

Shorts

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.

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.

Del Norte Food Bank Thanksgiving Distribution Nov. 20

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will hold its November-Thanksgiving distribution on Saturday, Nov. 20. They will serve their regular clients from 9 to 10 a.m.

New clients — anyone coming to the food bank for the first time this year — will be served from 10 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 719-657-2872 and leave a message.

SLV Health Offers Child COVID Vax Saturday Event

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health is having a child COVID vaccination event on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Luis Valley Health Education-Conference Center, 1921 Main St., Alamosa. Every child, age 5-11 years old, who receives their first Pfizer COVID vaccine, will receive a free snow cone and a movie ticket.

Call 719-587-1355 to make a reservation. Walk-ins are also welcome. Only one parent or guardian per child will be allowed in the building as the child receives the COVID vaccine.

Work continues on development of North 90

By Mechel Meek
CENTER — Recently, professionals working in planning and community development discussed strategies and ideas for developing the North 90 acreage.

These professionals were from a variety of areas including the San Luis Valley, other areas in Colorado and nationally. While the town has yet to annex the North 90, the delay is due to the need for a comprehensive plan of action for development.

According to Keith Brockhurst, VISTA Volunteer for the Town of Center, “The American Planning Association sent its Urban Design and Preservation Division’s Design and Preservation Rapid Assistance Team (D-PRAT). Over the course

of several days, this team laid out a sample land use map for the North 90 Addition to accommodate the Town’s need for residential, commercial, public, and industrial space. At the same time, they also worked on a plan for how to further enhance our existing downtown space and how it can be seamlessly connected to the new development.”

The results of the summit were a strong step forward, however, it is in the early first stages toward a long-term and ambitious community improvement project.

“During this summit, while one team was working on planning and designing the spaces in Center, another team made up of SLV

Please see WORK on Page 7A



Photo of courtesy of Town of Center

Professionals working in planning and community development discussed strategies and ideas for developing the North 90 acreage.



Photo by Linda Relyea

The 2021 Adams State Spud Bowl candidates included, right to left, front row, Jessa Christensen, Centauri High School; Kyla Davis, Sargent High School; Aracely Pedro-Pablo, Alamosa High School; Hannah Trujillo, Del Norte High School; Camille Rawinski, Monte Vista High School; back row, Marissa Chacon, Antonito High School; Priscila Zapata-Chavez, Center High School; Dailin Estrada, Sanford High School; Sofia Minchaca, Sierra Grande High School; and JaeLea Maestas, Centennial High School. Not pictured, Yessenia Vera, Mountain Valley High School, and Kamryn Rogers, Sangre de Cristo High School.

The 75th Spud Bowl Queen is Priscila Zapata-Chavez

By LINDA RELYEA
ALAMOSA — Priscila Zapata-Chavez, a senior at Center High School, was crowned the 75th

Spud Bowl Queen during halftime of the Adams State University vs. Fort Lewis College football game on Nov. 6. Autumn Yocom, a 2020

Sargent High School graduate and current Adams State student, also received recognition at halftime.
Please see SPUD on Page 4A

Center Schools update: Librarian receives grant

Teachers and students receive recognition for projects

By MECHEL MEEK
CENTER — In her weekly update, Center Consolidated Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman outlined some of the progress and events in the school district.

“Congratulations to Lupita Ortega, our district librarian, who received an American Rescue Plan Grant specific to library sciences. The \$6,000 grant was awarded in October and Lu is making

Please see SCHOOL on Page 5A



Photos courtesy of Carrie Zimmerman
Lupita Ortega, Librarian Center Consolidated Schools



Fifth-grade presentation, students: Emy Bustillos, Landry Neufeld, and Elliot Cardoza.

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OBITUARIES

Frances (Fran) Elaine Henson

Frances (Fran) Elaine Henson, 73, died Nov. 10, 2021. She was born in Mena, Ark., on July 15, 1948, to Grady and Gladys (Pitchford) Cook. She was the oldest of three children. Fran grew up in Arkansas and Texas, and moved with her family to the Center, Colo., around 1963. She had moved back to Arkansas and lived in Tennessee for a few years, before returning to Colorado.

In her journey, Fran married her first husband, who gave her five children.

Fran met the love of her life the summer of 1986, Verl Henson. They have spent the last 34 years together. They spent as much time as possible camping and fishing. Family trips were Fran's best memories. Fran and Verl had also taken vacations together to different states and National Parks.

Fran was preceded in death by both of her parents, Grady and Gladys Cook, one daughter, Carolyn May Aldridge, one son, Ronald Sterling Aldridge, two granddaughters, grandparents, and close friends.

She is survived by her husband, Verl Henson, one sister, Kathleen "Sam" Wolfe, one brother, Harley Cook, children, Jon Ray Aldridge, James (Bobby) Aldridge, and Angela (Mike) Bonemeyer. Also, her mother and father-in-law, U.V. and Marylou Henson, bonus children, Ruby and Rusty Lindsey, Ronnie Wayne Knight, and Rhonda Vesper. Fran also was blessed with 18 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Fran didn't know how not to love and accept children as her



own. She is also survived by many "adopted" children and grandchildren. She had a huge heart capable of loving everyone she could.

She wanted to share her love of the Lord and did as much as she could from teaching Bible studies to helping in the church in any way possible. Fran served as a Deacon for many years and worked with children; from nursery to youth group ages. She has now joined her many close church friends and family in heaven.

Frances was a kind, loving, and gentle soul. The family was blessed, and grateful God gave her to us to love for a lifetime. She will be truly missed on this Earth.

The family will have a celebration of life at a later date.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, words of strength and comfort or remembrances for Fran's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Richard Ernest 'Rick' Black

Richard Ernest "Rick" Black, born in Del Norte, Colo., on Feb. 9, 1947, passed away on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, in Loveland, Colo., at the age of 74, due to complications from COVID-19. In recent years, Rick had battled serious medical issues related to his military service in the Vietnam War, but despite this discomfort, Rick met those challenges with his self-deprecating humor, quick wit, and a smile.

One of seven children, Rick was raised in Del Norte, Colo., by Barney and Freeda Black, and graduated high school in 1965 before joining the United States Navy. After Rick's honorable service to our country, he returned home to Del Norte where he met and married the love of his life, Colleen Kathryn Howell, on Sept. 11, 1970. One year later, they welcomed daughter Aimee Kathleen, with a son, Ryan Christopher, arriving two years later.

Rick established a lengthy and highly respected career in law enforcement, beginning with the Springfield Colorado Police Department in 1971, acting as Chief of Police for a time before joining the Baca County Sheriff's Office.

In 1979, Rick moved his family to Lamar, Colo., to accept a position with the Lamar Police Department, where he was Detective Sergeant until his first retirement in 1991.

Continuing his life of service in law enforcement, Rick was a valued member of the Colorado State Patrol dispatch center for a number of years, as well as a well-respected investigator with Rampart Investigations.

Eventually, Rick and Colleen returned to the San Luis Valley and built a home in Del Norte to be near their ever-growing family. Always a man of service, Rick paused his law enforcement career for a time to tend to patients with Respiratory Services Inc., before ultimately taking a position as a parole officer with the Colorado Department of Corrections in 2005.

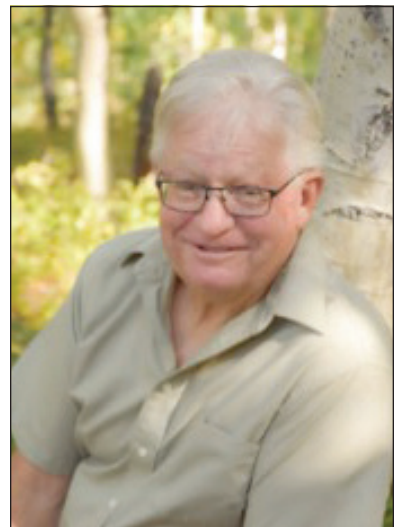
After a commendable and

prestigious career, Rick retired fully from law enforcement in 2015, to concentrate on his health and spend time with his wife, children, grandchildren and ultimately, three great-grandchildren who were the light of his life.

The mountains of the San Luis Valley were truly where Rick found his happiness, so being able to build a home there, surrounded by such a rich family history was always a great source of pride for him, but above all else, he was proud of his family and never shied away from telling anyone who asked, just what a lucky man he was, in his estimation, no man was ever as fortunate as he.

Indeed, Rick lived a life of great integrity where he enjoyed a wealth of love and admiration from family and friends and earned an immense amount of respect from those who knew him.

Rick is survived by his wife of 51 years, Colleen Kathryn Howell Black, and his beloved dogs Deuce and Maddee of the family home in Del Norte, Colo., his daughter Aimee Black (Crystal Richards) of Parker, Colo., his son Ryan Black (Christy Bergman) of Alamosa, Colo., his grandson Kyle Black (Marissa Westerman) of Alamosa, Colo., granddaughter Kayla Black of Del Norte, Colo., and great-grandchildren Jack, Nova and Azuriah. He is also survived by his siblings Ken (Alice) Black, Kelly (Kathy) Black, Patsy Black, and Robin (Craig) Hargis, as well as several cousins, and numerous nieces and nephews. Rick also leaves behind countless friends and



colleagues whose lives were indelibly touched by his loyalty and kindness.

Rick is now joyously reunited with his dearly departed parents Barney and Freeda Black, brothers Ronnie and Donnie, best friend Scott Darnall, treasured mentors Junior Dapron and Willard Goff, as well as a host of beloved family members and lifelong friends.

Per his request, Rick was cremated, and a celebration of life will be held in his honor in 2022. The family wishes to send very special thanks to the exceptional staff at the UCHHealth Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colo., for the incredible care and compassion they demonstrated during this most difficult time. Memorial Donations may be made in Rick's name to Vietnam Veterans of America at <https://vva.org/donate>

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 8 and Nov. 14, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included one crash with property damage, two abandoned vehicles, one traffic complaint, and 12 traffic stops. They also assisted a motorist once, patrolled the Town of Saguache nine times, and conducted two VIN inspections.

In addition, there was one report

of assault, one report of theft, two reports of property damage, one report of threatening, one alarm report, one report of harassment, two reports of trespassing, one report of civil dispute and one animal problem report.

They also responded to four controlled burns, three reports of loose livestock, two civil standbys, one fire (other), one search and rescue call, provided information six times, one citizen assist, and four ambulance calls.

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Early Deadlines due to Thanksgiving

November 24 & 25 issues:
Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 17 @ 5 p.m.
Editorial - Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 5 p.m.

December 1 & 2 issues:
Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 24 @ 12 p.m. (noon)
Editorial - Wednesday, Nov. 24 @ 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on November 25.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Lunar Eclipse

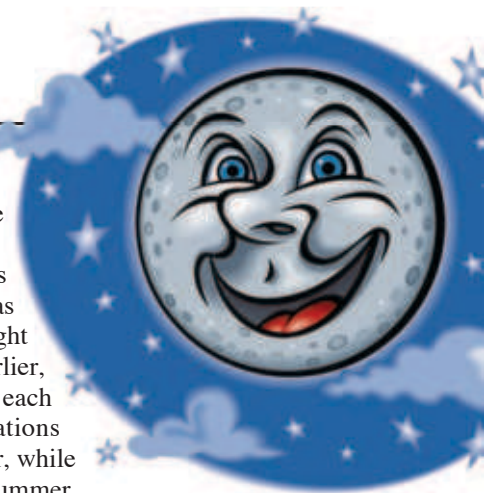
One good thing about this unseasonably warm weather we've been having is that you can go out in the evening and look at the sky without freezing. Unless it's snowing, and I wish it would, the sky this time of the year is always crystal clear. So, there are lots to see — the Andromeda galaxy, many beautiful star clusters, and constellations. The only problem is that the full moon will occur on the 19th. But then in a few days, it will start to rise later, giving us time to observe the stars.

What's interesting about this full moon is that there will be a partial lunar eclipse on the 19th. This happens because Earth is between the Sun and the Moon, so the moon becomes faint. This starts at 12:18 a.m. and peaks at 2:03 a.m. So, when

you get up during the night look at the window until you find the moon, and then see what you can see.

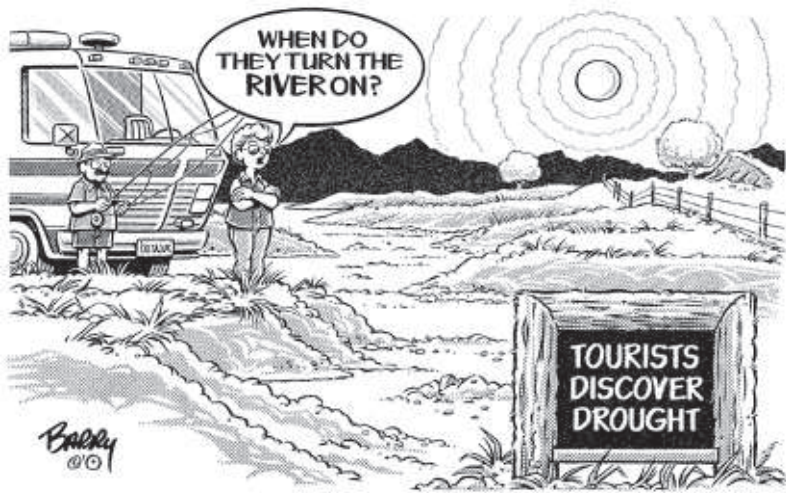
The position of constellations changes throughout the year as Earth orbits the Sun. Each night they rise about 4 minutes earlier, and about 2 hours earlier each month. So, some constellations are only visible in the winter, while others are only visible in the summer. This also changes the position of the Milky Way in our sky. It's now visible overhead from east to west, and the Orion constellation rises in the east close to the Milky Way.

There are also some constellations that are closer to Polaris, the north star, that are always visible. They just seem to change position as they circle around Polaris. Some of these are Ursa Major "the Big Dipper," Ursa Minor "the Little



Dipper," Draco the Dragon, and Cassiopeia.

The moon is high in the sky in the winter and low in the summer, while the Sun is low in the winter and high in the summer. So, in June, the Sun will sit in front of Taurus. This is due to Earth's tilt and the fact that the Sun and Moon are opposite each other. Don't forget to get up at 2 a.m. on the 19th and look for the moon to view what you can see.



Get off my TV

If you follow Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie's travels and temporary sojourns in places far and wide, you know that we spend our summers in Colorado. We have a large RV that we tow thereby helping to increase global warming and keep the gas stations in business. You are welcome, Al Gore.

The mountains are a wonderful place to spend the hot months and Ol' Dutch gets to hunt and fish to his heart's content which is "the plan."

However, there is one thing we do not have there and that is television. Well, we do have the firestick thing if you can figure out how to maneuver through it but I cannot honestly find much on there to watch.

So, it's when we head south for the winter that Ol' Dutch finds himself finally able to get some television via the old rabbit ears antenna.

Now we get football games, old sitcoms, talk shows, Dallas televangelist and celebrity awards shows. Thankfully those shows are limited in occurrence as there are just so many folks for the plethora of awards given out or Miss Trixie would be glued to the boob tube, night and day watching them glad-hand one another and pat themselves on the back.

I have noticed a marked increase, however, in the number of advertising spots offered per hour on that infernal machine. Not only do they interrupt my shows on a regular basis but the length of the interruptions for said ads has increased to the point it almost equals the time of the actual show.

I don't know about you, but I am getting darned tired of Willie Joe Namath pandering to a bunch of old people trying to get them to switch to some Medicare provider. And not only that, but now Captain Kirk has also lent his hand to the effort and tries to crack a funny joke in the middle of the performance.

There is nothing these companies won't stoop to in order to get our money. They have evidently offered Tom Selleck enough dough to sell reverse mortgages, and that is as low as you can stoop in my book. I used to really like the guy but overexposure to this nonsense has ruined my respect for him totally.

Yes, I know television has long been a great medium for getting the news out



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

there about new products and services but of late, they are just pounding out that message in record numbers.

Other products such as vitamins, minerals, medicines, additives, supplements, and food also grace the airwaves with promises of eternal health and youth.

And they all seem to have some kind of beneficial effect on the human body so they must be good, right? There are so many, however, Ol' Dutch wonders if you took all those products if you would even have to eat any food at all.

This reminds me of a fellow that came to our church some many years ago. He was sold on some products in pill form that provided all the nutrients needed for the human body. And had quit eating any natural foods save the plastic-wrapped pills.

Soon Mitch had shriveled up into a tiny being and began to look much like an alien as his eyes bugged out of his head like a bachelor in a peep show.

This poor guy ended up dying from good health and to this day still has not recovered from his ordeal.

Ol' Dutch is about to take the tin foil off the rabbit ears and just live in peace and quiet for the winter. Either that or I will soon find myself mortgaging the property and switching to Broadway Joe's Medicare.

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

LETTER

Living Wisdom Village addresses senior housing challenge — donations needed

Editor,

Chances are good that you know someone struggling to find an affordable home in the San Luis Valley. Although lack of low-income housing is a state-wide issue, it has reached emergency proportions in our rural Valley, where developers can't earn the profits needed to justify their investment and county housing authorities are underfunded. Seniors are one group particularly hard hit by lack of affordable housing and there is a project in Crestone — Living Wisdom Village — that has a solution.

Years ago, it became evident that Crestone was losing valued elders who could no longer afford to live in the community they loved. Crestone Peak Community Housing (CPCH) created Living Wisdom Village, a project that specifically addresses housing needs for low-income seniors who can live independently. A majority of the 50 people on the LWV waitlist are single women with Social Security incomes of less than \$1,000 a month, a consequence of

wage inequality they experienced during their careers.

LWV will be a village of 20 studio, one- and two-bedroom rental homes, where seniors will live safely near supportive and helpful neighbors, within walking distance of downtown Crestone. When seniors have a stable, affordable place to call home, it contributes to improved mental and physical health. This project acknowledges the vital importance of treating seniors with dignity and helping them retain their independence for as long as possible, regardless of their financial capabilities. LWV residents will have the opportunity to not only survive but to thrive, as they encounter the challenges that are a result of the aging process.

Fundraising for LWV is in its final and most crucial stage. Grants have been received from Front Range foundations and the Colorado Division of Housing has made a funding commitment. Crestone community members have donated over \$100,000. The land has been

purchased, the design is finalized, and the project is "shovel ready" to break ground in spring, 2022. Additional funds must be raised by January 2022 to remain aligned with the construction schedule.

This year, LWV is part of one of the largest one-day giving events in the country — Colorado Gives Day — an annual statewide movement that strengthens communities by helping power non-profits like LWV. Every nonprofit receives a portion of a \$1 million-plus incentive fund, increasing the impact and the value of every dollar you donate. Go to livingwisdomvillage.org and schedule your donation for Dec. 7.

We also welcome checks made payable to CPCH. Please send to P.O. Box 911, Crestone CO 81131.

Your donation to this desperately needed project will help create a powerful change in the Crestone community and serve as a model for affordable rural housing in Colorado.

Denise Peine
Secretary, Board of Directors LWV

LETTERS POLICY

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

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to the sender

or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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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.

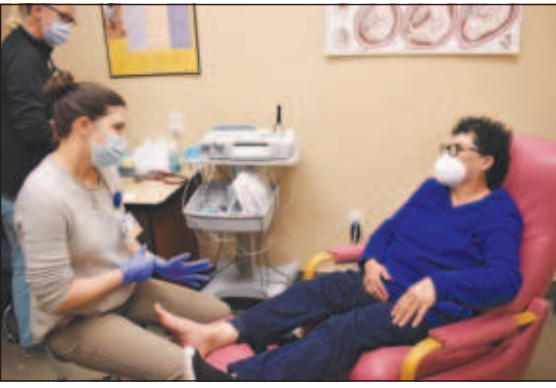


Photo courtesy of SLVH

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.

SPUD

Continued from Page 1A

Due to 2020 COVID restrictions Yocum's crowning was not public.

The Spud Bowl tradition began in 1946, when the potato farmers in the Valley were asked to contribute sacks of spuds to the University, which, in turn, were converted into cash to supplement the athletic program. The tradition and spirit have continued, and Spud Bowl remains a highlight of each football season.

Each year, San Luis Valley high schools are asked to nominate a senior candidate for Spud Bowl. The candidates are interviewed by a panel of judges, and the winner is selected and announced at halftime of the football game. The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and Adams State University Foundation award scholarships of \$1,000 to each contestant to attend Adams State and

\$2,000 to the Spud Bowl Queen.

The 2021 candidates were: Aracely Pedro-Pablo, Alamosa High School; Marissa Chacon, Antonito High School; Jessa Christensen, Centauri High School; JaeLea Maestas, Centennial High School; Priscila Zapata-Chavez, Center High School; Hannah Trujillo, Del Norte High School; Camille Rawinski, Monte Vista High School; Yessenia Vera, Mountain Valley High School; Dailin Estrada, Sanford High School; Kamryn Rogers, Sangre de Cristo High School; Kyla Davis, Sargent High School; and Sofia Minchaca, Sierra Grande High School.

Judges for this year's contest were Roger Mix and Matt Seger, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, and Maria Valdez, Adams State accounting technician II.



Priscila Zapata-Chacon, Center High School, is the 2021 Spud Bowl Queen.



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SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

plans on how best to use those funds to benefit our students and the library. Grant funds have been provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Colorado State Library to help communities respond to the pandemic as well as to related economic and community needs through equitable approaches in digital inclusion and library services," Zimmerman stated.

On Friday, Nov. 12, a vaccination clinic was held by Saguache County Public Health, with COVID-19 vaccines given to 136 people, including 53 children under the age of 12.

Center Schools also have a new nurse

added to the nursing team for the district, Tiffany Smith.

According to Zimmerman, "She is coming on board as part of our COVID relief efforts and will be helping with testing, contact tracing, and providing health support for our after-school programs."

Two teachers were recognized at the Center Schools November board meeting — Tayler Kriss, Skoglund Middle School Science teacher, and Alex Magness a fifth-grade teacher at Haskin Elementary. Both teachers were recognized for their outstanding work in engaging their respective classrooms

student-led learning, where three fifth-grade students held a presentation on various student projects and the fifth-grade yearbook project.

"The students prepared the presentation on their own and shared out about the student-led projects that they are working on in their classroom, including a fifth-grade yearbook project. Students that presented were Eymy



Bustillos, Landry Neufeld, and Elliot Cardoza," according to Zimmerman.

The paraprofessionals and students

in the schools have also been working on decorating the school to make it feel

more inviting.



Photos courtesy of Carrie Zimmerman

Decorations in Center Schools hallways.

SLV Health welcomes Physician Assistant Ballinger to the Orthopedics Team

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Haley Ballinger, PA-C, has joined the Sports Medicine Team at San Luis Valley Health.

As a former NCAA Division I women's tennis student athlete, she brings her fun, competitive spirit to the Orthopedics Team of Drs. Jason Defee, Carissa Tripi and Tish Hollingsworth at Stuart Ave Clinic in Alamosa.

She graduated from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and is looking forward to enjoying the beauty of the outdoors in the San Luis Valley.

She loves interacting with patients, getting to know their stories, and partnering with their care plan to restore their active lifestyles.

She is soon to be married and her fiancé hopes to establish his own business as they explore their first "real" winter and snow together. Call the Sports Medicine Clinic for a consultation today at 719-587-5700.

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/hxLNjfk95QQsvjez8>

For more information CONTACT : (719) 655-2578

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San Luis Valley HEALTH
Welcome Haley Ballinger, PA-C

Haley joined the Sports Medicine department at Stuart Ave Clinic. She is from Louisiana and is excited to meet everyone and explore Colorado. Please read her full bio on the web-site at slvh.org

To schedule with the team, call (719) 587-5700.

Letters to Santa

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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HVCC celebrates girls basketball and diversity

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
Hi, community members! We hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying their November. Our theme of the week was "Social Justice."

The activities introduced the kiddos to the importance of self-identity, celebrating diversity, and the large impact small efforts can make. This theme is especially significant because it brings HVCC's motto, "Youth are the Solution" into practice.

The last week of the girls regular basketball season, HVCC hosted a basketball game between both girls basketball teams and HVCC coaches and parents. The last game of the season was on Saturday, Nov. 13. The end-of-season tournament will be from Nov. 15-20. If you have any questions about the tournament schedule, make sure to check out our website, www.theHVCC.org or give us a call at 719-657-2172.

Many thanks to our four girls basketball coaches — Trish Archuleta, Leroy Trujillo, Kim Gonzalez, and Crystal Maxwell — for not only helping the kiddos to improve their basketball skills but also for helping to build character, which extends past the basketball court. We are also appreciative of the individuals who helped officiate games. You all help contribute to the success of HVCC sports!

Boys grades 3-4 and 5-6 basketball, as well as K-2 co-ed basketball registration closed on Nov. 15. Please note children must also be registered through HVCC to play sports. We will have a few practices early in December and will resume in January after winter break. Keep an eye on our website for basketball updates and an upcoming schedule.

Parents and guardians, this is your last chance to send your kids swimming in 2021! Our final Fabulous Friday at the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool will be on Friday, Nov. 19, and will also include a pizza party! Parents and guardians are welcome to join us! We will have

more fun Fabulous Fridays planned after Thanksgiving break.

Please note that HVCC will be closed from Nov. 23-26 for Thanksgiving break. We will resume Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Have a wonderful week, everyone!



High Valley Community Center spent the past week finishing up swimming lessons and getting ready for the holiday break.

Photos courtesy of HVCC



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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.

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.

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.

Public Notice

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.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Creede is Nov. 20

MINERAL COUNTY — The Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set for 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Creede Underground Community Center. Attendees are asked to bring a large side dish or dessert to share. Turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, and rolls will be provided for free. If you want a meal delivered or want to-go, pick-up, call 719-658-0811 by Nov. 18.

WORK

Continued from Page 1A — Stakeholders and other Colorado experts were working on policy to ensure this development works for current residents and locals. The Town is incredibly grateful for all of the support in making progress on these initiatives and will soon seek to engage the broader Center community," stated Brockhurst. The overall goal of the project is to create a cohesive town, with the new development as a seamless part of the whole, not a distinctly separate area from the current downtown.

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.

Worry Is NOT Your Friend

Worry and I used to be very close companions. We spent a lot of time together and back then, I thought that was a normal way to live. But through the years, God has helped me end my relationship with worry. And He did it with the help of my husband, Dave.

about God's promise, she laughed, because it seemed utterly impossible to her. She was already beyond her childbearing years, and Abraham was no spring chicken. But he chose to look beyond his problem and believe God. I'm absolutely amazed by that!

The Bible says that God can do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). So no matter what our circumstances look like, we just need to keep our eyes on God.

Timing Is Everything, and Everything Takes Time

Typically when we have a problem, God will do one of two things. He'll either remove the problem or He'll give us the ability to get through our time of difficulty with a positive attitude.

As I've grown in my relationship with God, I've become more comfortable leaving that choice up to God. Because if He leads me through something I really don't want to go through, then I know He has a purpose in mind.

As a child I experienced years of sexual abuse, which was absolutely tormenting. The amazing thing is, everything God has done in my life through that horrible situation—all of the healing and restoration—has prepared me to do what He's called me to do today. I didn't always understand why things were happening the way they did at the time, but I learned how to walk by faith and trust God's goodness even when my circumstances didn't make sense to me.

It's absolutely wonderful when we can feel completely comfortable not knowing the "why" behind what's happening in our lives.

We don't always have to know what God is going to do or when He's going to do it. All we really need to know is that God has a plan and He is in control. We can rest in the truth that at the right time, God will execute His plan. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)

Trusting God Brings the Best Results

Get Your Eyes Glued on God I love the story of Abraham, who at 100 years of age, believed God would give Him a son and make him the father of many nations. When Abraham's wife, Sarah, learned



Maybe there's something happening in your life right now that you don't understand and it's causing you to worry. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to say, "I don't understand this and it hurts right now, but I believe God is going to work it out"?

If you've already wasted a lot of your time with worry, I encourage you to break up that bad relationship. Instead of giving way to anxious emotions, you can do what God has urged me to do all these years: Cast your care.

Romans 8:28 says, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." I believe that.

Not everything that happens is good. But it can work out for good for those who keep loving God and keep pursuing His will in their lives. There's nothing God can't turn around if you'll put your trust in Him!

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.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

Football STATE PLAYOFFS

6-Man
Granada 48 Sierra Grande 44

8-Man
Sanford 62 Vail Christian 38

Class 1A
Centauri 40 Yuma 7
Sanford @ Mancos and Buena Vista @ Centauri both games Saturday at 1pm.

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Friends of SLVNWF receive marketing grant

\$28,000 matching grant for the Monte Vista Crane Festival

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges was awarded a \$28,000 marketing matching grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) to fund an enhanced marketing program for the Monte Vista Crane Festival with the goal of increasing visitor stays and spending during and around the annual series of events each spring.

With the funds from this grant, The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Refuges will launch a variety of efforts to enrich the Monte Vista Crane Festival.

To enhance economic activity throughout the typically slow months of February, March, and April, during which the migration takes place, other unique experiences in the San Luis Valley will be promoted alongside the Festival, encouraging tourists to extend their stay.

To diversify local support for the Festival, local outreach will be made to excite community members about the value of cranes and their habitat. Finally, to increase awareness around San Luis Valley's unique environment,



File photo

there will be an effort to educate the public on why cranes depend on this space for successful migration between wintering grounds and breeding grounds.

"With this grant, The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, Monte Vista Crane Festival Committee, strive to encourage diverse tourists of all ages to come experience and learn about Sandhill Cranes and their link to wetlands and agriculture," said Deb Callahan, President of the Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuges and co-chair of the Monte Vista Crane Festival Committee. "We hope once tourists experience the Festival, they will extend their stay beyond the three-day Monte Vista Crane Festival to take advantage of all the unique experiences available in the San Luis Valley."

The grant program awards funding to eligible applicants for projects that promote the state as a tourism

destination, supporting CTO's mission to "drive traveler spending through promotion and development of compelling, sustainable travel experiences throughout our four-corner state."

Additionally, these grants may be used for marketing projects that support better destination management such as educating visitors on how to recreate responsibly.

Project work will begin in January 2022 and will spur future economic development and recovery for the tourism industry throughout the year and beyond. The CTO's Marketing Matching Grant Program awards grants up to \$40,000 and applicants must demonstrate a 2:1 match, including an in-kind match of up to 20 percent.

To learn more about the Monte Vista Crane Festival and the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, visit mvrrefest.org.



Courtesy photo

Paul Morley helps the school that helped him

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

By his own admission, Paul Morley '66 had some growing up to do. During his senior year of high school in South Denver, he didn't give much thought to college or anything else, for that matter.

"I got a new car and a new girlfriend," he said. "I was not taking school seriously. I was skipping a lot. I even thought of dropping out, but my parents and guidance counselor

forced me to graduate."

The summer after graduation, Morley had a change of heart.

"I thought, maybe I better make something of my life. Maybe I need to go to college," he said.

What changed his mind? A visit to Alamosa, where older brother Stephen was a junior at Adams State. Stephen showed him around campus, and they talked about Paul's future.

Please see MORLEY on Page 10

Team Ropin' Conversation

"There's only one thing worse than eating next to a left-handed person, and that's heading for him. It's like trying to screw the male end of a garden hose into the matching threads on your stock tank drain," so spoke Bob to Allen, two fair-to-middlin' team ropers, both fives, in the prime of their addiction. The equivalent of two-pack-a-day ropers.

"Yeah, team ropin's gone to hell," answered Allen. "Used to be one guy had an arena and twelve guys came to his place to rope. You got in good practice, lots of pretty good ropers. It was a social occasion, too."

"Nowdays, everybody's got an arena and nobody comes. You have to rope with your wife and she's learning to barrel race. Fair is fair, so now all my rope horses run barrels too. And of course, she isn't interested in learning to heel, so you have to."

"Right." Said Bob, "Denny Gentry ruined everything. USTRC has made team ropin' so popular every horseshoer, ex-vet and dairy-



man thinks he's Alan Bach."

"I know," said Allen, "It's also attracted so many social ropers with money that I'm embarrassed to buy a new trailer. Used to be the best ropers pulled to ropin's in their 12-year old stock trailer with recaps and rust

holes for ventilation. There wasn't enough money in ropin' to cover the cost of gas."

"At ropin's today there's so many duallies and three-horse slants with dressing rooms, it looks like a Arab horse show. And the guy can't even through a rope!"

"I know what you mean," said Bob, "I've got a motley hand full that come to my arena. I get to head but it's a rare occasion they ever catch. I'm always havin' to offer constructive criticism or advice. It's like a continuing team ropin' clinic for the ability deprived. There's only one left-handed guy that goes through horses like an Amish trader. He still thinks it's the horse's fault! But I'm lucky I've still got a few traditional heelers that come by. You know, fresh divorced, ridin' a house that's for sale and pullin' a '92 Hale two-horse rig. A real roper that gets there after you've wrapped the hons and drinks your beer. But at least I feel like I'm practicin' ropin' and not just

practicin' practicin'."

"Yeah, they're in demand," sighed Allen.

Bob continued, "I've even fenced off an area in the arena for kids. Swing set, ropin' dummy and park bench with some shade. Sort of day care whey they have the kids on weekends."

"Day care...I like that," mused Allen.

"Yup," said Bob, "If you're gonna have your own arena you gotta learn to compete."

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

Early Deadlines due to Thanksgiving

November 24 & 25 issues:
 Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 17 @ 5 p.m.
 Editorial - Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 5 p.m.

December 1 & 2 issues:
 Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 24 @ 12 p.m. (noon)
 Editorial - Wednesday, Nov. 24 @ 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on November 25.

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The absence of prescribed fire

As we look to the skies on these recent clear and warm days in the San Luis Valley, I can't help but to marvel at how wonderful the weather has been this fall. But something is missing in those clear skies. The thing I am thinking of is the occasional smoke column that rises slowly into the blue and drifts away, eventually mixing with the air around it. These columns may be from a farmer or rancher burning a field to replenish nutrients or irrigation ditches to set back the vegetation. Or they may be a result of area land management agencies conducting fuels treatments or range/wildlife habitat improvement projects.

There are many considerations when deciding to ignite a prescribed fire, or controlled burn, as they are often referred to, and it seems like those considerations have resulted in decisions to not burn this fall. That is OK by me. The fuels conditions, or dryness of the vegetation and woody debris, was likely in a more optimal state earlier this fall, but with the lack of moisture, it may very well be too dry to burn now. However, relative humidity (RH) can play a key role in burning and opportunities to burn may be seized on days when the RH is forecast higher.

Regardless of the reason, I just have not seen, or even heard of as much burning going on this fall. Normally, each spring and fall, land management agencies across the west typically embark on their well-planned and meaningful prescribed fire campaigns. The timing is designed around the shorter, cooler

days when fire behavior will likely be only moderate, at best. And for shorter time periods. So, they load up their trucks, fire engines, ATV's, drip torches, water bags, portable tanks, tools, lots of extra fuel mix and, of course the firefighters, and head out to pre-identified areas to systematically ignite the vegetation to achieve pre-determined objectives.

It was an extreme summer and fall in this wildfire year, with tens of thousands of firefighters working tirelessly for several months. With hardly a day off and they were back at it on the next one. Perhaps, the firefighters are simply in the recharge mode with little appetite to spend more time in the smoke. I don't blame them.

This summer, we had a great growing season in the wildlands. I backpacked up to Blue Lakes where I waded through over waist-high vegetation. I think of that area now and how the tall vegetation has cured for the winter and stands dry and ripe for fire. It will burn well with greater potential for faster spread.

This is where a well-placed and appropriately conducted prescribed burn can make a big difference on how a wildfire might affect the places we do not want to burn so intensely, and of course, the structures and other values at risk, such as powerlines, etc. The careful application of fire in strategic locations will burn these tall and dry fuels under more manageable circumstances and reduce dangerous fuel loading to a less risky condition. The burn plans

consider typical wind and weather patterns and provide for a treatment that will severely modify wildfire behavior, without the need to treat the entire landscape.

I've written several times about the value of wildland fire and how we should use it to the most natural extent possible. The wild lands around us contain a vegetation scheme that was developed over thousands of years with wildfires being a primary change component.

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

I'd rather see us conduct many more low-intensity, prescribed fires than witness the extreme burning of millions of acres each summer. I can tolerate the smoke because I know what the alternative is. But make no mistake; I only support the responsible application of fire in the right

place, at the right time and for the right reason.

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



File photo by Brian Garcia



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Letters to Santa

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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BLM campgrounds in Valley reservable online at Rec.Gov

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office is now accepting reservations for the Zapata Falls and Penitente Canyon campgrounds to improve campers' experiences at these sites. Reservations for each campground may be made online at

Recreation.gov.
 "We are offering reservations in response to the increased demand at both sites over the past few years," said San Luis Valley Field Manager Melissa Garcia. "With the reservation system in place, campers can know that a site will be waiting for them before traveling to the campground."

Zapata Falls Campground is known for its scenic views of the San Luis Valley, and its proximity to the Zapata Waterfall, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and USFS Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area. Zapata Falls campground has 24 reservable sites — one group site, 11 sites for tents only, and 12 RV sites.

Penitente Canyon campground near La Garita is well known for its rock-climbing and mountain biking opportunities. Penitente Canyon Campground has 17 reservable sites — two group sites, three sites for tents only, and 12 RV sites.

Potable water is seasonally provided at Penitente Canyon Campground only; trash service is available on-site at both campgrounds. Campers are encouraged to bring plenty of water and must pack out their trash while in the backcountry. For more information about camping on BLM lands in the San Luis Valley Field Office, call 719-852-7074, or visit the field office website at www.blm.gov/office/san-luis-valley-field-office.

Fees at both campgrounds will remain at \$11 per night for individual sites, and \$20 per night for group sites. An additional reservation fee — \$8 online or \$9 by phone — also applies. Campers may only stay in the campground for 14 days at a time.

All campsites, at both campgrounds,

are by reservation only. For individual sites, campers can make reservations up to six months in advance of their stay, and group sites can be reserved up to year in advance. Reservations of available sites can be made up to and including the day of arrival, by visiting the Recreation.gov website or by calling 877-444-6777.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 11 Western states, including Alaska.

The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country in fiscal year 2020 — more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 498,000 jobs.

Conservation groups file lawsuits against revised management plan for RGNF

STAFF REPORT
SOUTHERN COLORADO — Defenders of Wildlife, The Wilderness Society, the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, San Juan Citizens Alliance, WildEarth Guardians, and the Western Environmental Law Center filed two lawsuits on Monday, Nov. 8, against the United States Forest Service over its newly revised land management plan for the Rio Grande National Forest.

Over the past six years, conservation groups provided science-based recommendations and concrete solutions for protecting species and their diverse habitats in the national forest. But in the face of these needed steps, the Forest Service's plan slashes protections for the threatened Canada lynx and the endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly in violation of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Forest Service's own regulations, the groups claim.

The Rio Grande National Forest is home to five of the 11 colonies of critically endangered Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly. The species can only be found fluttering above 12,000 feet, and in just a small area of Colorado. Despite identifying threats to the species, including climate change and trampling by humans and livestock, the Rio Grande National Forest revised forest plan fails to do anything specific to protect this species, much less contribute to its recovery, the groups claimed in the lawsuit.

"New Forest Service rules gave Rio Grande National Forest managers the chance to vastly improve how they oversee the many uses of these important public lands," said John Mellgren, general counsel at the Western Environmental Law Center. "Rather than seizing the opportunity to restore ecological integrity to these lands, the Forest Service instead ignored unambiguous requirements for ensuring the sustainability of our national forests."

In addition, the plan missed the opportunity to connect important habitat areas so species can move from summer to winter habitat, and to assure that recreation avoids key habitat areas, the groups claim. Both factors are crucial to ecological and resource protection.

"This plan encourages a crisis management response," said Christine Canaly, director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council. "After years of public meeting participation, providing substantive comments and reviewing hundreds of letters from concerned citizens — who clearly support the management of healthy forests, ecosystem services, and protection of critical habitat — the final forest plan, instead renders a hands-off approach, abdicating responsibility for providing upfront baseline analysis. Standards and guidelines have been removed, leading to less comprehensive, more reactive decision making."

The lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife challenges the rollback of critical protections for lynx habitat in the Rio Grande National Forest. The Canada lynx relies heavily on the Rio Grande National Forest in the Southern Rocky Mountains which contains more than half the locations in Colorado where lynx are consistently found. But the population in the forest is in dire

straits and federal scientists predict that the lynx may disappear from Colorado altogether within a matter of decades. The Forest Service's new plan has now opened lynx habitat to logging, one of the cat's biggest threats.

"Scientists are saying the Canada lynx population in the Rio Grande National Forest is in the 'emergency room, but the Forest Service refuses to provide this species with the care it needs," said Lauren McCain, senior federal lands policy analyst for Defenders of Wildlife.

"It's baffling that the Forest Service chose to weaken protections for lynx on the forest. They left us no option but to sue to help recover the species in the Southern Rockies."

The Rio Grande National Forest is a 1.8-million-acre gem in the middle of southern Colorado and includes the headwaters of its namesake river. The forest boasts a diversity of ecosystems from lower-elevation sagebrush and grasslands to the dominant high-elevation spruce-fir forest and fragile alpine areas.

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24 Garage Sales

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32 Fuel & Heating

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36 Miscellaneous

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DF-CD-NP-G421

HVCC girls basketball season winds down

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello, community members! Happy new month! For those of you who celebrated, we hope you had a great Halloween. We enjoyed seeing the kids' costumes on Thursday afternoon and hearing all about their Halloween plans.

There are still a few weeks left of the girls basketball season, which will conclude with an end-of-season tournament from Nov. 15 through Nov. 20. Keep an eye out for a schedule closer to tournament dates.

Boys basketball and K-2 co-ed basketball registrations are still available on the HVCC website, TheHVCC.org, until Nov. 15. Don't forget to register your kids before it's too late! Basketball practices for boys and K-2 co-ed will begin in December — schedules will be posted on our website closer to the beginning of December.

We are happy to report that the kids have improved their swimming

skills immensely during the past month swimming at the Sand Dunes Pool in Hooper for Fabulous Fridays. We are so proud of them! We will continue to take the kiddos to the pool for the next couple of weeks, weather permitting, ending with a pizza party on Nov. 19. When the kids return from Thanksgiving break, we will have a variety of fun activities planned for future

Fabulous Fridays.

This past week the theme for activities was "Respect." Respect takes on many forms from simply saying, "please" and "thank you" to respecting ourselves by only using kind words toward ourselves. Respect translates to how we feel about ourselves and how that affects the way we treat others. The activities of the week were

Positive Self-Talk Bracelets to reinforce positive self-talk; Dude, That's Rude game to identify good manners; and Glitter Slime Monsters to show the kids that they can have fun when they respect the rules and those around them.

We happily accept those who wish to volunteer here at HVCC! If you are interested, please give

us a call at 719-657-2172. Parents and guardians who would like to get a closer look at what we do, we welcome you to join us. Stop by the front desk for a visitor's pass and feel free to participate in activities as little or as much as you'd like. HVCC staff is available if you have any questions! Don't hesitate to reach out. Enjoy your week, everyone!



Photos courtesy of HVCC

High Valley Community Center students have spent their days learning to swim and continuing after school programs.

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SLVH promotes DEEP team during Diabetes Awareness Month

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — November is Diabetes Awareness Month and San Luis Valley Health is promoting our amazing diabetes education team, otherwise known as DEEP.

DEEP stands for Diabetes Education and Empowerment Program and is staffed by educators Dawn Arellano, Registered Nurse, and Megan Brownell, Registered Dietitian. Both are also Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (CDCES). Once referred by a primary care provider, diabetes educators become part of a patient's healthcare team, coaching and guiding individuals living with diabetes to develop the skills and knowledge needed to successfully manage diabetes throughout life.

DEEP is the only accredited diabetes education program in the San Luis Valley, and Arellano states that's why she chose to join the team. "There is such prevalence of diabetes in the Valley. I became an educator after seeing the need and understand the value of diabetes self-management education and support."

The program offers a wide range of services including, but not limited to classes, nutrition consults, gestational diabetes education, medication and insulin management, and continuous glucose monitor support as well as newer diabetes technologies. All these services can lead to improved diabetes management resulting in higher quality of life and fewer health complications.

Brownell wants to emphasize to potential patients that the program is here to help. "It's not a one-and-done service. This program is here to support diabetes patients for life."

DEEP is effective. Arellano and Brownell closely track their patients' clinical outcomes to measure the impact of diabetes education. This includes labs like the Hemoglobin A1c, which is one indicator of a person's diabetes control. A1c tracking data shows participating with DEEP can lower A1c levels an average of 2%, from 9.1% to 7.0%.

The American Diabetes Association recommends an A1c of 7.0% or less for most patients with diabetes as a lower A1c is proven to reduce risk of diabetes related complications from diabetes like kidney damage and stroke.

According to the paper, "Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support," there are four important stages to seek help from diabetes educators: when first diagnosed, annual assessment, when new complicating factors arise, and when there are transitions in care.

SLV Health primary care provider, Susannah Perkins, DO, said her patients routinely praise the team.

"Dawn and Megan are a part of our comprehensive treatment team here. I consider them my colleagues in diabetic care and I often refer and defer to them because they know more than I do. It is wonderful to have diabetic specialists in the Valley considering that referring to Endocrinology means a trip over a mountain," commented Perkins.

DEEP offers its services to anyone over the age of 18, in both English and Spanish. Ask your primary care provider for a referral to the program.



Courtesy photo
Dawn Arellano, Registered Nurse, and Megan Brownell, Registered Dietitian

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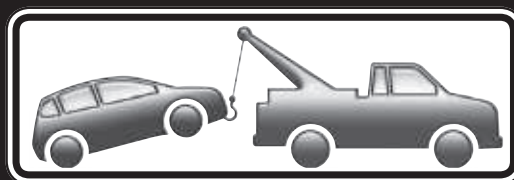
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Center highlights economic development in recent report

BY MECHEL MEEK
CENTER — The Town of Center released its second economic development update in the form of a newsletter on Monday, Nov. 8. The newsletter reports on the state of all aspects of the economic development that has recently been happening in Center, including grants, goals, and even school curriculum enhancements.

According to the newsletter, “The Town has been awarded numerous grants, a national team of urban planners came to Center to do initial planning for the North 90 Addition, a statewide charitable foundation has been seeking grassroots community leaders to address Center’s needs, Center’s roadmaps team identified three regional goals, the Town partnered with the Frontier Theatre to host a trial of a community food event, and the school system has been enhancing their project-based curriculum through a Valley-wide grant. Center will continue to be very active about determining its own future. This newsletter is intended to keep everyone up to

date on the activities related to the Town’s development.”

On Oct. 9, the Frontier Theater and the Town of Center partnered to create a food event called “The Dish.” This event showcased local dishes made by residents of Center and Saguache County. The event was considered a test, to see how well the community and surrounding areas felt about having this type of event. According to the newsletter, it was a great success.

Also of note was the award of \$114,588 from the Main Street Open for Business Grant to five downtown businesses in Center. This grant opportunity was created by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and the Town of Center was one of 13 communities selected for the grant, from a pool of 48 communities that applied.

According to Town of Center VISTA Volunteer Keith Brockhurst, “The program offered grant money to private businesses in the historic downtown district of a town to improve their appearance and or energy efficiency. The improvements



to the selected downtown businesses include new exterior paint, upgraded windows, new signage, energy-efficient lighting, and improved roofing. Be on the lookout for these improvements as the year continues.”

‘The Dish’ community food event was held Oct. 9 in Center.

Photos courtesy of the Town of Center



Nominations sought for San Luis Valley Nightingale Award

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Colorado Nurses’ Association, District 6, is soliciting nominations for the annual SLV Nightingale Award. The event will be held at Adams State University on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022. Nominations are encouraged by community members and other health care professionals.

This event will recognize exceptional nurses who are working or retired from nursing and who have contributed to the San Luis Valley through

leadership, education, clinical care of patients or through community involvement. Registered Nurses may also be eligible for the statewide Nightingale nomination process, sponsored by the Colorado Nurses Foundation on May 7, 2022, in Denver.

Nomination is completed online at <https://nightingaleluminary.awardsplatform.com>. Nominations must be entered online by Friday, Dec. 17, 2021. For more information, call Charlotte Ledonne, SLV AHEC, 719-589-4977.

SLV Health Foundation seeks gently used medical equipment

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health Foundation is asking for gently used wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and or 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.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Creede is Nov. 20

MINERAL COUNTY — The Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set for 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Creede Underground Community Center. Attendees are asked to bring a

large side dish or dessert to share. Turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, and rolls will be provided for free. If you want a meal delivered or want to-go, pick-up, call 719-658-0811 by Nov. 18.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle

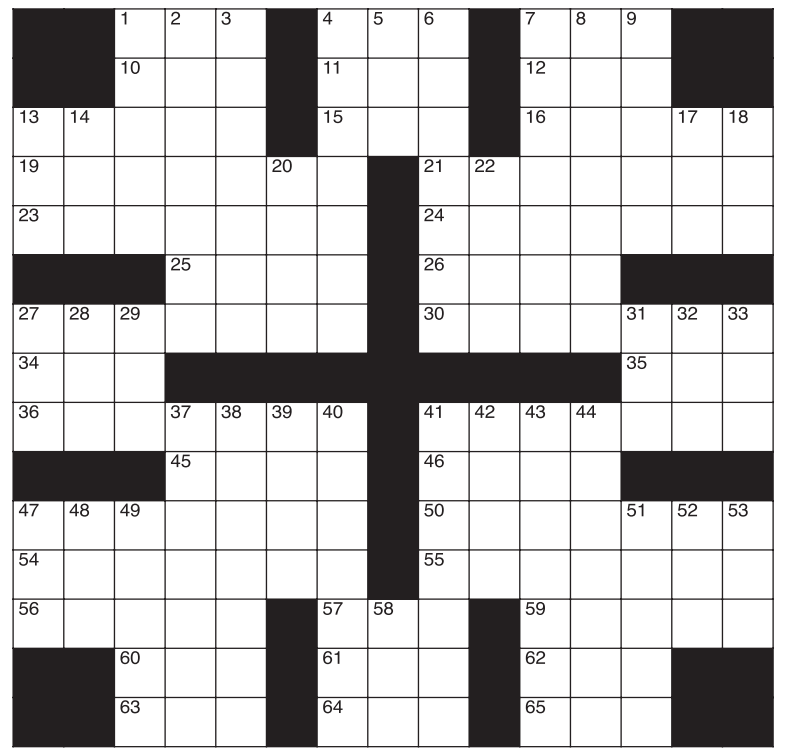
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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Chop with an ax
 4. Where a bachelor lives
 7. Indicates near
 10. Doctors’ group
 11. It’s just a number
 12. Type of bread
 13. Lively ballroom dance
 15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
 16. A way to use up
 19. Singular event
 21. Home of Disney World
 23. Minerals
 24. Most insightful
 25. Consult
 26. In addition
 27. Agents of downfall
 30. Organizations
 34. Supervises flying
 35. Bar bill
 36. Alfalfa
 41. Dish soap
 45. Witnesses
 46. Ancient Greek City
 47. Newspaper bigwigs
 50. Discuss again
 54. Small group with shared interests
 55. Support
 56. Popular sportcoat fabric
 57. Take hold of
 59. Pre-Mayan civilization
 60. Woman (French)
 61. Wheeled vehicle
 62. Georgia rockers

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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



63. Cold War player (abbr.)
64. Pitching stat
65. Attempt
29. Partner to cheese
31. When you hope to get there
32. Angry
33. One point east of due south

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Czech monetary unit
 2. Arousing intense feeling
 3. Elks
 4. Muscular weaknesses
 5. Before the present
 6. Figures out
 7. Infinite
 8. A low wall
 9. Silly
 13. Political organization
 14. Used of a number or amount not specified
 17. Divisions of the psyche
 18. Denial
 20. Ancient Iranian person
 22. Count on
 27. Popular sports league
 28. Water (French)
 37. Respects
 38. Organize anew
 39. French wine grape
 40. Intrinsic nature of something
 41. Neural structures
 42. Brews
 43. Where ships take on cargo
 44. Holiday season singer
 47. Shock treatment
 48. Popular average
 49. Products
 51. A type of bear
 52. Utilize
 53. Old world, new
 58. Swiss river

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Motorists reminded to ‘Move Over’ for first responders

Crash Responder Safety Week is Nov. 8-14

STAFF REPORT

STATEWIDE — Everyday emergency responders across Colorado work tirelessly to help save lives at the scene of traffic crashes. But each year too many emergency responders are struck by passing motorists causing serious injury or death.

Traffic-related incidents are the leading cause of death for on-duty law enforcement officers, fire, EMS, maintenance workers, and tow/recovery professionals. Many of these incidents could have been prevented if motorists had followed Colorado’s Move Over Law, which requires drivers to move over a lane and or slow down when approaching stopped emergency or maintenance vehicles.

In a special proclamation, Gov. Jared Polis on Monday, Nov. 8, proclaimed Nov. 8-14 as Crash Responder Safety Week (#crsw2021). This week recognizes that the public’s health, safety, and well-being are often dependent on the commitment of all first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, road crews, and tow operators who conduct valuable and often life-saving operations at the roadside.

During the week the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Colorado State Patrol, the National

Highway Safety Administration, AAA Colorado, and the Colorado State Committee on First Responder Safety will work together to raise awareness about the Move Over Law and the importance of using caution near traffic incidents along Colorado roadways.

“We see it too often,” said Chief Matthew C. Packard of the Colorado State Patrol. “Law enforcement officers and other first responders working in dangerous traffic situations with drivers speeding not thinking about the dangers they pose to us working on the road. When you see a responder or a vehicle on the side of the road, move over. We are out there trying to make your commute safer, so give us space to work.”

In total, the Colorado State Patrol has lost 11 troopers who were struck by passing motorists. All 50 states have “Slow Down, Move Over” laws, but fewer than 30 percent of Americans understand the law, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic incidents are the number one cause of death for police officers and EMS responders nationwide.

CDOT and its partners are committed to improving traffic incident management (TIM) so incidents can be detected, responded to, and cleared so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists,



File photo

crash victims, and emergency responders. CDOT and CSP hosted the 5th Annual Colorado TIM Conference on behalf of the Colorado State Committee for First Responder Safety on Sept. 22. This year’s virtual TIM Conference was an opportunity to share information amongst the CDOT Regions, CSP Districts, and partner first responder agencies and exchange lessons learned/best practices in providing support for this challenging program. This training

will continue with the start of the Colorado Talking TIM Webinars, with the first session scheduled for Nov. 10 in conjunction with Crash Responder Safety Week. These virtual webinars will provide Colorado-specific TIM topics to assist first responder agencies across the state to develop and improve their TIM programs.

MORLEY

Continued from Page 1

“Adams State is the only place I applied to and the only place I wanted to go. I hadn’t thought about other colleges, and it was a late decision on my part,” said Morley. “I thought it was the best place for me because the influence of my older brother would be good for me. My parents probably agreed with that too.”

After a year at Adams State, Morley discovered just how much he had changed. To his surprise, the university recognized him as an outstanding freshman and awarded him a scholarship.

“I was quite surprised. I didn’t apply for it or anything,” he recalls.

Fast-forward nearly 60 years and Morley has earned another recognition from Adams State, this time as the recipient of the 2021 Willis Fassett Jr. Individual Award, for his generous support of the university.

“I really appreciate any recognition that my college gives me,” said Morley. “I think the award shows that I’ve been helpful to my college, and that’s important because the college has done so much for me.”

From Adams State to a Distinguished Career

After graduating from Adams State, Morley went to law school, then joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served four years as a JAG officer. On completion of his military service, Morley was hired by the District Attorney’s Office for San Diego County, where he served for 29 years before retiring in 2003.

“I was an economics major at Adams State, but a career in economics didn’t seem that appealing,” Morley said. “I had read a book about law when I was in high school, and it just sort of stayed in the back of my mind.”

Still, he didn’t make the decision to attend law school lightly.

He sought advice and support from his favorite professors – Dr. Norma Peterson and Mr. William Gillies — who encouraged him. “The attention and wisdom they shared was very important. They didn’t guide me to law, but they supported my desire,” said Morley.

He hopes that current students take the same advantage of Adam State’s close-knit community, one in which students can get to know their professors. “I think you learn a lot from some professors, and they will have an influence upon you,” he said. “I think you should get close to those professors who seem to offer the most guidance and hope, because that can be very beneficial in many ways.”

It’s Never Too Late to Reconnect

Living in San Diego and pursuing his career, Morley didn’t stay as connected to Adams State as he’d have liked. “I would say I kind of drifted away. You sort of naturally drift away, particularly when you live 1,200 miles away,” he said.

He reconnected through an alumni association event about 15 years ago, finding real delight in hearing about the university and its plans. That’s when he really began to reflect on the university’s role in his own life.

“Adams State really got me started. It got me started in a career, and it helped me to mature and to become a better citizen,” he said. “I started feeling more and more that I really owe Adams State a lot and that I wanted to be helpful to the college.”

He decided to make a series of donations. Moreover, he made those gifts without restrictions, allowing the university to direct the funds where they were most needed. “I don’t know what would be the most helpful to the university,” he said. “I figured, let them

use it the way they think is best for the college. I just want to make it available. Nowadays, the way that state funding goes, colleges need more support. This was my opportunity to give back.”

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Wolf Creek Ski Resort remains open for weekends



By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

WOLF CREEK — Though the San Luis Valley is experiencing a dry fall, Wolf Creek Ski Resort was blessed with 14 inches of snow at the end of October and has utilized this snowfall as a base for the coming full-time season.

As one of the first ski resorts to open in the state, the crew up at Wolf Creek is continuing to make snow and keep two lifts open for early-season skiers.

“Things are going good up here and we are really happy to be open this early in the season even though we haven’t received the snow we keep hoping for. We have early season skiers visiting on the weekends and though there are not many this time of year, it is the perfect amount for what we have to offer at this time,” said Wolf Creek Ski Resort Owner Rosanne Haidorfer-Pitcher.

Haidorfer-Pitcher also stated that the early season has allowed resort staff and crew members to get their ducks in a row for the busier time of year that is quickly approaching including launching their new online rental services.

“We are working to launch our online ski and equipment rental service and looking to recreate the website, so this has given us the opportunity to get our ducks in a row. The new online rental will alleviate long line wait time and give people a chance to spend more time on the mountain rather than in our rental shop,” Haidorfer-Pitcher said.

The resort is also eager to welcome returning employees and is looking to fill several positions on

the mountain in the coming weeks.

“We are very thankful for our returning employees who are dedicated to the resort and love what they do. We are still looking to fill several positions up here and have found the workforce less than responsive. Some of it has to do with the economy right now and it also has to do with the lack of living arrangements in our neighboring communities, but we are hopeful that things will work out,” Haidorfer-Pitcher said.

While the resort works out online rentals, a new website, and hiring employees, they are also busy harvesting snow in order to open as many runs as possible by Thanksgiving weekend. Right now, the resort has the Nova and Susan lifts open and in good shape which offers excellent opportunities for beginner skiers.

“We are continuing to make snow and get the main routes covered as well as the base area,” Haidorfer-Pitcher said.

The resort also recently hosted a ski school clinic for new ski school instructors and was successful in hiring 24 instructors.

“We can still use a few more so if anyone is wanting to be an instructor, they can come on up and apply,” Haidorfer-Pitcher said.

The 14-inch storm that started the season has been used as a good base for the season yet to come. Haidorfer-Pitcher said that the resort plans to be open Wednesday, Nov. 24 through Nov. 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

“Now we just need everyone to think snow,” Haidorfer-Pitcher said.



Crews continue to prepare for the coming season up at Wolf Creek as early season skiers visit on the weekends. The resort is working to open more lifts and is hoping for more snow in the forecast for the Thanksgiving holiday.
Photos courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Resort

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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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