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**HOLIDAY DEADLINES!**  
**January 5 & 6:** Display, Classified & Legal Advertising - Wed., Dec. 29 • 5 p.m.  
 Lifestyles - Wed., Dec. 29 • 5 p.m.  
 Editorial - Thurs., Dec. 30 • 5 p.m.  
**Our office will be closed on Dec. 31st**

## MVS students raising funds for trip to Europe

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

**SAGUACHE** — Mountain Valley School students — also known as “The Travelers” are fundraising for a trip to Germany, France and Switzerland in March of 2023.

Twenty percent of MVS students have committed to the “Adventure Awaits” trip. To cover the cost, The Travelers need



to raise \$75,000.

The Mountain Valley School District in Saguache has the third-highest childhood poverty rate in the state. Due to the limited resources and financial stability of many of the families in the district, opportunities for students

are limited, organizers stated. They have raised about \$13,000.

“We know none of this would be possible without the support of all of our generous donors and fundraising efforts,” MVS officials stated. “There was a lot of wood to stack and leaves to rake around Saguache, and the bake sale was a huge success, too.”

The Travelers have several fundraisers scheduled for the start of 2022. They will be hosting a free

community dinner on Jan. 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Mountain Valley School.

“We will be playing Bully Prevention Bingo and giving away prizes from local businesses and other donated items,” organizers stated. Masks are currently a requirement at MVS until Jan. 18.

The Travelers will also be hosting a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament on Jan. 15 starting at 10 a.m. Call

*Please see TRIP on Page 2A*

## Shorts

### ALMA Presents Marbin at Society Hall on January 14

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Live Music Association announced Marbin will be performing at Society Hall on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 for ALMA 2022 members and \$15 for general admission. No advance tickets are for sale. Masks required for entry to the concert.

Marbin is a progressive jazz-rock band based in Chicago. With a do-it-yourself approach, Marbin started touring extensively in 2011, bringing their original instrumental music to every part of the United States. Through word of mouth, Marbin has gained hundreds of thousands of devoted fans all over the world and has sold tens of thousands of albums. Marbin regularly plays in clubs all over the US and in jam and jazz festivals around the world.

Marbin will be offering a free musical workshop at Society Hall at 2 p.m. that same day. In the workshop, Marbin is going to explore their process of improvising, composing, and arranging. From the way they use Solkattu (Indian Solfège) to enrich their rhythmical vocabulary, to the unique harmonic system they apply when improvising over various structures and styles. Marbin will also share their expertise in the field of music business and explain, with many fun stories and anecdotes, how they built a fusion band into a viable business over the course of a decade.

For more info on Marbin, go to [www.marbinmusic.com/](http://www.marbinmusic.com/).

## Center, Saguache County rebound and grow

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**CENTER** — As the year ends, it is time to look back on the busy year of 2021. As I was not the reporter for the first half of the year, I will be focusing on the second half.

The year was marked by the continuation of COVID restrictions and the rollout of vaccines. For most of the citizens of the San Luis Valley and the rest of the country, the constantly changing guidelines, the emergence of the Delta followed by the Omicron variant were a source of stress but eventually, there were improvements.

The Saguache Public Health Department and Colorado Public Health enabled all residents access to free vaccines and testing in the form of clinics. Shutdowns of businesses were virtually eliminated throughout the San Luis Valley as 2021 came to a close.

Center Consolidated Schools were able to open the current school year with in-person instruction, but with some restrictions. The school returned to normalcy for the most part, including

*Please see GROW on Page 5A*



Photos by Mechel Meek

**2021 will likely be remembered in Saguache County as the year of the COVID-19 vaccine that allowed people to return to in-person learning at schools and the return of festival and events that brought a boost to the local economy.**

## Burglary on Christmas night ends with arrest

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**CENTER** — On Christmas night, the Big R store in Center was significantly damaged during a break-in, according to the Center

Police Department, and the person believed to be responsible was arrested Monday evening, Dec. 27

The suspect broke into the store by tunneling into the rooftop to

reach the office area, according to CPD. The suspect then proceeded to try to break into several secure gun storage safes. When the suspect was unable to get into the cases, the

suspect then took three high-end DeWalt drills and exited the store.

Center PD notified the community about the crime via its Facebook *Please see BURGLARY on Page 2A*

## MVHS students give special gifts to Homelake residents

**BY MARIE MCCOLM**

**MONTE VISTA** — Residents of the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake sat in the main common area awaiting a bus of Monte Vista High School students bringing them special gifts on Thursday, Dec. 23.

The residents were excited to see the bus pull up to the community living center and the students pour out of the bus. Many of the residents smiled and thanked the students as they were handed a jewelry box.

“We made about 150 boxes to give out here, so there is definitely enough for everybody here,” said the students’ teacher Aaron Woodke.

Members of the Monte Vista High School shop class created unique jewelry

boxes made from aspen wood for the residents at the Community Living Center.

“The kids have worked very hard on this project, and this is just a start,” Woodke said.

Woodke said that he knows there are other nursing homes in town, and emergency personal and other members that help the community, and he would like to expand the project to more people, but they will need some help.

“If anybody would like to help us with this project, and provide support to the kids, they can contact the school,” Woodke said.

Woodke explained how each student in the shop class made the commitment

*Please see GIFTS on Page 4A*



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Members of the Monte Vista High School shop class created unique jewelry boxes made from aspen wood for the residents at the Community Living Center. On Dec. 24, the students hand-delivered the boxes to the residents.

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# Center, Saguache health officials thankful for support

**BY MECHEL MEEK**  
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The end of 2021 is here, and with the new year comes thanks from local businesses, civic groups and governments for making the year a success.

While the year created many challenges for the citizens of Saguache County, there have been many instances of people coming together to navigate the new normal with constantly changing COVID restrictions and uncertainty.

One of the biggest impacts of the year was the creation and implementation of COVID vaccines with a nationwide rollout. Saguache Public Health was instrumental in the rollout of the clinics.

Public Health Director Mona Lovato said, "Thank you to everyone

who has shown an overwhelming amount of love and thoughtfulness for your friends and neighbors of Saguache County."

She added that the vaccine clinics, testing and in-school resources were only able to happen thanks to numerous members of the community that stepped up and made it happen.

Businesses throughout the county and the San Luis Valley were able to recoup some of their losses from the 2020 shutdown thanks to local citizens choosing to shop from local businesses for the holiday season.

Unfortunately, some local businesses did not survive the pandemic restrictions, however, there are signs that recovery is happening including the opening of some new businesses and the gifting

of federal COVID grant funds to local businesses to improve their infrastructure.

The Rev. Debria Upton of the Center United Methodist Church said, "I also want to thank several generous donors who gave large donations to both Center and Saguache helping both churches to end the year in the black. Thank you so much for your generosity to help continue the ministries of our churches."

The Center UM Church will be holding yoga every Friday starting on Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m. and its Soulful Sips and Sweets will continue each Monday through Friday from 2-5 p.m.

Center Town Hall will reopen on Jan. 3, with regular hours.

There are several upcoming Center High School sports games in January, including girls and boys basketball and wrestling. The full calendar can be seen on the district webpage.



# Connecting land, water and people during the holidays

## Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

The heat of the unseasonably warm early winter afternoon was already waning when we set out on our quest to harvest our family Christmas tree. No matter, as I've learned in the two years I have been here now, this wasn't a typical afternoon in the San Luis Valley. The temperatures were still above freezing. Cutting tracks in the snow-covered road, we drove much farther into the high country than I would have imagined for a typical year at this elevation. Near the end of the road and close to the timberline, we finally stopped, got out of the truck and began our quest in earnest, knowing the light would fade and the temperatures will drop just as rapidly.

Admittedly, we did stop to make a couple of snow angels. I guess you have to. As we trudged through the foot-deep snow, the crystals glistened with each step as they rearranged their position to give evidence of our intrusion. I couldn't help feeling a bit euphoric about this adventure in the woods. I always get that way when I walk through the snow. This situation was pretty special. Normally, I would make this Christmas tree quest with the whole family, but this time it was a bit more special because I was only with my oldest daughter. I wonder how many more of these opportunities I'll get with her so I treasure this one.

We effortlessly shuffle through the light powder carefully examining each tree for its individual attributes and imagining how it will look in our home. Of course, we found the perfect tree. I don't remember who saw it first, it really doesn't matter. As we drag the tree back to the truck I couldn't help but reflect on how our adventure truly embodies the feeling of the holiday season. For

me, it is about family and friends.

My family celebrates the Christmas holiday and I recognize that there are those families who don't. However, as we transition into the New Year I hope that all my new friends and neighbors will find a way to enjoy each other and celebrate whatever you hold dear, especially your family traditions.

One tradition that my family has held for many years, is to reflect on the past year and establish our wishes for the New Year. We write them down each year and enjoy reviewing the previous year's hopes, dreams and accomplishments. Part of my reflections includes my feelings on how lucky I am to be working here at the Rio Grande National Forest and living in the San Luis Valley.

I am truly blessed to be here and have met many wonderful people, despite the challenges of these difficult times. I am grateful to have developed new relationships and, somehow, this already deep bond with the people and the land here in our little corner of paradise.

So, as we carve our paths into the New Year facing whatever challenges that it may present, on behalf of all of us at the Rio Grande National Forest, I offer my best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022.

*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.*

## SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 20, 2021, and Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included one crash with property damage, six traffic stops and two traffic complaints. They also patrolled the Town of Saguache six times, assisted a motorist and gave a courtesy ride.

In addition, there were two reports of suspicious activity, one report of

a harassing phone call, one report of disorderly conduct, one report of loose livestock, one ordinance violation report, three alarm reports, a burglary report, a child abuse report, one animal problem report, and one criminal mischief report.

They also responded to two controlled burns, one structure fire, provided information four times, assisted nearby agencies three times, responded to four ambulance calls, conducted two welfare checks, and responded to two deceased person

reports.

### ARRESTS

- A 40-year-old Delta man was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- A 43-year-old Center man was arrested on resisting arrest, menacing and menacing with a deadly weapon charges.
- A 36-year-old Center woman was arrested violation of protection order, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, and domestic violence charges.

## BURGLARY

Continued from Page 1A

page, looking for information regarding the suspect, who was allegedly seen on surveillance video during the burglary. The suspect was identified as Joshua Rowe of Center and the community was asked by CPD to report any sightings.

A concerted effort by community members enabled CPD to find and

arrest Rowe on Dec. 27.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, "Josh Rowe was spotted at the Alta Station just after 6 p.m. Officer Adrionna Fresquez and Officer Deanna Lopez (in her last week) made contact with Josh at the Alta. He was placed under arrest." Josh is charged with suspicion

of second-degree burglary, a fourth-degree felony; criminal mischief of over \$37,000 to the store, a fourth-degree felony; and theft of over \$1,000, a first-degree misdemeanor.

"I appreciate all the help we received from the community," Chief Meek said.

## TRIP

Continued from Page 1A

719-221-9942, to register a team, \$40 per team. Must be 18 and older to play. First place will receive a movie and pizza from The Village Pub and Cozy Castle Cinema in Saguache. Second place will win a soak pass from Joyful Journey Hot Springs.

While in Europe, students will explore the Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc De Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Louvre in France, ride the TGV train to Switzerland to explore Lucerne and eat authentic Swiss

Fondue during an evening full of Swiss traditions in the form of yodeling, and folk dances.

They will finish the trip with a stop in Germany to learn more about the Dachau Concentration Camp and tour the Olympic Stadium.

Monetary donations can be mailed to Mountain Valley School, c/o Adventure Awaits, 403 Pitkin Ave., Saguache, CO 81149.

### Upcoming Fundraisers

- Jan. 18 — Beekeeping Class taught by Joel Johnson at MVS. Cost by donation
  - Feb. 2 — Free Community Dinner Spaghetti, 5-7 p.m. at MVS.
  - Feb. 11 — Talent Show and Silent Auction. Be sure to sign up to share your talent. 5:30 p.m. Silent Auction; 6 p.m. Talent Show. Concessions will be available.
- Trip organizers thanked the following businesses and individuals for their support: The Village Pub, Pizza, and

Spirituz; SJ Coleman Enterprises; Salida Mountain Sports; Arby's of Alamosa; Ihop of Alamosa; Sand Dunes Recreations; Northern Saguache County Public Library; The American Legion Garcia Post; Saguache Town Market; SLV REC Electric/Ciello; The Reeds at Cattails; Big Valley Hobby Town; Gunni Lash Lounge; the Harrisons; the Luijits; the Olivers; the Garouttes; the Woorelys; the Leachmans; the Garcias; the Grosses; and the Henriksons.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Staring down another year

Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie survived another Christmas together and it's starting to look like she is going to be stuck with me for good unless she wises up sooner rather than later.

It was a good day celebrating with son number one, Bub's, his wife Tinkerbelle and the two granddaughters. We opened gifts plus ate turkey and dressing like a bunch of sailors on shore leave.

And like clockwork, that holiday runs right into another one as New Year's Eve is right around the proverbial corner with all its hopes and fears packaged into one neat present for everyone on the planet to see.

Getting past 2020 for most folk was most certainly looked upon as some kind of milestone as we suffered collectively with the dreaded Covid and as it bled on into 2021. I think everyone was hoping for some kind of healthy relief from the corona but it looks like these problems may be with us for a bit longer.

Just when we thought we could relax and get back to some semblance of normal we have another variant of Covid charging out of Africa and the speed with which it has spread is really quite remarkable. One minute there seemed to be one case over there and the next there were millions of cases worldwide.

But setting aside all that boring and serious situation facing the world, we all seem to take this time of year to make some new starts in our own personal lives. These New Year's resolutions can take many forms but for Ol' Dutch it's usually a new start on a smaller pants size that takes priority over other life changes that may or may not be needed.

As most of you know, Ol' Dutch is pretty darn near perfect as proven by convincing Miss Trixie to sojourn with him for these past nine years so other than losing weight I can't think of anything I can improve on. (Poor Trixie. I really do need to get her into a specialist for that eye-rolling disease.)

So, I got to thinking about my New Year's resolution and had to wonder why fat cells are the only ones that do not seem to disappear. We lose hair cells and other needed cell tissue that we need with nary a care but that yellow lard just seems to hang around-literally-for eternity.

My mother, ever the wisest woman



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

on the planet, used to say "you cannot be too rich or too thin" and I do believe she was probably right. And it looks like Ol' Dutch is not alone in his quest for less tonnage on his frame as most Americans are just one Cheeto away from a bigger pants size so it seems.

And to help with that goal of leaner and meaner, there are all kinds of methods, pills, diets and exercise programs to try and push us into smaller pedal pushers. Why just this last year a new riding-type machine came along and the ads for the Peloton ran almost non-stop until even Ol' Dutch almost ordered one.

But with limited space in the RV I knew I was going to have to make a choice between a fancy-dancy exercise machine and Miss Trixie. And Ol' Dutch knows which side of his toast is buttered on so it looks like I am not riding a Peloton any time soon.

This also tells me why I can't lose weight as Miss Trixie is a good cook. What a Catch-22. Get the bike which means no Trixie and no food, so I lose weight. No bike and Trixie stays with me and continues to stuff me like the Christmas turkey.

So it appears that Ol' Dutch will have to resort to the free method and walk the roads around the farm. Which always makes for some interesting conversation starters as Miss Trixie will tell people I am a streetwalker.

*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.*



## LETTER

### Adams State Financial Aid letter to community

Editor,  
You may qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced a temporary period during which federal student loan borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Now, for a limited period of time, borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. Under the new, temporary rules, any prior period of repayment will count as a qualifying payment, regardless of repayment plan, or whether the payment was made in full or on time.

You must have worked full-time for a government, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, or other not-for-profit organization that provides a qualifying service during the calendar month you were also in repayment on your loan. You can receive credit only for periods of repayment after Oct. 1, 2007, since that is when the PSLF Program began. If you haven't already, you must file a Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) & Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF) Certification & Application for any period for which you may receive additional credit toward PSLF.

This change will apply to federal student loan borrowers with Direct Loans, those who have already

consolidated into the Direct Loan Program, and those who consolidate into the Direct Loan Program by Oct. 31, 2022.

This announcement has been provided as a courtesy to our San Luis Valley community. For detailed information about your specific loans, please contact your lender. Your lender can be found at studentaid.gov.

For general questions, contact Danielle P. Smith or Jeff Gallegos, Adams State Financial Aid Office, at 719-587-7306.

Visit [studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver](http://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver) to learn more.

*Adams State University  
Financial Aid Staff*

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the

author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be

designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues.

We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to

[bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com) (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

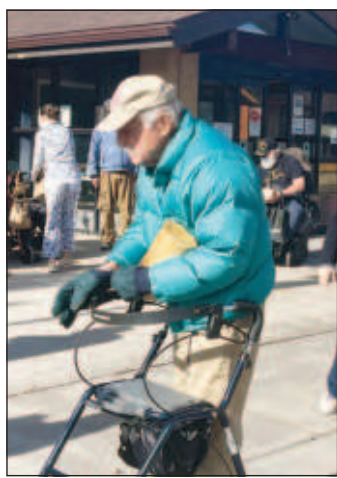
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Photos by Marie Mccolm

# GROW

Continued from Page 1A

the resumption of athletics and live events for the community to attend.

The Town of Center saw some positive signs in economic development. According to Center Town Manager Brian Lujan, "2021 is going to be the most successful so far since I have been here, we are moving the town forward."

The town implemented the first steps to annexing the North 90 property, with the vision for the 90 acres to include housing, commercial and light industrial. The vision includes creating a cohesive town, incorporating the existing downtown into the new annexation.

The Frontier Drive-In property is continuing its plan of improvement. They held an information session mid-year and discussed their vision for the highly visible property just outside Center on Highway 285. The property is a beacon of innovation and new building techniques, including adobe buildings created with 3-D printing technology creating a mix of traditional and cutting edge.

The Town of Center and the Town of Saguache were also held several festivals, these festivals and events were able to bring in much-needed tourism and working capital for the Valley's small businesses.

Center held its popular End of Summer Bash, and its 4th of July Festival, while the Hollyhock Festival was a great success for Saguache. Other public events helped to bring in revenue for both towns.

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners heard from residents regarding several issues, though few were as emotional as the Emergency Operation Plan, that was promptly repealed after public outcry regarding citizens' constitutional rights during an emergency.

Also of note at the county level were the proposed changes to the land development code. Many people in Saguache County were upset and



showed up in force at the Road and Bridge building for a meeting about the proposed square footage minimum of 900 square feet, accessory dwelling unit restriction and the disallowing of composting or incineration toilet usage. A decision regarding the land use codes was not finalized by the Board at that time.

Agriculture throughout the Valley was on pace with past years, even with the lack of rain in the last part of the growing season. Harvest was a success, and the San Luis Valley Research Center reopened its doors to growers, enabling them to have the pick of new potato hybrid offerings.

The Center Police Department added to its self-sustaining K-9 unit and is enabling the department to combat drug crimes within the town. CPD has had several high-profile drug trafficking arrests and search warrants executed.

According to several Center

residents, drugs are the biggest problem in the community and should continue to be the focus of the CPD.

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office is working with the Saguache County Board of Commissioners and an independent Jail Committee on a plan for a new jail facility for Saguache County. The current facility is the second oldest in the state and has had some prisoners escape in the past year due to the aging facility and the inability to upgrade the structure. The most recent escapee from Saguache County Jail was apprehended this week in North Carolina.

# GIFTS

Continued from Page 1A

to take shop for the next two years as part of a certification program.

"This is just a token of what they are doing," Woodke said. "We are proud to distribute these to the residents here today."

Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake Admissions and Marketing Director Pam Self was with the residents as the teens were distributing the jewelry boxes.

With tears in her eyes, Self said, "This is extremely wonderful. Anytime we have opportunities to have intergenerational, you know not only does it mean a lot to our residents, but I think it's very important for the kids to have that opportunity, especially this time of year, to do something for those who have given to our country. So, this is an awesome way for them to give back."

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# Sours from CNA to NP to provide services in SLV Health Urology Clinic



### CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

**ALAMOSA** — It's a win-win situation for San Luis Valley Health clinics and for Daniel Sours, who has been a Family Nurse Practitioner since September 2021.

Sours completed his degree from Regis University, Denver, with a Master's in Nursing and will be joining the Urology clinic team in Alamosa. Sours has been in different roles at SLV Health since he started in 2004 as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

He took his CNA course in high school on the recommendation of his mother, a registered nurse. He comes

from a family of nurses — his mom, dad, wife, uncle, and sister, Becky Sours, NP, SLVH, plus several other CNAs in the family. He grew up in the San Luis Valley and decided to become a nurse because he loves caring for patients.

Daniel completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Adams State University in 2013. He gained experience taking care of ICU patients from Alamosa's Regional Medical Center, La Jara's Conejos County Hospital, and Lakewood's St. Anthony's Hospital. He also served as Unit Based Educator for SLV Health.

"As a teacher and mentor to nursing students, you become a better nurse," Sours said.

He became an NP to advance his education to better utilize his expertise in helping care for our community.

Another critical event that occurred in his journey is that he became a patient himself.

"When you start to see healthcare from the 'other side of the bed,' you develop more empathy and definitely learn a lot about caregiving," reflected Daniel.

He was hospitalized with

pneumonia after his chemotherapy ended and was also flown to a higher level of care out of the Valley. In his free time, Sours enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.

Urology services were added at the SLVH Stuart Avenue Clinic in Alamosa in 2018. Many hours and additional services, such as prostate biopsies, and shock wave lithotripsy to take care of kidney stones, have been added successfully as demand has grown.

"Having Daniel Sours, NP, as part of this care team is a huge win for the patients," said Antonio Gurule, Clinic Administrator. "We will have increased timely access to quality care with Daniel on the team. Daniel is resourceful, smart, kind, and eager to develop into a really good provider. I've seen him grow professionally while maintaining a good conscientious approach to the care of his patients and teammates. We are fortunate to have his expertise and compassion added to our specialist team in the Urology clinic."

The Urology clinic is located at 2115 Stuart Ave., Alamosa, and may be reached at 719-589-8063. Patients may self-refer.

## SLV Health adds CNP Grissom to Hospitalist Team

### STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — Justin Grissom, Certified Nurse Practitioner, joined the San Luis Valley Health Hospitalist Team at the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa and at Conejos County Hospital in La Jara.

Grissom graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and went on to complete his Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and Masters of Science in Nursing from Colorado State University, Pueblo.

Besides his previous employment at the University of Colorado at Memorial Hospital and UC Health, he also gained experience working in the field of Optometry.

His specialty is working closely with other providers to help diagnose and manage acutely ill patients.

He is interested in mountain biking, hanging out with his dog, and wildlife photography. He is a comic book nerd and is looking forward to exploring this part of Colorado and getting to know the community.



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## Creede Arts Council opens call for entries for 2022 Willow Creek Journal

**CREEDE** — The Creede Arts Council is excited to announce that the call for entries will open on Jan. 3, 2022, for the 2022 Willow Creek Journal.

CAC accepts poetry, prose, photographs, and artwork. CAC accepts submissions by email or on its website. See the 2022 Call for Entries at <https://creedeartscouncil.com/willow-creek-journal> with details and requirements for submission. The Willow Creek Journal is a community-centered annual anthology. Through the journal, CAC celebrates and nurtures the creativity of artists of all ages. Samples of previously accepted work can be viewed on its website.

Submissions will be accepted through Feb. 28, 2022.

If you have questions, contact CAC at [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or go to their website to submit work <https://creedeartscouncil.com/willow-creek-journal>.

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# Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire truck

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

**ANTONITO**— Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus arrived in Antonito in a 1936 Vintage Fire Truck, driven by head Elf Art Atencio on Sunday, Dec. 19.

Also escorting Santa were the Antonito Police Department, Conejos County Sheriff Department, Conejos County Ambulance and the volunteers

of the Antonito Fire Department. Riding in the rear of the fire truck with Santa and Mrs. Claus were VFW Post Commander Jim Duran and VFW member Walter Perea.

This was a community effort with monetary sponsors from the Antonito Town Board, Green World Express, Dispensary 7884, High Valley Dispensary, Antonito Together, City Market, Antonito Seniors, Charlene Farmer, and Paula Espinoza.

Many thanks to the patrons and employees of the Antonito Family Dollar Store, who collected full-size candy bars, that were distributed to each child.

A big thank you to the Toys for Tots organization who provided gifts for each child.

Special thanks to the US Forest Service, Coca-Cola, Cumbres and Toltec Railroad,



Courtesy photos

**Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving in Antonito in a vintage 1936 fire truck on Sunday, Dec. 19.**

Antonito Together Youth, Antonito Town Maintenance crew, Ruybalid Family, and all the volunteers that made this event a success.

A special thanks to the VFW for the use of their facility with bagging the

candy and volunteers that assisted in bagging the candy as well.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are very appreciative to the Security Elves: Jay Warner, Mary Ann Rivera and Maggie Rivera who took care of the gifts while

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the Antonito water park.

Thanks to all the children and parents of the community and surrounding areas who came to see Santa and Mrs. Claus.



**Some of the volunteers are shown packing gift bags for area children who attended the Santa event in Antonito.**

## Adams State applied sport psychology program in top 20

**ALAMOSA** – Recent events involving top-level, world-class athletes, such as Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka, withdrawing from competitions, have brought attention to the issue of mental health and performance in athletes, and Adams State University seems well equipped to take on that issue, as the school's online Master of Science degree in Applied Sport Psychology program recently earned designation as one of Sports Degrees Online's "Best 20 Sport Psychology Master's Programs for 2022," coming in at #18.

Sports Degree Online is a website with the intention of helping "the thousands of passionate athletes who didn't make it to the top tier," pursue careers in areas like injury recovery, strength and conditioning, or sports analytics, according to their "about us" page.

Adams State's degree is an "intriguing option," according to Dr. Matthew Jones, assistant professor at Southern Illinois Univ. Evansville, who reviewed the programs. The program benefits from its connections to the Adams State's kinesiology department,

which also offers coaching, exercise science, and sport administration master's programs, according to Jones.



The applied sport psychology curriculum also offers an impressive number of Association for Applied Sport Psychology qualifying courses, making the process of becoming a Certified Mental Performance Consultant "very straightforward," Jones wrote. Students also have the choice to take courses related to coaching or sports administration.

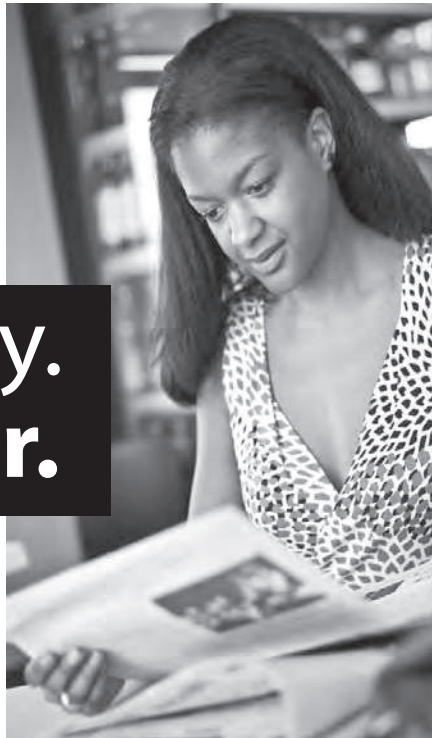
"This current ranking as a top program, paired with Adams State's recent rankings as the No. 1 most affordable sport psychology program the last couple of years, demonstrates the quality and affordability of the program" according to Brian Zuleger Ph.D., CMPC, associate professor of sport psychology and graduate program coordinator for applied sport psychology in Adams State's School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences.

The website based the ratings on factors such as *program flexibility, internship opportunities, AASP preparation, and financial aid availability.* according to Jones.

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# Saguache Ranger District seeking expressions of interest for outfitting and guiding services

**STAFF REPORT**  
**SAGUACHE** — In an effort to enhance rural communities and facilitate greater access to National Forest Lands, the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest is interested in providing new activities and services to help visitors enjoy the outdoors through permitted recreational activities. The Rio Grande National Forest is requesting responses from businesses

and individuals wishing to offer new outfitting and guiding services near the communities of Villa Grove, Saguache, and Crestone, Colorado. Activities being considered for new service permits include:

- Climbing activities such as mountaineering, sport climbing and ice climbing (limited trips) in the following areas: numerous peaks which mostly form the spine of the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains along with additional peaks which are adjacent to or near the spine and other areas within the Saguache Ranger District. The Saguache Ranger District shares this ridgeline with the Salida Ranger District, the San Carlos Ranger District, and the Great Sand Dunes Preserve, respectively. The District is an expansive geographic area with diverse terrain, elevations and two Wilderness Areas, many drainages, trails, and roads which lend themselves to a great variety of recreational opportunities. We encourage consideration of these resources for your recreational activities which would utilize capacity throughout the District and diminish use in areas of high public visitation where capacity is limited.



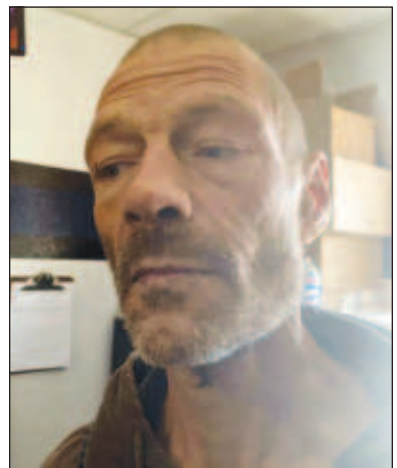
- Motorized activities limited to Forest System roads and motorized trails, such as ATV/UTV/OHV/4-Wheel drive activities or shuttle services to transport individuals on/off the Forest.

Interested individuals must first review the full public interest document located on the Rio Grande National Forest's main Recreation page. Look for the Saguache Ranger District Outfitter & Guide Expression of Interest link in red.

Additional activities may be considered beyond those listed above. For more information on the solicitation process, contact Jerry Pacheco at 719-655-6101 or Tristram Post at 719-850-2358. Proposals will be accepted through Jan. 21, 2022. For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941, visit the forest website, or follow it on Facebook and Twitter.

## Man arrested after allegedly shooting at wife and setting home on fire

**STAFF REPORT**  
**COSTILLA COUNTY** — A 53-year-old man was arrested after allegedly shooting at his wife and setting a house on fire on Dec. 19, according to the Costilla County Sheriff's Office.



At approximately 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 19, Costilla County Sheriff's deputies responded to a domestic violence call on Road H in Mesita.

Deputies found a woman outside of a residence, who was hiding behind a wall. She told the deputies she had been shot at by her husband who was identified as Christopher W. Slatton, 53.

Deputies reported attempting to contact Slatton, who barricaded himself inside the home and refused to come out. At some point, Slatton allegedly set the home on fire, causing it to be destroyed. At some point, Slatton exited the home.

Deputies reportedly searched nearby vehicles and adjacent buildings for Slatton but did not find him.

On Dec. 21, Costilla County Sheriff's deputies reportedly returned to the

burned home to search for Slatton and found him in a nearby garage. Slatton was then taken into custody without incident.

Slatton was charged with suspicion of first-degree attempted murder, fourth-degree arson, false imprisonment, and felony menacing. Additional charges may be added as the case is still under investigation, the sheriff's office reported.

## Arizona man dies in head-on collision on Highway 160

**STAFF REPORT**  
**VALLEY** — An Arizona man died at a local hospital due to severe injuries from a head-on crash Monday night, Dec. 27, on Highway 160, the Colorado State Patrol reported.

At approximately 8:09 p.m. on Dec. 27, CSP received a report of a two-car crash with severe injuries. A 39-year-old man from Arizona was driving east on Highway 160. A 55-year-old Colorado man was driving west on Highway 160.

The Arizona man's vehicle drifted into the westbound lane and collided head-on with the Colorado man's vehicle, CSP reported.

The Arizona man's vehicle traveled off the left side of the roadway and stopped with its wheels facing northeast, CSP reported.

The Colorado man's vehicle spun clockwise, traveled off the road, rolled once, and stopped on its wheels facing southeast, CSP reported.

Airbags were deployed in multiple positions in the Arizona man's vehicle. No airbags were deployed in the Colorado man's vehicle. Both drivers were restrained properly, CSP reported.

The Arizona man was transported to San Luis Valley Health with severe injuries and died at the hospital, CSP reported.

The Colorado man had minor injuries to his head and refused transport. Distracted driving and fatigue were suspected as contributing factors in the crash, according to CSP.

The names of the men involved in the crash were not released prior to publication.

## Nielsen Library helps North Conejos students research history at ASU

**STAFF REPORT**  
**ALAMOSA** — About 80 students and their teachers from the North Conejos School District conducted research on Dec. 1, as they prepared for National History Day competitions at the Adams State University Nielsen Library.

This was the first time since Fall 2019 the library had hosted an on-site visit, where students worked with print and other tangible collections to further their research, according to Library Director Jeffrey Bullington.

The students were very respectful of the university masking policy, and "did a great job of cleaning up as they left. They put chairs back in place everywhere and they brought books to the carts so we

could get them back to their proper places" among other things, Bullington said.

Bullington credited Donna Mae Keyes and her colleagues from North Conejos schools for helping students prepare for their site visit, working with them on-site, and keeping them focused and engaged.

Bullington also thanked library staff, including Mary Walsh, who helped students access materials in Special Collections and Archives and supported students the entire time, providing directional support and additional research. Amanda Langdon also helped guide and support students. Melissa Tuioiti-Mariner and her circulation students gathered, sorted, and re-shelved the materials students used.

The visit was similar to what the library had done pre-COVID when teachers in area school districts would contact Nielsen Library to schedule similar visits, Bullington said. The library also had traditionally coordinated with the State History Day Office for teacher education workshops as well as student research visits. Those activities stopped because of COVID, according to Bullington, but he wants the library and partners to build them back up. "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences" is the 2022 theme for National History Day. Bullington is looking forward to serving as a judge at the regional competition on Jan. 29, 2022.

## The Gift That Keeps Giving Joy Every Day of Your Life

The Gift That Keeps Giving Joy Every Day of Your Life!

Of all the gifts we could ever receive, God's gift of salvation is by far the most amazing and important one. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (NIV).

We are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Him; our faith does not buy our salvation—it merely receives it. As Ephesians 2:8 says, salvation "is the gift of God." It is impossible to buy a free gift and this can be hard for us to understand. Human nature tends to be prideful, and we want to earn and deserve this free gift and take credit for being worthy of it.

But salvation is given to us freely, by God's grace, and the same way we receive Christ's salvation, is the same way we have to live—by grace. God gives us His forgiveness and grace daily; we just have to believe and receive it.

**See Yourself the Way God Sees You**  
 When you are saved, it means God forgives your sins—all of them—and you have new life in Christ. All of your sins means everything in your past, present and future. You do not have to be afraid of sin because God has taken care of the problem. This is why the Gospel is such good news!

Some believe that if we don't fear sin, we will keep sinning on purpose, but that's not true. If you are truly born again and really have a relationship with God, there is a new nature inside of you. Second Corinthians 5:17 (AMPC) says, "If any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!"

Now, no one is perfect, and we all make mistakes sometimes. But if the Holy Spirit is living in your

spirit through salvation, you won't be comfortable with those mistakes because God's nature is at work in you. God is not mad at us for our mistakes; He is love and we need to humbly accept His love and grace.

**Changed by Grace**  
 In John 15:5 (NIV), Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." This scripture reminds me that God doesn't expect me to change on my own. He is the power source and gives us the grace and strength we need to do what's right and make changes in our lives.

Here's our part in the process of changing to become more like Christ:

1. We hear the truth in God's Word and we're convicted by it. It's the Word that shows us who we are and reveals the sin in our lives. We have to realize what we're doing wrong before we can know what needs to change and how.
2. Then we repent of our sin. Being repentant means we're sincerely sorry and willing to turn away from it. (See 1 John 1:9.)
3. The next step is to study the Word in the area we need change. For example, if I have a problem with anger, I need to study scriptures about anger and forgiveness. Use the Word like medicine and take it into your heart and mind. James 1:21 (AMPC) says to "welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls." There is power in God's Word to bring change to our souls!

**Believe, Receive, and Enjoy Your Life**  
 To receive God's blessings and enjoy everyday life, we simply need to make the decision to believe Him and His Word more than our thoughts and feelings. The Bible is our instruction manual on how to grow into the new nature He's given us and become



who He wants us to be. So take some time each day to read and meditate on scriptures that tell you about God's love for you, who you are and what you have in Christ.

A good verse to start with is Ephesians 3:17, which says, "May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love." This scripture says that God loves you; His will is for you to be His child and receive every blessing He has for you—righteousness, peace, joy, provision of your needs, healing and restoration.

In Christ, you have a personal relationship with your Father God, and you can hear from God and be led by the Holy Spirit, who lives in your spirit. In Christ, you have access to God's grace and strength to do whatever you need to do. Because of God's grace, you are blessed and you can enjoy your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-teaching CD series Joy and Enjoyment. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and AUTHENTICALLY, UNIQUELY YOU (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org). Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

**Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members**

Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking members and alternates from:

- Town of Saguache surrounding area – member and alternate
- La Garita/Center area – member and alternate
- Town of Center and surrounding area - alternate
- Cochetopa area – Member and alternate
- Moffat and surrounding area – alternate
- Hooper and surrounding area – alternate
- Villa Grove and surrounding area - alternate
- At Large for All of Saguache County – alternate
- Crestone and surrounding area - alternate

The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for one year.

Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions throughout each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items. If you are interested, please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, Attn: Amber Wilson, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Friday, January 7, 2021. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.

No. 1616 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021 and January 6, 2022.



# Wreaths Across America honors local veterans

By Marie Mccolm

**MONTE VISTA** — The air was chilly on Saturday, Dec. 18, as people gathered around the giant statue of a soldier that stands in the middle of the Homelake Veterans Cemetery for the local Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Pam Self, who is the Director of Marketing and Admissions at the Colorado State Veterans Center, opened the ceremony.

“To begin this event, we ask that you all join me in a moment of silence to remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, those missing in action, and to honor those who have served, and are serving this great Nation’s armed services,” Self said.

Everyone then bowed their heads in a moment of silence.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that began as an addition to the Arlington Wreath Program. The Arlington program was started after a donation from Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company. In 1992, the wreath

company had a surplus of wreaths toward the end of the holiday season. He donated 5,000 Christmas wreaths to be placed in the Arlington National Cemetery that year. A ceremony was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Worcester continued to donate wreaths each year. The event continued quietly for some time, until a photo of the stones with wreaths spread, gaining national recognition. Suddenly, requests by the thousands were made by people who saw the pictures and wanted to reproduce the project, in their own national and state cemeteries.

Recognized and unanimously voted on by Congress, “Wreaths Across America Day” now takes place on a Saturday in December, every year.

After the moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance, Self gave a patriotic speech.

“The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality,” she said. “Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We

thank those who gave their lives to keep us free, and we shall not forget you; we shall remember. Many of you here today have answered the call and have served your country well, and for this we thank you.”

Self said that this year an additional wreath had been added to the ceremony to honor the people serving in the US Space Force, along with the veterans who served in roles, helping to secure the nation’s interest in space.

Veterans and volunteers placed the ceremonial wreaths in front of the statue, honoring past and present veterans, and the new wreath for the active-duty US Space Force.

After a group photo, the crowd went to the front of the cemetery where boxes of wreaths were placed. People took wreaths out and placed them on the headstones of veterans and took a moment to say each of the veterans’ names in remembrance of their service.

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, at a Holiday Luncheon held at Dos Rios Restaurant. The Monte Vista Rotary Club donated \$500 to Self for the Wreaths Across

America Ceremony. At the luncheon, Self said there were enough wreaths this year to place one on each veterans’ headstone, at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery.

For more information on Wreaths Across America, visit their website.



**Wreaths Across America ceremony held Dec. 18 at Homelake Veterans Center Cemetery.**

Photos by Marie Mccolm



**The Monte Vista Rotary Club donated \$500 to Self for the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at its Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 14.**

Photo courtesy of Monte Vista Rotary Club



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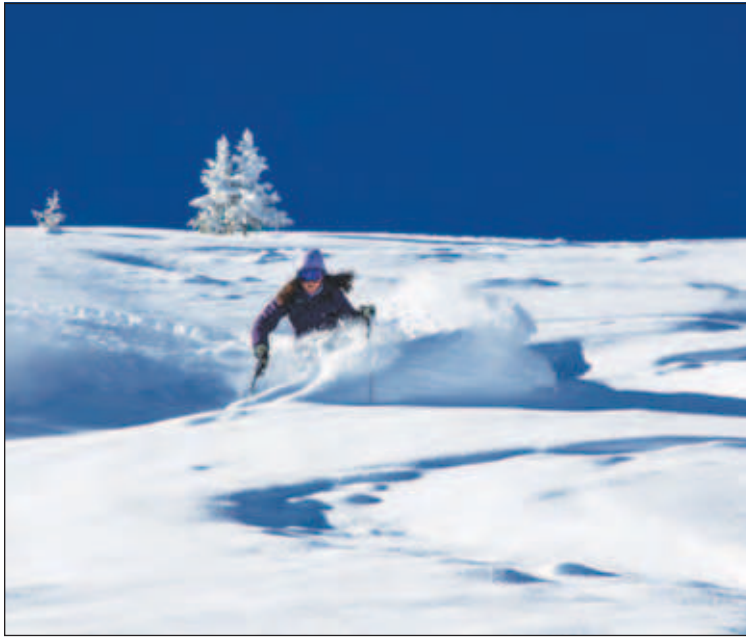
# SLV Lifestyles

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## Fresh powder



Photos courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

While some areas dealt with troublesome wind across the San Luis Valley last week, Wolf Creek Ski Area welcomed the breeze and fresh new powder.



Photo by Deanna Lopez

The Colorado Workforce Center hosted a job fair on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Saguache Community Building.

## Workforce Center holds job fair in Saguache

By **MECHEL MEEK**

**SAGUACHE** — The Colorado Workforce Center hosted a job fair on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Saguache Community Building.

The job fair was attended by local employers, including the Center Police Department.

“We are always looking for people

that are interested in impacting their communities by becoming a police officer,” said CPD Chief Dale Meek, adding that qualified candidates are becoming harder to find.

The job fair was well attended with many potential employees talking with all types of employers from around the San Luis Valley.

Throughout the United States, there is a surge in open job postings, mostly due to the reopening of businesses during the COVID pandemic. It is difficult for employers to find qualified candidates that are interested. Job fairs such as this one enable both employers and potential employees to get together.

## Retail sales skyrocket in SLV

*Study shows 164% increase from 2019 to 2021*

By **KEITH R. CERNY**

*Regional Publisher*

**VALLEY** — Federal stimulus money is believed to have caused a 164 percent increase in retail sales and lowered the unemployment rates in the San Luis Valley for the period of January through September,

2019-2021.

“The largest increases were in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic,” according to Hew Hallock, director of research for the San Luis Valley Development Resource Group.

“Like all across the country, folks in the Valley spent the stimulus dollars they received – big time,” Hallock said. “The money came through several sources including direct payments to each citizen, increased

**Please see SALES on Page 2**

## A horse matters

I like living someplace where a horse matters.

There is just some country where horseback is the only way to get the job done. Places where the four-wheeler is a poor second, not to mention a noisy, track-leaving unnatural conveyance. Besides, it’s hard to throw a rope from.

Helicopters can spot and scare, if that’s what you need, but it’s helpless when you have to doctor a calf. It is a great feeling to be pushing a cow out of a mesquite thicket, packing a dude down the Grand Canyon or tracking a mountain lion on a high ridge, knowing you’re on the perfect tool for the job. You look at a horse different when he’s on the payroll.

I like being a person to whom a horse matters.

It puts me in such good company, Robert E. Lee, Teddy Roosevelt, Rudyard Kipling, Ray Hunt, Queen Elizabeth, Jerry Diaz,



Casey Tibbs, cowboys, Mongols, Gauchos, teamsters, leppazaners and vaqueros of all kinds. Granted being a horse person doesn’t make me easier to get along with, better at spelling, or richer, it simply gives me a direct

connection to one of the most ancient, mutually beneficial interspecies relationships on the planet.

Winston Churchill said, “There is something about the outside of a horse, that is good for the inside of a man.”

I like being there when a horse matters.

When you can’t do the job alone; a cow in the bog, a race against time, a boulder to move, a detour to take, a mountain to cross, a crevice to leap, a war to win, a sweetheart to impress, or...when you’ve gone too far to walk back.

Shakespeare’s King Richard III said when fate hung in the balance, “A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!”

I’ve also come to believe that you either are a horse person or you aren’t. Many who are, never know it because they never have the chance. It’s a primitive acceptance, often mutual. A lack of fear. You see it in

some children when they are first introduced to the horse. It always gives me a sense of wonder to be there and help them make their acquaintance. I believe the horse can sense the child’s innate trust. It is the beginning of a natural bond.

I count myself very lucky that I get to be a part of the wonderful world of horse sweat, soft noses, close calls and twilight on the trail.

I like living a life where a horse matters.

*Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on National Public Radio, is America’s best-selling cowboy poet. He is a frequent performer at national stock shows and rodeos as well as in many smaller local events. He is author of several books, including Cactus Tracks, Croutons on a Cow Pie, Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky? and Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: vikki@baxterblack.com*





# SALES Continued from Page 1

unemployment benefits, unemployment benefits for self-employed and farmers, as well as business support programs like PPE. These sales are brick-and-mortar sales, as well as internet sales.”

He noted that internet sellers began collecting state and local sales tax in 2019, which enabled the state to begin tracking internet sales.

Retail sales in the SLV vaulted to \$1,139,350,526 in the period of Jan.-Sept. 2021, up from \$930,540,000 in 2020 and \$430,679,000 in 2019.

Costilla County saw the largest percentage of increase for the period, up 265 percent, with Saguache County (241%), Conejos County (217%) and Rio Grande (214%) not far behind. Mineral County had a 121 percent increase, while Alamosa jumped 119 percent with the Valley’s largest total of retail sales for the period in 2021 at \$484,418,700.

The largest increase in spendable income over the research period came in taxable goods over services, Hallock said, based on suggestions from Chris Akers, economist for the Colorado State Demography office. He noted a large spike in spending on goods beginning in January 2020, surpassing spending on services by May 2020 and continuing through September 2021.

Hallock said Akers also pointed out that lower income levels in the SLV could have led to more spending on goods rather than saving it or paying off debt.

Another observation from Akers, unlike resort towns that have lots of bars, restaurants and hotels, communities in the Valley were spared the effects of early shutdowns and largely avoided the recession. A different source said this may not say anything about recovery but more about how areas managed, according to Hallock.

Akers said he expected sales of goods to slow going into 2022 and 2023. Hallock’s research found that the spending spree helped boost the local economy and avoid a recession. Second quarter unemployment rates dropped in each county in the Valley from 2020-2021.

“It kept workers working,” Hallock said. The largest decrease for that period in the SLV came in Costilla County where unemployment dropped from 6.6 percent to 4.6 percent. Mineral County dropped from 4.8 to 3.5 percent while Saguache dropped from 5.6 to 4.4. Other counties saw Alamosa drop from 5.5 to 4.3, Conejos from 4.3 to 3.6 and Rio Grande from 5.2 to 4.5.

Colorado’s unemployment rate overall for the same period fell from 6.9 to 5.4 percent.

Hallock said he own observation is there is still a lot of available funding for businesses.

“With the first infrastructure bill enacted, more will be coming along,” he said. “The next couple of years will tell how well the Valley and other rural communities fare.”



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# HVCC looks back at 2021

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

**DEL NORTE** — Hello community members! High Valley Community Center is in disbelief that it is our last week of 2021 programming! We had a challenging but rewarding year and we would not have been able to do it without your support.

Looking back at the 2021 school year, we made many great memories with the HVCC kiddos including bowling, sledding, cooking, learning new circus skills, volunteering in the community, various HVCC sports, a weekend trip to Denver with the junior staff members, and many more.

The theme of the week was, "Gratitude." The kiddos made gratitude trees to bring awareness to the things that they are grateful for in their lives. The kiddos also made homemade ornaments and bouncy balls.

Our final Fabulous Friday of 2021 happens to be one of the best Fridays of the year! The kids shop for their loved ones, wrap the gifts, and go out to lunch afterward. The kids always enjoy giving to others and personally selecting gifts for those they care about.

In the spirit of giving, we hope you consider donating to HVCC this holiday season. Your donations translate into a fresh meal each night, program supplies for our after-school activities, or even equipment for our various sports programs. All donations are tax-deductible. We thank you for your consideration.

HVCC's Encore Program for individuals in the 50-plus community is accepting additional members. We provide four free meals each week as well as activities on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is free to participate and eligible members are welcome to join at any time. Please contact HVCC at 719-657-2172 to join or if you have any questions.

A reminder to parents and guardians, we will be closed from Dec. 21 until Jan. 11. From all of us at HVCC, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



Photo courtesy of HVCC  
High Valley Community Center students finished the week with fun activities before their winter break. Students will be returning after the new year.

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### 05 Notices

**If you believe in: the oneness of humanity, equality of men and women, elimination of prejudice, harmony of science and religion;** contact BahaiFaithFriends@gmail.com for Zoomlink Casual conversation, second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.(01/05)

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## 38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment

**BLOWOUT SALE!** 2-3/8" oil field pipe \$55 per joint while supplies last. Quantity discounts. 719-849-8261 (12/16)

**42 Feed & Seed**  
Triticale hay for sale 3x4 bales call 719-588-9497 (01/12)

**Premium alfalfa and alfalfa/grass,** small bales, barn stored, \$9.00 per bale. Call me 719-580-2509 to bill on credit card or bill me John Schoolland 2991 county road 9 south Alamosa CO. 81101.

**48 Pets & Supplies**  
Special Offer: Angora Rabbits 3-Yearlings, 2 Weened and house broke, 3 months old 719-873-5457. Please leave name and number. (01/12)

**59 Vehicles Wanted**  
CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK AND UNWANTED VEHICLES We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. 719-849-8491(TFN 3/1)

**64 Autos for Sale**  
For Sale: 1999 Ford F-250 Super-Duty 4x4 7.3 Diesel. \$6,750.00 Call 405-250-4508 or 719-657-1136. (12/30)

**65 Professional Services**  
**LICENSED PLUMBER** does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (03/01)TFN)  
**THE BLIND GUY** window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403.

# Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Emaciation
6. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
9. Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
13. Anatomical term
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
15. Jewish calendar month
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Western Pacific republic
18. List of foods
19. It can strike the ground
21. Drenches
22. Some are cole
23. \_\_\_ Squad
24. Expresses emotion
25. One point east of due south
28. Satisfaction
29. Holds nothing back
31. Top of the body
33. Not well-liked
36. Did slowly
38. Greek goddess of the dawn
39. Gland secretion
41. Vital to existence
44. Aristocratic young women
45. Erik \_\_, composer
46. Not young
48. Jewish term for "Sir"
49. Secondary school
51. \_\_\_ student: learns to heal
52. Regarding
54. Highly excited
56. Mainly
60. Thin, narrow piece of wood
61. Cakes
62. Biomedical nonprofit
63. Dried-up

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16				17					18			
19				20				21				
			22				23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31			32		33	34				35		
36				37		38			39		40	
	41				42			43		44		
		45					46		47		48	
49	50		51			52			53			
54		55			56					57	58	59
60					61				62			
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

64. One who is symbolic of something
65. Body part
66. Muslim ruler
67. Women from Mayflower
68. Notes

23. You need it to get somewhere
25. The woman
26. It may be green
27. Makes less severe
29. One from Beantown
30. Cavalry sword
32. Metric linear unit
34. Hawaiian dish
35. Yokel
37. Dissuade
40. Mutual savings bank
42. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
43. Primordial matters
47. We all have it
49. Hermann \_\_, author of "Siddhartha"
50. Historic MA coastal city
52. Shady garden alcove
53. Small amount
55. Horse-drawn cart
56. Nocturnal rodent
57. Spiritual leader
58. Air mattress
59. Speaks incessantly
61. Auction term
65. Atomic #62

### CLUES DOWN

1. Not us
2. Helper
3. Bleat
4. Type of chair
5. Jr.'s father
6. Necessary for certain beverages
7. Hillside
8. Dutch painter Gerrit \_\_
9. Gave a new look
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Confidence trick
12. Type of fund
14. From an Asian island
17. Malay boat
20. Western Australia indigenous people
21. Cluster on underside of fern frond

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Monte Vista JOURNAL

THE CONJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

The San Juan Progress  
Gateway to the San Juans

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

Mineral County Miner  
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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**FOR SALE**

Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. The 4443 sq. ft. home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse 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  
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**FOR SALE** Organic Peddler Casita Bonita Inn located in Del Norte, Colorado DEEDED ACREAGE: 47 Acres +/- Almost 3 full lots IMPROVEMENTS: Currently there are a total of 4 great rental units on the property with a historic small log cabin that provides a lot of possibilities. 1. 648 sq. ft. Cozy 1 Bedroom Casita includes a living room, bath, and kitchen. 2. 920 sq. ft. Log cabin has an open floor plan with one bedroom, bath, and kitchen. 3. 2240 sq. ft. Building has been remodeled into 2 separate rental units: \*\*The beautiful Cordwood unit is 861 sq. ft. with one bedroom, bath, living room, gourmet kitchen, gas fireplace, and fabulous attached courtyard. \*\*The Historical adobe 1556 sq. ft. home has 3 bedrooms, one bath, full kitchen, living room, and nice front yard. 4. 168 sq. ft. historic log cabin that can be remodeled into an additional rental unit. The views are panoramic in all directions providing a peaceful atmosphere. ACCESS: Year-round off U.S. Hwy 160. ZONING: Residential/Commercial \$690,000 MLS # 770529 14475 US 160 • Del Norte

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty  
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Everyone wants a slice of Heaven. This 1.17 acre pie shaped lot (lot # 35) in Beaver Mountain Estates Phase 3 could be yours. 356 Church Creek Drive is a county maintained road which is paved from Hwy 160 directly to the lot, about 3/4 of a mile, but then all the major roads in BME are paved. This means less road dust so you can open your windows to let in the breezes. It adjoins a 1.44 acre Open Space lot on it's north side, which means no house can be built there and the deer will continue to feed in the open space. It is the largest lot, with the best building opportunities, that is crossed by Church Creek. It has underground utilities (no ugly poles or wires), water tap, and is on the county sewage system because of the creek, so no septic system has to be installed by the owner, a big cost savings. At the back is what we call the Grotto. The pie shaped rear of the lot is covered by tall pine trees and offers a perfect quiet place to have chairs and a table for picnics where the trees provide shade and the flowing creek provides coolness and sounds in the summer months. You can walk the creek down to the South Fork of the Rio Grande River about 400 yards away to fish. You are about 1.3 miles to the center of town and about 18 miles to the Wolf Creek Pass Ski Area. At the top of the street you can enter onto National Forest land. The views to the south are of the mountains. A real slice of Heaven. \$69,000 MLS#778004

Legends Premier Properties  
Curtis Miller, Associate Broker  
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com



**FOR SALE** This 2500 sq. ft. building is located at 102 North Main St., in the thick of tourist traffic, in historic Creede, Colorado. The building is divided into two separate and operating retail spaces, but a common interior door could make this a large operating space. 1. Elk Country Boutique on the corner of the building is a T-shirt Shop. 2. Creede Olive Oil Shop. Both businesses draw visitors as they walk the town shopping for unique gifts. Utilities include electric, pellet stove, Creede water & sewage, and phone. Each business has its own electrical meter and is paid for by that tenant. 1. Elk Country Boutique T-shirt Shop has an extremely high recap rate but will need to be kept as a T-shirt shop to obtain maximum income on the building. 2. Creede Olive Oil shop rents for \$1300 per month year-round. The estimated total recap rate based on the above description is 15% to 20% annual return on investment. This historic building is located on Main Street in Creede, Colorado, and is a thriving business. Creede is a major vacation destination and sportsmen's dream paradise. \$692,000 MLS #774985 • 102 N Main Street • Creede

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(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**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

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty  
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**SOLD**

Level building spot on the 10th Fairway at the Rio Grande Club and Resort with stunning views. Just minutes away from World Class skiing and the Rio Grande River known for Gold Medal fishing- This is a perfect spot for your dream home on a Championship Golf Course. Don't let this one slip away! \$47,000 MLS#781025

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**\*There's No Place Like Home\***  
for the **HOLIDAYS**

Thank you to everyone who let me help them find a home in 2021

Call Bernadette today!

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Cell 719-850-1993  
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate  
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork  
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**FOR SALE**

Wonderful custom home site located on the Rio Grande Golf Course in South Fork, Colorado. Beautiful fairway and mountain views and just moments from the Rio Grande River. A perfect place to build your dream home or vacation home with year round access and public South Fork water and sewer. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, great golfing, fishing and magnificent skiing at Wolf Creek during the winter season. Call and schedule your viewing today! \$62,900 MLS #784728 134 Rio Grande Club Trail • South Fork

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



Charming home on Oversized Lot! This nice 2 bedroom home sits on an oversized lot, so there is plenty of room to add on if you wanted. Has good space, and some updates. Has been a rental, so great for the investor looking for a rental investment. Some outbuildings, and established yard. Call today for more details. \$153,000 MLS#786169

Legends Premier Properties  
Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner  
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com



**LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!**

This Parcel is located in the mountain town of South Fork, Colorado. Located in the majestic San Juan Mountains. You will find a variety of historic motels, hotels, medical clinic, grocery store, repair shops restaurants, shopping for the active sportsman, RV and ATV dealers. The avid golfer will enjoy the play at Rio Grande Golf Club and Resort. The winter sport opportunities are boundless as well. Wolf Creek Ski Area is famous for the most snow in the country and only 20 minutes away. South Fork, Co is a popular destination for skiing and those who love snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking and camping. Come enjoy this majestic place. MLS #781184

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(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**SOLD**

Nice building spot with spectacular views! \$17,500 MLS#786767

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**Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com**  
**Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com**

Immaculate & charming home! This lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has been in a family for several decades, and loved and cared for as you can see in the pictures. It has open spaces, wood laminate floors, lots of storage, and a big kitchen that is great for cooking and entertaining. There is a laundry area with closets, a pellet stove hot water baseboard heat, a 2 car garage, a nice patio area, and an additional shed in the back. Call today to preview! \$289,000 MLS#787149

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Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner  
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
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This lot is ready to build with utilities installed underground to property. This lot is on the 13th fairway of the renowned Rio Grande Club & Resort. Sit on your back deck and enjoy the views of the golf course, cliffs along the mountainside and views looking down the valley of the course to Del Norte Peak. Water and sewer to the property including paved roads maintained by the HOA. Enjoy fishing close by, mountain hiking, ATving, and the Wolf Creek ski resort approximately 20 miles away. \$59,900 MLS#787736

Legends Premier Properties  
Keith Bratton, Associate Broker  
810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com



This Cabin is a great find! Located near the Rio Grand River, the cabin sets on 2 lots. It has 2 oversized garages that measure 24'x30' and 24'x32', as well as a wood shed, and a spare shed. In the huge backyard there is a horse shoe pit to enjoy while you are hosting a party on the beautiful deck during the warm summer nights, or you can host a guys night in the extra room that has a bar and tv. It is close to mountain trails for hiking, the Rio Grand river for some gold medal fishing, and Wolf Creek pass where you can enjoy some of the best skiing in Colorado! This home comes furnished as well! Call to view this amazing home! \$428,000 MLS#789095

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Klayton Gosar, Associate Broker  
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# 2021

## Year in Review

THE *Monte Vista* JOURNAL



CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE SOUTH FORK TINES

The Del Norte Prospector  
"Gateway to the San Juans"

Gateway to the Silver Thread

Valley Publishing 719-852-3531

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

## January



Jan. 6, 2021, Conejos County Citizen

Aaliyah Liliana Hurtado is the first baby in the San Luis Valley in 2021. She was born at 10:35 a.m. on Jan. 2, 2021 at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa. She weighed 5 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Aaliyah is the daughter of Rebecca Calderon and Saul Hurtado of Center.

Photo by Dawn Krebs



Jan. 28, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

On Monday, Jan. 25, Center School students honored Lisbeth Lino's passing with an idea of their own, a simultaneous release of purple and white balloons. Their classmate died in fire early that month.

Courtesy photo



Jan. 21, 2021 Mineral County Miner

The Silver Ice Park located north of Creede was full of people this past weekend for the annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament.

Photo by Brian Brittain



Jan. 27, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Reporter Rebecca Copley snapped this fun photo of a snowman outside of Monte Vista.

Photo by Rebecca Copley



Jan. 14, 2021 South Fork Tines

On Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, Kris Steffens and Lisa Butcher of the South Fork Friends Foundation met with Town Administrator Dan Hicks, Mayor Rodney Reed, and Visitor Center Director Mark Teders at the South Fork Town Hall. The foundation presented Dan, Rodney, and Mark with a check in the amount of \$13,000 to assist in the purchase of new tables and chairs for the community center.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



Jan. 27, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

Rio Grand Hospital and Rio Grande Public Health organized a COVID-19 vaccination clinic that had volunteers from several county groups.

Contributed photo



# February



Feb. 18, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

Photos by Joel Priest, Souther Ute Drum

Center's Jordan Duran goes for a pin of Ignacio's Cayle Montoya at 106 pounds during a Del Norte High School-hosted triangular on Friday, Feb. 12.



Feb. 10, 2021 South Fork tines

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Mountain Lighthouse and Boutique owner Glynn Polter is pleased to announce that the once small business will be celebrating 13 years in South Fork.



Feb. 10, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

RGNF Supervisor Dan Dallas, URGSD Superintendent Chris Burr, Rio Grande Commissioner Gene Glover and Del Norte Mayor Chris Trujillo broke ground at the old Del Norte High School building.



Feb. 3, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Brian Williams

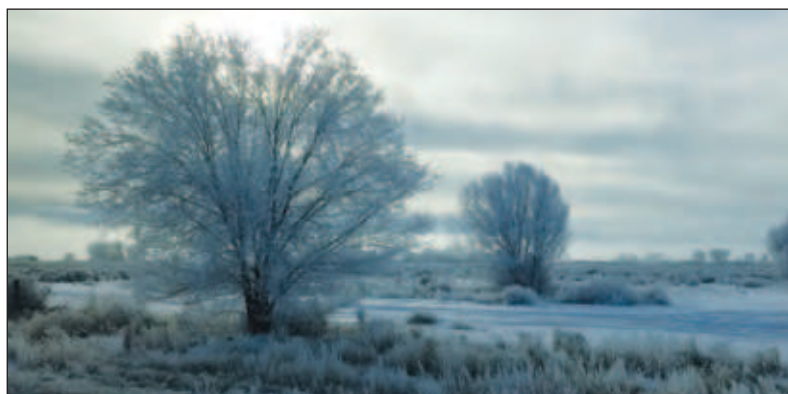
The 39th annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference and Trade Show started its three-day run Feb. 2, on Zoom and at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



Feb. 10, 2021 Conejos County Citizen

Courtesy photo

Full restoration of the historic Antonito depot was completed.



Feb. 3, 2021 Mineral County Miner

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

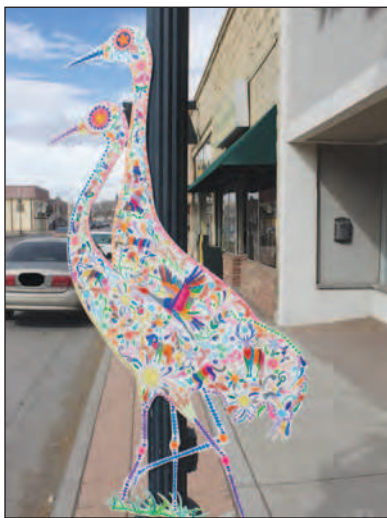
The Rio Grande River is beginning to break free from winter's cold grasp as the Valley heads into February of 2021.

# March

March 10, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Rebecca Copley

The 2021 Swoop of the Cranes have landed just in time for the 38th annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. Crews from Monte Vista Public Work's put up the unique art works on Monday, March 8.



March 3, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

Courtesy photo

The 12th Judicial District Access to Justice Committee came together and was able to assemble 11 students from area high schools and coached them over a six-week period.

**Happy New Year & Many Thanks**

It's Been a Pleasure Serving You!

Before we begin the celebration, We want to express our admiration To all the folks who have stopped by here With best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

**Stone's Farm Supply, Inc.**

754-3453 • 3<sup>rd</sup> & Torres • Center



March 3, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

Courtesy photo

Del Norte Bank announces its plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary.



March 24, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by SLV Voices

The OptiMystics, a citizen action group, hosted the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in Monte Vista on March 17.



March 25, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Rebecca Copley

In response to Colorado Gov. Jared Polis' 'Meat-Out Day' proclamation encouraging Coloradans to go meatless for a day, thousands answered by having a 'Meat-In Day.' The Monte Vista Coop held a hamburger fry to support livestock producers.



March 10, 2021 Conejos County Citizen

Courtesy photo

Centauri Middle School science fair regional winners! We appreciate Mr. Shelton for his dedicated sponsorship, the students for their achievements, and all of the parents for your support!



# April



**April 6, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Courtesy photo  
Hundreds of people attended the annual community Easter Egg Hunt at Chapman Park on Saturday, April 3.



**April 22, 2021 Del Norte Prospector**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Celestina Martinez and Reyna Flores have gone above and beyond for the Upper Rio Grande School District and in their spare time created a newspaper for fellow students, teachers and staff to enjoy.



**April 21, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife is draining Home Lake and making plans to improve the local fishery.



**April 22, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Courtesy photo  
Rio Grande Hospital was recognized nationally as one of the top 100 hospitals in the United States by the Chartis Center for Rural Health.



**April 7, 2021 Conejos County Citizen**  
Courtesy photo  
Engine 168 ran along the San Juan Extension and other Rio Grande narrow gauge lines from 1883 to 1938. It was brought back to life by Cumbres and Toltec.



**April 29, 2021 Mineral County Miner**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
The Bear Creek Crew with Southwest Conservation Corps have worked to thin trees in a section of Bear Creek near South Fork.

# May



**May 19, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
The 62 Monte Vista High School graduates, all wearing face masks, for the Class of 2021 crossed the stage at Harvey Sullivan Sports Complex on Saturday afternoon, May 15, in front of friends, family and loved ones, cheering from the bleachers.



**May 5, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
Pirate Pride was on full display Tuesday morning, May 4, as Monte Vista High School students converged downtown for the annual cleanup day.



**May 27, 2021 Del Norte Prospector**  
Photo courtesy of Tracy Madrid and Nikki Horrocks  
Del Norte High School Theatre hit a home run this past weekend with its 'Newsies' production. A year and a half in the making, the local production of the Disney Broadway play finally hit the stage.



**May 13, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch**  
Photo courtesy of Courtney Arthur  
Students with Sargent School District participated in their annual Bike-A-Thon in partnership with Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department.



**May 27, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Courtesy photo  
San Luis Valley Interagency Fire Management Unit conducted the Work Capacity Test and fire shelter deployment exercises as part of its annual firefighter refresher training required for all personnel that will engage at various levels in a fire area.



**May 19, 2021 Conejos County Citizen**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Colorado federal, state and local leaders as well as several San Luis Valley conservation champions gathered at the Rio Grande Natural Area located between San Luis and Manassa for a celebration and ribbon cutting in observance of the newly installed interpretive signs.



# June



**June 17, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
The annual South Fork Yard Sale was a smash hit on Saturday, June 12, with well over 20 families participating in the event.



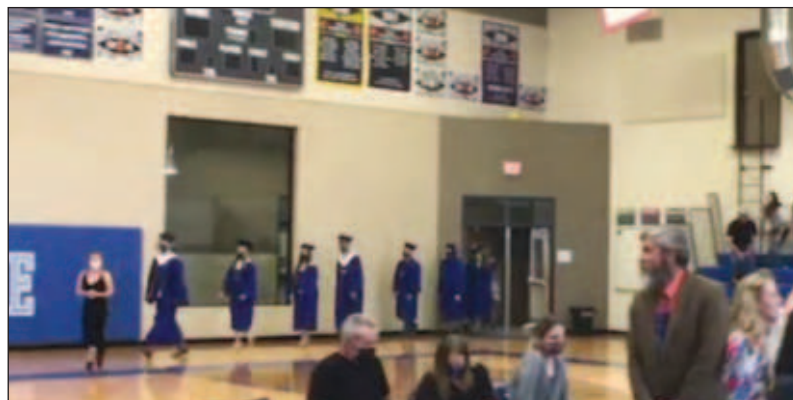
**June 3, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
Center High School graduates have some fun taking photos before graduation.



**June 3, 2021 Del Norte Prospector**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
The Upper Rio Grande School District celebrated the Class of 2021.



**June 2, 2021 Conejos County Citizen**  
Photo assistance by Jack and Theresa Rudder  
A memorial near La Jara honors veterans of World War I and II.



**June 3, 2021 Mineral County Miner**  
Courtesy photo  
Creede School District and attending family and friends celebrated the Class of 2021 on Saturday, May 29.



**June 2, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Rebecca Copley  
The Sargent High School Class of 2021 celebrated at an in-person, indoor, graduation.

# July



**July 8, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Photo by Marie Mccolm  
Hundreds of people watched the annual July 3rd Parade in South Fork on Saturday.



**July 22, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Crowds of over 200 people showed up each day to watch the Logger Days events in South Fork.



**July 28, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
Trey Kimzey of Strong City, Okla., had the only qualified ride during bull riding at the 99th Ski-Hi Stampede. He scored 77 points on the ride.



**July 28, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
Country singing star Scotty McCreery was the headliner of the Ski-Hi Stampede concert on Thursday, July 22. Ned LeDoux opened the concert.



**July 21 Conejos County Citizen**  
Photos by Brian Williams  
The float 'Just' Dragon' Along' took home the Sweepstakes Award from the Pioneer Days Parade judges on Friday in Manassa.



**July 8, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch**  
Photos by Mechel Meeke  
The annual Center Car Show drew people to downtown Center on July 3.

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# August



**Aug. 12 Mineral County Miner**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Baskets full of rough-cut minerals, tables laden with polished rocks and cases full of semi-precious and precious gems filled the Crede Community Center for the annual Rock and Mineral Show.



**Aug. 12, 2021 Del Norte Prospector**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Del Norte Bank celebrated its centennial on Saturday after the Covered Wagon Days Parade and offered fun, games and more for the entire community. Free copies of the bank's new book were available as well.



**Aug. 12, 2021 Del Norte Prospector**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Del Norte celebrated Covered Wagon Days this past Saturday with a parade, ice cream social, fun, games at Del Norte Bank and so much more.



**Aug. 5, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch**  
Photo by Mechel Meek  
Frontier Drive-In Program Manager Adam Gildar and Antonito artist Ron Rael led a group of Center community members and town officials on tour of the property and the technology being used on the project.



**Aug. 18, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
The bleachers were packed during the San Luis Valley Fair Junior Livestock Auction on Friday in the Livestock Pavilion.



**Aug. 12, 2021 South Fork Times**  
Photo courtesy of Shady Burro Enduro  
The Shady Burro Enduro brought more than 300 riders to South Fork the first weekend in August.

# September



**Sept. 8, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Courtesy photo  
Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos helped Team USA defend its International Six Days of Enduro women's title in Italy.



**Sept. 23, 2021 Mineral County Miner**  
Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Nearly 150 quilts graced the Crede Community Center.



**Sept. 1, 2021 Conejos County Citizen**  
Photo by Brian Williams  
The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad hosted the '19th Century Victorian Iron Horse Roundup' — a celebration of the scenic railroad's 50th anniversary. Four 1880's locomotives were under steam.



**Sept. 2, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch**  
Photo by Mechel Meek  
The Town of Center held its yearly End Of Summer Extravaganza on Saturday, Aug. 28, in Casa Blanca Park.



**Sept. 15, 2021 Monte Vista Journal**  
Photo by Marie Mccolm  
The Potato Festival was at Chapman Park on Sept. 11, with many booths, games, fun-filled rides for the children, and local farmers in attendance.



**Sept. 23, 2021 Mineral County Miner**  
Photo by Keith R. Cerny  
Mario Cano of Gypsum and his 1954 Ford F100 Pickup was selected as Best of Show at the 2021 Cruisin' the Canyon Fall Color Car Show.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

Of the many fond memories we can recall, Your visits with us are the best ones of all!

*The Legacy*

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Happy NEW YEAR!

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# October



Oct. 27, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Marie Mccolm  
A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held after the new playground at Sanchez Park was completed on Oct. 21 in Monte Vista.



Oct. 7, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

Courtesy photo  
The Upper Rio Grande School District (URGSD) broke ground Thursday, Sept. 30, on its new baseball field located just east of the new high school campus.



Oct. 7, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

Photo by Mechel Meek  
More than 20 people attended the Saguache County Board of Commissioners meeting on Oct. 5, to express their concern with an emergency operations resolution.



Oct. 13, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Marie Mccolm  
The Monte Vista City Council held a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7, and a new Council member was sworn in. Jason Lorenz was sworn in by City Clerk Unita Vance.



Oct. 14, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

Courtesy photo  
The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the Scarecrow Bash. Broken Arrow Ranch and Land Co., LLC won for the Best Business Display.



Oct. 21, 2021 South Fork Times

Courtesy photo  
The South Fork Chili Cookoff was on Thursday, Oct. 14. Several business and local organizations participated and enjoyed a spicy gathering of neighbors and friends.

# November



Nov. 17, 2021 South Fork Times

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell  
Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover, supporting staff and Commissioner John Noffske celebrated Helen Martinez for working in Rio Grande County for 55 years during an employee appreciation lunch at the beginning in November.



Nov. 24, 2021 Conejos County Citizen

Photo by Shelly Polzin  
No. 2 Centauri High School Falcons defeated No. 3 Buena Vista to secure a spot in the 1A state football championship game.



Nov. 17, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Courtesy photo  
The Monte Vista Pirates Marching Band took first place in performance and loudness and in the 1A division of the state high school band competition.



Nov. 17, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Brian Williams  
Monte Vista celebrated veterans on Nov. 12, with a parade downtown and ceremony at Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park. U.S. Coast Guard Ret. Comm. Loren Howard was the guest speaker.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
We wish you luck and prosperity!

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**HAPPY New YEAR!**

Wishing you good health, good fortune and good times ahead!

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Nov. 4, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

Photo by Mechel Meek  
The iconic sights and sounds of the San Luis Valley returned in the form of cranes, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. Reporter Mechel Meek took this great photo Cinnamon Teals in the San Luis Valley.



Nov. 3, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Photo by Marie Mccolm  
Little ghosts, Baby Yoda and goblins were at the Colorado 4x4 Adams Street Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 29.



# December



Dec. 1, 2021 Conejos County Citizen

The Centauri High School football team wrapped up an undefeated season as it defeated top seeded Limon 24-21 in the Class 1A state championship game Saturday, Nov. 27, at the CSU Pueblo Thunderbowl.

Photo by Ken Hamrick



Dec. 8, 2021 Monte Vista Journal

Santa waves from a fire engine during the annual Christmas Parade in Monte Vista on Dec. 4.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Dec. 9, 2021 Del Norte Prospector

People wore warm clothing and perused businesses decked out for the Christmas season on Friday night, Dec. 3, in Del Norte for the annual Tour of Lights. Carolers sang in front of Raisin' Rye bakery.

Photo by Brian Williams



Dec. 2, 2021 South Fork Times

The South Fork Friends Foundation with the help of several donors and sponsors replaced the old Christmas lights around the South Fork Visitor Center and water tower with new lights and the results were stunning when they were turned on during the lighting ceremony.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



Dec. 2, 2021 Mineral County Miner

Santa took time out of his busy schedule and came to visit at the Wild Beaver Mountain Man Emporium on Friday, Nov. 26, in Creede during the Chocolate Festival. He listened to holiday wishes from children and some adults.

Photo by Jennifer Alonzo



Dec. 9, 2021 Center Post-Dispatch

The San Luis Valley Research Center held an open house on Thursday, Dec. 2, to show a selection of its current crop of potato varieties.

Photo by Mechel Meek



# Thank You!

The SLV Community and others have done it!! We built a new Ski Hi Event and Conference Center facility!! Phase 2 is now furnishing it with furniture, kitchen equipment, and recreation equipment. Financial contributions are still being taken to finish the project for FFE. This is an Enterprise Zone tax credit project for contributions over \$100, receive a 25% tax credit to qualified donors.

**\$4,000,000 and above**  
Outcalt Foundation  
**\$2,000,000 - \$500,001**  
Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)  
Larry & Vivian Reed Estate (Friends is beneficiary)  
**\$500,000 - \$100,001**  
Daniels Fund  
El Pomar Grants  
Rio Grande County  
**\$100,000 - \$75,001**  
Boettcher Foundation  
Coors Foundation  
Cultivating Hearts (local San Luis Valley farmer)  
Gates Family Foundation  
**\$75,000 - \$50,001**  
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Rio Grande Savings & Loan  
San Luis Valley Federal Bank  
SLV Rural Electric Foundation/SLVREC/Ciello  
**\$50,000 - \$25,001**  
Alamosa State Bank  
Alamosa County  
Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA)  
Farm Credit of Southern Colorado  
Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation (Pueblo)  
Ski Hi Stampede Committee  
**\$25,000 - \$10,001**  
Ray & Colette Skeff  
Cathy Robbins Colorado Springs  
Co-Bank (FCSC match) (Denver)  
Del Norte Federal Bank  
First Southwest Bank  
Magnolia Society (Women's group)  
Monte Vista Cooperative Assn  
Sunflower Bank  
Trinchera Blanca Foundation  
**\$10,000 - \$5,001**  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
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Memory of Dr. Ben Konishi by Bessie Konishi  
Mike Prentice  
Mineral County  
Monte Vista Chamber- vendors Ag Conference  
Monte Vista Eye Care Center/Dr. Paul Heersink  
Monte Vista Potato Growers  
Mountain West Insurance  
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Rio Grande County 4-H Council  
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Wall, Smith, Bateman  
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Blue Sky Farms SLV, Inc  
Blue Spruce 4-H Club  
Debra Callahan  
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JDS Farms  
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Monte Vista Education Foundation  
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SLV Antique Iron Club  
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GFWC Colorado Town & Country Club  
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Monte Vista Chamber - Ag Sub-committee  
Monte Vista Chamber - Main Board  
Monte Vista United Methodist Church  
Nazarene Church Thrift Store  
Rick & Cheryl Santi  
Sandhill Solar LLC  
Sargent Community Church  
Skyline Hospitality, dba Comfort Inn Suites  
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Teresa & Galen Harrison  
The Bowen United Methodist Church  
Wakasugi Family Land Partnership  
Walter Fullwood  
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Alamosa Rotary Club  
Alcon Construction  
Annoynomous (Las Vegas, NV)  
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Bill and Tami Fassett  
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Bridges of Health Therapeutic Challenge  
Brothers Keepers (subset Firefighters)  
Carl & Sandra Jo Hatch  
Charles & Carol Keller  
Cherrellyne Bratton  
Conquisterdors (chamber welcome group)

Clare Family for Marjorie Gross (Clair)  
David & Sophia Avila  
David & Caren Graham  
David & Carol Maes  
Deborah & Gerald Palmgren  
Del Norte Rotary Club  
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CONTRIBUTIONS ARE STILL BEING REQUESTED/NEEDED  
Send to: Friends of Ski Hi, P.O. Box 262, Monte Vista, CO 81144