

Shorts

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.

SLV Irrigation District's annual meeting is Dec. 14

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Irrigation District is having its annual meeting at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Ski-Hi Complex, east end of the new building. Lunch will be provided.

Sing-along with Don Richmond is Dec. 18

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association and La Puente present the Annual Holiday Sing-Along with Don Richmond at 6 p.m. on Dec. 18, at Milagros Coffee House.

It will be an evening of traditional holiday carols and other holiday tunes. Admission is free, although it is suggested that attendees offer a donation of non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Can't make it to the concert? Catch the show live streaming on ALMA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/almalivemusic.

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.

Vista Grande Recreation Area undeveloped outside Saguache



Photo by Patrick Shea

The Vista Grande Recreation Area remains in the planning stage after years of public input and suspended development.

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — The Board of County Commissioners in Saguache received updates from the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service during the morning session of their working meeting on Nov. 29.

Dario Archuleta, the Acting Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office, discussed energy projects and possibilities on BLM land. First, Archuleta explained that he will continue as Acting Field Manager and Assistant Field Manager for

another four or five months because an applicant for the position declined the job offer.

Xcel Energy's powerline project over Poncha Pass requires an extra 50 feet of space for completion, even though the finished line will use one pole instead of two. Working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and BLM, officials are studying potential impacts on the endangered Sage Grouse. The population is greater roughly 40 miles to the west, and the small flock on Poncha Pass persists.

Archuleta discussed the De Tilla *Please see UDATES on Page 7A*

Commissioners receive updates from BLM, USFS

BY PATRICK SHEA

ALAMOSA — The Board of Managers for Subdistrict 5 conducted a special meeting on Nov. 29 to consider a few participation contracts and settle on administrative and groundwater withdrawal fee assessments for 2022.

With online access for some and others in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) meeting room in Alamosa, the managers had a quorum for discussion and decisions. No one spoke during the public comment period.

Managers considered flow over the years when they discussed subdistrict participation contracts for the Saguache Lodge and Werner Ranch. The Program

Manager for Subdistricts 4 and 5, Chris Ivers, provided an overview of Saguache Lodge.

"It's two, small-capacity non-exempt wells," Ivers explained. "They're commercial, domestic, and stock. That's what they're decreed for. They don't have any metered diversion records."

"I already talked to the plumber," noted Faith O'Reilly, owner and operator of the Saguache Lodge. "He said he could do it. I asked for a diagram and an estimate, and I don't have it yet."

The board voted to accept the contract and gave O'Reilly a year to install water metering for the old establishment.

"It's been there since 1866 exactly,"

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Although organizers started the push to create the Vista Grande Recreation Area north of Saguache in 2014, the project remains stalled.

During the Saguache County Commissioners meeting on Nov. 29, Commissioner Tom McCracken asked about trails in the Saguache area. He directed a question to Dario Archuleta, the Acting Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office.

"That's what Vista Grande is for," Archuleta explained. "Once the Town of Saguache gets engaged

again, then the BLM and SLVGO — who carry our flag for us now — will come to the table."

Archuleta championed San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLVGO), noting how they completed projects in Del Norte, Alamosa, and Monte Vista. "They've been successful," Archuleta said.

Commissioner Lynne Thompson said, "I think it would be good for the commissioners to sit down and see what the plan is before we go to the town. Make sure we all agree."

The Town of Saguache website, www.townofsaguache.org, devotes a page with a couple

Please see VISTA on Page 6A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Saguache County Commissioners received updates for projects on public land during their working meeting on Nov. 29.

Subdistrict 5 approves participation contracts

BY PATRICK SHEA

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The board voted to accept the contract and gave O'Reilly a year to install water metering for the old establishment.

"It's been there since 1866 exactly,"

O'Reilly clarified. "I'm happy to put these meters on and let you know what's going on out there."

The second case before the board of managers involved two wells on Werner Ranch. One small well services a house and another can produce 700 acre-feet a year for irrigation.

Manager George Whitten asked, "Do we know if these are confined aquifer wells or unconfined wells? Given their location next to the [Saguache] creek as unconfined wells, I know John [Werner] told me one time when he turned that well on, his headgate went dry. He thought he was taking water out of the creek."

The board voted 3-1 to approve the

contract with Whitten the lone dissenter. When asked to clarify if his vote was a "nay," Whitten said, "It is. I have heartburn about the impact of those unconfined wells on the creek. As much as I want to help," Whitten cautioned, "I really worry about 700 acre-feet in that area. I water right downstream from there, so I worry about that."

A third participation contract also had Whitten concerned about pumping water through a pivot so close to the creek, noting 85 percent consumption. The board decided to table the discussion until they can research more before their next meeting at 5 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the RGWCD office in Alamosa.

Major stores to start charging 10¢ fee for paper, plastic bags on Jan. 1

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A bill signed into law by Governor Jared Polis in July of 2021 that ultimately bans the use of plastic bags and polystyrene containers typically used for carry-out orders in restaurants takes effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

Starting in January, HB21-1162 Management of Plastic Materials requires retail establishments with more than three locations to assess a 10-cent fee on all paper and plastic bags. The bill impacts major grocery stores and supermarkets, major convenience stores, major liquor stores, major

retailers and other major retail outlets that provide plastic shopping bags.

The fee will not be assessed on bags used for frozen foods, meat, seafood, plants and other items that could be otherwise contaminated.

Smaller stores with three or fewer locations, farmers and roadside markets, laundry or dry *Please see BAGS on Page 7A*

Single-use plastic bags hang in the scrub near Commons Park in Denver on Feb. 11, 2021.

Colorado Newsline photo by Faith Miller



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OBITUARIES

Harriet Wright

We are sad to announce the death of Harriet Ann Wright, 94, of Monte Vista, Colo., on Nov. 25, 2022. Harriet passed away in Del Norte, Colo., surrounded by family after a short illness.



Harriet was born to Frank and Esta Pepper and raised in the San Luis Valley. Harriet was a loving wife to Headlee Wright. She loved the farm, the mountains and her garden.

Earlier in life, she loved to remodel homes, reupholster furniture, and hunt for arrowheads.

She loved to cook and was an avid reader. She loved to sing and was a member of the women's barbershop quartet called Sweet Adelines.

She played the piano well into her 90's.

However, what we remember most about Harriet was her Christian faith. She was an active member of Valley Church of the Nazarene. Hers was always to love and counsel others in need, especially young married couples. She thought of them as "her kids" and treated them as such. We will miss her.

She is survived by her children, Alan and Kim, her grandchildren, Michelle Ward (Bo), Jacque Pepper (Kelby), Jennifer Wright and Mark Wright, 11 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral will be held at the Valley Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Valley Church of the Nazarene in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com/ Rogers Family mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.



Colorado Newsline photo by Carl Payne

Election workers process ballots in El Paso County, Colorado, on Nov. 8.

Voter turnout decreased in 2022 Colorado midterms

By LINDSEY TOOMER
Colorado Newsline

While more than 2.5 million Coloradans voted in the 2022 midterm elections, this year saw a lower rate of voter turnout than in the last midterm election in 2018.

With 66.6% of Colorado's active voters participating in the election, turnout naturally is less than in the 2020 presidential election, but it also fell short of the 2018 midterms by about 8 percentage points. In the

2020 presidential election, 86.5% of active voters in Colorado participated.

In the 2018 election, Colorado actually had a similar number of ballots cast as in the 2022 midterms did — just about 2.5 million — but because the state now has more active voters, the percentage dropped from 2018's 74.9% voter turnout.

A spokesperson with the secretary of state's office said there will be one more release of ballots returned on Monday, but that shouldn't drastically

change the turnout calculations.

According to the secretary of state's office, 40.47% of voters this year were unaffiliated, 30.28% were Democrats and 27.95% were Republicans.

Mail ballots were the preferred voting method, with more than 95% of Colorado voters casting a mail ballot. Only 4.7% of voters participated in person.

Similarly, Colorado saw fewer voters cast their ballots before Election Day in 2022 than did in 2018.

Leadership tour/camp opportunities for high school students

CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY— Attention high school juniors and seniors whose parents get their electric power from SLV Rural Electric Cooperative it's time to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

SLVREC invites high school students to represent the co-op at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 12-18, 2023.

Spend a week in Washington D.C. with other local student leaders learning the history of cooperatives, meeting with state representatives and developing leadership skills.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s. Be part of nearly 1,500 high school students nationwide for a fun-filled, all-expenses-paid week in the nation's capital!

Colorado Youth Tour participants begin the tour in Denver, where they learn about Colorado's state government and electric cooperatives. From Denver, students fly to Washington, D.C., to attend educational seminars and visit with Colorado state representatives in the House and the Senate. Students will also visit historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington

Cemetery, and the Smithsonian. The Youth Tour is a great way to learn more about our nation's history, develop leadership skills, understand electric cooperatives better and make lasting friendships.

Or if Washington, D.C. doesn't interest you? REC will also send one student to the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs from July 15-20, 2023.

The camp brings young people from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming together to learn about how electric cooperatives operate and build their leadership skills. The campers can serve on committees that plan activities throughout the week such as a banquet, dance, games, and the daily operations. They tour a mine and a power plant, see a variety of awesome speakers and presentations, go rafting and make memories of a lifetime.

To be the lucky winner of the Youth Tour or the Youth Leadership Camp, the application process includes submitting a 500-word essay or a three-minute video. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10, 2023. More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or email: jalonzo@slvrec.com, with questions.

SLV LWV dinner meeting is Dec. 8

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley League of Women Voters is having a no-host dinner meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at Nino's Restaurant in Monte Vista. Everyone is welcome.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in the U.S. democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 750

Leagues across the country, they engage in advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to protect every American's freedom to vote.

The meeting address is Nino's Restaurant, 118 Adams St., Monte Vista.

For more information, contact Wanda Hawman at 505-506-6077.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 21 and Nov. 27, 2022.

In addition to issuing a speeding ticket on Nov. 21, staff patrolled the town of Saguache throughout the holiday week. They arranged four ambulance transports in the county, and they conducted welfare checks and assisted citizens and agencies in Saguache, Moffat, Villa Grove, and Crestone.

They handled assault, trespassing, threats, criminal mischief, and suspicious activity in Moffat, Saguache, Crestone, and Hooper. They addressed one civil dispute.

They also tracked lost property in Moffat, found property in Saguache, and property damage from a crash west of Crestone.

Loose livestock in Del Norte and Saguache sparked calls to the Sheriff's office. Staff kept eyes on six controlled burns and responded to one fire in Crestone and another in Moffat.

ARRESTS

A 44-year-old man was arrested and detained for failing to appear in court for one charge in Saguache County and two in Alamosa County, as well as Menacing with a Deadly Weapon and Third-degree Assault charges in Saguache for a total bail of \$15,350.

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Sat., Dec. 3 6:30 p.m. PG
THE GRINCH

Sun., Dec. 4 5 p.m. PG
CHRISTMAS CRANKS

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Clean your plate

Hopefully by this time you have all either eaten the big bird and its Thanksgiving leftovers or thrown it out fearing food poisoning. At which point you probably gave it to the dog to throw up all over the rug later in the day. At least it's gone for another year, and we can move on to fresh food at least until Christmas when another round of "don't waste food" runs rampant through our houses.

I am not sure the younger generations have ever been exposed to the idea that food is somehow precious and to be eaten regardless of being hungry or not. But when Ol' Dutch was growing up — yes, a long time ago according to Miss Trixie — we were constantly made aware by our mothers that we were not to waste any food.

We all heard the line: "Be sure and clean off your plate as all those starving kids in Africa would be glad to have it." Of course, when faced with a seemingly endless supply of broccoli or turnips we all would have been glad to have packaged those up for those poor starving waifs, but instead were forced to cram it down an already bursting gullet.

These constant reminders about the starving masses were reinforced with multiple advertisements on television about starving children overseas somewhere. And not to be left out, missionaries to such places often visited the church where Ol' Dutch attended, reinforcing those same horror stories with the attending slide show run by the missionary's wife.

Slide after slide would flash across the big screen in front of us showing poor little kids with distended bellies who we were just sure would welcome a sprig of broccoli if only they could get it. These missionary meetings were usually followed by an after-service fellowship where people stuffed themselves like pigs at a trough.

Food of copious quantities was heaped up on the tables with nary a thought to the nutritional value to any of it as cakes and pies and other sweets were mounded up like Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa itself. And having just seen 1,743 black and white slides of starving little kids, people "bellied up to the bar" so to speak and ate like recruits at boot camp.

For you see the thoughts of something going to waste while others went without was akin to sinning in some form or another and so we chomped our way to salvation of a sorts at least in the eyes of our mothers. Now of course Ol' Dutch



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

eating his portions didn't hurt him one bit, but I don't think it helped the poor little kids on some far-off dark continent either. And I think it probably set us up for a lifetime of overeating an entire buffet line, too.

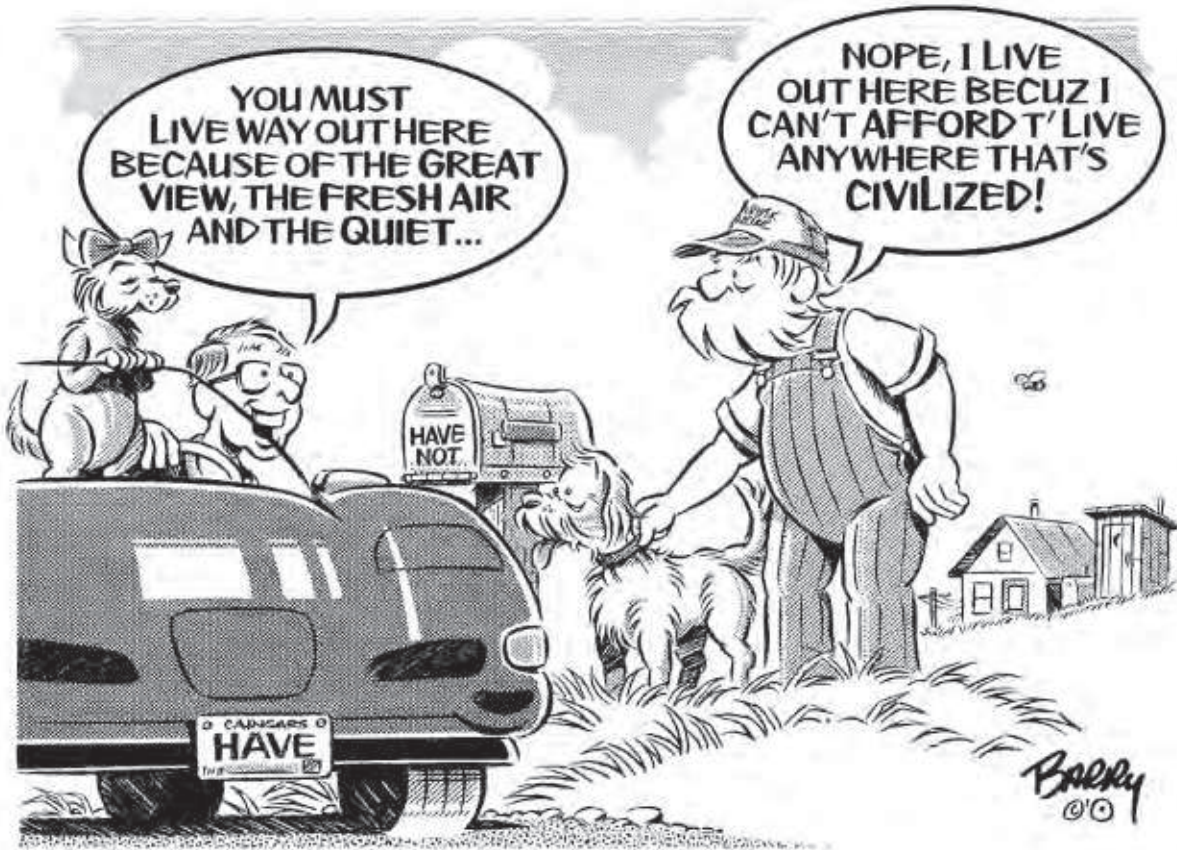
I am not sure when the buffet was first introduced in America, but I am sure that it came about due to the influence of mothers and missionaries who stroked our conscience over and over.

Our mothers of course had our best interest at heart in wanting us to eat a balanced diet which most kids do not want to do. And Ol' Dutch soon found out that the missionaries had their best interest at heart as a few slides of starving little kids filled their coffers with money enough to last them another year. But I do think it also led us to a place where we ate and still eat too much. One has only to look around — and at a round Dutch — to know that our mothers and others are the leading cause of diabetes here in America.

Which means Pfizer and other drug companies owe their very existence and sizable fortunes to motherhood and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And after all it was Jesus Himself who served His followers a last meal and tradition today makes it mandatory to "eat it all" when you partake of said ceremony in a church.

So, there you have it in a nutshell I suppose and hopefully you ate all the leftover turkey from Thanksgiving before it turned green. And if not, come Christmas time this year try and remember all the little starving children in Africa and clean up your plate like a good boy and girl.

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



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Andromeda-Pegasus

In Greek mythology Andromeda was the Princess of Ethiopia, daughter of Queen Cassiopeia and King Cepheus.

The entire "family" is grouped together in the northeast sky in front of and to the right of the Milky Way. Cassiopeia is the easily found "W" with Cepheus above her and Perseus below her. Andromeda is to the right of Perseus, and Pegasus is to the right and slightly taller than Andromeda.

Andromeda is one of the largest constellations in the sky and is visible August-January. It's one of the 48 constellations listed by Ptolemy in the 2nd century. You might remember from a previous article that Cassiopeia bragged that her daughter was more beautiful than Nereids, the sea nymphs.

She was punished by having her daughter chained to a rock by the ocean to be devoured by the sea monster Cetus. Andromeda was

rescued by Perseus, who then married her.

Andromeda is a large horizontal "V" shape with the star connecting the point of the "V" also the third-base star in the "Great Square of Pegasus".

In various cultures she's been called the chained lady, horse stable, flying snake, walking foot and porpoise. I think it looks like a walking horse foot. What do you think it resembles?

The Great Square of Pegasus is an asterism and is the most identifiable portion of the Pegasus galaxy, which is visible in the same months as Andromeda.

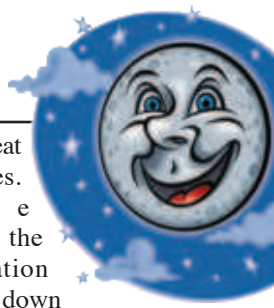
In Greek mythology it's a winged horse with magical powers. Pegasus represents the son of Neptune and Medusa, who eventually became the thundering horse of Zeus and the carrier of his lightning bolts.

Perseus killed Medusa and cut off her head. When some of her blood dripped into the sea, the sea god Poseidon fashioned the "flying horse" and gave it to Perseus who rode it while

having great adventures.

The constellation is upside down with the lower right extension being the neck and head. The two upper-right extensions off the square are the legs. When you envision it upside down, it's kind of does resemble a flying horse.

The Geminids meteor shower is active from Dec. 4-17, and they are the best meteor shower we have. Unfortunately, the full moon is on the 7th. The only good thing about this is that they can do up to 150 meteors per hour at their peak. Since its peak is on Dec. 14, we might be able to see some. It starts at 9 p.m., but peaks around 1 a.m. So even though the full moon is on the 7th, we can look at the peak and hopefully we'll be able to see some. The good thing is that the new moon is active when the Ursids peak. So, I'll write about them next week.



LETTER

Local artist seriously injured in car accident

Editor,
I just learned that local artist, John Patterson, fourth generation San Luis Valley farmer and junk sculptor, was badly injured in an accident on Nov. 12. He was flown to a hospital in Colorado Springs where he underwent several surgeries

to repair bones and internal organs. Patterson is going to make it, but it was touch-and-go.

Patterson's "Farm Art" is all over Monte Vista, first in Cooper the Whooper in front of Safeway, and in all the beautiful, whimsical new bicycle racks all over town.

Patterson will not be welding for a while as his rehab will be complicated, long and expensive. His daughter has set up a GoFundMe — <https://gofund.me/003195d0> — to help John deal with the costs of regaining his abilities and return to his welding shop.

Martha Kennedy, Monte Vista

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Kelly says victims, collaboration and strong infrastructure are her top priorities

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — With her campaign that resulted in a decisive victory now in her rearview mirror, 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly is looking to a future that includes major goals and big plans.

“Right now, we’re focused almost entirely on building our resources,” she said. “That’s something everyone across the state is struggling with.”

Kelly reports that the DA’s office currently has four prosecutors and thinks they can “scrape by” with five for a while. The attorney general’s office is still providing “some help” but the bulk of support continues to come through the Colorado District Attorneys Council.

“The visiting attorneys are doing a tremendous job,” she said. “They’re prepping dockets and reviewing cases and whatever I need them to do. They’re so generous with their time and will continue to come as long as I need their help.”

Against that backdrop, Kelly’s top priority “is and always has been” to continue to improve the way the DA’s office treats victims.

“We’re looking at our systems and making sure they reflect the most and best compassion for victims,” she said.

To that end, Kelly and her staff have taken on the formidable task of building an infrastructure that, instead of duties being siloed as they have in the past, will integrate duties so that processes are looked at from a more systemic perspective and communication between people is enhanced.

A prime example is the creation of an intake navigator position whose role involves a hybrid of duties. The intake navigator will be the first to greet people when they walk through the door and will see — both literally and figuratively — every case that comes into the office.

Part of the job will involve collecting and assembling information an investigator might need in conducting an investigation or attorneys will need going into court. Upon reviewing a new case, the intake navigator will refer it to the diversion manager, if appropriate. Equally important, the person will function as a victim advocate, reviewing, for example, jail dockets and contacting victims

when someone is getting out on bond. “It’s more of a general type of victim advocacy instead of being an advocate assigned to a specific case,” she said.

Kelly’s emphasis on victims is also reflected in the background experience she hopes to find in hiring for the job. Not only is she looking for someone with a background in psychology, she would also prefer someone who has personal, lived experience with the criminal justice system, as a victim. That pre-requisite, Kelly believes, will provide a “level of comfort and foster an immediate connection” with someone in the throes of trauma that typically comes with being victimized by a crime.

Kelly reports they have received a large number of applicants for the support positions they have posted, some of which come from the Valley and other highly qualified applicants from along the Front Range.

“I’m sitting on 40 to 50 applicants right now,” said Megan Martinez, director of administration and diversion services.

“Now, if those were attorneys applying for jobs, I’d sleep a whole lot better at night,” Kelly said.

Kelly’s next priority is law enforcement collaboration.

“The law enforcement officers in the valley are amazing and so excited just to do their jobs again,” she said. “I want to capitalize on the energy they have to create and enhance collaboration.”

Kelly said she’s not sure what that will look like but the goal is “huge” to her.

“There’s so much information in each agency that we need to share and work together because these criminals are not just staying in Alamosa,” she said.

Martinez cites “great progress” that has already been made.

“In the last month, we’ve gotten our last law enforcement agency up on the electronic server,” eliminating, she said, the current practice of law enforcement having to print and deliver warrants by hand and in person.

“Now everything looks basically the same and is in the same place,” Kelly said.

The DA’s office also has been

working with law enforcement agencies to make sure they have more than one person on staff able to upload information.

Kelly is clear in defining collaboration. It’s about more than relationships; it involves actual memorandums of understanding between agencies that put agreements in place to facilitate the special units and task forces she plans to create, including a domestic violence and sexual assault unit, a major crimes task force and a task force investigating officer-involved shootings.

“By statute, I’m required to review all those OIS cases where officers have shot — and hit — a suspect,” she said. “It’s much better for community trust and my ability to put out a statement with merit and integrity if I’ve got a lot of different agencies coming to the same conclusion rather than just one agency.”

Currently, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation is called when there is an OIS, and Kelly praises them for their response and professionalism. But Kelly said she feels it’s most important to the valley to have a network of detectives from across the valley looking at the same case and coming to the same conclusion to make sure she has the information needed to make a decision on further action.

Kelly also is beginning to put resources in place to form a Special Victims Unit, as she has done in other judicial districts. The process will start with hiring an investigator solely devoted to investigating domestic violence and sexual assault across the six counties. Ultimately, she would also like to hire an attorney whose sole job is to prosecute those cases, but she needs more full-time, permanent attorneys on staff before that will be possible.



Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly said that victims, collaboration and a strong infrastructure within her office will be her top priorities as the San Luis Valley’s district attorney.

When envisioning a major crimes task force, Kelly sees a team of law enforcement investigators and patrol who would come from different agencies to collaborate on a major case.

“They wouldn’t be doing this every day,” she said. “This wouldn’t be their day job. But if something happens — like the Baroz case, for example — they can rely on each other for resources and skills. So, if it happens in, say, Conejos County, Costilla and Blanca and Fort Garland would send people.”

“And it would be structured,” Martinez said. “If it happens in, for example, Conejos, Conejos would be in charge.”

“Everything would be laid out in a (memorandum of understanding).”

DA Kelly’s plans going forward involve a significant amount of restructuring and building new capacity.

“I think, in a community, the DA’s office can and always should be that builder and the strongest law

enforcement voice,” she said. “In other districts, when there’s a need to after a particular crime, it’s always the DA’s office that’s leading that charge and rallying people behind that effort. That hasn’t happened in this DA’s office in, at least, the last eighteen months. We’re starting to build our structure so that law enforcement will build their faith in us and trust that we’re leading them in the right direction.”

In speaking about her plans, Kelly’s focus eventually returns to the victims.

“I’ve heard such gratitude from people — not for me but for what we’re doing — and that we’re giving hope to people who have been so disrespected,” she said. “They’re saying, ‘we’re so thankful that you’re here and we’re relying on you.’ That’s humbling to me.”

“I know that we can do it but it’s still humbling. And it’s exciting and awesome and a feeling that I’ve never had before. It’s inspiring.”

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Garcia is a 2022 Boettcher Fellowship recipient

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley native Lupita (Espinoza) Garcia was one of two Valley residents selected by the Boettcher Foundation as fellows in the 2022 Boettcher Fellowship Program — a highly prestigious fellowship honoring selected “community champions” for their contributions and leadership.

The goal of the Boettcher Fellowship is “to identify, celebrate, elevate, and connect community champions from across Colorado by amplifying their voices and impact through a financial investment and structured opportunities to develop as individual leaders and members of Colorado’s leadership ecosystem.”

When speaking about their lives and those events that led them to where they are, both Garcia and Salazar tell stories of lived experiences where, despite challenges and sometimes even heartbreak, personal determination and devotion to something larger than themselves forged a path to being instruments of change for the betterment of others.

Garcia was born in Del Norte and grew up in Monte Vista. As the middle child and only daughter of three children, she was raised by her mother and stepfather. Both parents worked outside of the home, so, from a young age, Garcia “took care of the household cooking and cleaning some days.”

She describes her childhood as “pretty normal,” including “being a good student who got good grades throughout school.” In high school, she went to school half days and worked with a Chapter One teacher assistant, helping children that “had a different way of learning.” She says she was named in the Who’s Who among American High School Students and, as a teenager, competed for Miss American Co-ed.

“I didn’t win but I learned so much from those experiences,” she said.

The importance of learning and being on the lookout for opportunities to learn more has been a constant thread throughout her life, even while experiencing a significant loss.

Garcia married her high school sweetheart and had two sons but the marriage ended in divorce when she was 31 years old. Her ex-husband told her she was not allowed to divorce him — she “would always be his wife” — and, before moving to San Diego, left her sons a letter saying he might never see them again.

The threats didn’t end there. He also told Garcia that he would steal her sons and take them to where she would never see them again. She used that letter to file for divorce and get custody of her sons, but her youngest boy continued to be afraid his father would “take him.”

Garcia went to preschool with him every day. She also gave her oldest son instructions on what to do if his father showed up at school.

Once she was granted custody of her sons, Garcia needed an income to support her family and made an appointment to apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Rio Grande County.

No sooner had she sat down in the “technician’s” office than the technician’s phone rang. It was a non-profit organization looking for a receptionist. Garcia’s skills fit the job description perfectly and, after running home and changing clothes, she went to the job interview and was hired.

“That was my first non-profit job,” she said. “After the first year, I became the manager. After the second year, I became the executive director. Then the Information Center was taken over by San Luis Valley Development Resources Group.”

Sadly, during that same time period, Garcia’s younger brother was killed in a gang-related incident.

“It took a toll on our family,” she said. “The Monte Vista community surrounded us and gave us so much support, including the DA’s office, law enforcement, friends, and family. It seemed like everything was happening at once. My brother died on my wedding anniversary.”

Support also came from within her own family. “My brother helped my sons out and spent a lot of time with them.”

Now, 19 years later, Garcia’s life is devoted to others and the community in which she lives. In February, she will celebrate her ninth year with Energy Resource Center where she works as an intake specialist and office manager for their Alamosa location.

ERC is a locally based, statewide non-profit dedicated to helping families keep their homes safe, warm and energy efficient while protecting families from risks associated with Colorado winters and keeping them comfortable in both summer and winter months.

In the nine years, she has been with ERC, Garcia has collaborated with several agencies to build their outreach.

“I want to help all the people I can



Lupita Garcia

who qualify for our programs,” Garcia said. “No partnership is too small or unrelated to housing.”

As part of building that outreach, Garcia lists more than a dozen different non-profits she is involved with, often in leadership positions, ranging from the Regional Broadband Collaborative Board to “three different advisory councils through the Women’s Foundation of Colorado.”

“I’m passionate about giving people hope,” she said. “Standing up and fighting for what you believe in. Self Esteem is a big issue for many, especially if you have a disability.”

“When I got divorced, I was focusing a lot on my kids,” Garcia said. “Each week I focused on doing one good thing for myself. Part of focusing on myself was taking any opportunity that came my way to nourish myself and build a better stronger spiritually rich life. I have always believed knowledge is power so I take any opportunity I can to learn. Every training or class I am offered I take that opportunity to enrich my life. I have always had the hope and strength to nurture my spirit to think positively.”

The Boettcher Fellowship refers to the fellows as “community champions.”

For Garcia, she sees herself as an advocate for the youth of the community more than anything.

“Honestly, I don’t see myself as a community champion,” she said. “I am an advocate on behalf of our youth, elderly, individuals and families. All these people matter and create our community, and we create the space for each other to show respect, hope, and support.”

“I believe by doing all these things. It enhances our deep roots and culture that anchors us to the San Luis Valley. I am no expert in advocating. I just have unique qualities and work hard at enriching our San Luis Valley community.”

SOIL Sangre de Cristo opens 0% interest loan application period

CONTRIBUTED

SANLUISVALLEY — SOIL Sangre de Cristo is accepting applications for 0% Interest Loans. Loans awards are available for local farmers, ranchers and other food producers in South-Central Colorado. The application, in Spanish and English is available on the SOIL Sangre de Cristo website, soilsangredecristo.org.



The loan application includes the matrix in which the vetting committee judges the merits of each applicant based on regenerative farming practices and commitment to supporting others in their community. The deadline for submitting the loan applications is Jan. 31, 2023. Awards will be voted on by

the Investor Members of SOIL Sangre de Cristo on March 5, 2023.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo supports farmers, ranchers and other food producers in our region with 0% Interest Loans. Investing with SOIL Sangre de Cristo gives Investor Members a mindful and positive channel to generate resilience in regional, nourishing food. The board is an “all-volunteer” team.

“This keeps operating expenses very low. The dollars invested stay in our community working over and over again through the revolving loan fund,” organizers stated.

Members want to see a diverse and resilient food chain. Thanks to these

members SOIL Sangre de Cristo has loaned \$41,000 to seven farms and ranches in the region. Members of the community become investors by building the revolving loan fund to support this effort.

Farmers and food producers join SOIL Sangre de Cristo for \$25 annually. Annual memberships start at \$250 per person and up, it includes a vote on loan distributions. Contributions to the loan fund for any amount are welcome.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo’s mission is uniting the communities of South-Central Colorado through direct support for local farmers, ranchers and food producers, improving food security, improvement in soil carbon and health for all residents.

All contributions are tax deductible and are matched 50% by the Mighty Arrow Family Foundation.

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Salazar selected to receive 2022 Boettcher Fellowship

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In July of 1863, President Lincoln declared the fourth Thursday of November as a National Day of Thanks. While that tradition has evolved into a day where families — with the means to do so — gather for a day of feasting and fellowship, gratitude for and recognition of those who strive to better the lives of others is an ongoing practice for some organizations, like the Boettcher Foundation who honor the “community champions” among us in their “Doers and Difference Makers Fellowship.”

Last summer, Esteban Salazar was one of two San Luis Valley residents to receive that honor. As Boettcher fellows, they will spend this year connecting with other fellows and mentors while learning to expand their efforts and amplify their voices in calling for a better world.

Becoming a leader does not happen overnight and is the result of events that took place and decisions made long before the notion of being a “leader” was even considered a possibility.

Health and wellness coordinator for SLV GO! Data analyst for San Luis Valley BOCES. Former counselor to small businesses through the SLV Small Business Development Association. Cultural anthropologist. Gardener. Single father of three children.

A soft-spoken and deeply thoughtful man, Salazar is also a very busy person.

When asked to describe himself, Salazar, educated as a cultural anthropologist, naturally begins with his ancestry. He is a fourth-generation native of the San Luis Valley, with, according to his

genealogical research, familial roots in the region that go back more than 400 years.

“My lineage dates back to Spanish colonialism before the forming of the nation-state of Mexico,” Salazar said. “My paternal great-great-grandfather found that, in his lifetime, he had lived in Nueva España (New Spain), Mexico and ultimately the United States and he never moved more than 30 miles from where he was born.”

Salazar’s part of that deep-rooted family tree started in Del Norte where he grew up “during the boom period of the lumber industry and extractive mining in Creede and Summitville.”

“My folks were blue-collared service industry workers”, he said. “My dad worked for the big mining and lumber companies and my mother took care of the house and saw to the needs of my siblings and me.”

Salazar said his journey to becoming a leader was neither predicted nor straightforward. In his early teens, he was “a knucklehead that ran with a street crew.” After being expelled from high school in his sophomore year, he enrolled in an alternative high school diploma program. His fellow students “were not terribly committed to completing their education.

“So, I took my GED test and went out into the workforce”

The next three years were spent in the “seasonal agricultural-based industry” where he realized there was no opportunity for upward mobility and financial stability that he hoped to achieve.

At the encouragement of his late maternal grandmother, Salazar

attended Adams State University, carrying a full slate of classes while working his way through school. After taking “the first job he could get” — as a dishwasher at La Mesa cafeteria — he was on a “work-study” in computing services while also being a Resident Assistant.

In 2009, he graduated with a degree in Cultural Anthropology while also being employed as the highest-paid work-study in an Institute of Museum and Library Sciences grant through ASU’s Neilsen Library.

Those years at ASU were a formative period. Not only did he enter into a new world of knowledge and skills he also met and married his former wife.

The two were married for 15 years until his marriage.

“(IT) unraveled in the peak of COVID,” he said. “I am a survivor of domestic abuse and a single father of three healthy and happy children.”

The chronicle of Salazar’s life is a rich tapestry of interests and accomplishments geared toward the community where he lives.

He ran an IMLS grant for the nine district libraries in the SLV public library system, inventorying and purchasing computers that provided access to new computers along with instructions on how to use them. “I truly enjoyed working with the greater public in a non-traditional instructional setting.”

He was “deeply engaged” in the 2011 special election campaign that led to the construction of the Alamosa City Hall complex and Southern Peaks public library. Prior to that, “the Alamosa Police Department was renting commercial space for their office and holding cells, and the fire department was housed in a separate location on the other side of town.”

He’s worked as a small business counselor through the SLV Small Business Development program.

“I enjoy hearing folks’ business plans and love to help them grow their projects to fruition,” he said.

Since he was seven years old, Salazar’s been gardening and has a deep connection with food production and education.

“I’ve dealt with food insecurity in my youth and also as an adult,” he said. “I promote sustainable food economies and believe firmly in the tenants of food equity. I champion the cottage food industry and sustainable and regenerative food production processes.”

As evidence of that commitment, he was on the steering committee during the fledgling stages of the Mosca Valley Roots Food Hub initiative, under the direction of the SLF Local Food Coalition.

Salazar’s definition of community champions reflects an understanding of how far-reaching the role can be. A champion “shows up when there are challenging community issues at hand, takes a step back, gives a voice to the voiceless, and makes a bigger-picture perspective that embraces all interests involved. They are great improvisers and affect positive community change by facilitating resources to address community challenges. They are professionals with their fingers on the pulse of their communities and are trusted as valued confidants. (They’re) folks who can get things done within the professional setting and within the neighborhoods and barrios where they reside.”

Champions are also known for naming those who inspired them, and Salazar is no exception. “Dawn Melagares, Jamie Dominguez and Lisa Lucero embody the spirit of community champions. (They)



Courtesy photo

Esteban Salazar, 2022 Boettcher fellow. Courtesy photo. Boettcher Foundation

truly love their communities and use their education, professional roles and contacts to break down barriers of systemic oppression for the betterment of their entire community.”

And in terms of where he fits into the greater picture, Salazar’s vision is clear.

“As a youth who was identified as gifted and talented in middle school and then expelled due to fighting just a short time later,” he said. “I firmly understand the school-to-prison pipeline phenomena. Many of my friends are deceased or incarcerated as a result of poor decisions and drug use. I hope to be an example to our youth that are on the verge of wandering down a dead-end path of gang activity, crime and drug use. I want to be a person that shares my lived experiences to demonstrate that, with hard work and dedication, a person can achieve the unimaginable.”

VISTA Continued from Page 1A

paragraphs about the 189-acre Vista Grande Recreation Area. The second paragraph begins with, “A preliminary concept has been created based on input already received and will be presented to the public on December 10th, 6:30 PM.”

In response to an email request to confirm the meeting time, Saguache Town Clerk Iris Garcia replied on Nov. 29. She was not aware of a meeting regarding the Vista Grande Recreation Area. Perhaps the notice dates back a few Decembers.

On Dec. 18, 2014, SLVGO posted the following survey notice on Facebook for input regarding Vista Grande.

“The Town of Saguache is planning for a new recreation area - Vista Grande Recreation Area and would like your input. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/VistaG>.”

Eight years later, the SurveyMonkey page displays, “Oh bananas! We can’t find the page you requested.”

As Archuleta reiterated to commissioners, “There were five years of public input and surveys that went out on it, all for nothing. It was a lot of time wasted by a lot of people. If we’re going to do this again, we need to follow through.”

Becoming a Prisoner of Hope

God is good. And He has a good plan for each of our lives. No matter what may be going on right now, God’s plan is unfolding. In the meantime, Romans 12:12 tells us to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (NIV).

I think that’s good advice, especially in times when it feels like we’ve been waiting and waiting...and waiting for something to happen in our lives. Hope is vital in times like these and it will keep us looking ahead, anticipating, expecting whatever it is we’re *hoping* for.

Over the years I’ve learned how to lock myself up in a *prison* of hope, knowing that God has nothing but His best planned for me. He promised me things concerning my ministry and my life. And hope is what helped me hold on in those early years when it got hard.

Anticipation

I remember when it was just three weeks into my marriage to Dave and he asked me one day, “What’s wrong with you? You have such a negative attitude!” And I said, “Well, if you don’t expect anything good to happen, then you won’t be disappointed when it doesn’t.” That was how I felt based on past experiences. I had a very negative outlook on life, so I spoke negatively about it.

This is the way I *used* to live...before I became a prisoner of hope. As I grew in my relationship with God, I learned how to trust Him, how to believe His Word, and how to stand my ground in prayer when it got tough. Today my outlook on life is completely different from what it was many years ago. Now I enjoy my life and I encourage others to enjoy theirs as well.

Jesus died for us to live an abundant, fulfilling life (John 10:10). And hope is the confident, favorable expectation of the life we can have in Him.

Double for Your Trouble

Now, I do realize there are many things that can happen to us that aren’t

so enjoyable. And that can make it difficult to grasp the idea of enjoying life. So, think of it this way: What are you hoping for? What are you expecting in life? What are you looking forward to? *Focus on that.*

My negative outlook was due to my attitude about all the bad things that had happened to me. I was stuck in the pain of my past, so I didn’t believe anything good would happen in my future. Because of all of the negative things that had happened, I was programmed to believe that negative things would always happen, and I lost hope.

Well, God knew all about my past and how it had affected me. And He kept loving me and dealing with me, promising me what Isaiah 61:7 says: “Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours” (NIV).

That’s an amazing promise for us all — a promise of double for your trouble! Double the blessing...double the joy...double the peace! Now doesn’t that inspire hope in your heart?

Of course, this double-blessing promise isn’t for the double-minded. When you walk it out in everyday life, there will be times when doubt, fear, unbelief and weariness will come against you. It’s in these times you will need to fight a good fight of faith. You will need to guard your mind against negativity about your situation. I encourage you to find out what God says about it and then stand on the promises in His Word.

The Bible tells of many times when people encountered Jesus and He touched their lives, and how they wanted to stay with Him and follow Him. But He sent them home—back to everyday life—to live out and share with others what He’d done for them.

They had to hold on to what He had done for them. And in the same way, we



must hold on to whatever He promises us and be confident that He is working in our situation. Hope releases the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives during these times.

Hope

I want to encourage you to make a decision to cultivate an attitude of hope in your life. Speak positive things about your future and refuse to be negative. You may not always *feel* hopeful but don’t give in to your feelings. Catering to bad feelings feeds and empowers them. But standing our ground and not giving in to negative feelings starves them and causes them to lose their power over us.

Just ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. Line your will up with His and get excited about serving God. You could become a person who inspires others to become prisoners of hope!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-teaching resource **Filled with Hope**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting 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.

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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.

UPDATES

Continued from Page 1A —
and out of the Valley.

Gulch Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) on BLM land north of Saguache near Rattlesnake Hill. The smallest of four SEZs in Colorado, De Tilla Gulch includes about 1,000 acres for developing a solar farm adjacent to Highway 285. The open area already has a 115-kV transmission line, as well as a windmill and wire fences. The BLM permits grazing on a portion of the SEZ.

Commissioner Lynne Thompson asked how the power would be distributed, and Archuleta explained the next steps for implementation.

“First,” Archuleta said, “a company has to come in, and then they have to work with Xcel because they’re the only ones with a power line. We’re not even sure if they can get the power in and out. I think there is only room for 67 more kilowatts.”

Archuleta questioned the business potential of the site, considering how other parts of Colorado offer access to bigger transmission lines from BLM land.

Commissioner Tom McCracken noted Senator Cleave Simpson’s efforts and pending discussions with the Public Utilities Commission to receive a redundant power line in

“That could change things with our Solar Energy Zones,” Archuleta said. He added that other areas under BLM control could also qualify, based on sun exposure and habitat.

In forest service news, commissioners learned that firewood tags are still available, but they expire on Dec. 31. New tags will be issued in March 2023. For Christmas tree tags, people can pick them up in person or online through www.recreation.gov.

Also, the Rio Grande National Forest offices will be closed during the week between Christmas and New Year’s Eve, and the RGNF office move from Monte Vista to Del Norte will take place in February.

In public health news, commissioners approved a transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Public Health Fund, “for the purpose of meeting expenditures.”

Saguache County Commissioners will convene for their regular meeting on Dec. 6 at 9 a.m., and the next Saguache County Commissioners work session is scheduled for Dec. 27.

BAGS

Continued from Page 1A

cleaning services and pharmacies will be exempt from charging the fee.

Sixty percent of the collected fees will go to local municipalities to pay for costs related to recycling and composting. The remaining forty percent will go to businesses.

On Jan. 1, 2024, a ban on all plastic bags and polystyrene containers will go into effect, with major stores and restaurants only being allowed to use what remaining stock they have in inventory until July 1, 2024.

The original intent was for Colorado to join the growing list of states that have banned the use of all plastic bags and polystyrene containers and encourage people to use reusable bags for their purchases.

However, major pushback from Republicans in the state legislature, lobbyists for the plastic industry and some in the business community resulted in a final bill that undermined several aspects of the bill’s original intention by allowing smaller retail establishments and restaurants (those with three or fewer locations) to

continue using plastic bags and polystyrene unless prohibited by their local governments.

Even with the exemptions, no Republican legislator voted for the bill.

According to the Colorado Public Interest Research Group, Coloradans use an estimated 4.6 million single-use plastic bags and 1.2 polystyrene cups every single day. That figure is based on national statistics that show that each individual living in the United States uses (and disposes of) 306 single-use plastic bags and 82 foam cups a year.

Single-use plastic bags are typically made from petroleum-based plastic, which are not biodegradable — meaning they do not decompose or dissolve on their own. Research has proven that, when exposed to sunlight, single-use plastic bags may break down over the period of 20 to 50 years, at which point they turn into microplastics which have been found in — literally all parts of the planet, from the top of Mount Everest to samples extracted from some of the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean.

ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 6th day of December, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place within the District:

Office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District
296 Miles Street

Town of Center, Saguache County, Colorado

At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Director(s) to serve the following term(s) of office on the Board of Directors of the District:

One Director for Division I for a 3-Year Term

The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:

Randall Palmgren, Director for Division I for a 3-year term

One Director at Large for a 3-year term

The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:

Sheldon Rockey, Director at Large for a 3-year term

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an elector of said District for the purpose of said election is a person who (1) owns taxable real property within the District, and (2) is over the age of twenty-one years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter’s ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District, Amy S. Dean, at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o’clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 2nd of December, 2022).

San Luis Valley Irrigation District

By: /s/ Amy S. Dean

Secretary

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1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. 2 "How might my oral and dental health change as I age?," www.usnews.com, 11/30/2018. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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SLV groups look to help fight scarcity of childcare

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A group of 80 people representing a broad coalition of individuals and organizations from across the San Luis Valley recently gathered together at the Boys and Girls Club to focus on the youngest children of the Valley.

The event, titled “Weaving Together Community, Peace by Piece,” was organized as part of a partnership between the SLV Early Childhood Council, the Boys and Girls Club of the SLV, the SLV Interagency Oversight Group and the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center.

The goal was as global as the diversity of participants and attendees would suggest — “to bring awareness to early childhood and those who have a part in it and to strengthen the roles we each have in the health and wellbeing of our youngest community members by increasing collaboration, understanding, and awareness.”

Marlayna Martinez, organizer of the event and the San Luis Valley Community Research Liaison with the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, says this is a crucial time in early childhood for a multitude of reasons.

“The state of Colorado has a new Department of Early Childhood in which many changes are being made with lots of unknowns and potential opportunities,” she said.

She cites universal preschool funding appropriated by HB-22 and changes in Colorado Pre-School Program funding as two of the major upcoming changes.

Other factors add to the need to focus increased attention on situations impacting children in their first years of life.

According to Martinez, the demand for childcare for children birth to age five continues to increase but the availability, access, and the number of qualified staff lags behind.

“Many families in the SLV are challenged with finding available childcare and many early childhood centers and preschools are struggling to keep their doors open..” she said.

That struggle, she said, stems from issues related to staffing, compounded by “incredibly high” burnout among early childhood staff as a result of the fallout from COVID-19.

During the pandemic, essential



Courtesy photo by Marlayna Martinez

With a focus on challenges facing children in their earliest years and the childcare industry, including childcare workers and partners, ‘Weaving Together, Peace by Piece’ was held at the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley in Alamosa. In attendance, representatives from health care, SLV BOCES, SLV Early Childhood Council, Direct service providers in early childhood, Department of Human Services, wrap-around services and other support programs in the community such as Working Together through Adelante, Child First from SLV BHG, WIC through Valley Wide, HIPPIY from SLV AHEC and others.

workers were required to continue working to guarantee the safety and ongoing support of communities, but those individuals often faced uncertainty in assuring childcare for their own children.

Now, two years after communities were locked down, staff at childcare centers are beginning to see the impact on infants and toddlers who had limited social interaction during the most crucial years of their development.

“Many challenging behaviors and delays in social emotional competence are being seen,” Martinez said.

Those first years of life are absolutely integral to development in the months and years that follow.

“If the behaviors and delays are not addressed at an early age, it becomes increasingly harder to manage or foster change later on in life,” she said.

And while the pandemic may be described, at a national level, as officially “over,” the ramifications of that pandemic are not.

According to Martinez, the isolation that was necessary to stem transmission of the highly contagious COVID-19 resulted in children not being exposed to “good and bad germs” that help to build immunity to other viruses that typically circulate when communities are open and interactive.

These viruses — such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus, influenza and others — are now “coming with

a vengeance,” keeping children and staff in and out of classrooms and many childhood centers being required to close classroom doors to slow further transmission and infection.

Taken individually, each one of these challenges is significant. But, taken as a whole with multiple challenges presenting themselves simultaneously, Martinez and others present at last week’s event argue that there is no more important time to focus on fostering the well-being of children in their early childhood years than now.

Concurrently and in response to this pressing need, there is also no more important time to raise public awareness of the need for, as Martinez puts it, a “well-supported and strong

workforce and partners” — not just for children in their early formative years but for all in the community who will interact with these children as they grow.

At its core, last week’s event was created to foster partnerships, mutual trust and collaboration among those organizations that, as part of their operations, interact with issues related to children.

An example of what that collaboration would look like in real-time? “Mental health consultants and coaches from the Early Childhood Council should be aware and in a strong relationship with caseworkers at the Department of Human Services or SLV Boards of Cooperative Educational Services to truly understand the support and

wraparound care that exists for children and families.”

At the very foundation, she adds, we should all have at least awareness and understanding of the opportunities available for children and families so that, when necessary, we can all advocate across sectors for different programs, supports, or resources.

“Strong community support starts with strong support for our caretakers of our youngest community members,” she says.

Far from summarizing the event, Martinez’s statement suggests last week’s event is just the beginning of a crucial conversation that, for the good of today’s youngest children and the community at large, can no longer be delayed.

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Creede decks the halls



Courtesy photos
Volunteers in Creede once again gathered at Basham Park to finish stringing lights to help make the city a 'winter wonderland.'



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.

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 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

Please see SLV GO! on Page 2



Thankful for our public lands

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

As I was considering what to write for my Thanksgiving Day submission to the Land, Water and People column, I had a great discussion with my colleague Hannah, who has also written many of these articles, and we got to laughing. We were talking about turkeys. Both kinds. You know, the proverbial turkey who does odd, uncool, and sometimes illegal things that earn them the label from the folks that witness their antics. We see many turkeys out on the public lands and today, I want to give some advice so folks can make sure that they don't get the label, by doing several things that really ARE cool. Fully extinguishing your campfires before you leave, packing out all your trash, not driving on a muddy road that will create ruts or erosion problems, and extending courtesy to other users on roads and trails as you pass each other are a few of the actions we can think of that will not earn you a turkey label.

Then we have the real turkeys, from the genus *Meleagris*, which are native to North America. Said to have numbered in the hundreds of thousands on the continent at

one point prior, they were reduced to a mere 30,000 birds in the 1920's. Due to successful conservation efforts by a variety of groups, the United States is now home to over seven million wild turkeys, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. We see them regularly now out on our public lands and, if you are fortunate enough, you may walk right below them at dusk, right after they have chosen their roost for the night. I'll admit, I wasn't looking up and it scared me a little until I knew what they were!

Many folks hunt turkeys during the spring and fall and, of course, millions have that traditional turkey meal for their Thanksgiving dinner. During these wonderful family gatherings, we often hear our family and friends proclaim what they are thankful for. So often, we all say we are thankful for the same things; the things that are on our minds the most and that we touch everyday such as our loved ones, our health, financial stability, and our basic necessities. Then we expand to the other material things that we are grateful that we have. Frequently, the next step is the

worldly considerations such as our community, nation, and beyond. This is where I will be spending a few minutes of thankful reflection this Thanksgiving.

Colorado has approximately 43% of its lands that are not in private ownership and the San Luis Valley's portion of that statistic increases to roughly 50%. Held in trust by various state and federal land management agencies, these lands are there for us to use, as long as we do it respectfully. How amazing is that? Open space that embodies our values here in the Valley. Through these public lands we embrace our rich cultural history that extends back thousands of years. We have the privilege to use these lands, generally speaking, any time we want. Through planned management actions we can also use these lands for grazing, hunting, gathering firewood and other activities, just as our indigenous people have for hundreds and

thousands of years.

Today we use our public lands for more recreational activities as opposed to the needs-based uses from a thousand years ago. I, for one, am incredibly thankful for those opportunities. My life is fuller, richer and more meaningful to me, and I hope my loved ones, because of the recreational opportunities that are abundant in this area. I encourage you all to join me in recognizing the value of our public lands in your lives and give thanks for them this Thanksgiving. I'm also thankful for turkeys. The edible ones. And remember to enjoy your turkey this holiday and not be one when you are out on our public lands!

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, you'll find him enjoying all public lands as often as possible.

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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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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Solution to last week's puzzle

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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.

SLV GO!

Continued from Page 1

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.

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.

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



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.

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 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>.

Ski and outdoor gear swap December 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.



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 or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144

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This Week's Feature



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For information on meetings for **ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** Please visit slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time heavy equipment mechanic in Blanca, Colo. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com, for more information. (12-21)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a shop/steel worker who preferably has computer skills and can run over the counter sales in the office as well. Call Marie for more info: 719-852-2662 and drop off resumes at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, MV (12-14)

Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is accepting applications for a Child Protection Caseworker. Full-time position with County benefits. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. \$21.99 -\$22.78 DOE. Full job description and application available at www.riograndecounty.org or at Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (12-7)

CSU San Luis Valley Research Center in Center, Colo., seeks Potato Breeding Research Associate. Apply online by 11/27/2022 for full consideration. See full job and instructions <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/115051>. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. (11-30)

12 Houses for Rent

Del Norte duplex, 2-bedroom, with office, no pets, no smoking, \$750 Month, \$750 Deposit 719-580-5400 (12-7)

17 Real Estate For Sale

35.71 acres between Monte Vista and Alamosa on County Line Road, borders highway, good grass, easy access, power and ready to build on. Priced \$109,000. Call **Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty Inc** 719-873-1700. TFN

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23 Lawn and Garden

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31 Health

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32 Fuel & Heating

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36 Miscellaneous

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40 Auto Part

Buying any vintage license plates. Premium paid for 1936 Mineral County plate (starts with 62). Call/text Colin: 970-367-7594 (1-11)

48 Pets and Supplies

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Creede Repertory Theatre performs for HVCC kids

CONTRIBUTED
DEL NORTE — Hi, everyone! High Valley Community Center hopes you're having a great week and surviving the cold. Now that we're closed for the week, we can reflect on the previous week's activities.

We would like to thank the Creede Repertory Theatre for performing "Casa Alfonso" for the kids and community. The Young Audience Outreach Tour not only adapts plays for children, but also brings these plays to surrounding communities and we are grateful to work with them!

Did you know that HVCC provides tutoring services? Tuesday through Thursday HVCC staff spends time in the Del Norte High School Common Room from 4 to 5:30 p.m. We are happy to help students in all subjects.

Our final pool day of 2022 ended with a celebratory pizza party. We are so proud of the kiddos for working hard to improve their swimming skills.

There will be three Fabulous Fridays to look forward to in December — the final Friday will be Dec. 16. That happens to be our

favorite Friday of the year as we take the kiddos shopping, eat lunch out, and wrap presents. What's not to love? Later that evening, Santa will be making an appearance at HVCC following the Parade of Lights fireworks. We hope to see you there!

Don't forget to register for basketball! Registrations for Co-ed K-2 and boys grades 3-4 and 5-6 basketball will be available on the HVCC website, www.TheHVCC.org/sports until Dec. 1. Keep a look out for game schedules on our

website at a later date. Registration with HVCC is required to participate in HVCC sports programs, so please make sure to register with us as well. From all of us at HVCC, we wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

High Valley Community Center students have been enjoying the warm waters at Hopper Pool for the past few weeks.

Courtesy photo



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.

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.

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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 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



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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

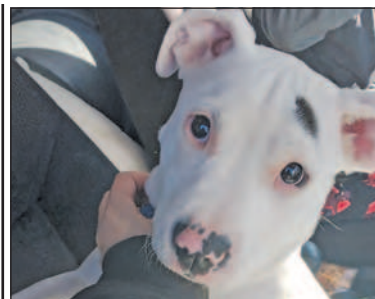
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Deckland has been here for almost 2 months now and is about 4 months old. We think he’s a Lab mix, unsure of what the mix is currently but he’s the sweetest, cutest little guy ever! Great with new people and other animals as well! We don’t want to see Deckland grow up here in the shelter so please stop by and see if he’s the pup for you!



Donnie is another one who’s been here for about 9 months, and we just don’t know why he hasn’t been swooped up yet! He’s an almost a year and a half old Red Heeler mix, friendly with most dogs, just on the dominant side even for his small self. Great with people and loves to play, come meet him today!



Meet Kielow, he’s about 4 months old, is a Bully mix and will be neutered soon. Kielow is kennel trained and mostly potty trained. He’s good with kids and other animals and is available for adoption by appointment because he is in foster.



Cleo has been with us for 9 months now, and is a 1 and a half years old Mini Staffordshire Terrier. She’s a bit of a nervous young lady who takes a moment to warm up to you, but once she does Cleo is a complete cuddle bug! She’s also learning how to make new doggo friends, we just need a meet and greet first! Stop by and meet her today!

Noodle has officially been with us for a year now and we would really like to find her a home. She’s 1 year 7 months, is a Bul Terrier mix with plenty of energy and personality to go around. Noodle is best as the only dog due to being a bit moody, but is great with kids and all the people she meets. Please come meet her today!



Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.

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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

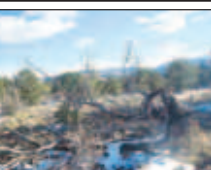
\$658,000 MLS #785486
441 Lande • South Fork

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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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

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



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 #96641
484 Conifer Drive • South Fork

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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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 Rainai 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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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

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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.
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30th Collector's Edition



Eggnog Fudge

- 3 cups (750 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (250 ml) eggnog
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) corn syrup
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped walnuts

- Glaze
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) semisweet chocolate chips
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) butter

PREPARATION: Grease sides of large heavy saucepan. Add sugar; stir in eggnog and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until boiling.

Cook, stirring only if necessary to prevent sticking, until candy thermometer reaches soft-ball stage of 238°F (115°C), and when 1/2 tsp (2ml) syrup dropped into very cold water forms soft ball that flattens on removal from water.

Immediately remove from heat; let cool to lukewarm, 110°F (43°C), without stirring. Using wooden spoon, beat in butter and vanilla, beating until very thick and no longer shiny.

Quickly stir in nuts. Spread in greased 8-inch (2 l) square cake pan. Tip: If fudge sets too quickly before spreading in pan, reheat gently over low heat just until soft enough to spread.

Glaze: Melt together chocolate chips and butter. Drizzle over fudge. Score into 1-inch (2.5 cm) squares while warm; let cool completely and cut into squares.

Fudge can be layered between waxed paper in airtight container and stored for up to two weeks.

JINGLE bells

J. Pierpont

1. — Dash - ing thro' the snow In a one horse o - pen sleigh, —
2. A day or two a - go I thought I'd take a ride, And

O'er the fields we go, — Laugh - ing all the way; —
soon Miss Fan - nie Bright Was seat - ed by my side; The

Bells on bob - tail ring, — Mak - ing spir - its bright, What
horse was lean and lank, Mis - for - tune seem'd his lot, He

fun it is to ride and sing A sleigh - ing song to - night!
got in - to a drift - ed bank, And we, we got up - sot.

CHORUS
Jin - gle, bells! jin - gle, bells! Jin - gle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride

¹ In a one - horse o - pen sleigh! ² In a one - horse o - pen sleigh!

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WE WISH YOU

a merry christmas

Willys Peck Kent



We wish you a mer - ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New ___ Year,



With a pock - et - ful of mon - ey and a cel - lar - ful of beer,



And a good fat pig to last you all the year!



Holiday Tree-Shaped Cheese Ball

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 4 hr 20 minutes

Ingredients

3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
4 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (16 ounces)
2 tablespoons basil pesto
1 tablespoon grated onion
1/4 teaspoon yellow mustard
Red pepper sauce
1/4 cup finely chopped parsley or cilantro
1/4 cup pine nuts or sliced almonds
2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper
Piece of lemon peel, if desired
Assorted crackers, if desired

Directions

Stir together cream cheese and Cheddar cheese; divide in half. Stir pesto into 1 half; stir onion, mustard and 2 or 3 drops pepper sauce into other half. Cover each half; refrigerate about 4 hours or until firm enough to shape. Place cheese mixtures on cookie sheet. Shape each half into cone shape to look like a pine tree. If desired, wrap each tree, label and freeze up to 1 month. Twelve hours before serving, remove trees from freezer. Thaw in wrapper in refrigerator. Just before serving, roll trees in parsley, pressing it evenly onto trees. Press pine nuts onto trees in string form for garland. Press bell pepper pieces onto trees for ornaments. Top each tree with star shape cut from lemon peel. Serve with crackers.



Fruited Brazil Nut Loaves

Makes two loaves

1 1/2 cups (375 ml) dried figs
1 1/2 cups (375 ml) dried apricots
1 cup (250 ml) candied pineapple
1/2 cup (125 ml) candied cherries
1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped preserved ginger
1 cup (250 ml) all-purpose flour
1 cup (250 ml) packed brown sugar
1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
3 cups (750 ml) whole shelled Brazil nuts
4 eggs
1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla

PREPARATION: Line two 8- x 4-inch (1.5 l) loaf pans with foil; grease well and set aside.

Pour boiling water over figs and apricots; let stand for 5 minutes. Drain and chop into large pieces. Cut pineapple into chunks. Halve cherries.

In large bowl, mix together figs, apricots, pineapple, cherries, ginger, and Brazil nuts. Stir together flour, sugar, and baking powder; add to fruit mixture and toss to mix.

In separate bowl, beat eggs well; stir in vanilla. Add to fruit mixture and mix well; spoon into prepared pans. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven for 1 hour or until cake tester inserted into centre comes out clean.

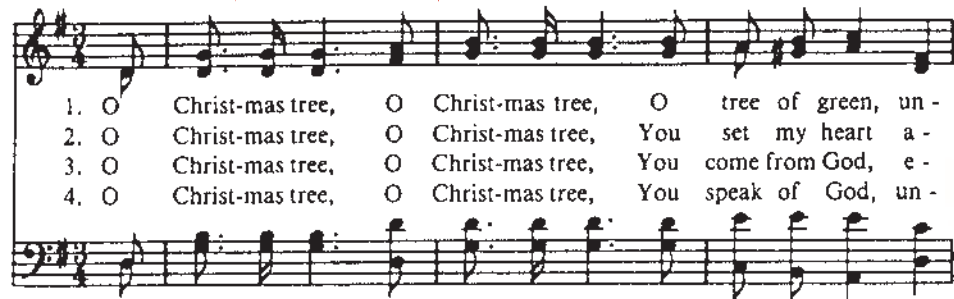
Let cool in pans on racks for 10 minutes; remove from pans and let cool completely on racks.

Loaves can be wrapped well and refrigerated for up to two weeks.

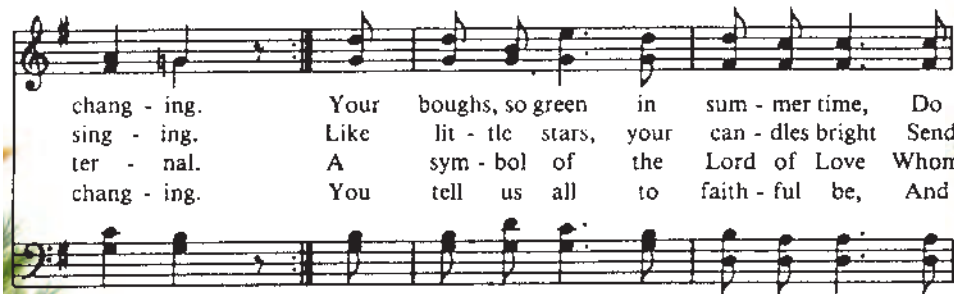
O CHRISTMAS

tree

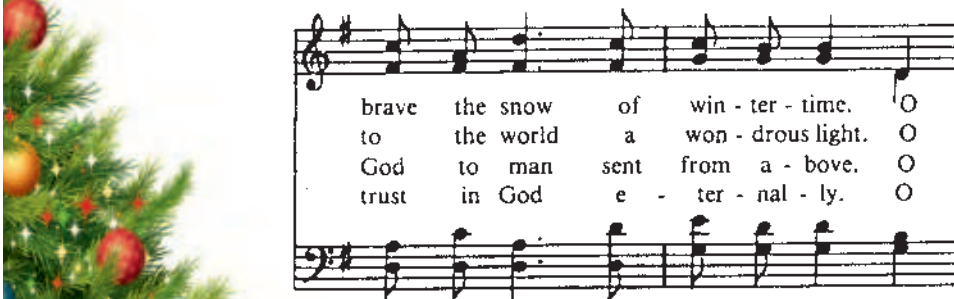
German



1. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, O tree of green, un -
2. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You set my heart a -
3. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You come from God, e -
4. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, You speak of God, un -



chang - ing. Your boughs, so green in sum - mer time, Do
sing - ing. Like lit - tle stars, your can - dles bright Send
ter - nal. A sym - bol of the Lord of Love Whom
chang - ing. You tell us all to faith - ful be, And



brave the snow of win - ter - time. O Christ-mas tree, O
to the world a won - drous light. O Christ-mas tree, O
God to man sent from a - bove. O Christ-mas tree, O
trust in God e - ter - nal - ly. O Christ-mas tree, O



Christ - mas tree, O tree of green, un - chang - ing.
Christ - mas tree, You set my heart a - sing - ing.
Christ - mas tree, You come from God, e - ter - nal.
Christ - mas tree, You speak of God, un - chang - ing.



AWAY IN *a manger*



German

1. A - way in a man - ger no crib for His
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor Ba - by

bed, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet
wakes, But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He

head. The stars in the sky, — looked down where He
makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the

lay. The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep in the hay.
sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.



Traditional Roast Turkey

A 13-15 lb. (6-7 kg) turkey serves 6

- 1 turkey, with giblets
- 1 onion, coarsely chopped
- A sprig of thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 oz. (113 g) salted butter
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Lemon and Herb stuffing
- 2 eggs
 - 4 oz. plus 1 tablespoon (130 g) butter, melted
 - A handful of fresh parsley leaves
 - 1 teaspoon (5 ml) chopped fresh lemon thyme
 - Freshly grated zest and juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
 - 4 1/2 cups (1.08 litres) fresh white bread crumbs
 - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Chestnut stuffing
- 14 oz. (392 g) fresh chestnuts
 - 1 cup (240 ml) milk
 - 4 oz. (112 g) sausages or sausage meat
 - 2 tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
 - 6 oz. (168 g) turkey liver, chopped
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 2 oz. (56 g) fatty bacon, finely chopped
 - 1 tablespoon (30 ml) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley or marjoram
 - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Lemon and herb stuffing:
Put the eggs, butter, parsley, lemon thyme, and lemon zest and juice in a food processor and blend to a smooth purée. Put the bread crumbs in a bowl, pour over the egg mixture, and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Chestnut stuffing:
Cook fresh chestnuts in a saucepan of boiling water for about 30 minutes to soften the shells. Peel them while still hot, wearing rubber gloves. Put the peeled fresh chestnuts in a saucepan, cover them with the milk, and simmer gently until softened, about 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how fresh they are. Strain them if necessary, then weigh out 7 oz. (196 g) and put in a bowl. Crumble the cooked chestnuts with your fingers and use the sausage meat to bind them. Heat the oil in a skillet, add onion, liver, and bacon and fry gently until the liver is firm. Stir in the parsley and cook until the mixture begins to brown. Add to the chestnuts with some salt and pepper.

Turkey: to make a stock, the day before put the giblets, minus the liver but with the neck chopped in half, in saucepan. Add the onion, thyme, and bay leaf, cover with water and bring to a boil, removing any foam. Reduce the heat and simmer for 2 hours, then strain. Taste and, if necessary, simmer for a little longer to reduce and strengthen the flavour.

The next day, wipe out the neck area and cavity of the turkey with a damp cloth and lightly season the inside with salt and pepper. Spoon the lemon and herb stuffing into the body cavity and the chestnut stuffing into the neck cavity, allowing plenty of room for them to expand. This is particularly important for the neck stuffing.

Put half the butter in a saucepan and melt gently. Spread the remaining butter all over the skin of the turkey. Soak the cheesecloth in the melted butter and drape over the bird, with a double layer covering the drumsticks.

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Put the bird in a large roasting pan in the middle of the oven. Roast for the calculated time according to size, except that the oven temperature must be raised to 400°F (200°C) and the cheesecloth covering removed for the last 30 minutes in order to crisp the skin. Remove the turkey from the oven, cover with a tent of aluminum foil, and leave in a warm place to rest while you prepare your side dishes.

Using oven mitts, tip out any free juices from the cavity, then lift the turkey onto a serving platter. Pour off the turkey juices from the pan, preferably into a gravy separator or pitcher to be able to lift off the fat, then reheat with the seasoned stock. Serve as is or for a traditional gravy, pour juices into a pan, thicken with a small amount of flour and cook well, stirring to prevent burning. Reserve extra gravy in a Thermos for second helpings. Serve with roasted potatoes, roasted parsnips, candied yams, bacon rolls, cranberry relish, and Brussels sprouts.

DECK THE *halls*



WORDS TRADITIONAL

OLD WELSH AIR

1. Deck the halls with boughs of hol - ly
2. See the blaz - ing Yule be - fore us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
3. Fast a - way the old year pass - es,

'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly,
Strike the harp and join the cho - rus, } Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lass - es,

Don we now our gay ap - par - el,
Fol - low me in mer - ry meas - ure, } Fa la la la la la la la la.
Sing we joy - ous all to - geth - er,

Troll the an - cient Yule - tide car - ol,
While I tell of Yule - tide treas - ure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heed - less of the wind and weath - er,

I HEARD THE BELLS

on christmas day

Henry W. Longfellow

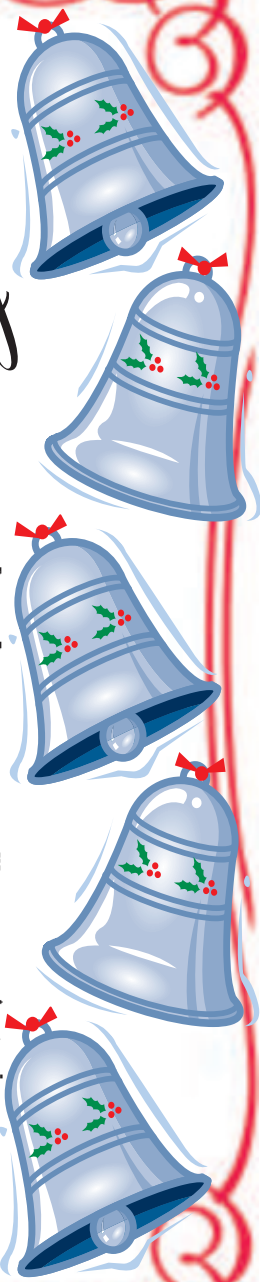
J. Baptiste Calkin



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa - mil - iar car - ols play,
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Christ-en-dom
 3. And in des-pair I bow'd my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,



And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 Had roll'd a - long th'un - bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men.



Create a delicious one-pot meal for a crowd

Warm, hearty meals, including stews, casseroles, soups, and chilis, make for great comfort foods when temperatures drop. Another advantage to these types of meals is they can easily be expanded to serve extended family. Also, when prepared using a slow cooker, these meals can be easily transported to a friends' potluck or relative's home.



Beloved for their turn-it-on-and-forget-it convenience, slow cookers allow cooks to start meals in the morning and then return home at night and have dinner ready and waiting. Busy working families may find that the convenience of slow cookers is unparalleled.

This recipe for "Creamy Ham 'n' Broccoli" from "Taste of Home Casseroles, Slow Cooker & Soups" (Taste of Home Books) is ideal for a cool fall or winter evening. It's a delicious meal to come home to after a busy day and also a great way to make use of leftover ham from a previous meal, such as a family gathering during the holiday season.

Creamy Ham 'n' Broccoli

Serves 6 to 8

- 3 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 jar (8 ounces) cheese sauce
- 1 can (8 ounces) sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1 1/4 cups uncooked instant rice
- 1 cup milk
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika

In a 3-quart slow cooker, combine all of the ingredients except the paprika. Cover and cook on high for 2 to 3 hours, or until the rice is tender. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with paprika.



The Monte Vista Cooperative

Community Committed, Agriculturally Driven

CHEWY GINGERSNAP COOKIES



- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1-3/4 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 2-3/4 cups flour
- 1-1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1 T. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. minced ginger
or 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. ground cloves
- 2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- raw sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Cream the butter and sugars using an electric mixer. Add in the egg and molasses. Whisk together the dry ingredients in a bowl. Pour into wet ingredients and mix well. Use a 1 TBSP cookie scoop to measure out and gently roll a ball of cookie dough in your hands. Roll each ball in raw sugar to coat. Place on a cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees. Let sit for an additional 2-3 minutes on the cookie sheet before transferring cookies to a cooling rack. Store in an airtight container.

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ColoradoGivesDay.org

Dec. 6

Year End Giving



GIVE A
GIFT THAT
COUNTS

Considering giving a tax deductible donation?
Take a look inside to support a local organization.

Valley
Publishing

719-852-3531

835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Wednesday,
November 30, 2022

Valley Courier

719-589-2553

2205 State Ave. • Alamosa



**CREEDE
REPERTORY
THEATRE**

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT ON COLORADO GIVES DAY

DECEMBER 6

EVERYTHING YOU GIVE
WILL BE MATCHED, UP TO
\$100,000



Give online at coloradogives.org or mail a check with "Colorado Gives Day" in the memo.

La Puente's Annual Share the Magic Private Reception & Holiday Party



When: Saturday, December 3rd

Time: Gala starts at 6 PM, seats at 7 PM

At: Adams State University SLV Federal Main Stage Theatre

Featuring this year's play: Little Women



Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at lapuentehome.org/sharethemagic

For more information call Wilson Hamilton at 719-589-5909 ext. 235 or email development@lapuente.net



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY**



GIVE
WHERE YOU
LIVE

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
**COLORADO
GIVES DAY**
ColoradoGivesDay.org Dec. 6

**GIVE TO HELP
KIDS LEARN &
EXPLORE!**

**GIVE SO TEENS
CAN SUCCEED!**

**GIVE TO CREATE
SAFE SPACES
WHERE
VALLEY YOUTH
CAN THRIVE!**



The Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley is proud to join our fellow non-profits as a participant of Colorado Gives Day on December 6th! You may donate on the 6th or schedule your donation in advance! Use the QRCode or Link from bgcslv.org Today!



Support local child & adult victims of domestic violence & sexual violence with a one-time or monthly recurring gift to *Tu Casa, Inc.*



Tu Casa, Inc.

Empowering children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives.

24-Hour Hotline 719.589.2465

www.slvtucasa.net

Your gift directly supports 24-hour, free, confidential, bilingual, trauma-informed victim advocacy & child abuse response services throughout the valley.



December 6th, 2022
is the day to give!
www.coloradogives.org
search **SLVGO**

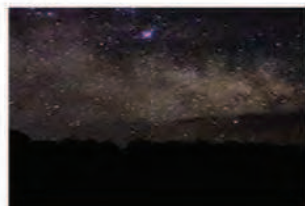
YOUR SUPPORT HELPS EXPAND OUR PROGRAM AREAS, THANK YOU!



Generation Wild



Great Outdoors Action Team



Conservation & Dark Sky Preservation



Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Coalition (ESLVTC)



Embajadores

SLV GO!'s holiday wish is that all residents of the San Luis Valley remember the values of **STEWARDSHIP: The act of caring for our natural spaces and the well-being of others.** for more information visit www.slvgo.com

Support what matters most to you, give where you live.

This Colorado Gives Day, support the San Luis Valley causes that matter most to you.

GIVE TODAY!

coloradogives.org/community/slvgives

or scan the QR code below



Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley



SUPPORT THESE LOCAL NONPROFITS:

Adams State University Foundation
Alamosa Live Music Association
Alamosa Senior Citizens, Inc
Alpine Achievers Initiative
Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc.
Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
Center for Contemplative Research
Center for Restorative Programs

Colorado Rio Grande
Restoration Foundation
Conejos Clean Water
Creede Arts Council
Creede Early Learning Center
Creede Repertory Theatre
Crestone Mountain Zen Center
Crestone Peak Community Housing
Del Norte Public Library
Energy Resource Center
Friends of the Alamosa Public Library
Friends of the San Luis Valley
National Wildlife Refuges

Headwaters Alliance
High Valley Community Center, Inc.
Hospice del Valle
KRZA
La Puente Home, Inc.
Monte Vista Education Foundation
Orient Land Trust
Rio Grande Hospital
Rio Grande Watershed Conservation
& Education Initiative
San Juan Mountains Association
San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity
San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center
San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
The Small World USA
Tu Casa, Inc.
Upper Rio Grande Animal Society
Valley Humane League
Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

225 6th Street, Suite B, Alamosa CO 81101

(719) 587-3225 www.slvirc.org



Providing services to residents of the San Luis Valley since 2002

Our mission is to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs, and integrate into the community.



Legal Assistance Program

- Family petitions, naturalization, and more
- BIA Accredited; Minimum-fee basis

Por Ti Misma Program for Crime Victims

- Immigration legal assistance – U-Visa and VAWA Self-Petition
- Housing and Utility assistance

Punto de Vista Education Program

- English and Citizenship Prep classes

Del Norte Public Library wants to wish our community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Del Norte Public Library provides many great resources for the public including computers, scanners, printers and fax services. We have a cheery children's area and have added many new books to our collection. We also have a website with an online catalog which provides access to your account and allows you to place inter-library loans as well as access ebooks and audiobooks. Come in and get your library card!

Look for us on the Colorado Gives website and in the Amazon Smiles Program

Del Norte Public Library continues to update and make small renovations to our historic building.

Thanks for all the community support for the installation of our new AdventureWalk this summer, which is located in the park by the river. Your donations to the library help with these continuing efforts.

Donations are tax deductible! For more information, please visit our Del Norte Public Library at 790 Grand Ave., (719) 657-2633 or visit our WEBSITE dnpl.colibraries.org



Help create a new generation of great stories.

Support the students of Adams State University on Colorado Gives Day.



To make a gift, please visit
adams.edu/give



VALLEY HUMANE LEAGUE

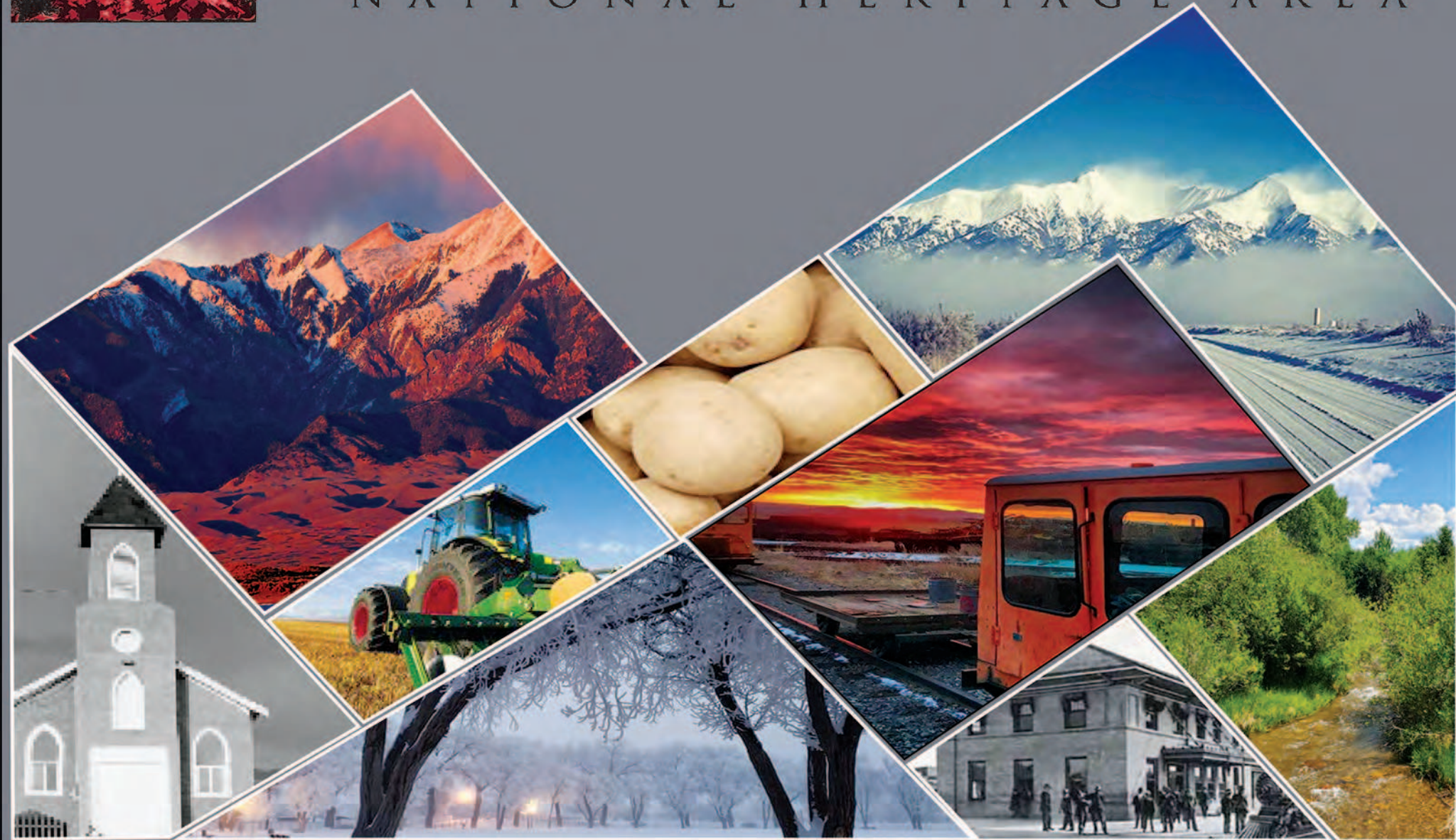
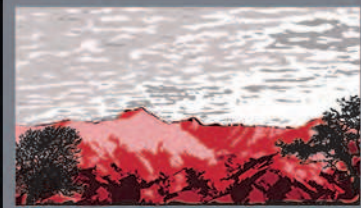
6414 Co. Rd. 107 S • Alamosa • 719-589-3385 • Mon.-Sat. - 10am-5pm

VHL's shelter houses lost and abandoned dogs, provides emergency veterinary care, adopts out or transfers dogs to their forever homes, reunites lost dogs with their owners, educates the community, and provides a spay/neuter program.

Since operating an animal shelter is expensive, VHL depends primarily on monetary donations from community members and businesses far and wide. The shelter's Board of Directors and employees wholeheartedly thank all who have donated in the past. **We Welcome Holiday Donations and Remember to Give 2 Us on Colorado Gives Day!** If you are able, send financial donations to Valley Humane League, 6414 County Road 7 South, Alamosa, CO, 81101. We also accept donations at our Facebook page and our website (Valley Humane League and alamosavalleyhumaneleague.org, respectively). Happy Holidays!

SANGRE ♦ DE ♦ CRISTO

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of our high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation. The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park, National Wildlife Refuges, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offers a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for visitors.