



Shorts

Monte Vista Elks Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

MONTE VISTA — On Thursday, Nov. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Monte Vista Elks will be providing a free Community Thanksgiving Dinner to all at 121 N. Washington St. Everyone is welcome and the Elks will do all the cooking. Take out will be available.

Creede Arts and Crafts Fair is Nov. 26-27

CREEDE — Creede Underground Community Center is hosting the Arts and Crafts Fair on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 26 and 27, during the Chocolate Fest weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Creede organizes Holiday Decorating Contest

CREEDE — The City of Creede with the help of Mineral County 4-H is hosting a Holiday Decorating Contest. Business owners are encouraged to show their festive spirit by decorating. Only businesses in Creede are eligible. Registration is not required. Judges will be Mineral County 4-youth. Judging will take place during the week of Dec. 6-10. Organizers ask that participating businesses leave their holiday lights and décor on from 5 to 9 p.m. A winner from each category will receive a \$200 cash prize and mention in the Mineral County Miner. Photos of winning businesses will be shared on the City of Creede website and social media platforms.

Kiwanis cancels 2021 Thanksgiving community dinner

SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Kiwanis has announced that they will not be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year due to a lack of volunteers and COVID-19 concerns. The group stated that though this year they had to cancel they hope to have everything in order for a dinner in 2022.

Yuletide and Winterfest is set for Nov. 26-27

SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Annual Yuletide and Winterfest is just around the corner. There will be live entertainment, refreshments, shopping opportunities for two full days and family fun the night of Nov. 26 and another full day of fun on the 27.

Escaped prisoner from Saguache Jail still at-large

By **MECHEL MEEK**

SAGUACHE — Valley law enforcement continues to look for a Saguache woman who escaped from the Saguache County Jail on Nov. 19.

At around 7:55 p.m. on Friday, Kara Eddy, 32, escaped from the Saguache County Jail while being held in custody on an outstanding warrant.

According to the Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek, “Sgt. Fresquez and on-duty officers additionally assisted Saguache County with an escaped female,

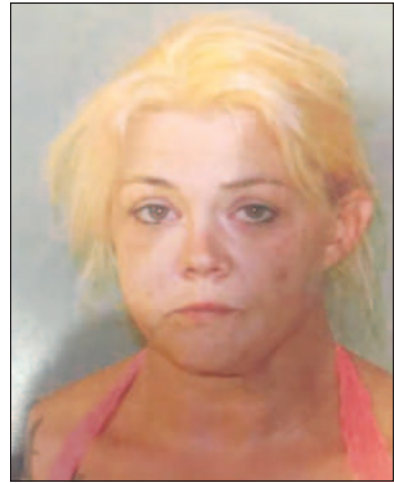
Kara Eddy of Moffat. A K-9 tracked Kara to an area where we believe she received assistance to leave the immediate area from another person. The search for Kara is still active so if you have any information, please contact CPD or the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office.”

Meek explained that the Saguache County Jail is the second-oldest jail in the state of Colorado. The jail was originally designed as a residence, and while it has been remodeled several times it is not up to modern jail facility standards. The string

of escapes from the aging facility underlines a severe community safety aspect of using the facility to hold prisoners.

The need for a new jail has been discussed by the Saguache County Commissioners at various times throughout the year during their meetings. “There are ongoing efforts to build a new jail and the Saguache County Commissioners have a New Jail Committee that is pushing to expedite the process,” Chief Meek said. “I am part of that committee and all

Please see ESCAPE on Page 7A



Kara Eddy

MV writer doing book reading at RGC Museum

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — As part of the Third Annual Holiday at the Rio Grande County Museum, Martha Kennedy, a Monte Vista artist and writer, will read on Saturday Dec. 11, at 1:30 p.m., from her recently published memoir about her experiences teaching English in the People’s Republic of China in 1982.

The book’s title “As a Baby Duck Listens to Thunder” doesn’t mean much to most people, but it is a Chinese idiom for “no clue at all about anything.”

Kennedy says that this accurately described her during her time in China.

She will share the story of her

Please see WRITER on Page 7A

Center Police deploy K-9 to combat drug crimes

By **MECHEL MEEK**

CENTER — This past week, Reserve Officer Adam Fresquez deployed the Center Police Department drug detection K-9 several times, making three traffic stops and using the dog to discover a trap car, which is a vehicle that has been modified to hide and transport drugs.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, “Reserve Officer Adam Fresquez has made heavy use of the drug dog with three stops that yielded a trap car (vehicle designed to transport drugs) traveling from Denver to Cortez and two stops which each had narcotics with one being arrested for trafficking narcotics.”

Meek explained that the suspect arrested for trafficking narcotics was Jonathen Lopez, who was on parole after being recently released. The suspect was also wanted on a warrant for domestic violence-harassment and resisted arrest.

According to CPD, while searching Lopez before the arrest, methamphetamines were found on his person in dealer-level amounts.

No information was available at this time on the other two traffic stops initiated by Fresquez, as the investigations are ongoing.

Also of note, Sgt. Aaron Fresquez of the Center Police Department has



Photo by Mechel Meek

Center Police Department Sgt. Aaron Fresquez and K-9 officer Kitt

recently returned from an intensive eight-week K-9 train the trainer course to endorse him to train and certify other K-9 teams. This step is just one in a self-sustaining K-9 program that is designed to impact the continuing drug problem in the Town of Center.

Coffee with the Chief will be held on Dec. 4, with a discussion of the K-9 program, year-end crime statistics and a meet-and-greet with Sgt. Fresquez and K-9 officer Kitt. The location and time will be announced on the CPD Facebook page later this week.

Xcel proposes replacing transmission line from Alamosa to Antonito

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

ALAMOSA — It has been 60 years since the transmission line running from Alamosa 39 miles south to Antonito was constructed. Due to natural weathering, lightning strikes and unscheduled interruption of services (power outages), the wooden utility poles, equipment and components need to be replaced, according to Xcel.

Citing potential safety risks associated with the aging structures, Xcel is proposing to replace the existing transmission with a new line sometime in early 2023. In addition to reducing safety concerns, the project, according to the company, “will increase electric reliability and position the region for future economic growth.”

The current 69-kilo Volt transmission line will be rebuilt to 115-kilo Volt

design standards, which will increase capacity to serve more customers in the future. Also, wooden utility poles and conductor wires will be removed and rebuilt with fire-resistant steel structures, new conductors and Optical Ground Wire (OPGW). OPGW provides a communicator channel to transport system performance data, which helps faster response time in the event the power goes out. OPGW also

provides a ground for lightning strikes.

Because the 69-kilo Volt transmission line is crucial to providing uninterrupted service to customers in the area, it cannot be removed to make room to construct a new line. This requires the company to find a new route to run the replacement line, either in a new corridor immediately adjacent and parallel to the existing line or in

Please see XCEL on Page 7A

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OBITUARIES

Robert Lauren Bryning

Monte Vista native and longtime resident Robert Lauren Bryning, 78, passed away on November 16, 2021. He was born on March 31, 1943 in Del Norte, Colo., to Kyle Bryning and Thelma (Correll) Bryning.

Bob proudly served his country in the US Army from 1962 to 1972.

Bob was extremely active in local government, serving on the City Council, the Planning and Zoning Committee, the One Percent Board, the Board of Adjustments, the Economic Development Board, the Boys and Girls Club of the SLV Board, the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Board, the Skateboard Park Board, the Pavilion and Glen Martinez Headstone Board, the Rally in the Valley Board, and the Angels Among Us Toy Drive.

Bob is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary (Vigil) Bryning, two children: Brenda (David) Wreford of Monte Vista, and Barbara (Kenneth) Sears of Monte Vista, three grandchildren: Olivia Wreford of Minneapolis, Minn., Kendra (Ethan) Reschke of Springville, Utah, and Maria Sears of Monte Vista, Colo., and two honorary grandchildren: Taylor and Lauren Trujillo of Del Norte, Colo.



Norte, Colo.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Kyle and Thelma Bryning, his brother, Gerald Bryning, and his sister, Janet Welsh.

A celebration of life service was held on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, at 10 a.m. at Church of the Nazarene in Monte Vista, Colo., followed by interment at Homelake Veterans Cemetery in Monte Vista, Colo. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Kids Connection of Monte Vista, Colo.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Bob's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Glen A. Hinshaw

Glen Alan Hinshaw passed away November 12, 2021, at his home in Montrose, Colo. He was 80. Born Aug. 11, 1941, to Leslie and Birdean Leggett Hinshaw, he graduated from Denver's North High School in 1959 and Colorado State University in 1963.

Glen was a dedicated steward of Colorado's wildlife. He lived his boyhood dream of being a wildlife officer and retired in 1997 from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

His life provided a long list of leadership and teaching opportunities including president of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship chapter at CSU, charter member of the Colorado EMT Association, chairman of the Mineral County School Improvement Committee, hunter safety instructor, speaker at wildlife conferences nationwide, caregiving coach, Bible study leader, church elder and deacon, and occasionally had a sermon to deliver.

Glen authored two books with a wildlife focus. "Crusaders for Wildlife" and "Echoes from the Mountains — The Life and Adventures of a Colorado Wildlife Officer."

His later life experiences led to the writing of "Caregiver: My Tempestuous Journey" and "Caregiving — Journey to a New Horizon" with co-writer E Laird Landon. Glen's heart and passion were rooted in helping people in caregiving situations.

He co-founded The Caregiver Support Foundation shortly before his death whose mission is to provide family caregivers emotional support and tools to care for and advocate for their loved ones.

Glen married Beth Short in 1963. After their divorce, he married Carol Kelton in 1995. She died in 2017.

Glen is survived by his children and stepchildren, Lois, Ralph, Mark, and Elaine; his grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Anthony, Katie, Donald, Erin, Nathan, Michelle, Casey and Kirsten, a great-granddaughter, Addy, his sister, Arlene, nephews, David and Stephen, and niece, Gail, as well as his favorite friend, Dianne and lots of cousins and great friends.

He could talk to anyone at any time about anything and he loved to do so. He seemed to always have



a story to tell. His outgoing nature and fun-loving sense of humor garnered him innumerable friends and acquaintances. Known by many and liked by most, he will be missed tremendously.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at First Presbyterian Church, 1840 E. Niagara Rd., Montrose, Colo. Memorial contributions can be made to Caregiver Support Foundation through its website: Family-Caregiver.org.

Phyllis Shown

Phyllis Shown 102, Cañon City, Colo., passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 13, 2021. She was born Aug. 7, 1919, to Christian Carl Staley and Maria Elsworth. She later married Robert Shown.

Phyllis enjoyed ranching, rodeo, fishing, hunting, dancing, but what she enjoyed most was the time she spent with her family. She belonged

to the Eastern Star Club. Phyllis was preceded in death by both parents, her husband Robert Shown, four sisters, one brother, and three nephews.

Her memory will live on through her two nieces, one nephew, numerous great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. Phyllis will be missed by all who knew her.

Donations may be sent to the Shriners Children's Hospital or St. Jude's Hospital. Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, at 1 p.m., at Strohmayer's Funeral Home 205 S. Broadway Monte Vista, Colo.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$50 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

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party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.



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Image of a family sitting at a dining table.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Long winter evenings

Hunting season came and went, so now Ol' Dutch is into what is known as "free time."

During the season of chasing elk up and down every hill and dale in Colorado, I am so tired in the evenings that all I can do is drop into bed like a big, ole beached whale, which means about 30 days of whale watching for Miss Trixie.

But now, even with the farm chores and projects to do every day, I actually find myself bored enough in the time-change-induced darkness to watch sports.

It's not that I do not like sports, nor dislike playing them when I get a chance, but I find them to be like sex. If I cannot participate, I just as soon not indulge.

Lately, though, I've been watching some games as it does pass the day in the cold dark of winter when Miss Trixie goes to bed about 5:30 replete with her electric blanket on high. Of course, it gets about as hot as the fiery furnace as told in the Bible and Ol' Dutch is starting to really feel like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego facing Nebuchadnezzar on that fateful day.

No hot woman is complete, however, without the window wide open to cool her head off and send a chill over Ol' Dutch all night. And poor little Cooper does not know whether to sleep on the hot pad or off, which means he is up half the night. He gets so hot that he comes up beside my pillow and puts his little butt right in my face, which is always a treat.

There are a few teams that I do like to watch like the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs, but I am just a passive watcher and really do not care who wins any game. Miss Trixie, on the other hand, is Texas-born and raised and when the Dallas Cowboys are playing, she does like to watch them.

When I moved down here to Texas it took me a while to figure out who "the Boys" were as that is how people talk about their beloved team. As in the Cowboys. And win or lose, the latter which has plagued them for many years, these Texans are true blue and support their "boys" to the bitter end.

On Sunday, the mighty Kansas City Chiefs faced off with Dallas, but I can't tell you anything about it as grands #1 and #2 came to stay and so I was kept busy during the game. That also translated into long nights



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

of musical beds as they are up and down like a jack in the box and seem to switch beds each time they stir.

I guess the worst thing about that is these children have no idea how to sleep in. They are up bright and early at 6 a.m. and look none the worse for wear. While Dutch and Miss Trixie resemble the walking dead.

Their mother Tinkerbelle, headed out of town with some church ladies so that left me and Miss Trixie in the babysitting department so my son Bubs could go to work.

Tinkerbelle does a great job with the kids and also managing Bubs so she deserves some time off. She says they relax and have devotions, but I think she and the other women dwell mostly on the part about turning water into wine the way it sounds.

It suddenly occurred to me that Ol' Dutch has not gotten a day off since the day he retired. How I miss those long weekends off where I could get my own stuff done or go fishing at the lake.

Now it is just a constant stream of things to do and Miss Trixie scheduling social events like Martha Stewart on overdrive.

I guess I will survive it somehow. Sometimes I long for that old "escape social activity by going to work" and envy those still slaving away. Well, maybe not.

Happy Thanksgiving to all who may read this. May God bless you this year with all you need and keep you safe in His Loving Arms.

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.



LETTERS

Organizers thank community for Veterans Parade and Tribute support

Editor,
The Veterans Parade was held on Friday, Nov 12 at 11 a.m. in Monte Vista. The Parade and Tribute committee would like to thank the following: Officer Twila Martinez and Sgt. Eugene Ortega for escorting this year's parade.

Color Guard Members: U.S. Army Capt. Cmdg. Eugene Farish, 3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne (Green Berets),

U.S. Army Cmd. Sgt. Major, Larry Heersink, 174th Ordnance BN, 35th Division Artillery

U.S. Army SP4, Steve Dunkel, 5th Engineers, Ft. Leonardwood, MO.

Senior Master Sgt., Randy Robertson, U.S. Air Force 34th Fighter Squadron, Hill AF, UT.

Seaman, Kevin Dunkel, U.S. Navy Submarine Duty

Benito Jacquez, U.S. Army Warrant Officer

The Parade Marshals were the Hinkley and Martinez families. Sargent Glen Martinez was a graduate of MVHS and then went on to

complete two degrees — one in math and one in surveying. He was killed in action on May 2, 2008, in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt. Faith Hinkley was also a MVHS graduate where she was active in cheerleading, band and FBLA. She completed one year at UCCS where she became interested in human intelligence and decided to enlist in the military. She was killed in action on Aug. 7, 2010.

Other parade entries included: Lewis Entz in his 1943 Marine Corp Jeep. Passengers were other members of the community involved in expanding the Homelake Cemetery — Lyle Dye and David Ledford. The next entry was the SLV Disabled American Veterans with "The Veterans of all Wars Float" — Celebrating 50 years of service to the San Luis Valley. The float was pulled by Past Commander Steve Salazar and his wife Jessie Salazar. Other entries included Rio Grande County Commissioner, Scott Deacon in his 37 Red Willy. Veteran Earl Wilson, U.S. Army Artillery Special Weapons 120th B175 and

597 & 602 Maintenance Battalion. Veteran Daniel R McCann, U.S. Marine Corp. and the grand finale of this year's parade — the 2021 State Band Champions, the MVHS Marching band.

A special thank you to Rachel Van, Mayor, Dale Becker, Father Albert Berkman, Loren Howard, Bob Hauter, Bill Walstrom, the First Presbyterian Church Choir, Chris Yocom, Grace Goodland, Katie Pacheco, Faith Alexander, the City of Monte Vista, MV Public Works and Public Works Director — Rob Vance, MV Fire Department, MV Fire Chief — Pat Sullivan, Del Norte Fire Department, Homelake Veterans Center and Museum, First Christian Church, Kelly Deacon, Raenell Rodriguez, Phinel Garcia, Jarren Chavez, the MVHS wrestling team, Ray and Colette Skeff and all the Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park donors.

Debbie Garcia on behalf of the MV Veterans Parade and Tribute organizers

Appreciates candor of City Attorney

Editor,
We want to congratulate Wayne Pacheco on being selected by the City Council as the new owner of the Gulzow Building as of the meeting on Nov. 18, 2021. In the years ahead, we sincerely hope he is successful beyond his dreams.

The City Council meeting was highly emotional and a bit contentious but everyone who wanted to speak was allowed to do so. I appreciate the time City Attorney, Mike Trujillo, spent responding to the numerous documents I submitted at the previous meeting, including the original lease which stated there was no option to purchase the Gulzow Building.

Mr. Trujillo also stated that anyone who wanted to make an offer on the

building could do so during the public hearing, despite that fact that over the last 3.5 years, not one person at the City ever mentioned that would be an option.

Regardless, I think Mr. Trujillo deserves to be congratulated for admitting publicly there were several things that possibly could've and should've been done differently throughout the process. It is rare anyone in government ever admits missteps or wrong-doing and he deserves recognition for his honesty.

Going forward, it is imperative the City Council refine its process legally, making future sales open to everyone through competitive bids or public auction.

In the spirit of transparency, it is also important the City make their

entire Charter, Municipal Code and Personnel Manual available online, not just certain sections.

I want to thank the many people who have supported us during this process and either called, texted or visited with Jim and or me over the years, and especially after my presentation to the Council on Nov. 4, 2021.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, events like this are a reminder that we can all be grateful for the friendships we share in our small community, and that when times get difficult, we get through them and move on, appreciating and celebrating the good in each other and our common goals in making Monte Vista a better place for us all.

*Raina Bowsher
Monte Vista*

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).

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 (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

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Small Business Saturday supports small businesses hit by pandemic

By FRANCES PADILLA

The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the critical role small businesses play in our daily lives. Neighborhood restaurants, entertainment venues, service companies, and any business where in person contact was the norm, endured periodic closure and suffered financial hardship. It sounds cliché, but our locally owned small businesses truly are the heart and soul of our cities and towns. Small Business Saturday, Nov. 27, is our chance to thank these local heroes that struggled to survive over the last 18 months. Small Business Saturday has slowly become an American tradition following the Thanksgiving holiday. Brick-and-mortar businesses across the country promote their best deals of the year in hopes of luring shoppers from online purchases. Many shop owners decorate their stores with festive lights and ornaments, or create elaborate window displays, to grab the attention of a passerby to lure them inside their business. Given the dramatic shifts in the retail environment over the last 20 years, those holiday scenes and traditions are in danger of passing into the realm of nostalgic folklore. Recent surveys show that over 80 percent of Americans make regular online purchases throughout the year. Online shopping skyrocketed during the pandemic as more people stayed home to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Many locally owned businesses struggled to find new ways to compete with mega online shopping sites and large retailers.



their products and services. An encouraging circumstance born out of the pandemic is that many small business owners pivoted operating models to include e-commerce platforms, or changed product offerings, to meet unique pandemic market demands and found that this diversification will have long-term benefits. Some are bringing back the retail traditions of the past by providing personalized one-on-one assistance to customers, and the selling of locally produced niche items found nowhere else in town. Small Business Saturday will have a huge impact here in Colorado and across the nation. Colorado's 675,000 small businesses continue to generate two of every three net new jobs and deliver essential goods and services in both rural and urban communities. They employ more than 1.2 million Coloradans, give back to their local communities, and just make this state a better place to live in. Each year Small Business Saturday provides a huge boost to the U.S. economy when over 100 million consumers spend more than \$20 billion at small shops and local restaurants.

Small businesses are the backbone of our democracy, and the solution to our most challenging economic problems. If you are a Colorado small business and need some advice, please consider exploring

the tools and resources of the SBA and its partners. Organizations such as the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network, with 15 locations across the state, two SCORE Chapters, and a Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center are key to help identifying strategies to become more competitive and viable in what will likely be an ever-shifting business landscape.

In addition to our formal partners, small business owners can get involved with local support organizations, such as chambers of commerce, business districts and neighborhood associations. These organizations are actively involved in organizing events and promotions to attract foot traffic to their small business members, such as Small Business Saturday passports and Shop Small/Dine Small focused festivals.

On Small Business Saturday, please join me in making at least one purchase from a locally owned small business in your city or town. These business owners are the true super stars of our community, and they deserve our support, thanks, and appreciation.

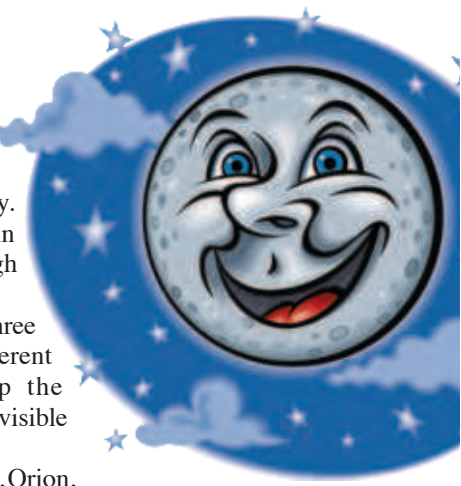
Frances Padilla serves as the SBA's Colorado District Director based in Denver. She oversees the agency's programs and services across the state.

YOUR NIGHT SKY

By DARLENE DANKO

Winter approaches

Even though winter officially starts on Dec. 21, the Summer Triangle is still visible in the night sky. In the summer it was high in the eastern sky, now it's high in the west.



Vega, Deneb and Altair, three bright stars in three different constellations, make up the Triangle. It'll continue to be visible until January.

My favorite constellation, Orion, is now making its appearance in the night sky. It rises in the east late evening as the Triangle begins to set in the west.

The Pleiades star cluster is also becoming visible. It's low in the east at nightfall, high overhead at midnight, and low in the west before dawn. You can see it from now through April above and to the right of Orion, in the constellation Taurus the Bull. It looks like a mini-Big Dipper.

At 425 light years away, it's one of the closest clusters to us, and the most visible with unaided vision. It contains about 1,000 middle aged hot blue stars that formed within the last 100 million years. Even though they're bright, only about 14 are visible to the naked eye.

The nine brightest stars are named for the seven sisters of Greek mythology, along with their parents. The English name is of Greek origin which means "to sail, "sailing ones", or "flock of doves".

We all know the Japanese name for the Pleiades. In case you don't remember, it's Subaru, which means "unite" or "coming together", and is the Subaru auto logo. Obviously, it's one of the most famous sky objects in Japan.

The Big Dipper has reached its lowest point in the sky for the year. It sits close to the northeastern horizon, with its bowl pointing up, and is parallel to the land. People in the southern United States are unable to see it this time of year. If the mountains are in your field of view, you also may not be able to see it.

Thanksgiving is on Thursday the 25th. I hope you can come to Winterfest! It's in the South Fork Hungry Logger next to the Visitor Center. on Friday, it's from 12-7 p.m. and on Saturday it will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. So come out and have fun! Children can meet Santa Claus at certain times, too.

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Winter activities abound in San Juans

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SAN LUIS VALLEY — As winter makes its appearance and recreation enthusiasts patiently await the arrival of snow, now is a good time to make plans for the coming holiday season.

As the holidays approach many on the west end of the San Luis Valley are eagerly anticipating snow to begin winter activities that have been the source of winter fun in places like South Fork and neighboring communities.

So far this year, the San Juan Mountains have received some snow and businesses, as well as local organizations, are ready to hit the mountains with snowmobiles, cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing and more.

South Fork is at the center of well over 300 miles of trails that can be accessed through several Forest Service roads leading into the backcountry. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for year-round.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due mainly to the access to trails throughout the region. Places like Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trails for more experienced riders and offer views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380.

SLV Trout Unlimited Holiday Meeting is Dec. 2

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited would like to invite all interested individuals to our Annual Flies and Lies Holiday Meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at Square Peg Brewwerks, 625 Main St., Alamosa. Members will be tying some of their favorite fly patterns. The meeting is informal and gives participants the opportunity to visit, ask questions, tie some flies or just watch the fly tying. This meeting is open to anyone. If you have questions, email slsvtroutunlimited@gmail.com.

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds.

This trail leads to large open meadows that can be a snowmobiler's dream of a winter playland with plenty of room to reach high speeds and glide over the powder that usually resides there in the dead of winter.

Besides snowmobiling, some look for more quiet activities. Winter can be a peaceful time of year when the world takes a deep breath and silently holds it until spring. The area is rich in cross-country skiing trails that offer spectacular

views and a chance to see wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host outings to these trails that they also help keep groomed throughout the winter. A free map is available at the South Fork Visitor Center.

Other activities include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during the winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker

Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which requires either snowshoes, cross country skiing, or snowmobiles to gain access but the trip is worth the effort with lakes packed full of late-season fish.

Winter in the San Luis Valley is a wonderful time to see what the Colorado lifestyle is all about, though caution is needed when venturing out into the backcountry, especially if it is for the first time. Many local groups, like the two listed above, are a great way to

get an introduction to what people need to know about the mountains during the winter months.

Some of the simpler things to remember hold true no matter what season it is and that is to inform people of where you plan to adventure, when you plan to return, and to always be familiar with the surroundings before venturing out into any area.

For more information, the South Fork Visitor Center is a source of information or by visiting www.southfork.org.



MOUNTAIN VALLEY NEEDS YOUR HELP

As a result of Senate Bill 21-116 prohibiting American Indian mascots Mountain Valley is required to change its Mascot by June 1, 2022

Please participate in the election of the new mascot by filling out this survey at the link below or visit Mountain Valley School.

To Start Survey:
<https://forms.gle/hxLNjfk95QQsvjz8>

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Will be published in the December 15, 2021 issues of your local newspaper

Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Tuesday, December 7 to email: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or mail: **Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144**

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Amyas Maestas: the Renaissance farmer of San Luis

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
SAN LUIS — Amyas Maestas is not your typical 17-year-old kid. Energetic, wise beyond his years and perpetually smiling, Amyas is a sculptor with one of his sculptures on display on Main Street and two pieces in the city of Alamosa's permanent collection.

He plays the trumpet, saxophone and piano. He is also a cabinetmaker and actor, having starred in four plays.

At 10 years old, he was listening to Glenn Miller and wearing a fedora. He laughs while telling the story.

"The first time I heard that band music, I said, 'Wow, what is this,'" Maestas said.

One could almost call him a Renaissance man.

Yet, with all those talents, for much of his young life, Amyas dreamed of being a farmer. It was in his blood. He would be the eighth generation in his family to farm in the San Luis area. A favorite memory from his childhood was his grandfather giving him a calf when he was 6 years old. In school, he had taken FFA classes, and as a freshman, had wanted to buy a few cattle but "prices were too high — \$1.50 to \$1.60 a pound," he says.

During the pandemic that had him learning remotely from home, Maestas started raising a few sheep and some chickens.

"I guess you could say it was kind of an interesting time. I spent half my day working on the computer and the other half with the animals," he says.

And then, at the age of 16, a door opened in the form of a \$5,000 loan he took out through the FSA Youth Loan program with the USDA, money he used to buy six already-bred, registered red Limousin cows from Templeton Ranch in La Garita. Each cow gave birth to a healthy calf, and, within a relatively short period of time, Maestas became the proud owner of a small mama cow and calf operation.

"I'll have my loan paid off in three years," he says.

Rewarding as that was, Maestas had not fully realized his dream. He still wanted to farm, drawn by his heritage and the goodness and simplicity he saw in working the land and growing food for people to eat. But with no land to farm or equipment to work with, the prospects looked dim.

At the age of 17, another door opened. His grandmother, Dana Maestas, was approached by Devon Peña, a professor of anthropology at the University of Washington who owns property in the area and is committed to protecting the acequia community. Peña asked if Amyas

might be interested in farming a quarter acre of land, joining a co-op of farmers growing vegetables in San Pablo on the acequias.

"I said, 'yes. Yes, I would,'" Maestas said.

There are eight farmers in the co-op, each growing crops to sell at the R&R Supermarket in San Luis, which Peña has reportedly purchased. The other farmers range in age from 50 to 80 years old, an age difference that Maestas enjoys.

"Yes, I'm the youngest farmer," Amyas says, with a laugh. "They help me a lot. They loan me the things I need to farm."

When asked about irrigation and what crops he grew, Maestas the farmer emerges.

"Carrots, three varieties of onions, German potatoes, Hopi corn that we milled for flour to make tortillas. Three varieties of peas, including Kaber peas — Kaber was the name of my grandfather's friend who grew



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

very good peas to eat. Beets, green and purple lettuce and fava beans. Except for the Kaber peas, I use Johnny seeds. I use biodegradable mulch and farm on the acequia, so it's all

flood irrigation with 100 percent ditch water. And I follow all the guidelines for growing organic," he says.

Maestas has even stepped into the world of management.

"During the summer, I hired farmers to help with the crops," Maestas says. "They were local kids from an organization called Move Mountains. Most of their programs are things like horseback riding and hunting, but this program teaches youth about agriculture and how to grow crops."

Amyas laughs, half self-consciously.

"I was kind of supervising them — and they were about the same

age as me," he says.

He paid the workers \$15 an hour. When Governor Jared Polis came to the area, Maestas was chosen to be the spokesman for the group.

"The governor said he was going to find funding to make this [agricultural] program go across the whole state," he says.

He had a good harvest, so good that it landed him, along with the other farmers, a meeting with the CEO of Natural Grocers. Peña did the negotiating.

"They said they needed more produce than just a quarter of an acre, so next year I'll be expanding to farming four acres instead," Maestas



Public Notice

Saguache County is currently accepting proposals for the Saguache County 2021 Fiscal Year audit. The ideal firm or individual will have extensive knowledge and experience related to conducting governmental audits in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing standards, and preparing financial statements that conform to all state, federal and industry guidelines.

All interested parties should submit a SEALED letter of interest and a proposal for services by November 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM to: Saguache County Administration office. Sealed envelope must say 2021 Audit on the front of the envelope.

Letters can be mailed to Saguache County PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or hand delivered to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.

For additional information contact Saguache County Administration at 719-655-2231 or wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1611 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 28 and November 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2021.

ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of December, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place within the District:

Office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District
 296 Miles Street

Town of Center, Saguache County, Colorado

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

One Director for Division III for a 3-Year Term

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

Mark Beiriger, Director for Division III for a 3-year term
 One Director at Large for a 3-year term

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

Patrick Brownell, Director at Large for a 3-year term

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter's ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District, Amy S. Dean, at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 3rd of December, 2021).

San Luis Valley Irrigation District
 By: /s/ Amy S. Dean
 Secretary

No. 1614 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 18 and 25 and December 2, 2021.

SLVH Foundation seeks gently used medical equipment

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health Foundation is asking for gently used wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and other medical equipment. With the supply chains still being affected by COVID-19 any help with donations would be greatly appreciated. For questions or to make pick up or drop off arrangements, contact Kelly Gurule with the SLVH Foundation at 719-587-5707.

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Mineral County 4-H Club has membership drive

By SUNDAY COOK

MINERAL COUNTY — The Mineral County 4-H Club kicked off its 2021-2022 year with a membership drive at 1 p.m. on Nov. 7 at the Creede Baptist Church.

Club President and Creede School senior Carter Simon welcomed the dozens of kids and adults who attended. Simon called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourth-grade club member Brooke Sliwowski led the 4-H pledge.

Simon and the club leaders gave an overview of today's 4-H explaining the benefits to youth and the community. New and existing project leaders attended showing support for the youth who were ready to learn and compete in areas ranging from livestock to STEM to cake decorating.

Club leader Matt Sliwowski explained how 4-H members can participate in the San Luis Valley Fair in Monte Vista and at the Colorado State Fair. The club celebrated current member Sophia Collins' seventh-place win for Dog Showmanship and Agility at the Colorado State Fair.

The club also discussed upcoming events such as electing officers and decorating Creede Main Street and Basham Park for the holidays.

According to 15-year-old club member Hadley Legget, "It looks like there are lots of opportunities for fun activities, projects and community service this year."

After old and new business were discussed, current member JT Cook demonstrated a STEM

experiment about the surface tension of milk. All youth participated in the demonstration. During the meeting, the 4-Hers and adults enjoyed a chili lunch, snacks and games.



Youth aged 8-18 can now enroll in 4-H and choose a project area such as livestock, photography, cake decorating, gardening, STEM and much, much more.

The next Mineral County 4-H meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 5 at the Creede Baptist Church.

For more information, contact the Mineral County Program Coordination for the San Luis Valley Area Extension Office of CSU, Sunday Cook, at 719-318-4612 or sunday.cook@colostate.edu or check out the Mineral County 4-H Club Facebook page.

WRITER

Continued from Page 1A

Chinese Christmas in tropical Guangzhou. She and her then husband, Jim Richardson, were not sure how they would celebrate, but it turned out to be a remarkable Christmas. She will share a couple of other short episodes from her experiences in China on Dec. 11 at the Rio Grande County Museum.

The Third Annual Holiday at the Museum Art Show will continue through Dec. 30. The show gives

local shoppers a wonderful selection of unique, handcrafted gifts from small useful quilted items made by the members of the San Luis Valley Quilters Guild to large paintings, beautiful glass cutting boards, pottery, farm arm sculpture, stained glass and more.

Museum staff has designed a historical calendar for the year 2022. The calendars show photos from the museum photo archives and gives a

small history about each photo. The purchase price will help to support the museum.

For more information, contact the Rio Grande County Museum at 1-719-657-2847, follow us on Facebook or contact us at rgmuseum@riograndecounty.org. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The Museum is located at 580 Oak St., Del Norte.

ESCAPE

Continued from Page 1A

of us, unanimously, are moving the process along quickly as possible so grants can be written to match funds set forth by the County Commissioners. The Commissioners may be holding a

meeting on November 30th about the jail."

At this time, Eddy is still at-large and if you see her or have any information regarding Eddy's whereabouts the Saguache County

Sheriff's Office asks that you notify law enforcement.

Information about upcoming Saguache County Commissioners meetings can be viewed on the County website.

XCEL

Continued from Page 1A

a separate corridor located near to the line's current location. Options for those corridors are currently being evaluated with five different options currently under consideration.

It is anticipated that the proposal for the new location will be determined in early 2022 with construction beginning the following year. As that target date for determination is just a few months away, Xcel held an open house on Wednesday at Society Hall in Alamosa.

Members of the public stopped by, where they could review relevant project information on display while a group of Xcel representatives were on hand to answer questions and explain the situation further.

Xcel Energy states that the company is committed to working with communities in developing a route for the transmission line that will minimize impact to those communities and the surrounding environment where the line would be located while making sure that whatever corridor is selected aligns with engineering and safety standards.

Examples of the issues they take under consideration in selecting a corridor were on display at the open house, including those places prohibited from consideration — like airports — as well as areas devoted to agriculture, areas with habitats for wildlife, areas with an abundance of trees and houses plus culturally important areas or areas where historic structures listed on the national registry are located.

The open house in Alamosa, which followed a similar event held in La Jara the evening before, is part of the preliminary stage of the project that includes public outreach to locals where Xcel representatives discuss and identify the different options that are being considered.

The schedule for the project includes the following dates:

- Transmission routing study: September 2021 – February 2022
- Public outreach: October 2021 – February 2022
- Preferred route selection: February 2022
- Permitting: Spring 2022
- Surveying and easement procurement: Spring – Winter 2022
- Construction: 2023

Another public meeting will be held in Alamosa sometime prior to the end of the year. Announcements about that meeting will be distributed to the public in advance of the event.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to go to the Xcel website at www.transmission.xcelenergy.com/Projects/Colorado/Alamosa-to-Antonito-Transmission-Line to get further information on the project. People are also encouraged to provide feedback by submitting a comment form on or before Feb. 4, 2022, for consideration during the routing study and local permitting process.

Anyone with questions or concerns can also communicate via email at alamosatoantonito@xcelenergy.com or by calling tollfree 1-855-839-886.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 15 and Nov. 21, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included two traffic complaints, and four traffic stops. They also assisted motorists twice, patrolled the Town of Saguache 10 times, responded to one lockout, and conducted one VIN inspection.

In addition, there were four alarm reports, one report of harassment, four reports of trespassing, two fraud reports, two reports of suspicious activity, two missing person reports, one intoxicated person report, one report of civil dispute, one escape, and two animal problem reports.

They also responded to six controlled burns, three reports of loose livestock,

one fire (other), provided information seven times, one citizen assist, assisted nearby agencies three times, and five ambulance calls.

ARRESTS

- A 35-year-old Moffat man was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- A 31-year-old Denver man was arrested on suspicions of harassment, resisting arrest, unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful distribution-manufacturing-dispensing-sale-possession of a controlled substance.
- A 34-year-old Monte Vista man was arrested on suspicion of violating parole.
- A 30-year-old Center man was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence, second-degree assault, and child abuse resulting in injury.
- A 32-year-old Saguache woman was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

Semi-Finals Football

8-Man

- #1 Haxtun 46 #5 Holly 26
- #2 Mancos 26 #11 Sanford 16

CLASS 1A

- #2 Centauri 42 #3 Buena Vista 6
- #1 Limon 42 #5 Wray 8

Centauri vs Limon Saturday Nov. 27 @ 1pm at CSU-Pueblo For State Championship

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Winning the Battle Against Worry

Do you spend time worrying about things in life that are beyond your control? Are you constantly trying to figure situations out? If that's you, I want to let you know that you can rest in God and trust Him to fight your battles for you.

It took years for me to learn that worry is useless. All it did was aggravate me and it didn't change a thing. Worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair and rocking all day—it keeps you busy, but you get absolutely nowhere. At the end of the day, you're still sitting right where you were when you started.

God didn't create us to live worried and stressed-out. The truth is there is no need to worry because we can trust God completely.

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing!

The Bible says that we shouldn't worry about tomorrow or what we're going to eat or drink or wear because tomorrow will have sufficient problems of its own (see Matthew 6:25-26). And God gives us the grace we need every day to handle whatever that day brings.

We need to learn how to trust God one day at a time. Instead of trying to figure out tomorrow, we just need to thank God for today.

In 1 Peter 5:6, the Bible talks about humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt us in due time. And the very next verse says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (NIV). God wants to take care of us. It amazes me that many times we believe that if we think about our problems long enough, we can actually figure them out. We would be so much better off if we would just wait on God to show us what we need to know about the situation.

The Strategy of Trusting God

I want to encourage you to get comfortable with *not knowing*. Part of trusting God is having unanswered questions. Many people have questions they want answers to, but when they get those answers, they don't feel the need to trust God anymore. You might

not have the answers to your questions right now, but what you do have is the ability to trust God.

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Trusting God is the greatest privilege that we have. No matter what kind of problem you have in your life, you get to trust the Lord. He doesn't want you to live in fear. He loves you so much, and He is on your side, working in your situation!

Second Corinthians 10:4-5 talks about one of the greatest weapons God has given us, and that is His Word. When you get overwhelmed by worry in your mind, take the problem and start attacking it with scriptures.

When you speak the Word of God out loud, you're demolishing "arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God..." (NIV). Take time to learn what the Word says so you can recognize the lies of Satan and overcome his attacks.

Faith That Trusts and Conquers All

God operates through our faith, whereas worry prevents Him from working. When I need a breakthrough and I'm trying to figure everything out, I just say, "God, I thank You that You're working right now. I don't see any progress or feel anything happening, but I've prayed. And the minute I prayed, I believe You started working, and I am going to see the victory."

In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat faced many enemies coming at him all at once. At first, the Bible says he felt fear, but then he "set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord" (verse 3). Jehoshaphat had a big problem, but he didn't sit down and worry. Instead, he set himself to seek the Lord and hear what God had to say.

Then in verse 15, God sent a prophet who told Jehoshaphat to "be not afraid or dismayed at this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (AMP). Well, that is good news! You



can win the war with worry because God wants to fight for you!

In verse 17, he says, "You need not fight in this battle; take your positions, stand and witness the salvation of the Lord who is with you." So the position Jehoshaphat took was to get down on his knees and worship God. And he stayed there, worshipping God until he got a breakthrough.

Then, in verse 22, when all the people began to sing and praise the Lord, their enemies got so confused that they killed each other! If you want to confuse the enemy when problems are coming at you, instead of worrying, put your focus on God—worship, sing, and give praise and thanks to Him. Trade your worry for worship, and watch God begin to work. Don't ever say again, "I'm just a worrier." Your new confession is, "I do not worry. I trust God!"

For more on this topic, order Joyce's five-teaching CD series *The Cause and Cure for Worry*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 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.

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.

HVCC working on December programs

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hi, community members! We hope you are enjoying your week. It has been a little too quiet here at HVCC without the kids afterschool. However, we are using our time to work on December programming, and we are excited to share that we have a lot of fun activities planned for the kiddos!

The HVCC Art Program participants have been working diligently on their art projects. They have until Nov. 29, to finish their projects and record a brief overview of their project. We are so excited to see the final product! The art auction will take place on Thursday, Dec. 2, via HVCC social

media. There will be more art auction details to come. The kiddos will have the opportunity to celebrate their hard work with a field trip to Denver on Dec. 4 and 5.

We would like to remind parents and guardians that children who are quarantined from school unfortunately cannot join us at HVCC during their quarantine. As soon as your child is cleared to return to school, they are also welcome back at HVCC.

For our December Fabulous Fridays, we will have several Christmas-themed activities planned such as gingerbread house building, making homemade ornaments, and a salsa competition to name a few! We

are looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with the kiddos.

We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving if you are celebrating! We look forward

to seeing you again on Tuesday, Nov. 30, when HVCC reopens.



Courtesy photos

SJ Nordic Club ski swap is Dec. 4

ALAMOSA — The San Juan Nordic Club, with the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, will be holding its annual ski and gear swap on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, 2222 Old Sanford Rd., Alamosa, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Drop off items to donate or sell on Friday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 5 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 to 10 a.m. Pick up unsold items Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m.

If you wish to sell items, a \$1 fee will be charged to non-members of the Nordic Club and 10% of the sales will go to the Nordic Club. The club uses the funds to groom Nordic ski trails in the San Luis Valley. Currently, those trails are at Big Meadows, east of Wolf Creek and at Rock Creek, south of Monte Vista.

For more information, contact Adam at 336-607-4465 or erinadamoo@gmail.com.

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Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

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Courtesy photo

Teens from rural parts of America came together for the annual Washington, D.C. Youth Tour sponsored by electric cooperatives.

SLV teens: Be a part of something powerful

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs —one’s a big city, the other sits on a big mountain.

Who can think of two better places to spend an all-expense paid week?

If you get your electric power from San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and are a high school junior or senior, then you can apply for a trip you’ll remem-

ber forever.

During the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, participants can learn about co-ops, electricity and see government up close when visiting Capitol Hill, as well as Colorado’s members of congress and senators. The students can also experience history by visiting the many memorials and honoring the patriots who fought for our freedoms.

In Steamboat Springs, participants can set up a cooperative and

learn about power when visiting a mine, coal plant and solar facility. Students can learn leadership skills and the importance of protecting the environment. In addition, they can float the Colorado River, play volleyball and ride the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner. Some activities may change due to COVID restrictions.

On both trips, participants can make new friends and memories **Please see SLV REC on Page 2**



Winterfest and Yuletide celebration on calendar for November 26 and 27

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — With the holidays on the horizon for the San Luis Valley, now is the time to mark the calendars and plan to visit South Fork for its revised Yuletide lighting event and Winterfest.

Both have been combined this year to offer an opportunity for families throughout the Valley to come and enjoy some holiday

cheer, support a community cause and do some holiday shopping.

For the past five years, the Town of South Fork, in conjunction with the newly formed South Fork Friends Foundation, the Yuletide celebration has become an area favorite.

With new funding opportunities and generous donations collected **Please see FESTIVAL on Page 2**



File photos

The annual Yuletide celebration in South Fork will be combined with the annual Winterfest this year. New lights have been purchased for the Town of South Fork through fundraisers and donations.

The Chain Gang

Most would admit it was an unusual location to put a chain in the first place. Not that it didn’t look at home amongst the rotting posts and rusty headgate, but there it was.

Miles and his wife decided their little place could carry a few more cows. It was a good year on the Montana high line but bred heifers were high. So they agreed that buyin’ yearlin’ heifers would be the ticket. They could select a good sire, synchronize the heat cycle and breed them artificially. They bought forty head of light heifers. They secured the Synchronate B and scheduled a breeding date. Miles had intentions to reinforce and repair his corral. Maybe replace some posts in the workin’ alley and bend the chute handles so they worked smooth. But...he got busy with other things. So when the neighbors showed up to help implant the Synchronate, his workin’ facilities still looked like the deck of an abandoned trawler. Running forty head through the chute sounds like a fairly simple task. But, so does changin’ a flat, unless all you have is a crescent wrench and one glove.



They corralled the heifers and started ‘em up the crowdin’ alley toward the chute. Bein’ smallish heifers, a pair could stand side by side in the alley and still have six hooves on the ground. The crew actually managed to get twenty-four head loaded at one time before the inside wall broke and fell over with a thud.

The heifers tromped over the downed

boards and escaped back in to the corral. Ingenious fellow that he was, Miles grabbed a chunk of tow chain from his pickup bed. With the neighbor’s help, he pushed the side of the alley upright and secured it across the top with the chain. It held while they ran the heifers back through and applied the Synchronate B implants.

Nine days later Miles enlisted the help of his long suffering wife Linda to remove the implant pellets. She was workin’ the headgate. He was often forced to get behind the heifers in the valley and push ‘em up. Linda, ever vigilant for his welfare, constantly reminded him about the chain. By the time they were down to the last two heifers, Linda was workin’ at the head end with a flashlight. Miles had meant to get the floodlight fixed too, but every time he thought of it, it was broad daylight.

The last heifer turned around in the chute and ran back over the top of Miles...for the second time. He ran after her cursing and chased her back up the alley screaming and whackin’ at her with a flat stick. He reared

back with his arm at a full gallop, just as Linda said, “What out for the ...!” Miles hit the chain just about pencil pocket high. His feet shot straight out! His chin hooked the chain. He stopped short of makin’ a complete counter-clockwise revolution when gravity overcame velocity, and he dropped from the air like a hog carcass from a C47. Whop! The heifer whirled and galloped over him like a footlog.

Two years have passed. Miles still has good intentions but a lot of cows have passed under that chain since then. And every time he thinks about fixin’ it, somethin’ else comes up.

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



URGSD building receives architectural award

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — The Upper Rio Grande School District announced last week that its Del Norte K-12 project received an architectural award from Learning by Design Magazine.

The state-of-the-art building is like nothing the Valley had ever seen and the flowing architectural design has gained notoriety throughout the state for the past two years since its completion.

According to the magazine's article, "TreanorHL received one of only six Citation of Excellence awards from Learning By Design Magazine for the Del Norte K-12 project. The scoring for the magazine's Fall 2021 Architectural and Interior Design Awards was based heavily on innovation, community needs, interior design, sustainability, functional design, and next-generation learning."



Jury comments about the Del Norte school project included: "This is a forward-thinking, beautiful design that should serve a rural community well both as a school and community hub. Each part of the building incorporates spaces for student gathering and connecting, including a work bar beneath the central learning stair, and team centers for elementary, middle and high school students that combine formal and informal furniture. The commons and shared spaces integrate elements of western lodges with those of community centers and schools. The result is a terrific balance."

In addition to Del Norte K-12, Learning by Design also awarded Meeker High School, Roosevelt High School and Buena Vista Middle and High School with Outstanding Project awards.

Del Norte was featured in this

month's edition of Learning by Design which focuses on the architectural significance of the building. The 122,000-square-foot school is the highlight of the edition and one that shows the tremendous amount of effort that was put into designing the new building, playground and athletic complex.

URGSD was awarded a BEST grant in 2017 and passed a bond to help make up the difference of what was needed to build the new school. This was also highlighted in the edition, showing the vital role the community played in the creation of the new school.

The open, user-friendly design has been a benefit to the students, teachers and staff that have made this building their second home and the newer facilities have also played a role in the safety and well being of students with new air filtration systems, new cafeteria and open learning spaces that are utilized daily by classes K through 12.

Colorado to see billions in federal infrastructure bill

(The Center Square) — Colorado stands to see billions in federal funding from the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives over the weekend.

The funding is meant for infrastructure improvements on roads and bridges, public transit and airports, as well as the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations and wildfire mitigation efforts.

Colorado's congressional delegation voted 6-3 along party lines to pass the bill, with Republican Reps. Lauren Boebert, Ken Buck, and Doug Lamborn voting against the bill.

"This is American democracy at its best," Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., said in a statement. "We've just passed the biggest climate bill in U.S. history and the biggest infrastructure investment since the New Deal. While there's more to come, today America showed we can work together."

Colorado is expected to get \$3.7 billion for road improvements and \$225 million for bridge improvements, as well as more

than \$110 million to expand the state's broadband infrastructure, and \$57 million for electric vehicle charging stations.

Other investments Colorado is set to receive under the bill include \$432 million for airport projects over five years, \$688 million for clean water projects, and \$35 million for wildfire protection.

Rep. Lamborn criticized the bill for failing to modernize the National Environmental Policy Act process, which he argues makes infrastructure projects unnecessarily "lengthy and costly."

Lamborn also said that the bill fails to invest in "traditional" infrastructure, and instead favors investments in Green New Deal initiatives.

"While it is true that we need to address many forms of infrastructure, such as replacing aging roads and bridges, strengthening our electrical grid, and expanding access to broadband, I could not support legislation that spends so little on traditional infrastructure," Lamborn said in a statement.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1 —

this past year, the South Fork Friends Foundation purchased new festive lighting to decorate the town. This was made possible through the several yard sale events held throughout the year and donations made by private and non-profit entities.

The festivities begin with a craft and vendor fair beginning at noon in the Old Hungry Logger building next to the South Fork Visitor Center on Nov. 26 until 7 p.m. with the tree lighting ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. There will be live Christmas

music and an appearance by Santa Claus. There will be warm beverages, snacks and gifts for the children who attend.

On Saturday, Nov. 27, the South Fork Winterfest will kick off at 9 a.m. and go until 4 p.m. with another opportunity to meet with Santa Claus and more.

For more information, visit the South Fork Friends Foundation Facebook page or for vendor information contact darlene@electricfiberarts.com.

SLV REC

Continued from Page 1 —

that last a lifetime. The application process includes submitting a 500-word essay or a four-minute video. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 12, 2022.

More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call or email Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or jalonzo@slvrec.com, with questions.

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8			7	3				5

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Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

	H	E	W		P	A	D		E	P	I						
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Creede Trustees make Dark Sky Lighting official

Submitted Article

CREEDE — City of Creede Board of Trustees on Nov. 9 to approved Ordinance 433, which pertains to Dark Sky Lighting. Set to go into effect in December, the ordinance will apply to all outdoor lighting within Creede's city limits.

However, those who don't yet have appropriate lighting will not be penalized. The ordinance is intended to encourage the eventual adoption of dark sky-friendly lighting as time, budgets, and maintenance allows.

The primary stipulations of the ordinance are to fully shield lighting so that it only illuminates what's important, choose lighting that is below 3000 Kelvins, meaning more yellow in color rather than blue, use dimmer bulbs, less than 500 lumens, and only use lighting when necessary. When purchasing new bulbs and fixtures, most of this information is on the packaging.

"It's really not about changing a large portion of the outdoor lighting fixtures," says Alex Handloff, Communications Director at Headwaters Alliance, who has been working with the city on the ordinance and on the proposed Southern San Juan Dark Sky Reserve. "We are already an incredibly dark region with a great deal of lighting that is dark sky friendly. The real purpose is to maintain our level of darkness and preserve it for future generations. It's about understanding what light pollution is and how limiting it is beneficial for everyone — it saves money, people sleep better, animals thrive, and we get to stand in awe of the cosmos."

It's true, many outdoor lights are already in compliance, including a large number of the city street lights. Headwaters Alliance (HWA) and the City of Creede have been working with San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop to ensure that replaced fixtures and bulbs are dark sky approved.

The ordinance is a critical part of the ongoing work by HWA to earn designation from the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) for the Southern San Juan Dark Sky Reserve. The proposed Reserve covers over 420,000 acres within Mineral County and will help preserve the astonishingly dark sky that we all value. HWA has been hard at work taking dark sky measurements, hosting events, and taking an inventory of existing lighting in order to finish the application and receive approval from IDSA.

Preserving the dark sky has many benefits for people and for plants and animals. For example, energy use can be dramatically reduced with more efficient bulbs and by only using lighting when necessary; neighbors greatly appreciate when lighting doesn't shine into their houses; shielded lighting is safer because it reduces glare and only illuminates what's important; and most importantly, a Dark Sky Reserve ensures that the cosmos will continue to inspire, humble and entertain us all for generations to come.

"Everyone we talk to about this project loves it! It has tremendous community support going forward because we already love and value our dark night sky, seeing the Milky

Way and experiencing the wilderness of our mountain home," says Heather Greenwolf, Executive Director, Headwaters Alliance. "The vast majority of folks and businesses in Mineral County are already practicing Dark Sky-friendly lighting."

Now that the City ordinance has passed, officials are encouraging the community to do its part. When bulbs or fixtures need to be replaced, look

for dark sky approved lighting. A great resource exists on the International Dark Sky Association website (darksky.org). Remember to turn off outdoor lighting when you aren't using it and when you leave on vacation or for the season. Email coordinator@headwatersalliance.org with any questions.

Support HWA for Colorado Gives Day on Dec. 7. Your donation directly helps projects like the Southern San

Juan Dark Sky Reserve as well as ongoing work in water quality at the Nelson Tunnel Superfund Site, 2022 restoration of the lower Willow Creek Floodplain, flood mitigation in North Creede and the City of Creede and more! Learn more and donate at headwatersalliance.com.

For more information, contact Handloff at coordinator@headwatersalliance.org.



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Courtesy photo
The City of Creede took steps to help with Dark Sky efforts in and around city limits. Headwaters Alliance is working to make Mineral County a Dark Sky Destination and the new ordinance will help with efforts to get the designation.

Letters to Santa

Will be published in the December 15, 2021 issues of your local newspaper

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02 CARD OF THANKS
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04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
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We think Scout is a Beagle/Spaniel mix that is about 10 months old, and approximately 30 pounds. He's a very playful and energetic young fella who gets along with everyone, dogs and people, that he meets. Definitely a great family dog with lots of love to give. Come meet him today!

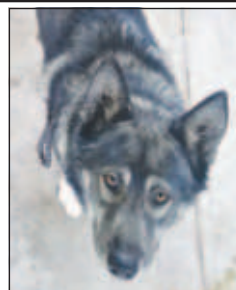


Ms Abby is estimated to be around 10 months old and 35 pounds. We believe she's a Heeler and Australian Shepherd mix. Abby is very smart and has great potential to be a working family dog. High energy, very bouncy and needs lots of room to run. Also great with kids and dogs, she's just looking for her forever home!



Rex is our 2 year old German shepherd, who is about 90 pounds and our other resident shy guy. He's high energy, really enjoys his walks and chew toys. He needs someone willing to take the time to get to know him and build his trust. Great on leash, and can be very talkative when the mood strikes him. Stop by and see if you're a match for each other!

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agement is responsible for all aspects of Human Resources (HR) and Risk management for the City of Monte Vista. This position directs the strategic direction and manages the related functions of the department which includes compensation, benefits, safety, workers' compensation, recruitment, training, performance management, and all employee records. Establishes and maintains all employee related policies and procedures in compliance with regulatory requirements. Communicates risk policies and processes for the City. Provides hands-on development of risk models and assures controls are operating effectively. Minimum of four (4) years' progressively responsible experience in human resources. Three (3) years of proven, successful experience in a managerial or executive level position. Two (2) years of experience in Risk/Safety Management. A bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business, public or personnel administration or related field, or an equivalent combination of education and experience is desired. PHR/SHRM certification is preferred. This is full time employment. The general hiring minimum salary is \$51,000.00 DOE, plus full-benefits. To apply please visit: www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or applications can be picked up at City Hall, 95 W. 1st Ave Monte Vista, CO 81144. Position will remain open until filled, first review 9 September 2021. EEO ADA (11/24)

The San Luis Valley Area

Health Education Center is seeking a Registered Nurse for our Nurse Coordinator position (full-time at 32 hours/week). The position requires a minimum of a BSN degree. Preferred candidates demonstrate the ability to work independently and within a team, have good supervisory skills, and are committed to improving the health of the San Luis Valley. Excellent benefit package. Please send a cover letter and resume/CV to career@slvahec.org by November 5, 2021. SLV AHEC is an EOE. Please note that the previous ad included an inaccurate web address. (11-25)

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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November 27, 2021

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Step 2:

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- You do not have to spend money to participate!

Step 3:

- Turn in your completed cards (by Jan 29) to HVCC for a chance to win prizes

Step 4:

- Await the announcement of the program winners on Feb 1

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DEC 1

PASSPORT DROP-OFF:
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FEB 1

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Photo courtesy of SLVH

From left to right, San Luis Valley Health's Kathy Hostetter, RN and Dr. Amy Robertson, MD, and Rita Montoya. SLVH Women's Clinic is offering a new non-invasive way to treat overactive bladders.

SLVH Women's Clinic offers new non-invasive way to treat overactive bladders

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Rita Montoya, a patient of Dr. Amy Robertson at the San Luis Valley Health Women's Clinic, was starting to think the only way to help her overactive bladder was surgery. But Dr. Robertson suggested the Posterior Tibial Nerve Stimulation (PTNS) treatment instead and it has helped Montoya immensely.

Overactive bladders can be caused by a variety of factors, and affect more women than men. Symptoms can include feeling a sudden urge to urinate that's difficult to control, incontinence, and frequent urination, particularly if someone has to wake multiple times in the night to go to the bathroom.

For Montoya, she said the two biggest problems she had with her overactive bladder were her inability to sleep throughout the night and exercising. She couldn't walk or go anywhere without worrying about getting to the bathroom in time if the urge hit her.

Needless to say, having an overactive bladder can be disruptive to a person's life and, according to the Mayo Clinic, can cause anxiety and depression.

However, people in the San Luis Valley with overactive bladders have more options with SLVH's newest treatment offered.

PTNS is non-invasive and can treat overactive bladders by stimulating a nerve that runs through the leg.

The treatment involves a needle electrode — the size of an acupuncture needle — being inserted near the patient's ankle. Then, the clinician will attach the stimulator. The patient will sit for about 30 minutes as the stimulator sends out gentle impulses.

Montoya said she only feels subtle pulses in her foot, otherwise there's no pain or discomfort as she waits.

As far as results go, Montoya said she's only had a positive experience.

"I would have accidents sometimes, but [after PTNS], I can go walking and I don't have to worry about it," she said. "It's pretty awesome. And the first night I slept through the night, I woke up feeling refreshed. So now I

tell everyone about it."

The treatment is performed once a week for 12 weeks. Afterward, occasional treatments may be necessary to sustain results. Montoya

is currently coming in for treatment about once a month.

"For me, it's a great alternative to surgery, it's non-invasive, and it's really worked for me," she said.

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SLVH Foundation seeks gently used medical equipment

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Ramirez is first recipient of the Brody Geiser Memorial Scholarship

Playing it forward

By Prof. Ed Crowther

ALAMOSA — Last week, Jeff Geiser, Ph.D., made a surprise return to Rex Stadium. After a sterling career as a linebacker at the University of Colorado, Geiser served as the head football coach at Adams State University for 13 seasons (1984-1996), taking his team to back-to-back playoff berths.

Earning his doctorate during his coaching tenure at Adams State, Geiser subsequently served as the department chair of exercise, physiology, and leisure science and as Adams State's athletic director before serving as athletic director at Eastern New Mexico University.

Following the tragic death of his son, Brody, in 2020, Jeff and his wife, Nancy, established a memorial scholarship to support a student athlete from the San Luis Valley.

On Nov. 3, the Geiser's formally awarded the scholarship to Angelo Ramirez, currently a defensive lineman for the Adams State Grizzlies and a wildlife biology major. Ramirez was a standout player for Alamosa High School's Mean Moose, earning All-Conference, All-Valley, and All-State honors in 2017, and is now a stalwart starter for the Grizzlies' defense.

"I'm hoping something good can come out of a tragedy," said Geiser, recalling that Brody literally followed him on the sidelines of Rex Stadium, handling the cord for his father's head set and serving as a ball boy for the football team.

Coach Geiser reminded the Grizzly players to "have fun" as they pursue athletic success on the gridiron. Nominated by Head Coach Jarrell Harrison to receive the award, Ramirez represents the values inherent in the scholarship of teamwork and dedication.

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Happy 2021 Thanksgiving To Our Many Good Neighbors



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

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Valley Courier
719-589-2553
2205 State Ave. • Alamosa



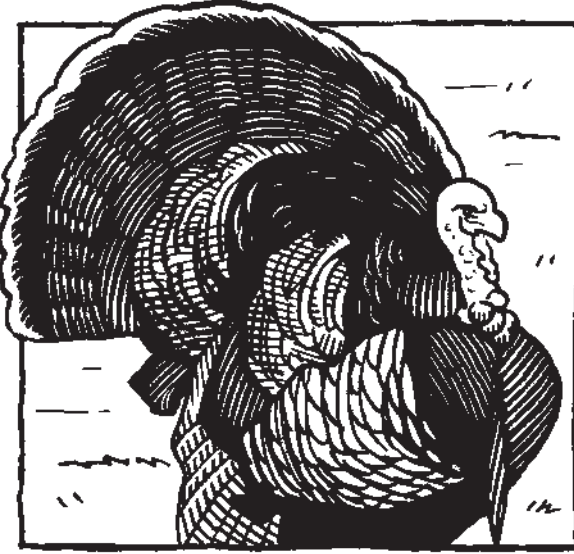
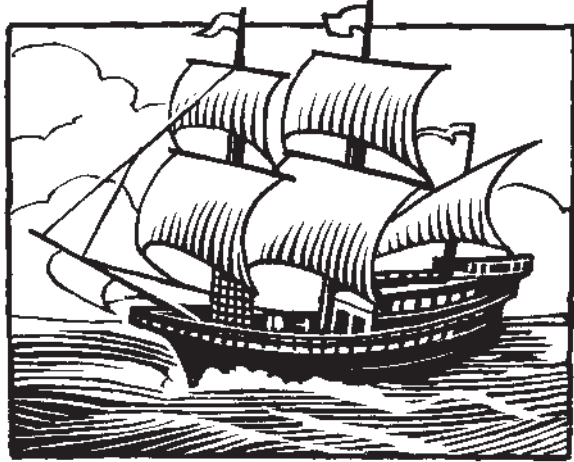
With gratitude in our hearts, we'd like to send our warmest wishes for a happy Thanksgiving to our valued customers, friends, associates and neighbors in this community.

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

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To All Our Good Neighbors At Thanksgiving



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

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

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Thanksgiving Greetings

To our customers, neighbors, associates and friends we send a bounty of best wishes for a joyful Thanksgiving celebration. We know we're truly thankful to serve people like you!



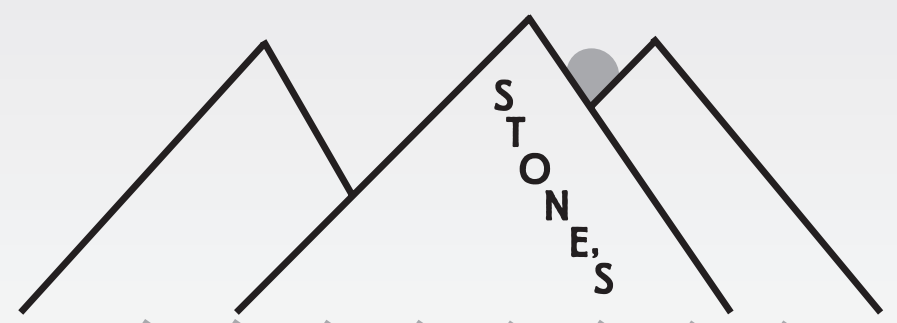
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A Bounty of Best Wishes at Thanksgiving



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



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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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

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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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Enjoy the serenity of this cabin nestled against the cliffs behind it. Close to center of town and only 18 miles from the Wolf Creek Ski Resort. This cozy 1 bedroom cabin has gas fireplace, six foot wood fence surrounding property, a 8'x12' storage shed with electricity. Close to the Rio Grande Golf and Resort and many fishing holes in almost all directions. Home can be used as full time or part time. Cabin has recently been stained outside. \$175,000 MLS#787843



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This home sits on a very large lot that equals almost 1 acre! Lots of potential for this home to be just as you love it with some TLC. Large living room with a fireplace and big windows with lots of light! Two bedrooms with a 3rd room that was a bedroom at one time and could be turned back into a bedroom or used as an office area. Storage room with lots of space. \$158,500 MLS#788147

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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!
\$69,900 Beautiful 8.01 Acre parcel located in Crow's Nest subdivision in South Fork, CO. Paved roads, city water and sewer with water tap that is currently paid. Wonderful mountain views over looking the Rio Grande River and the town of South Fork. Your perfect location to build your dream home. Moments away from Gold medal fly fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, 4 wheeling, hiking and everything outdoors. Call and schedule your showing today! MLS #775764
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• 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000
Charming 1,518 SQ FT Home with attached 672 SQ FT Cement Floor Garage with Workshop and additional 2 storage units. Bright and cheery with large living area with fire place and large windows with beautiful view's of Beaver Mountain and plenty of sun shine. This home is complete with 4 heat sources! 2 ETS systems, Base board heating (all rooms), Solar heat and Fireplace. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. MLS#777866
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SOLD

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
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UNDER CONTRACT

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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FOR SALE

BACK ON THE MARKET
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
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FOR SALE
Look Improved Price! \$54,000
Beautiful parcels, Lot 11 and 12 with scenic views of the surrounding mountains in Deer Park. Paved roads with water / city water and sewer and utilities in place and ready to build. Minutes from the Rio Grande River. Enjoy the mule deer and wild turkeys that visit Deer Park often. Moments from skiing, fly fishing, hiking, hunting and everything outdoors. Start your adventure and schedule your showing today!
MLS #766836
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Willys Peck Kent



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



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



Holiday Tree-Shaped Cheese Ball

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

Ingredients

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

Directions

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



Fruited Brazil Nut Loaves

Makes two loaves

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

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

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

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

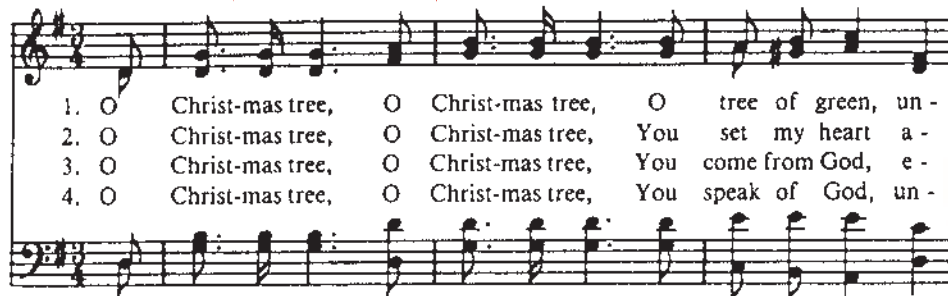
In separate bowl, beat eggs well; stir in vanilla. Add to fruit mixture and mix well; spoon into prepared pans. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven for 1 hour or until cake tester inserted into centre comes out clean.

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

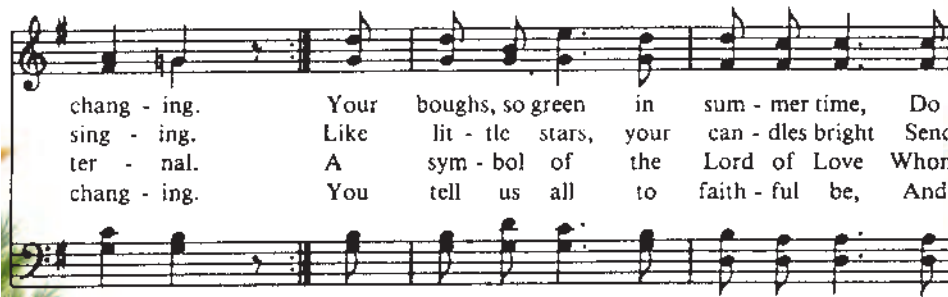
Loaves can be wrapped well and refrigerated for up to two weeks.

O CHRISTMAS tree

German



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



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



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



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





Leche Frita

Enjoy a sweet ending to a traditional meal (433 words, US, UK, CAN)

A tasty dessert is the perfect way to cap a meal. But with so many sweet possibilities, many may find it difficult to choose their favorite decadent delicacy.

Custards and puddings often make a great ending to dinner because they are flavorful and can be customized depending on individual tastes. Puddings also are not very filling, meaning there will always be room for a little bit of a treat.

The following recipe for "Leche Frita" from M. Teresa Segura's "Spain" (Fall River Press) is popular throughout northern Spain. It combines a meltingly creamy center with a crunchy coating. The squares can be enjoyed hot or cold.

- Leche Frita**
(Crisp Custard Squares)
Serves 6
- 18 fluid ounces creamy milk
 - 3 strips lemon zest
 - 1/2 cinnamon stick
 - 4 ounces superfine sugar, plus extra for dusting
 - 4 tablespoons corn starch
 - 4 tablespoons flour
 - 3 large egg yolks
 - Sunflower oil for frying
 - 2 eggs, to coat
 - 6 tablespoons bread crumbs
 - Ground cinnamon for dusting

Bring the milk, lemon zest, cinnamon stick, and sugar to a boil in a saucepan, stirring gently. Cover and leave off the heat to infuse for 20 minutes.

Put the cornstarch and flour in a bowl and beat in the egg yolks with a wooden spoon. Start adding some of the milk until the batter is smooth. Strain in the rest of the hot milk, then pour back into the pan. Cook over a low heat, stirring continuously. It will not curdle, but does thicken unevenly if you let it. Cook for a couple of minutes until it becomes a thick custard that separates from the side of the pan. Beat it hard with the spoon to keep it smooth. Pour into a small baking tray, smoothing to a square, about 8 x 8 inches and 1/2 inch deep. Cool and then chill.

Pour oil into a shallow skillet to a depth of

JINGLE

bells

J. Pierpont

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

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

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

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

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

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

about 1/2 inch and heat until very hot. Cut the custard into 12 squares. Beat the eggs on a plate and lift half the squares into the egg with a metal spatula. Coat, then lift them onto a tray of crumbs (big, stale crumbs are best, but dried will do), and coat all around.

Lift them with a clean palette knife into the oil and fry for a couple of minutes, spooning the oil over the top, until golden. Reserve on paper towel while you fry the second batch. Dust with sugar and cinnamon before serving. They can be served hot as well, but are excellent when chilled.

No Bake Fruit Cake

(For those who don't like traditional fruitcake)

- 1 lb. box graham crackers
- 30 marshmallows
- 1/2 lb. (2 sticks) oleo
- 1 10 oz. bottle maraschino cherries, drained
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1 c. raisins

Crush graham crackers by hand. Melt marshmallows and oleo together over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Cup up drained cherries.

In a large bowl, stir all ingredients together, mix well. Pack into loaf pan (sprayed with nonstick spray) or wax paper lined graham cracker box and refrigerate. Let set approx. 24 hours, slice and serve. Enjoy!



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WHILE SHEPHERDS watched

Nahum Tate Este

1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground,
 2. "Fear not," said he for might-y dread Had seized their trou-bled minds
 3. "To you in Dav-id's town this day, Is born of Dav-id's line
 4. "The heav'n-ly Babe you there shall find, To hu-man view dis-played,
 5. Thus spake the se-raph and forth-with Ap-pear'd a shin-ing throug

The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round.
 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring, To you and all man-kind.
 The Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign.
 All mean-ly wrapp'd in swath-ing bands And in a man-ger laid."
 Of an-gels, prais-ing God, who thus Ad-dress'd their joy-ful song:

Create a delicious one-pot meal for a crowd

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



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

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

Creamy Ham 'n' Broccoli

Serves 6 to 8

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

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

Del Norte 2021 Tour of Lights

Presented by the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce

Light Decorations

- Decorations must be up by December 3, 2021
No registration required
- Contest applies to Del Norte residents within city limits only
- (3) \$250 prizes (residential only)
- Best decorated business will be recognized

Santa-Guided Tour Around Del Norte

- Cars will line up on French Street — Tour line-up 5:30 p.m.
- Santa will begin the tour at 6:00 p.m.
- You do not need a decorated car to participate (3) \$100.00 prizes for best decorated cars!
- Exact location and a map of the tour will be posted on the Chamber's website — www.DelNorteChamber.org (1150 French St.) and the tour will begin at 6pm.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

VISIT DEL NORTE FOR THE FIREWORKS!
FRIDAY, DEC. 3 AT 7P.M.
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kathysfabrictrunk@gmail.com

Fireworks

- Fireworks will launch from the "D"
- Show will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- After the tour of lights, find a comfy spot and catch the fireworks show!

December 3, 2021 | Tour @ 6 p.m. • Fireworks @ 7 p.m.



Eggnog Fudge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grandma Rea's Fudge

5 c. sugar
 1/2 c. margarine
 Pinch of salt
 1 tsp. Vanilla
 1 large can of evaporated milk
 1 bag chocolate chips
 3 c. marshmallows

Add sugar, margarine, milk, and vanilla to pot.
 Boil for 5 minutes, mix while boiling.
 Remove from heat, add chocolate chips, and marshmallows.
 Stir and pour into greased 9x13 dish. Can add nuts.



CHRISTMAS is coming

English Edith Nesbitt

Christ - mas is com - ing, The goose is get - ting fat;
 Please to put a pen - ny in the old man's hat,
 Please to put a pen - ny in the old man's hat.

PEPPERMINT CRINKLE COOKIES

2 cups flour
 1 T. baking powder
 1/4 cup cocoa powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 10 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
 8 T. butter
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 2 eggs
 1 cup peppermint chips or crushed candy canes
 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Combine the flour, baking powder, cocoa powder and salt. Whisk gently to blend. Set aside. Melt the chocolate chips in the microwave. Let cool slightly. Beat the butter and sugar until fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time. Add the melted chocolate and mix until well blended. Fold in the flour mixture and the peppermint chips (crushed candy canes). Cool the dough in the refrigerator for 1-2 hours (overnight is okay too). Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare pans with parchment paper. Make small balls with the cookie dough. Roll in the powdered sugar. Place on the prepared baking pans and bake for 10-12 minutes. Let cool on the pan for about 5 minutes then cool completely on wire racks. Dust with more powdered sugar if needed.

Monte Vista Coop Women's Appreciation

COOKBOOK

All proceeds go towards the Monte Vista Coop Dedication to Education Foundation. Available for purchase at the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store.

AWAY IN *a manger*

German

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

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

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

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



Traditional Roast Turkey

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

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

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

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

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

Chestnut stuffing:
Cook fresh chestnuts in a saucepan of boiling water for about 3 minutes to soften the shells. Peel them while still hot, wearing rubber gloves. Put the peeled fresh chestnuts in a saucepan, cover them with the milk, and simmer gently until softened, about 30 minutes to 1 hour, depending on how fresh they are. Strain them if necessary, then weigh out 7 oz. (196 g) and put in a bowl. Crumble the cooked chestnuts with your fingers and use the sausage meat to bind them. Heat the oil in a skillet, add onion, liver, and bacon and fry gently until the liver is firm. Stir in the parsley and cook until the mixture begins to brown. Add to the chestnuts with some salt and pepper.

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

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

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

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

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

DECK THE *halls*

WORDS TRADITIONAL

OLD WELSH AIR

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

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

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

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





Kids cookies

- 1 pkg. cake mix and 1/4 c. flour, sifted together
- 1/2 c. oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 12-ounce package of M&Ms or chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. nut topping (optional)
- 3 kids ranging in age from almost 8 to just turned 4
- jug of white wine

- Preheat oven to 375
- Explain to grandson that there's no reason to turn the light on, since there is nothing to watch.
- Combine cake mix, oil, vanilla and eggs and beat until well blended.
- Remove M&Ms from hands of grandkids, explain that they're for cookies.
- Explain why the nuts are all cut up and what kinds of nuts they are. Try to make six-year-old understand that walnuts do not grow on walls.
- Mix nuts and candies into dough.
- Pour two ounces of wine into cook.
- Provide three spoons for tasting cookie dough.
- Spend three minutes explaining why cookies are called cookies and they're dough before they go into the oven.
- Clean up teaspoonful of dough from floor. Explain that no one died and there's more.
- Drop teaspoonfuls of dough two inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets.
- Let eldest child put one in the oven. Move cookie sheet from bottom to middle shelf.
- Thank God it's a gas range.
- Turn on the oven light and arrange assistant cooks in front of the door.
- Explain that nothing will happen right away. Listen to question, "are they done yet?" 10 times.
- Pour two ounces of wine into cook
- Forget how long the cookies have been in the oven and explain that cookies when you were a girl were always dark brown on the bottom.
- Cool first batch for one minute on cookie sheets and cool on waxed paper on the kitchen table. Remove cat from chair. Remove four-year-old from chair. Get ice cube for fingers. Listen to tattling from two older sisters.
- Set timer at 15 minutes for next batch. Wipe off cookie sheets and start over.
- Pour two ounces of wine into cook.
- Get three glasses of milk and give each child a cookie.
- Try to explain why cookie dough tastes different.
- Take out last batch of cookies, note that only three look burned. Throw out for the birds.
- Store in large plastic canister with tight lid.
- Recall that cookies are \$2.50 a dozen at Wal-Mart.

I HEARD THE BELLS

on christmas day

Henry W. Longfellow

J. Baptiste Calkin



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



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



CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

- 6:00 PM: Music at City Hall
- 6:30 PM: Illumination of City Hall
- 6:35 PM: Walk to Santa

City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave.

Music By ASU Music Dept. Featuring their Brass Quartet & Clarinet Duo

Dress Warm!
 Holiday Attire Encouraged!
 Please Use Sidewalks to Travel
 Between Locations and be
 Mindful of Traffic.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Alamosarec.org



Shop Local!



Christmas in Candyland

Monte Vista's Annual Christmas Celebration!
Saturday, December 4th, 2021

Tree Lighting and Caroling
at Fullenwider Park - 5:15 p.m.

Parade on Adams Street - 6 p.m.

Come enjoy warm, cozy fires and a Parade of lights!
North Pole at Rain Brews following the Parade!
Come meet with Santa and enjoy
a hot drink and a cookie!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

Church of the Nazarene Gym - 255 Monroe Street • Monte Vista

Friday, December 3rd • 12 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 4th • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Help support local businesses in your community!

'Tis the season!

Forms for parade
entries, business
window decorating
contest, and home
decorating contest
available by
contacting
Jennifer Becker at
719-850-2709 or
mvcoevents@gmail.com