

The South Fork Thanksgiving Dinner is making a comeback this year after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Annual Kiwanis Club Thanksgiving Dinner will make a comeback

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK** — For more than 30 years the South Fork Kiwanis Club has hosted an annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the South Fork Community Center up until 2020 when the COVID pandemic caused it to come to a screeching halt. Two years later, the event is back and is expected to be better than ever.

According to South Fork Kiwanis Club President Karen Miller, the club has been working with the

Rio Grande Hospital to prepare the meal that in the past served upward of 300 people on Thanksgiving Day. Though there have been some changes, Miller hopes that this year the dinner will make a full recovery.

"I have been doing this for over 30 years and each year presents some challenges. Our main challenge is getting enough people to help with the event. In the past it was very well received, and we hope to see that return but we really

**Please see DINNER on Page 6**

## Colcha Embroidery Bazaar, Holiday Market Dec. 2

BY DIANE DREKMAN

**SAN LUIS** — The holiday season is starting in San Luis with the Colcha Embroidery Bazaar and Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The San Luis Colcha Embroidery group, after a long absence, is holding the event in the part of the cultural center that houses the organizations of Adelante and Costilla County Economic Development Center.

Marcella Pacheco, a member of the San Luis Colcha Embroidery group, said the group began in 2017, when a group of ladies from Albuquerque and Taos, N.M., gave a workshop on colcha embroidery.

Colcha embroidery is a northern New Mexico tradition using the yarn of a particular sheep, called Churro sheep. New Mexico and Southern Colorado knitters use one simple repetitive stitch. A woman came from Peru several years ago and showed different stitches using a 3-ply yarn, and colcha pieces are made that way also.

Since 2017, many members have passed away. The remaining members are meeting again and hope to revive colcha embroidery by having a Holiday Market and Bazaar showcasing and selling colcha pieces, as well as other items.

Pacheco said meeting with the San Luis Colcha Embroidery group is a way "to form friendships, exchange ideas and colors. Concentrating on colors and embroidering brings meditation and relaxation."

There is a strong interest in colcha embroidery in Saguache, and after a four-week event there this past June, there has been a collaboration between both groups.

San Luis gets its yarn now from Saguache instead of Denver.



Photo by Diane Drekman

Colcha embroidery will be featured during a Bazaar and Holiday Market on Dec. 2 in San Luis.

Samples of colcha embroidery from Saguache will be at the Holiday Market and Bazaar in San Luis on Dec. 2.

Carlos Atencio does woodworking and will have rosaries for sale. Matthew Sandoval sells miniature Catholic crosses. Maria Barela

will have colcha collectibles and other knick knacks. Pacheco will have colcha embroidery, as well as honey and blank greeting cards. These are a few of the homemade items available at the Colcha Embroidery Bazaar and Holiday Market on Dec. 2 in San Luis.



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# HOLIDAYS Continued from Page 1

since there was a decent turnout and several participants, the holiday committee members felt it was time to turn it up a notch and really make a holiday show.

The holiday committee is seeking participants to help plan for the coming event that will feature contests, holiday markets and more.

The city will be lighting up public areas and is encouraging local businesses and residents to do the same. There will be cash prizes for participants in both business and residential lighting contest categories and local youth will be the judges. The lighting displays need to be up by the evening

of Nov. 26. There will be a Parade of Lights beginning at 4 p.m. and ending with a city-wide lighting event after the end of the annual Chocolate Festival.

In addition to the lighting contest, the committee would like to host a holiday market with vendors and local businesses setting up tents outside to offer their goods to shoppers. The plan is to block off Main Street from Wall Street to the county courthouse for three full days on Dec. 10, 17, and 23, so that there can be plenty of space and opportunity for business to spread out. There will also be caroling, warm beverages and sweet treats.



Markets will be held on the above days from 1 to 5 p.m. so that people attending can see the Christmas lights later in the evenings. There will also be a parade on each of these days, beginning with the theme of Toyland. The other parade themes include Decembers Market from around the world designed by Creede School students and a church-related theme that will be announced as



Courtesy photos

details become available.

There will be another chance to help decorate the town on Saturday, Nov. 19. Volunteers are asked to meet

at Basham Park at noon.

The annual Chocolate Festival will be on Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26. Tickets can be purchased

at the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com) or by calling 719-658-2374.

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# Free well water testing in the San Luis Valley

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**SANLUIS VALLEY** — Dr. Katherine James with the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, and local community partners are leading a water quality project in the San Luis Valley.

They are providing free household water quality testing for private well owners in Saguache, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties.

Testing focuses on heavy metals and may include pH, conductivity, hardness, temperature, and turbidity.

Owners will receive full test reports and professional interpretation of all lab analysis conducted.

All information received for this project will be

strictly confidential, according to organizers.

Sample kits will be mailed to participants with multiple sample return options.

Key regional findings will contribute to water conservation efforts by the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council and Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

New scientific information about the SLV aquifer systems will contribute to community strategies to mitigate impacts of drought on water quality.

Well owners can sign up to participate by using <https://bit.ly/3Ib101t>.

For more information, email Nick Stoll, Project Coordinator [Nicholas.Stoll@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Nicholas.Stoll@cuanschutz.edu) or Dr. Kathy James, Lead Researcher, [Kathy.James@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Kathy.James@cuanschutz.edu).



Photo by Diane Drekmann

# CRT announces transformational 58th season

*CRT will again present a fully indoor season with a family-friendly fairytale, new work, comedy, drama, and everything in between*

**CONTRIBUTED**

**CREEDE**— Beginning May 19, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) will produce its 58th season, which includes comedy, drama, romance, a world premiere and something for the entire family. CRT will continue to champion its thriving educational and audience engagement programming.

“Excitement is palpable for summer 2023,” says Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio. “We’ve got a large-scale classic musical back on the Mainstage and a whodunnit that will leave audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter. Two shows are returning to our stages in 2023: one finally getting its due after a postponement last summer and the other back by popular demand. Our investment in new work continues with a world premiere written exclusively for CreedeRep; and, as always, explosive improv comedy and dynamic educational programs that will reach tens of thousands of students.”

The season begins at CRT’s historic Mainstage Theatre with the return of 2021’s “Dear Jack, Dear Louise”

by Ken Ludwig. Sparks fly and love blossoms from a world away when US Army doctor, Jack, begins a correspondence with aspiring actress, Louise, during WWII. This romantic comedy and audience favorite will again feature Caitlin Wise and Graham Ward, and will be directed by Michael Perlman (“Always... Patsy Cline,” “Is He Dead?”).

Next up in the intimate Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre is the world premiere of “Mountain Octopus” by Beth Kander (“Hazardous Materials,” “To the Moon”) which will feature longtime CRT company members Christy Brandt and Kate Berry. One year after a tragic loss, a small town full of quirky characters gathers together to patch up what’s broken. Nothing goes quite as planned... but ultimately each person finds something unexpected within their old familiar world or something that feels like home in a new and unfamiliar place.

Also at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre is “The Royale” by Marco Ramirez, directed by Kyle Haden who directed the world premiere of “Hazardous Materials” in

2019. The most anticipated show of 2022 has finally arrived. Set in the early 20th century and inspired by the life of the first Black heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson, this sports drama brings to life the ultimate fight for a place in history.

The Mainstage will also feature “CLUE: On Stage” written by Sandy



Rustin based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture screenplay by Jonathan Lynn and the Hasbro board game CLUE. It’s a dark and stormy night and you’ve been invited to a very mysterious dinner party at the

ominous Boddy Manor. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead. Join the iconic cast of characters known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find out whodunnit before the body count stacks up. “CLUE: On Stage” will be directed by CRT Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio.

Rounding out the Mainstage is the family-friendly fairytale “Rogers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” directed by Brittini Shambaugh Addison. This 2013 Broadway adaptation of the

beloved musical with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane sparkles with new characters, a hilarious libretto, and exciting twists alongside the classic score by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. With unforgettable songs such as “In My Own Little Corner,” “Impossible/It’s Possible” and “Ten Minutes Ago,” you’ll be tapping your feet all the way home.

If it’s improv that delights, Boomtown! Improv Comedy also returns to The Ruth starting June 16. Now at 9:30 p.m. so you can be in bed by 11 p.m. exhausted by all of the frivolity.

CRT’s annual Headwaters New Play Festival is back for its 11th year, featuring new work by 2023 commissioned playwright, Leonard Madrid. Madrid is a New Mexico-based playwright and theatre maker. He has received the Kennedy Center’s Latinx Playwriting award three times and his play, “Cebollas,” was part of the 2022 Colorado New Play Summit at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 2023 will also see the return of the 10 Minute Play Festival, which will take place during Headwaters Festival weekend in late August.

Education at CRT will be celebrating 21 years of The KID Show with “Ask a Kid” written by Steve Moulds and directed by CRT’s Associate Education Director Jenni Harbour. In this new sci-fi musical, a group of friends forms an advice column

for the students at their school, and it’s a runaway success. But when the questions coming in start getting weird, the kids investigate. Is someone pranking them — or are these bizarre messages surprisingly sincere? Running July 28 through July 30 at The Ruth, The KID Show offers a professional theatrical experience for students ages 10 and older through the creation of an original show. Additionally, the Education Department hosts camps for learners of all ages June 13 through July 1.

CRT’s flagship program, the Young Audience Outreach Tour, now in its 40th season, is staging the world premiere of “The City Dog and the Prairie Dog” by Diana Grisanti, Aug. 25 and Aug. 26, at the Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility. Featuring the creative team of “Casa Alfonsa and El Guayabo/The Guava Tree,” “The City Dog and the Prairie Dog” is a bilingual musical for grades K-6, exploring themes of community and belonging. Expect to dance, laugh, and sing along, with lots of audience participation.

For more information on the season schedule and ticket information, go to [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org).

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# Duda to serve as Acting Divide District Ranger

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**DEL NORTE** — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Thursday, Nov. 10, that Kevin Duda has begun serving as the acting District Ranger on the Divide Ranger District based out of Del Norte.

Duda has served on the Divide Ranger District since 2008, beginning as a Forester and most recently as the Supervisory Forester. Prior to his arrival on the Divide District, he worked on the Conejos Peak Ranger District for three years while completing his bachelor's in Forestry and master's in Forest Sciences at Colorado State University.

"I am excited about Kevin Duda serving in this key leadership position on the Divide Ranger District," said Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas. "Kevin's wealth of local knowledge, vast experience in forestry and silviculture will be advantageous to the District, Forest and the community."

Duda added, "I was raised in the San Luis Valley and have a tremendous amount of respect for both the tenacity and the kindness of communities here. Serving as the Acting District Ranger has been humbling to see firsthand how each of the employees on the District show up as professionals and passionately manage land and resources on behalf of the public."

Duda stepped into the position on Sept. 19, behind the Carson National Forest's, Chris Griffith, who served in the role from June 2. Duda will serve in a four-month appointment or until District Ranger, Martha Williamson, returns from her leave of absence.

In their free time, Duda and his wife enjoy exploring the outdoors with their dogs and spending time with family.



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## DINNER

Continued from Page 1

could use some help," said Miller.

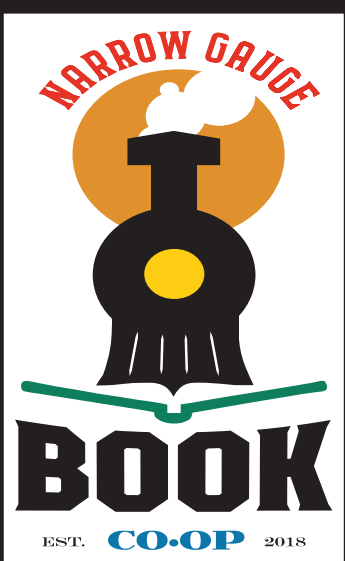
Due to the shortage of volunteers to help with the event, the club has opted to only prepare 20 turkeys for the event with the help of Rio Grande Hospital. "We can't thank Rio Grande Hospital enough for their willingness to help cook for the meal. So many things have changed since the last time we held the event, it is nice to have the support that we do."

This year will be a buffet-style dinner instead of the regularly served meal that has occurred in the past. One thing that hasn't changed is the dedication, preparation, and work that goes into hosting this massive event.

"If anyone would like to help, please reach out. We can use all the help we can get," said Miller.

The event features a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and dessert with all the fixings at the South Fork Community Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to provide warm clothing and canned goods for the coat and food drive that takes place every year.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, contact Karen Miller at [mkmillermink@aol.com](mailto:mkmillermink@aol.com) or by calling 720-313-4834.



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# Local food banks need support during holiday season

The holiday season is almost upon us, reminding us of the needs of all the food banks in the San Luis Valley. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, our local food banks all experience increased demand as families strive to provide their families with holiday fare.

At the Del Norte food bank which serves both Del Norte and South Fork, we try to provide everything a household would need to make a delicious holiday meal in addition to food staples such as breakfast cereal, rice, pasta, etc. Especially needed this year are turkeys/turkey breasts and whole or half hams.

We can be contacted by telephone at 719-850-2643, and monetary donations may be sent to Del Norte Food Bank, PO Box 72, Del Norte, CO 81132.

Needs of all the food banks tend to be similar, and we ask that all items be unopened and not past their expiration date. We would suggest that you donate to your local food bank. Thank you all for your generous donations which will be a huge help for many families in our communities. Becky Hand, Del Norte Emergency Food Bank Director

For more information, please con-

tact your local food bank.  
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• Center: 719-496-1653

• Creede: 719-658-2416  
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Jack Hunt, Del Norte

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It is recommended that all persons ages 6 months and over get an annual flu vaccine, preferably in the

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COVID vaccines are available by walk-in Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Terry Gillette helped Eve Braden officially break ground at the Valley to Valley Senior Care Center construction project on Nov. 11, a four-phase plan to provide day-visit services, apartments, and assisted living a mile north of Saguache.

# Veterans break ground, break bread in Saguache

By **PATRICK SHEA**

**SAGUACHE** — Saguache County commissioners, war veterans, Valley to Valley administrators, and septic system crews broke ground north of Saguache on the morning of Nov. 11. Many of them capped off Veterans Day hours later with a chili feast, war history lesson, musical duet, contest, art contest, and special recognition for the woman behind the Valley to Valley Senior Care Center project.

Eve Braden had help from Terry Gillette from Saguache, other veterans, and volunteers throughout the day, but she started the process in 2006 when they opened the Senior Care Center in Salida, a daytime support facility.

“Make no mistake,” Gillette explained to the crowd of dozens gathered for the wind-chilly ceremony. Towering more than a foot above Braden with his arm around her, Gillette continued, “big things come in small packages. Don’t mess with this woman. She’ll get it done. She has carried the heavy water. I’m happy to come alongside her to help her out with what I can in this area.”

Braden said they first applied with the Veteran’s Administration in 2008. Now VA-approved and accepted by Tri-West Healthcare, Valley to Valley services Chaffee County, northern Fremont County, and soon northern Saguache County. But the journey to the Veterans Day celebration a mile outside Saguache included a lot of obstacles to overcome.

Finding land was a challenge until former Saguache resident and artist

Byron Williams donated a 10-acre parcel before he passed away. Fundraising posed persistent challenges, but Braden and her crew raised more than \$17,000 during a Mardi Gras event at Joyful Journey in 2019.

Next, the pandemic removed 2020 from the calendar, and vendor pricing and availability became new challenges in 2021. Then vandals monkey-wrenched the project by disabling machinery. Braden persevered, and she choked up while she told the groundbreaking crowd that they ultimately raised \$1.2 million.

Toward the end of the evening celebration at the Saguache Community Center, Braden’s husband Jerry stepped up to the microphone with a plaque and a purpose. Seemingly embarrassed, Eve dropped her head and muttered, “I hope you like the couch” before walking to the stage to accept her honor. She repeated the phrase within hot-mic range. Then she shared her appreciation for Gillette, other veterans, volunteers, and support over many years to finally begin construction.

Phase One will include daytime drop-in services, apartments, and assisted living. The Valley to Valley day services currently offered in Salida include transportation, socialization through activities, respite care, ADLS care, medication administration, nursing care, and family support.

Phase One began with breaking ground for the septic system. Then they’ll build the main building, the day center, respite care, and assisted living for 10 people. For Phase Two, they’ll add

more assisted living and begin building apartments. Phases Three and Four will feature more accommodations.

In addition to accepting more donations for the long-term project, Braden asked for help researching the soil and finding seeds for appropriate ground coverage now that construction has begun.

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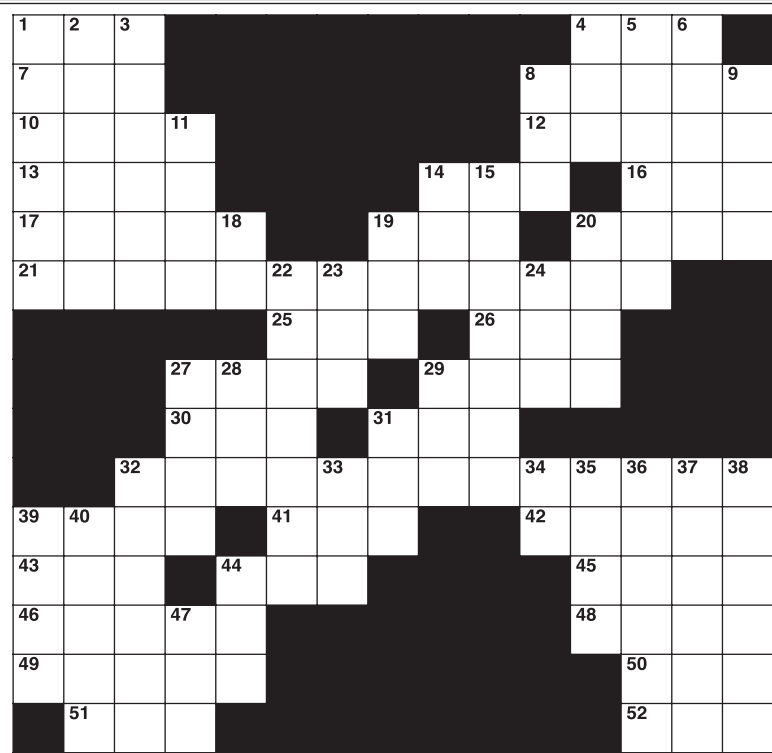
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Runs PCs
4. An entertaining, eccentric person
7. Small, faint constellation
8. Indigo bush
10. Not excessive
12. African antelope
13. A way to fly a glider
14. Tough softly
16. In the course of
17. Early Mesoamerican people
19. A way to drop down
20. Mistake!
21. Housing developments
25. Baseball stat
26. No (Scottish)
27. Type of cuisine
29. British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
30. Marry
31. Buffer solution
32. Legendary rock band
39. Recording industry show
41. A way to consume
42. Lake in Botswana
43. Political action committee
44. Field force unit (abbr.)
45. Very eager
46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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



48. Nocturnal insect
49. Challenged to perform
50. Thus far
51. Famed NYC arena
52. Commercials
20. Poems meant to be sung
22. Actor Cooper
23. Luke’s mentor \_\_\_-Wan
24. Clumsy person
27. Figures
28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula
29. Old cloth
31. Explosive
32. Automobiles
33. 007’s creator
34. The Volunteer State
35. Old Irish alphabet
36. Japanese city
37. Portrayed emotion
38. Observers
39. Mimicked
40. Polite reference to a woman
44. Male parent
47. Peter Griffin’s daughter

### CLUES DOWN

1. Small, purple-black fruit
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. Split pulses
5. Northwestern Mexico town
6. Edible fruit
8. Upper-class southern young woman
9. Sums up
11. The most worthless part
14. Dash
15. Sufferings
18. Clearinghouse (abbr.)
19. Indian title of respect



# Homelake celebrates six World War II veterans

## STAFF REPORT

**MONTE VISTA** — Six World War II veterans were spotlighted during a Veterans Day program at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake on Friday, Nov. 11.

Homelake planned to celebrate its WWII veterans in 2020 — the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II — but due to the COVID-19 pandemic they could not.

Leo Zamora, Robert Toepfer, Willard Martin, Richard Gottlieb, George Blake and a man who requested to be unnamed are residents of the Homelake center.

About 50 people, residents, staff and family, attended the ceremony at Homelake on Friday afternoon.

The Rev. Debra Upton began service with an opening prayer that was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star-Spangled Banner, a Salute to the Armed Forces, closing remarks by Mindy Montague, NHA, and refreshments.

Monte Vista Middle School eighth-grader William Walker read his essay titled “My Pledge to Our Veterans” during the program.

The accomplishments of each World War II veteran were highlighted by presenters Homelake Admissions Director Pam Self and Homelake Activities Director Melanie Squire.

Zamora served in the U.S. Army from 1943-45. Toepfer served in the Army from 1940-45 and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. Martin served in the Army from 1944-46 and received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Occupation Medal for Germany. Gottlieb served in the Army Air Force from 1943-46 and received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Air Medal. Blake served in the Army from 1940-45 and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. The unnamed veteran served in the Army from 1945-46 and received the Army Occupation Medal for Japan.



Courtesy photos

A Veterans Day Program was held on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake



Robert Toepfer



George Blake



Leo Zamora



Richard Gottlieb



Willard Martin

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# Happy 2022 Thanksgiving To Our Many Good Neighbors



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING DAY

We're filled with gratitude to be surrounded by friends and neighbors like you at Thanksgiving. Your year-round support means the world to us, and we thank you.



With gratitude in our hearts, we'd like to send our warmest wishes for a happy Thanksgiving to our valued customers, friends, associates and neighbors in this community.

*Thank you for putting your trust in us and for making us feel so at home here!*

## JV Smith

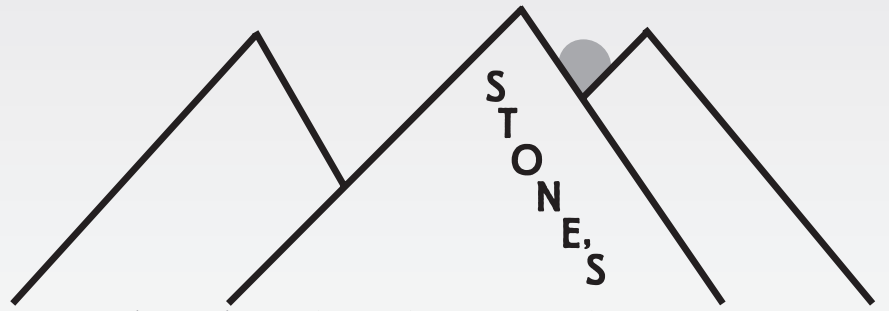
COMPANIES

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# A Bounty of Best Wishes at Thanksgiving



May the coming holiday bring an abundance of good fortune to you and your family. *We know we feel truly fortunate to have neighbors like you ~ thanks!*



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Coffee is always on!*

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on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Torres • Center

# Consider these 13 gratifying Thanksgiving facts

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family and friends and reflect on one's blessings. In 2022, Canadian Thanksgiving takes place on October 10, while Americans celebrate on November 24. In anticipation of these holidays, here are some interesting facts about the Thanksgiving celebration.

1. American Thanksgiving is largely modeled on a 17th century harvest feast shared by the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.

2. Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. It is based on European harvest festivals.

3. The National Turkey Federation says around 45 million turkeys will be eaten on Thanksgiving, which equates to about 720 million pounds of turkey being consumed (with the average turkey size being 16 pounds).

4. The Butterball hotline answers roughly 100,000 calls every year on its turkey question hotline.

5. In 1953, the Swanson company overestimated the number of frozen turkeys it would sell for the holiday season by 26 tons. Rather than waste the meat, Swanson sliced it up, repackaged it and created the first frozen TV dinners.

6. Thanksgiving in America may be older than many recognize. While Thanksgiving is largely tied to the 17th century settlers, the National Parks Service says in 1565 Spanish settlers in St. Augustine (now Florida) celebrated by having a meal to which they invited the native Seloy tribe. The Spanish served pork stew, sea biscuits, red wine, and garbanzo beans. Some say the Seloy contributed turkey, venison and maize.

7. Thanksgiving didn't become a civic holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one after the Civil War tragedy. Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday on October 20, 1864.

8. The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves as "pilgrims." They used the word "separatists" as they were separating themselves from a larger belief system.

9. In addition to Canada and the United States, Grenada, Liberia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and the Netherlands celebrate their own versions of Thanksgiving.



10. Each year, the American president "pardons" a turkey from slaughter on Thanksgiving. This tradition dates back to when Abraham Lincoln's son was upset that his family's turkey that was going to be killed for Thanksgiving dinner.

11. According to the U.S. Calorie Control Council (CCC), an average American may consume 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.

12. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition. People line the parade route in New York City or tune in to watch the parade on television. It originated in 1924 and the famed balloons were added in 1927.

13. Apple pie is the pie of choice for Thanksgiving, even though pumpkin pie is prevalent this time of year.

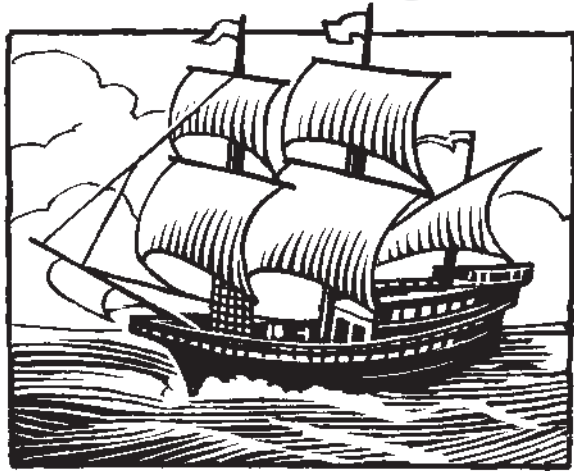
Thanksgiving is a popular holiday in Canada and the U.S. Many traditions have been borne of the holiday, and it is a favorite time of year for many people.



**Letters to Santa**  
**Will be published in the December 14, 2022 issues of your local newspaper**

**Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Monday, December 5 to email: [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com) or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144**

## To All Our Good Neighbors At Thanksgiving



As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving holiday, we realize that your friendship is at the top of the list, and for this we are truly thankful.

From all of us to all of you go our sincere best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving filled with the blessings of family, good friends, good food and good fun. You deserve it!

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 AGRIBUSINESS

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## FOR SALE

Charming D-Log 1,807 sq ft 2-bedroom 2 bath mountain home with attached garage and circular drive. Your perfect get away or full-time residence located in the well sought-after neighborhood, Ponderosa Estates. This home has a large Master/Guest room upstairs with full bath that could easily be used for large family rec room or used as a bunk room with plenty of sleeping space for guest if so desired. You have lots of options! There is an additional room upstairs you can use for craft/hobby room or small home office. Top of the stairs landing is adorable sitting area that would make the perfect spot for a relaxing reading nook to enjoy a good book. This home has an open floor plan with eat in kitchen and large living room area with wood burning stove that will keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen door leads out to a nice back deck with large yard and beautiful views of the mountains. Perfect for that first hot cup of coffee in the mornings. Downstairs bedroom off the kitchen area has been used as the main bedroom with hallway bath and located on the main floor. This residence is close to town and only moments away from the Rio Grande River, Golf Club, and 20 minutes from Wolf Creek ski area. Off your front deck is a wonderful place for viewing all the mule deer and wild turkeys that frequent this neighborhood! No active HOA and in an area that does allow short term rentals. Close to skiing, fishing, hiking, four wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Start Your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! \$450,000 MLS #797758  
298 Aspen Drive • South Fork

**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. The home and 1015 sq. ft. bunk house **SOLD** provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. MLS #738155  
107 Marmot Lane • South Fork

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**IMPROVED PRICE \$649,900**  
**THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!**

• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom  
This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697  
181 Doe Circle • South Fork

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## SOLD

\$658,000 MLS #785486  
441 Lande • South Fork

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## SOLD

\$433,000 MLS #789027  
83 Highland • South Fork

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## FOR SALE

Incredible views from this Mountain property! Varied topography with mature Fir, Aspen, Pine and Pinion trees. This 5.02-acre property allows you several building sites to choose from. Paved roads located in gated Bear Creek subdivision. This property gives you great sun exposure with access to the forest service and a common area for homeowners located on 20+ acres of the Rio Grande River. Utilities and Good Well already in place 15 GPM. Gold Medal fishing, hunting and 4 wheeling just moments away. Not to mention fabulous skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Resort! Bring Your house plans this is the perfect property to build your Dream Home! Start your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! \$149,500 MLS #795402  
4495 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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## JUST LISTED!

Lot in great neighborhood with no HOA just a hop, skip and jump from the majestic South Fork River. This is the perfect place to build your dream home. Water, sewer, electricity and highspeed internet! Beautiful views and close to all the amenities the town of South Fork has to offer. Moments from the South Fork River as well as the mighty Rio Grande, World class fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, 4 wheeling and all things outdoors. Start your adventure and schedule your showing today!  
Price can't be beat! \$29,900 MLS#796452  
63 Rivercrest Drive • South Fork

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## SOLD

2,023 Sq. Ft. Mountain Oasis Home with Charm and Elegance in Lo Lomita at South Fork Ranches. This 3-bedroom 2 bath home with attached 625 Sq. Ft. 2 car garage is magical! Home is adjacent to BML Land & National Forest with amazing mountain views of Del Norte Peak, Beaver Mountain and Aqua Ramon from the front porch and additional large wrap around rear deck with concrete pad and hook up ready for your own personal hot tub. Open floor plan with kitchen, dining and living area beautifully hand troweled on walls with cathedral ceilings, wood floor, large bay windows, wood burning stove, propane rock fireplace, radiant floor heating and propane on demand Water system. This home has three heat sources to keep you warm and comfortable all winter long. Master bedroom has large his & her master walk-in closets and patio door leading out to the back deck. Perfect place to enjoy your hot morning cup of coffee. The master bath has a beautiful large walk-in tile shower and dual sinks. There are two additional nice size guest bedrooms for your company to stay and enjoy. The kitchen overlooks the living area with large eat in counter and plenty of counter space and lots of built-in cabinets. There is a butler pantry for extra storage that features a beautiful, frosted glass door. This is an outstanding property with abundant wildlife surrounded by national forest and BML land and close to the mighty Rio Grande River, Wolf Creek Ski area and the Rio Grande Golf Resort. There is numerous hiking, four wheeling, mountain biking trails in the area for you to have fun and explore! Don't miss this opportunity! Start your adventure! call/text me and schedule your personal showing today! Price \$669,500 MLS #796518  
115 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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## SOLD

Beautiful 1,728 Sq. Ft. Mountain Home property, 3 beds, 2 baths with additional large lot. Welcoming entrance with closed in front porch. Beautiful Kitchen with matching appliances and custom-made cabinets with soft close drawers that include spice rack and corner round with plenty of storage for all your cooking entertainment needs. Dining area just off the kitchen and living room area with propane stove and beautiful brick fireplace with wood burning stove in living area. Perfect place with beautiful views to curl up enjoy the fire and devour a good book. This home has three heat sources to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Off back side of the kitchen is a bright sunroom currently being used for a wonderful craft room with large sliding door looking out to the back deck with stunning views of trees and mountains perfect for bird watching with the many varieties of birds that visit this area. Downstairs Master/Guest bedroom with large closet and cozy picture window seat for bird watching. Wonderful place to just sit with your morning cup of coffee, relax and enjoy. Off the sunroom is door to large 2 car garage with huge workbench and cabinets for all your tools and woodworking needs. Upstairs you have an additional bath and two guest bedrooms with large windows where you feel as if you are sleeping amongst the beautiful pine trees. Off the Sunroom and out the back garage door awaits a wonderful deck to the back yard with a gas grill hooked up to propane for grilling and entertaining friends and family. Out back you will be charmed by the little fly shop with electricity and all its storage amenities with extra shelving. There's an additional shed which is used and perfect for wood storage. This home is one you must see! Located in Ponderosa Country Estates with no HOA, paved roads and Town of South Fork water and sewer system. You will love visiting with the abundant wildlife that visits this neighborhood, moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, Wolf Creek ski area and everything outdoors! Don't let this one pass you by! Won't last! Call me and schedule your personal showing today! \$885,000 MLS #796641  
484 Conifer Drive • South Fork

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## FOR SALE

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The majestic South Fork River and Mighty Rio Grande with world class fishing is just a short walk from the property. The main floor consists of an open kitchen, dining and living area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace with large log cathedral ceiling. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed kitchen with beautiful designer backsplash and large eat in counter space looking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! \$1,395,000 MLS #796960  
37 Million Court • South Fork

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**27000 US Hwy 160**  
28 acres on the Rio Grande with water well, 1-acre pond and 1/2 mile of riverfront. MLS#785117 \$1,550,000

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**810 Grand Ave, Del Norte**  
Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. BUSHY CORNER LOT - Can become any business! MLS#779889 Call for price

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**0 Old Homestead Road, Del Norte**  
48 acres bordering National Forest. Easy, year-round access, both Forest Service Road AND a county-maintained road to the lot line. Ride out and enjoy without trailering your ATV or snowmobile. \$425,000 MLS#796222

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**Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available**  
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE \$85,000-\$400,000 35 acre lots, 17 acre lots, 6 acre lots Power to lot line, great roads, gated community. Email Dee for an interactive document with photos, videos and descriptions of each lot.

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**418 Loveland Road - South Fork**  
.90 acres in Upper Alpine. No covenants, Air B&B OK. Call Dee Plucinski 719-873-5605. MLS #796652 \$38,000

**Text 134123 to 25678 for more info**  
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**634 Arapahoe Road, South Fork**  
3 bedroom 2 bath home on 0.36 acres. No covenants, Air B&B/VRBO OK. Great Views, incredibly well kept. \$315,000 MLS #797774

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