

## Shorts

### Town of Center Board to have elections in April 2022

**CENTER** — On Nov. 9, the Town of Center announced three openings on the Town Trustee Board will be filled during local voting on April 5, 2022.

The Town Board elections are open to any citizen of Center. The candidate must be registered to vote and must be qualified to run.

According to Town Manager Brian Lujan, "Petitions will be available at Town Hall on Jan. 4, each candidate must have a minimum of 10 valid signatures, from 10 registered voters."

The petitions must be completed in order to run for Town Trustee along with the other requirements. More information will be available at a later time.

### 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.

### CDFR fundraiser is set for Nov. 13 at the Windsor

**DEL NORTE** — Continental Divide Free Ride is hosting a premiere of "Roots," a ski movie produced by The Faction Collective, on Saturday, Nov. 13 in the Windsor Hotel Courtyard. This is a fundraiser for the free ride team, and the group has received many wonderful donations from area businesses for raffle prizes.

Raffles will be held throughout the night. There will also be music, food and drink from the Windsor, and of course an exciting movie about big mountain skiing. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Windsor Hotel or by texting 719-588-5536. The doors will officially open around 6 p.m.

Continental Divide Free Ride is looking forward to starting their on-snow practices soon. CDFR is hoping to begin team practices Dec. 4, but this will be snow dependent. Practice is usually Saturdays through the winter season. Memberships are growing and CDFR is looking forward to competing in events starting in late January. Interested families who would like more information, contact Elisabeth Callard at 719-588-5536 or continentaldividefreeride@gmail.com.

## 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 Uncompagre fritillary butterfly in violation of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Forest Service's own regulations. *Please see LAWSUITS on Page 7A*

## Center highlights economic development in recent report

**By MECHER 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



Photos courtesy of the Town of Center

**'The Dish' community food event was held Oct. 9 in Center.**

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."

## RG County continues to count ballots

*Election results not official until certified*

**By CINDY HILL**

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — This year's election produced two of the closest races that Rio Grande County voters have seen in years. The official winners will not be known until just before Thanksgiving when the results are certified by the Canvass Board.

Preliminary counts for the Upper Rio Grande School District show Leroy Trujillo received 423 votes while Donna L. Velasquez received 419 votes. The results for the Monte Vista School District were 626 votes for Kurtis Holland and 617 for Angela Waggoner.

There are several factors that may change these numbers. Colorado law allows voters to drop off their ballots at any polling location in the state. Election judges will stamp these ballots as received before the 7 p.m. election night deadline. The ballots are then sent to the correct county by the clerk's office. Typically, Rio Grande County sees 10 to 15 of these ballots per year. Those ballots will be opened, scanned, and counted on Nov. 12.

Colorado law also allows military and overseas voters an additional eight days to get their ballots to the Clerk's office. Those ballots will also be processed on Nov. 12.

Another factor that may affect the final count is the processing. *Please see BALLOTS on Page 2A*

## Testing, vaccination clinics set for November in Saguache County

**By MECHER MEEK**

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — Saguache County Public Health Director Mona Lovato released the latest numbers of COVID infections throughout Saguache County which as of Tuesday, Nov. 9, stood at 18, with two current outbreaks.

While the numbers within the county have not been trending up, the news is bleaker within other areas of

Colorado. The rate of COVID-related hospitalizations is up in Colorado and the case data has been trending upward as well, over the last few weeks, Lovato reported.

The Saguache Department of Public Health will be offering vaccine clinics that are open to the public, and along with the COVID vaccine, they will also be offering seasonal flu shots in some locations. The vaccines are

free of charge to everyone.

According to Lovato, "Mobile testing is at the Saguache Community Building on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Vaccine clinics are on Nov. 10, at Mountain Valley School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public for flu, COVID boosters and vaccines. On Nov. 12, Center High School Gym will have a clinic from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. which is open to the public. This clinic

will be offering COVID vaccines for anyone ages 5 and over, and boosters will also be available. On Nov. 16, Crestone will have a clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the EMS Training Center. On Nov. 17, the clinic will be at the Center Public Health Office from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for COVID boosters and vaccines. Saguache Public Health will be closed Nov. 25-26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday."

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# OBITUARIES

## Jane F. David

Long-time resident of Monte Vista, Jane F. David, 97, passed away Nov. 5, 2021, at her home in Monte Vista, following a lengthy illness.

Jane was born Oct. 16, 1924, in Tonganoxie, Kan., to Edward Otto Freienmuth and Jeannette Still Freienmuth. Jane moved to Monte Vista with her family in the early 1926 to farm. In 1933, at age 8 her father passed away, leaving her mother to raise Jane and her two brothers, Edward and Byron Otto.

She was a graduate of Alamosa High School in 1942 and attended Kansas University, where she became an avid Jayhawk basketball fan before returning to the San Luis Valley due to health reasons.

She married Dwight David on July 31, 1948 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Alamosa, Colo. They raised three children on their family farm, west of Monte Vista. Jane attended Adams State College, where she obtained her Bachelor's of Arts in Elementary Education. Jane taught elementary education in the Monte Vista School District for 25 years having a positive influence on many students before retiring.

Jane was involved in many different community organizations. She was a

member of the Episcopal Church and the professional society for women educators, Delta Kappa Gamma. She was initiated into PEO Chapter AE, Alamosa in 1947 and was a current member of Chapter HQ, Monte Vista.

More than anything else, Jane enjoyed being with her family. She was especially fond of time spent at the family cabin in South Fork, as well as frequent visits to Campo La Roca in Baja California, Mexico. Jane was an avid reader, enjoyed birdwatching, stargazing, jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, and card playing. Jane enjoyed watching college sports, especially college basketball and the Little League World Series.

Jane loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren — who loving call her "Grammer". Her family thought of her as a woman of strength, principles, common sense, sincerity, goodness, and wisdom.

Jane is survived by her children, Byron (Judy) David of South Fork, Colo., Nina (Phil) Smartt of Monte Vista, Colo., Bill (Cindy) David of Peoria, Ariz., as well as nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



She was preceded in death by her husband Dwight and brothers, Edward and Byron Otto.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Monte Vista Cemetery in Monte Vista, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Carnegie Public Library, Monte Vista, Colorado, in memory of Jane David.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Jane's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## Alva W. Hibbs, P.E.

Aug. 10, 1942-Oct. 25, 2021

Alva William Hibbs was born in Monte Vista, Colo., on Aug. 10, 1942. He affirmed until the day he died that he remembered the day, with the bright lights and awkward discomfort. He had a prodigious mind that simply amazed all those with whom he shared his encyclopedic memory, wit, and wisdom.

Alva, known to friends as "Al," was the son of Alva and Frances Hibbs and the oldest of two boys. He is survived by his younger brother, John David Hibbs, (Ruthanne), of Boulder, Colo.

Al earned a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from Denver University and served in Civil Service at the White Sands Missile Range in Las Cruces, N.M., for almost 30 years.

Upon retirement, in 1998, he moved home to Del Norte, Colo., and joined forces with an intrepid group of community leaders dedicated to restoring the historic Windsor Hotel. Al donated more than 20

years of his time, managing finances, writing grants, hiring contractors, fundraising, and meticulously leading a restoration effort as only an engineer could. His efforts were crucial to preparing the property to be the thriving stay-and-play destination it is today.

Simultaneously with the Windsor project, Al established the "Lookout Mountain Observatory Association" and donated land inside the town of Del Norte that is used for the observatory.

In most things, Al was a scientist first. He will also be remembered as a tireless behind-the-scenes leader, community philanthropist, brother, neighbor, and friend.

A memorial gathering in his honor will be held at the Windsor Hotel, 682 Grand Ave., in Del Norte, Colo., on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at 2 p.m.

All those who knew and loved Al are welcome to attend.



Donations in memory of Al's legacy can be made to: Lookout Mountain Observatory Association, P.O. Box 432 Del Norte, Colorado 81132.

## SLVH 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.

## SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 1 and Nov. 7, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included three crashes with property damage, one abandoned vehicle, and 16 traffic stops. They also assisted on one lockout, assisted a motorist twice, patrolled the Town of Saguache seven times and the Town of Crestone three times, and conducted one VIN inspection.

In addition, there were three reports of suspicious activity, two animal problem reports, two alarm reports, one intoxicated person report, two citizen assists, one

transport, two reports of theft, one report of property damage, and one report of fraud.

They also responded to three controlled burns, one fire (other), one utility problem report (gas leak), two search and rescue calls, provided information eight times, conducted one welfare check, served two warrants, and assisted neighboring agencies once.

### ARRESTS

- 30-year-old Saguache woman, warrants out of Alamosa Police Department.
- 45-year-old Moffat man, failure to comply.
- 34-year-old Center woman, warrant.

## BALLOTS

**Continued from Page 1A**

of any ballot that was received before the deadline but had either a missing signature or a discrepancy with the signature. A letter was mailed to those voters asking them to correct the problem. They have until Nov. 10 to respond. If the issue is resolved, that ballot will be counted on Nov. 12. If the issue is not resolved, the ballot will not be counted. The Clerk's office mailed eleven of these letters.

The final factor that could affect the results is the risk limiting audit, although that has not ever happened in Rio Grande County. The audit will begin Nov. 16. This is the process

used to hand check specific ballots against the voting equipment. The Colorado Secretary of State's office will determine which ballots will be checked. A bipartisan team of judges selected from the community will perform the audit. Once all counties in the state pass their individual audits, the Canvass Board will do another audit and certify the results.

The official election results must be posted by Nov. 24 as per Colorado law. The results may be known earlier than that. For more information, call the election department at the Rio Grande County Clerk's office at 719-657-3334.

## CORRECTION

In the Best of the SLV section that published on Oct. 27 there was an error. A photo cutline should have read: Members of the Rio Grande Hospital Physical Therapy staff are from left to right, Andres Torres, PT, DPT, Jeremy Porrett, PT, and Megan

O'Connor, PT, DPT. Valley Publishing Inc. would like apologize for this error. If you wish to report an inaccuracy, please email Editor Brian Williams at [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Will you kill my goat?

Today ends a four-day fun fest as Miss Trixie and I were babysat by the grandkids while my son Bubs and his wife Tinkerbelle went to a football game in Kansas City, Mo.

I guess they went with family as I cannot imagine Bubs traveling that far to be with 76,416 closely packed COVID-exposed people. He is normally more of a country boy but getting married does impose some uncomfortable new rules on a guy if you hang around long enough.

Luckily for Ol' Dutch, he has avoided the clutches of matrimonial servitude a second time around and since Miss Trixie is too smart to ever marry me, it has worked out perfectly. So far.

Being a peruser of the Internet want ads and for sale ads, we are constantly finding new and unusual posts on there. You never know what you might find but be warned if it's listed for free, it's probably someone else's junk that they can't get hauled off any other way.

Worn-out televisions, broken down chairs, threadbare, dog-eared, dog chewed, smoke polluted old couches, broken down cars, trucks, boats that sink, and other "still good" items fill these Internet advertising pages.

If the adage "let the buyer beware" is ever to be adhered to, also knowing that "if it sounds too good to be true" is even more of a tenet to live by.

The other day Miss Trixie was looking online and found an ad for someone wanting to eat their goat. Now I have heard of people having their "goat got" but not often of wanting to eat one. They also had a pig named Charlotte or maybe not, that they wanted to eat. The conundrum was they could not find anyone to do the deed and process it for them so they were trying to find someone to "shoot their goat." And their pig.

Now Ol' Dutch, ever the mercenary when it comes to making a buck, was immediately interested in being their personal goat grim reaper as I do believe that eating your own farm-raised meat is right next to Godliness.

The reason they needed this service is that COVID caused a surge in people buying animals right off the farm and having them processed and so the butcher shops are as much as



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

two years booked up. This means if you need your goat got, there is no one to do it if there ever was.

Personally, I have never heard of a goat butcher. But alas, these poor people lived too far away from Ol' Dutch to help them out and since they could not bring themselves to do it they are going to be feeding goats and a pig for eternity.

Now you might think this is the first time I have heard of this and I have to admit it's been a long time but back when I was in college — yes Fred Flintstone was alive then — I worked for an engineering firm and one day one of the engineers, a sweet Columbian lady, asked me if I liked to kill things.

I could not imagine what she was talking about and told her no. Her face dropped and she looked like someone had "got her goat."

Further prying and Young Dutch found out she had discovered I was a hunter and the only person she knew that would do the deed to her goat so she could have some Columbian Carpathian Goat Chili.

Well, long story short I did not shoot her goat and I cannot recall why now but I did learn it takes all kinds in this world. What I have yet to figure out is why does it take all kinds?

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



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### Taurus the Bull and Winterfest

This constellation is currently low in the east. In January it will rise high overhead which is why January and February are the best times to view it. But it's visible now, just low in the sky. There are 13 stars, plus several star clusters that are part of it.

The Pleiades Star cluster marks the animal's shoulder. It's also called the 7 Sisters since its seven stars are highly visible. It shines like a handful of jewels in the sky. It's a prime example of an open cluster and the seven stars can be seen with unaided vision.

Aldebaran is the Bull's alpha star and its brightest. It's his eye. When you hold your hand up and spread

it out, that's the size of Taurus. It has four deep-sky objects: M45, Pleiades, M1 and the Crab Nebula. Taurus has around 500 stars. So, when you look at it with binoculars, you'll see a lot more stars.

What's interesting about Taurus is that it's the oldest constellation in our sky, and the most recognizable. It lies in the Zodiac which is the part of the sky that the Sun, Moon, and planets move through. To find it, look for a V-shape to the right of Orion. The V marks its head.

Winterfest is coming soon. Nov. 25 is Thanksgiving, and we're going to do Winterfest on Nov. 26 and 27 at the old Hungry Logger building in South Fork. That's just next to the South Fork Interpretive Center. I'm part of the committee, and I'm also a vendor. So, if you want to meet me,



come to Winterfest! On Friday, Nov. 26, it's noon-7 p.m. when the town Christmas tree light will get turned on. On Saturday, Nov. 27, it's 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Santa will be at Winterfest on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. So, children will get to meet him. On Friday evening, there will be free refreshments and entertainment for the entire family. So come out and have fun!

## CDA supports Gov. Polis' budget proposal

BY KATE GREENBERG

In late October, I had the opportunity to spend multiple days touring farms, ranches, and other ag operations across northeast Colorado. As Commissioner of Agriculture, meeting producers across our state is not only one of my favorite parts of the job, but one of the most important. It is critical for me to continue listening and learning from those whose lives revolve around agriculture, and that is precisely what this trip offered. The discussions with producers highlighted the very real obstacles in large- and small-scale production

agriculture, but also showed the grit and determination of our industry to continue our way of life.

A major focus of the tour was the stark reality faced by the producers in the Republican River basin. Deb Daniel with the Republican River Water Conservation District and her board members have worked tirelessly with their community to mitigate the effects of drought.

The farmers and ranchers in the northeast are not the only ones facing a tough future. The irrigators in the Rio Grande basin to the south are also under obligations to meet

aquifer sustainability by 2030. As climate conditions continue to dry out soils and limit water supplies, these producers are being forced to make tough choices as they continue to meet consumer demand.

Despite efforts by water conservation districts and water users in both basins to solve this challenge on their own, one bad drought year can push back years of progress. CDA strongly supports Governor Polis's recent budget proposal, which would send \$15 million to the Republican and Rio Grande River basins to help mitigate costs of reduced water

usage. We are partnering with the Department of Natural Resources to aid the efforts of the communities in these areas.

As we look toward the legislative session beginning in about two months, our department will continue to invest in creating resilience in agricultural communities and improving our ability to respond to disasters. Agriculture is critical to Colorado and to the livelihoods of people across our state and CDA's budget request is agile and responsive to the biggest threats ahead of us: water use challenges, the ongoing climate

crisis, and emergency response to natural disasters.

Additionally, CDA is advocating for continued investment into high-priority agricultural programs and services, such as specialty crops, soil health initiatives, drought resilience, clean energy, local markets, and agricultural events. We know these programs are integral to the success of agriculture in all areas of the state and in all its forms.

*Kate Greenberg is Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner of Agriculture.*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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# Falcons get first-round victory over Peyton

By **KEN HAMRICK**

**LA JARA** – The second-seeded Centauri High School football team proved why it has such a high ranking as it scored early and scored often in a 45-6 victory over Peyton Saturday at the CHS field.

“We played really well,” said Centauri coach Kyle Forster. “We’ve been able to start fast and that’s been a key for us all year.”

The Falcons had the first possession and they wasted little time in getting on the scoreboard. Sophomore Deven Brady found a hole on the right side and raced 38 yards for the touchdown on just the third play of the game. Sophomore Kaleb Anderson kicked the extra point and Centauri had a 7-0 lead just 45 seconds into the ball game.

Brady struck again later in the quarter, this time on a 54-yard punt return. The point-after was blocked and the Falcons’ lead stood at 13-0.

The Panthers ventured deep into Falcons territory on their next possession but got as far as the 29-yard line before they turned the

ball over on downs.

Centauri hit pay dirt the next time it had the ball. This time senior quarterback Byron Shawcroft found senior Baron Holman on a 25-yard scoring strike. Anderson’s point after attempt was good to increase the Falcons’ lead to 20-0.

The Centauri defense accounted for the next touchdowns as Shawcroft intercepted Noah Martin’s pass and he returned it 30 yards to the end zone. The kick was blocked, and the Falcons led 26-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Brady scored for the third time in the game early in the second quarter as he went 40 yards for the touchdown. The extra-point attempt was blocked, but Centauri led 32-0 with 9:02 left before the half.

Shawcroft then recorded another touchdown pass on the Falcons’ next possession. This time he tossed a 51-yard tally to senior Peyton Polzin. Anderson converted the extra point for a 39-0 lead.

Brady scored for the fourth time on a 28-yard interception return.

Peyton tried a trick play as Martin tossed back to Dresden Howeth for a halfback pass. Brady intercepted the pass and weaved through traffic for the score.

The point-after attempt was blocked, and the Falcons had a 45-0 lead at halftime.

Peyton ended Centauri’s plans for a shutout late in the game as West Hart scored on a 2-yard run. The point-after attempt was no good.

Centauri accounted for 272 yards of total offense with 148 coming in the passing game. Shawcroft completed six of eight passes and Holman was his top target with five receptions for 97 yards. Polzin had one catch for 51 yards.

The Falcons had 124 rushing yards and it was led by Brady with 89 yards on five carries. Senior Zach Buhr had 32 yards on eight carries.

The Centauri defense limited Peyton to 162 total yards with 132 coming via the pass. Martin completed 13 of 28 passes.

Hudson Pulpaff was the Panthers’ top receiver with six receptions for 91 yards.

The Falcons intercepted three passes with two being returned for touchdowns.

The Panthers’ ground game was limited to just 30 yards. Hart was the leading rusher with 42 yards on eight carries. Of Peyton’s 21 running plays, 10 went for negative yardage.

Centauri (9-0) will face 10th-seeded Yuma (6-4) on the road in its next game. Yuma advanced by defeating seventh-seeded Strasburg 35-20 in Strasburg.

“It is what it is in the playoffs,” Forster said. “Yuma’s tough. They have a great running quarterback in Clay Robinson. So, it should be a great game.”



Photo by Stephen Jiron

Sierra Grande High School’s Tyler Kester rushes Branson/Kim quarterback Brody Doherty in Saturday’s 39-36 win in the 6-man state playoffs. The Panthers will host Granada this coming Saturday.



Photo by Stephen Jiron

Sierra Grande High School’s Tyler Kester rushes Branson/Kim quarterback Brody Doherty in Saturday’s 39-36 win in the 6-man state playoffs. The Panthers will host Granada this coming Saturday.

## 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.

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# 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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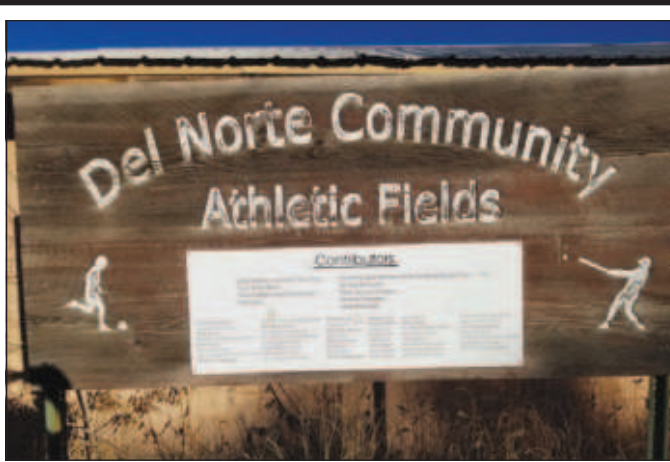
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Brian Williams • [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

Valley Publishing **Holiday Gift Guide**

## Clean up Del Norte Athletic Fields

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Come out and participate in a community-wide effort to clean up the Del Norte Athletic Fields on Nov. 13, beginning at 10 a.m. Grab the yard tools and come be part of the community project.



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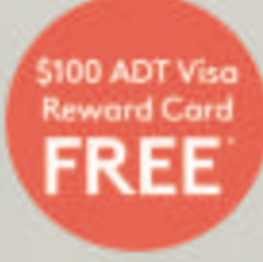
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# Winterfest and Yuletide celebration set for November

By LYNDIE 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 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.



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.

File photos

# Military monuments placed at Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — Valley Monument Company, including owner John Glass and employee Matt Jacquez, placed five solid black granite military monuments — US Army, US Marines, US Air Force, US Navy and US Coast Guard — in The Faith Hinkley Memorial Park on Nov. 2.

Monte Vista City Public Works Director Rob Vance, alongside his staff, including Supervisor Bob Abeyta, Andrew Valenzuela, Tony Felix, Thom Torrez, and Mike Ross, installed foundations the day before, in preparation for the monuments to be placed.

The monuments were purchased as part of a project called the Five Veterans Monument Project. This project was made possible by donations, and a grant of \$10,000 that was awarded through the National Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The DAR grant was obtained by Colette Skeff, a member of the Arizona Buckeye Valley DAR Chapter, through the Monte Vista Community Fund.

"We are so honored and proud to announce the completion of the project, which we undertook in 2019," Skeff said. "It was an important project, and our goal was to help in the success to complete the park."

The DAR grant program began in 2010. Funding through this grant

is given to support projects in local communities that promote the organization's mission of historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

As part of the project, the City of Monte Vista's Victor Samora retired all the old flags in the park and replaced them with new flags.

The flagpoles that were placed were purchased through donations made by the Skeffs; US Army, David and Annavee Hinkley; US Marines, Ron and Carol Martinez; US Coast Guard, Metz Potato Company; POW/MIA, C & J Foundation; and the US Air Force through various donations to the MVCF.

Donations are still needed to complete other areas in the park — placement of pavers, concrete for a stage area, and in the pathway, and a sign for the entrance to the park.

Contact Colette Skeff at 719-852-3435, for donation information.

## MV Veteran's Day celebration is Nov. 12

Monte Vista will celebrate Veteran's Day on Nov. 12. The day will begin with a parade at 11 a.m. All parade entries will meet at the Bowling Alley starting at 10 a.m. There will be several individuals to organize and line up the entries and the police department will escort the parade route.

The parade will end on 2nd Avenue with a special ceremony at the Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park. Entry into the park will display two American flags represented by the Monte Vista and Del Norte Fire departments.

The Monte Vista Community Fund will sponsor the 3rd "LIVE"

Veteran's Benefit Concert at the Central Auditorium, 545 2nd Ave., Monte Vista, at 7 p.m. It will be free admission with free will donations. All proceeds will go to the Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park.

Masks will not be required for any of these events, but we encourage people to do what makes them comfortable.

If you have any questions, contact Garcia or Colette Skeff at 719-852-3435.

## Five military monuments were placed at Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park in Monte Vista on Nov. 2.

Photo courtesy of Colette Skeff



Photos courtesy of Colette Skeff

City staff and Valley Monument Company did the project that was partially funded by a Daughters of the American Revolution grant of \$10,000.

# Nominations sought for SLV 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 state-wide 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 AHCC, 719-589-4977.

# San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2021-2022

## Football STATE PLAYOFFS

**6-MAN**  
#6 Sierra Grande 39 #11 Kim/Branson 36  
#1 Cheyenne Wells 73 #16 Mountain Valley 14  
#3 Granada @ #6 Sierra Grande

**8-MAN**  
#11 Sanford 36 #6 Sedgwick County 18  
#3 Vail Christian @ #11 Sanford

**CLASS 1A**  
#2 Centauri 45 ..... #15 Peyton 6  
#4 Florence 23 #13 Monte Vista 0  
#2 Centauri @ #10 Yuma

**CLASS 2A**  
#4 Delta 45 ..... #13 Alamosa 14

All games will be Saturday Nov. 13 @ 1pm

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# Town Manager says natural gas rate increasing

**BY MECHEL MEEK**  
**CENTER** — Center Town Manager Brian Lujan informed the residents of Center in a letter that natural gas prices are expected to continue rising.

Natural gas in Center is provided from the town, which purchases the gas at a wholesale cost from Xcel Energy and resells it to the town residents.

According to Lujan, "Over the past 8 months, natural gas prices have steadily increased across the nation. The Town purchases gas at a wholesale cost from Xcel Energy to sell gas to the citizens of the town at affordable rates. These rates for our citizens have

consistently been lower than for Xcel Energy customers in surrounding communities."

He continued to state that the town had hoped for wholesale gas prices to return to lower levels but that has not happened. This increase in wholesale prices has left the town in a negative-balance situation regarding gas utilities.

Simply put, the town is paying more for wholesale gas than they are collecting in gas payments from customers, according to Lujan. This increase in wholesale costs necessitates a rate increase for town residents to keep the town gas fund from running out of money.

"The Town does not know to what extent of an increase will occur, but please know we are doing our very best to keep the impact on our customers as low as we can," Lujan said.

## Discover the Cause and Cure for Worry in Your Life

Worry—feeling uneasy or troubled—seems to plague multitudes of people in our world today. It's human nature to be concerned about the bad situations in our world and in our personal lives, but if we're not careful, the devil will cause us to worry beyond what's reasonable.

Like a rocking chair, worry is always in motion, but it never gets you anywhere. So why do we struggle with it? And what good does it do?

Worry is the opposite of faith. It steals our peace, physically wears us out, and can even make us sick. When we worry, we torment ourselves—we're doing the devil's job for him!

Worry is caused by not trusting God to take care of the various situations in our lives. Too often we trust our own abilities, believing that we can figure out how to take care of our own problems. And yet, after all our worry and effort to go it alone, we come up short—unable to bring about suitable solutions.

At a young age, I discovered firsthand that people hurt people, so I didn't trust others. I tried to take care of myself, refusing to depend on anyone who would hurt or disappoint me.

Too often our experiences in the world teach us this, and even after we become Christians, it takes a long time to overcome it. It's difficult to learn how to trust God, but we eventually must learn that trying to take care of everything ourselves is too big a task.

### Cast Your Cares on the One Who Cares for You

First Peter 5:6-7 (NIV) says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." If Jesus invites us to cast all of our care and worry on Him, why do so many of us refuse to let go? Apparently, we're not yet fed up with being miserable.

The only way to have victory in our lives is to play by God's rules, and He

says we must quit worrying if we want to have peace. So, when things come our way that cause us to be concerned, we need God's help.

But how do we get it? First Peter 5:6-7 lists two important steps: 1) humble yourselves, and 2) cast your anxiety—or cares—on Him.

All of us would be better off if we'd learn to lean on God and ask for His help. But as long as we try to do everything ourselves, God will let us. He won't take care of our problems and worries—our anxieties—until we let go of them and give them to Him.

Now, casting your care doesn't mean you can be irresponsible. God won't do for you what you can do yourself. You must do what you can do, and then trust God to do what you can't. When we humble ourselves and ask for His help, then He will work in us and in our situations. It's only then that we can really enjoy life.

So the cure for worry is humbling ourselves before God, casting our cares on Him, and trusting Him. When we are able to believe and say, "God, I trust You," it will literally change our lives.

### Trade Your Worry for an Attitude of Faith

I've learned that my attitude has a lot to do with living a worry-free life. There will always be situations that cause us concern, but with God's help, we can live above all of it and enjoy life. However, when you give your problems to God, you must also decide to be satisfied with His answers—you must choose to trust Him.

Remember 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." You can trust God to do what's best for you, so you don't have to worry about it. When you have a positive attitude and keep your faith in God, you can't be defeated.

Together, faith and the Word of God will help you overcome worry. Worrying

Moving Up Higher

with  
**Joyce Meyer**



involves negative thoughts, but speaking positive things out of your mouth will interrupt those negative thought patterns. When we are full of the Word of God, we can speak it out of our mouths in faith.

Faith is stronger than doubt, negativism and unbelief. It has a positive attitude that can overcome our past and lead us into a great future. Faith is a powerful force that cannot be conquered.

I want to encourage you to spend time studying God's Word, looking up scriptures that remind you of His love for you and His faithfulness to never leave you or forsake you. A few good ones to start with are Psalm 103, Lamentations 3:22-23 and Hebrews 13:5.

As you spend time with God in prayer and meditating on scriptures (thinking about them, rolling them over and over in your mind), you'll find greater peace in His presence. You'll become more focused on God and His promises, and you'll enjoy freedom from worry!

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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *AUTHENTICALLY, UNIQUELY YOU (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

## LAWSUITS

Continued from Page 1A

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.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2021 FROM 1:00PM TO 2:00PM**

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes  
To view the proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov), or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at [www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov).  
Written comments will be accepted until Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

By: Tim Lovato,  
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1609 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 14, 21 and 28 and November 4 and 11, 2021.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saguache, CO 81149.

For additional information contact Saguache County Administration at 719-655-2231 or [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

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

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# Smoke, CO2 detectors available for free to Center citizens

By MECHEL MEEK

**CENTER** — Available for free to citizens of Center are combination smoke and CO2 detectors which can be picked up at Town Hall.

According to the Town of Center, “Center has had three serious home fires in the recent past and the Town is concerned. With the safety of our citizens foremost in mind, the Town Board has purchased smoke and CO2 detectors to be available for Center residents.”

These detectors help give people warnings about fire or gas leaks. People will need to supply a 9-volt battery which is not included in the package.

The detectors should be placed on the ceiling, in the bedroom, and on each floor of a home. They should not be installed directly in the kitchen, near open windows, or near a ceiling fan.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, smoke and CO2 detectors have a lifespan of 10 years and should be replaced after that time. If the battery has been replaced and the detector is still making an intermittent chirp, it is time to replace the detector.

While replacing or installing new smoke and CO2 detectors, it is a good time to go over a fire safety plan with your family. More information can be found on the NFPA website including resources to educate yourself and your family about fire safety.

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### Preparing for a Fire Emergency

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- In case there is smoke, practice getting low and moving to your exits.
- Decide on a safe meeting place that is a safe distance from your home or the building you are in.
- Run through a home fire drill at least twice a year.

Source: <https://www.fire.com>

# Del Norte 'United'

## Support Local

# 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](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com) or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144

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Photo by Mechel Meek

Sandhill Cranes and Russel Lakes State Wildlife Area.

## Migratory birds return to Valley

BY MECHEL MEEK

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The iconic sights and sounds of the San Luis Valley returned in the form of cranes, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. “Each spring and fall, thousands of feathers slice through the brisk San Luis Valley (SLV) sky, alerting

resident wildlife, local farmers, and eager birders to the change of season. Ranging from shorebirds to songbirds, a myriad of avian species visits this high-elevation desert as they migrate along the Central Flyway to their breeding and wintering grounds. Nurtured by the Valley’s mosaic of wetlands,

riparian corridors, and agricultural fields, the SLV is a critical stopover for these determined travelers,” stated the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council in an article titled “The San Luis Valley as a Critical Stopover During Bird Migration.”

*Please see BIRDS on Page 7*

## HOPE for the future team creating brighter future

BY VICTORIA MARTINEZ AND BEATRIZ MORENO

**ALAMOSA** — Connecting young adults to pathways of civic engagement is critical to create change. On the HOPE (Helping Others Promoting Equity) team, young adults are creating a brighter future through collective power, rooted in their various cultures and traditions of storytelling and community connection.

HOPE invites young adults in Alamosa to come to their next free community gathering at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, for 18-30 year old’s who live, work, or go to school in Alamosa.

The gathering will be on the Adams State University campus in the Student Union Building (banquet rooms). Community Survey

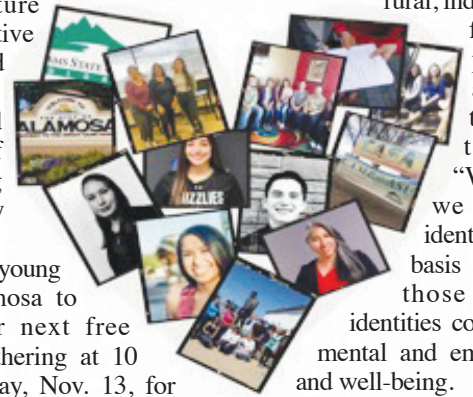
Ensuring our young adults in the Alamosa community are counted is

the first step to being a good neighbor. The HOPE team conducted a 2020 Community Health Equity Survey to highlight the voices of the young adult population in our community.

“We understand that in this rural area we hold many identities as rural, indigenous, queer, female, male, a person of color, and more,” the HOPE team stated. “We know that we juggle these identities on a daily basis and that all of those intersecting identities contribute to our mental and emotional health and well-being.

“From this survey we learned what makes it difficult to live in Alamosa, what the struggles of young adults are and what things young adults would like to see change to make their lives better.”

The survey was split up into six *Please see HOPE on Page 2*



## All Ranch Rodeo

“Twas a matchup made in Elko for the cow-boys in the know  
Called the Rough and Ready Knock Down Finals All Ranch Rodeo.  
Now the Texans entered up a team they thought could never lose  
When they bet their reps against the Jordan Valley Buckaroos.

You could tell from where they hailed if you put ‘em up for bids,  
All the buckaroos wore fancy scarves and Amish lookin’ lids  
While the Texans wore their jackets for the brush down in the draws  
And them twenty dollar roll-yer-own, cheap Guatemalan straws.

It was Blucher versus Leddy, it was leggin’ versus chinks  
It was rye versus tequila, it was leppies versus dinks,  
It was sagebrush versus cactus, it was ear tick versus fly,  
It was Poco Bueno versus sloggers raised on alkali.

The Texans took an early lead, at ropin’ showed their stuff,  
But the buckin’ horse fandango showed the buckaroos were tough.  
They branDED in a dead heat, but in deference to the crowd  
Each side was harshly penalized for cussin’ so dang loud.



So the teams were standin’ even when the final contest came,  
UNTAMED UNGULATE EXTRACTION, wild cow milkin’, by name.  
They loosed the beasts together, left their calves to bawl and mill  
And the two teams fell upon ‘em like hyenas on a kill.

The buckaroo a’horseback threw his forty-footer right.  
He dallied just about the time the Texan’s rope came tight.  
Their trajectories collided in a bawlin’, buckin’ wreck,  
The ropes and cows got tangled and they wound up neck to neck.

In the meantime two big muggers plus two others brave and bold

Attacked the knot of thrashing hide and tried to get ahold  
Of somethin’, hoof or horn or foot or spur or can of snoose.  
Then, by accident some dummy turned the bawlin’ calves a’loose!

There was hair and teeth and eyeballs in the picture now and then,  
There was moustache lips and swingin’ bags, some thought they saw a hen  
Flashin’ briefly through the dust cloud. Wild images remain;  
A painting done in cow manure, a mating sandhill crane.

To describe the cataclysm would create an overload,  
But a photograph was taken and this is what it showed;  
At the summit pointed skyward were the Texas mugger’s toes,  
One arm around a buckaroo, his fingers up his nose,

Who, in turn was mounted sideways splayed across a bally black  
Who was layin’ on a milker who was smashed flat on his back.  
The braymer cow was balanced on her head amidst the jag,  
While the Texan fought her baby for possession of the bag.

From the cyclone flew two milkers, bottles high for all to see

Like two winos at a party where the wine and cheese was free.  
The buckaroo’s hind leg was draggin’ like he’d lost the farm.  
But he kept his place by clingin’ to the Texan’s broken arm.

When they fell across the finish line and tumbled in the dirt  
The judge declared the buckaroo the winner by a squirt.  
Since the race looked pert near even, the judge said with a shrug,  
“The winner is the cowboy with the most milk in his jug!”

“I object!” cried out the Texan, “Our ol’ cow just had three tits!”  
“That’s a handicap,” the judge said, “I admit it’s sure the pits,  
But in fairness to the buckaroo who dallys for his kicks  
If you added all his fingers, he could barely count to six!”

*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*

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# HOPE Continued from Page 1

sections and consisted of 50 questions, both multiple choice questions and short answer responses. There were 230 Alamosa residents who completed the survey, 80% of those reported being between 18-30 years old; 60% of the respondents identified as Hispanic, Latinx, or of Spanish origin.

Though there were many new issues Alamosa residents brought up in the survey, the HOPE team would like to share the most common.

**Mental Health**  
Eliasa Chavez, one of the HOPE team members, points out that one thing consistent within the survey was the emphasis on mental health in Alamosa. The survey found that despite 18-30 year old's reporting feeling happy with their life, there are mental health needs going unmet. In fact, 50% of respondents stated that if they felt mentally or emotionally stressed they would not visit a mental health provider in Alamosa. The reasons many stated they felt this way was due to Alamosa being such a small town.

"Everyone knows each other and talks to each other about other people. I don't think I would trust someone to tell them my personal life and believe they wouldn't share that with someone else."

This direct quote from the survey was similar to many others. There seems to be a general mistrust of our mental health providers due to past violations of privacy laws and a perception of lack in quality of care. Many get information by word of mouth and if trust is violated at one location, there is a ripple effect to others.

"I have had loved ones who sought care in Alamosa and were not satisfied with the care available."

In addition, many stated they could not even afford the care provided due to lack of financial stability or no insurance. Some even said they struggle to find a provider that takes their insurance. Though there are systems in place to help with affordability, many respondents felt that the information was not widely available to them. There is also a lack of mental health care provided to those who are not U.S. Citizens.

**Employment & Education**  
For Brayán Flores and Katy Plumb, also members of the HOPE team, the lack of employment opportunities and education for young adults was another constant throughout the survey.

The survey found that 66% of respondents plan on leaving the community to pursue a job that is not offered here. Another 44% plan on leaving in the future for a college degree or certification. A majority of those who plan to leave, 70% identified as Hispanic. The lack of equal opportunities in the Alamosa community has made it so that its largest export is its youth. Many leave yearly to pursue better careers, higher education, and simply put, a better life.

The HOPE team seeks to improve this. For example, there is a demand for more employer sponsored opportunities for training. One of the questions asked in the survey was what changes would people like to see happen in Alamosa.

The following are direct quotes from survey respondents.

"Higher paying jobs and training for people to gain new skills that can help them get the job that they want, without having to pay thousands of dollars."

"Open events to learn trades that don't require you to take college courses."

Not surprisingly, 73% of respondents report wanting to learn a wide variety of professional skills. However, only 30% reported having employer sponsored training. By creating more equal opportunities for all, these needs of young adults can be met.

**Housing**  
Beatriz Moreno felt the survey also brought to light the impending issue of a lack of affordable housing closing in on Alamosa. Yearly, rent prices rise and with wages not reflecting that, many people simply cannot afford to live here anymore.

It has been estimated that within the next 5 years, 1,800 more housing units are needed. But the buying up of properties for resale at an inflated cost has caused gentrification of Alamosa. Further solidifying that lack of housing justice for minorities.

More protection for renters is also needed and more programs of "rent to own" need to be introduced. By creating these programs along with others, policies can change and make Alamosa affordable for everyone.

**Immigrant, Minorities & LGBTQ+ Rights**

Maricela Lucas and Angelica Raya felt the conflicts and tensions between the majority and minority groups is a growing and present issue in Alamosa, coming up many times in the survey.

Respondents agreed, there is a lack of respect for people who are immigrants, minorities, and LGBTQ+ in the community. The survey found that 49% agreed that conflicts/tensions are based on race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and/or disability with race and ethnicity described most frequently.

These instances were reported by respondents as bullying in schools, lack of acceptance of non-English speakers, prevalence of racial stereotypes, residential segregation, and discriminatory treatment of minorities by police. The following is a direct quote from the survey.

"Having grown up here, there is a definite line between White and Latino [groups]. The neighborhoods are very clearly split. Although the tension is not usually out in the open the undercurrent is always there. I hear racial slurs -from both sides- and no one stops it. That includes city workers and representatives."

Many respondents identify Alamosa as being a conservative town. Though there is nothing wrong with conservative ideals, many equate "conservative" to an inflating "colonial mindset" that perpetuates the disparities within social/ethnic groups.

"This is a strong-willed community, especially with the Valley at large, and some people are very set in the ways of the world... and aren't willing to grow

or be open to change in understanding and awareness."

Historically in the SLV, Hispanic and minority groups are denied loans, land, and protection more often than their white counterparts. Many respondents identified this issue as ongoing within the community. In modern times, this manifests as discriminations toward

anyone not English speaking or white.

With a lack of language justice in public healthcare, schools, council meetings, and community events being identified the most with respondents — 18% agreed that important information was rarely or never communicated in the language they speak at home.

Upcoming Community Event

The HOPE team plans to help address these different issues within the community to improve life for not only young adults, but everyone who gets to call Alamosa their home.

Food and interpretation will be provided. Prizes will be given out.

For more information, contact Tori at [tori@coloradotrust.org](mailto:tori@coloradotrust.org).

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# Outcalt Foundation makes educational opportunity its mission

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

Ralph Outcalt was a longtime resident and business leader of Alamosa. As an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and former board member of the Adams State University Foundation, he made a tremendous impact on the San Luis Valley.

Ralph passed away in 2014, but his legacy continues through the work of The Outcalt Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the growth and prosperity of the valley's youth and good-will organizations. For its important work, The Outcalt Foundation has been named the recipient of Adam State's 2021 Willis Fasset Jr. Corporate Award.

"One of Mr. Outcalt's legacies and directives for the foundation was to focus on youth development," said Karla Shriver, trustee of The Outcalt Foundation. "Ralph loved the valley. He thought it was an extraordinary place, and he was very adamant that we support the education of our youth."

To that end, the Outcalt Foundation awarded Adams State \$150,000 for

student scholarships, including a full-ride scholarship of up to \$25,000 per year for four years, and multiple one-time awards of up to \$3,000 to cover direct educational costs that include tuition, fees, books and supplies.

"Many families just don't have the funds to pursue higher education. Ralph wanted to make sure that kids, no matter what their financial background, had the opportunity to further their educations. If they were willing to put in the time and energy, he wanted to help them out," said Shriver.

Ralph's childhood experiences influenced his attitudes about education. His father passed away during the 1918 flu pandemic, when Ralph was just five years old. To help support his mother and two siblings, Ralph dropped out of high school as a junior so he could work. However, he continued to pursue his education, eventually receiving his diploma and surveying certificate via a correspondence course.

"He was always one that cherished education and wanted to see youth

have the opportunity to have education available to them," said Shriver. "He was also clear that the students we support don't have to be right out of high school. He wanted us to support people no matter what their age. If they're a nontraditional student who wants to learn and better themselves, we'd make sure to help them."

As a prominent businessman and long-time resident of the valley, Ralph Outcalt knew Adams State well. "He had a long-term relationship with Adams State and recognized its importance," said Shriver. "He felt that Adams State was a huge component of the Valley and a tremendous asset, not only for education but as an economic engine."

**Scholarships and Other Initiatives**

While the Outcalt Foundation provides funds for scholarships, it also supports education at Adams State in other ways. Recently, it provided a \$125,000 grant to renovate an industrial kitchen in the East Campus Building. The kitchen

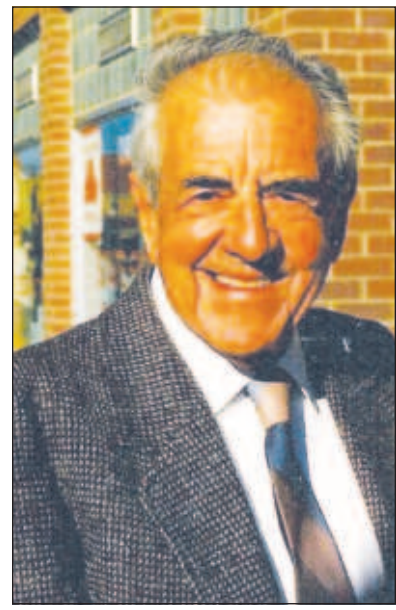
is for students in the university's Food Studies program, which prepares graduates for food-related careers. Community members also have access to the kitchen.

In addition to Adams State, the Outcalt Foundation also supports other local organizations, especially those that promote and protect youth development, including vocational schools and after-school programs.

"We've helped make sure that these important organizations prosper, stay open and that they maintain their viability," said Shriver. "Ralph was always involved in the community and supported it not only with his funds but with his time. He was involved in many things, and he wanted the foundation trustees, which includes Carolyn Kawanabe and myself — to stay involved in the community and support it any way we can."

In fact, residents of the valley might be surprised at just how much the foundation does.

"The foundation is pretty low-key, and we do a lot in the valley that I don't believe the public



knows about. That's by design," said Shriver. "Ralph was very humble. He was generous, kind, and not out for the glory. We try to maintain that philosophy, but it is nice to be recognized for the work the foundation is doing. So, we are very proud and honored that the foundation is being given this prestigious award."

# RGBOCC supports acquisition of land by RGNF

**BY LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — Rio Grande County Commissioners welcomed Andrea Jones, acting Deputy Forest Supervisor of Rio Grande National Forest, who was requesting county support in the acquisition of an 800-acre parcel of land located above the community of Jasper in Rio Grande County.

Jones provided an explanation and background for the proposal and a map of the parcel in question.

"We are calling this the Cliff Lake Parcel and some of the history is that it has obviously been private for a long time but for years the public has had access because the private owners had not gated off their parcel," Jones said.

Jones continued to explain that the public had been able to take ATVs up to the alpine lake located on the parcel and use it for several different types of recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking and more through private inholding.

Recently Jones was approached by the private landowner's son who requested a permit to access the private property which was approved. It was at this point that the owner put up gates, stopping the public from gaining access to the land.

"We have been trying some different angles to gain the public access to the land but then we found out that there was a potential opportunity through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire these public lands," Jones said. "So, now we are working with the Trust for Public Lands who is working with this owner to acquire that parcel of land."

Jones provided an overview of their proposal which states, "The Cliff Lake property is an approximately 800-acre inholding surrounded by RGNF lands. The property provides habitat for a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The lake itself provides habitat for a healthy recreation population of Rio Grande Cutthroat

trout. Private ownership of a portion of the lake (as is currently the case) could threaten this population if the private landowner decided to stock a different species of fish into the lake. The property also provides habitat for, resident and migratory birds, Canada lynx, mountain lion, black bear, elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer.

"The property includes a portion of a road accessing a high elevation alpine lake (Cliff Lake) that has been accessed by the general public and especially by local residents for generations. Due to current private ownership, historic access to this property has recently

been restricted. Residents of local underserved communities have been impacted by the lack of access to the Cliff Lake area for recreation purposes such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. In addition, local outfitters and guides rely on this area for hunting and local livestock producers count on adjacent forest lands for grazing. The more developed this area becomes, the more wildlife and habitat will be affected as will access and use for the general public and permittees. If the property were to change to public ownership, opportunities could be expanded for many of the uses listed above."

Jones said that about 250-acres of the property was located in Rio Grande County with the remainder in Conejos County and they are seeking support of the acquisition from both counties. According to Jones, Conejos County has issued a letter of support to the Rio Grande National Forest and the proposal for funding has been submitted to the appropriate parties.

The Rio Grande County Commissioners gave conditional verbal support for the acquisition of the Cliff Lake Parcel in a unanimous vote and to draft a letter of support.

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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

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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)

**Sargent School District is accepting applications for Varsity Boys Head Basketball Coach.** Please visit the website for application information [www.sargent.k12.co.us](http://www.sargent.k12.co.us) or call 719-852-4023. Application deadline is until filled. EOE (11/10)

**Sargent School District is accepting applications for Varsity Girls Assistant Basketball Coach.** Please visit the website for application information [www.sargent.k12.co.us](http://www.sargent.k12.co.us) or call 719-852-4023. Application deadline is until filled. EOE (11/10)

**The San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center is seeking a Registered Nurse for our Nurse Coordinator position (full-time**

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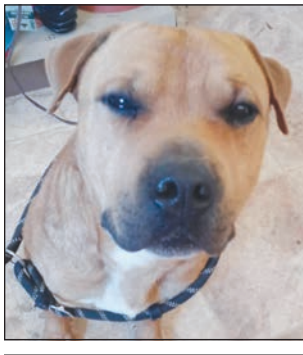
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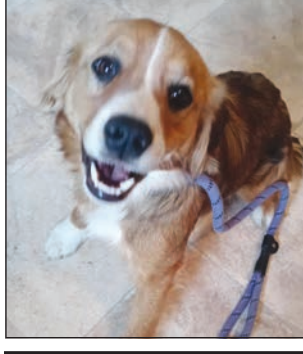
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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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## 42 Feed & Seed

For Sale: All Types of Hay Big and Small Squares Located at HVFM 10475 US Hwy 285 Antonito (570) 395-0184. (11/10)

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# BIRDS Continued from Page 1

The San Luis Valley is a unique microcosm that migrating birds use. The complex system is comprised of several different types of wetlands, agriculture, and the most endangered wetland, riparian wetlands.

The health of stopover habitat is dependent on water, which highlights the importance of thoughtful management of water resources throughout the Valley.

These migratory birds are a vital part of the local ecosystem, as they distribute seeds, pollen, and food chain balance which helps the overall health of this complex and interdependent system.

As the migratory birds consume a large amount of energy to migrate, the health of these stopover areas is vital to their populations. Without the habitat to nourish these birds, they may not make it to their wintering grounds, or arrive underweight and undernourished.

Over 400 different bird species depend on the various Valley wetlands to make their biannual migrations from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

The iconic Sandhill Crane depends heavily on the San Luis Valley to support their migration. The cranes use this habitat as a sort of “rest stop” to regain their energy and stock up on easily available food to continue their long journey.

The Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Crane migration attracts numerous visitors to the San Luis Valley to marvel at these majestic, boisterous and dynamic birds.

According to the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, “Upon reaching the SLV, they scatter themselves throughout barley fields, lakes, wetlands, and the Rio Grande, feeding on high-calorie grains and nutrient-dense aquatic invertebrates.”

Waste from grain harvesting provides the

birds with carbohydrates, while the nutrients they derive from hunting invertebrates help these birds form healthy eggshells.

The current population of the Rocky Mountain Sandhill Crane is stable, which is an encouraging sign for future flights of these majestic birds.

Other migratory birds, including waterfowl like the Pintail duck also use the SLV to rest before moving on.

The SLV is also home to what is termed a playa wetland, which is critical because it hosts several species that cannot survive in other environments.

The Snowy Plover, which is threatened due to habitat loss, depends on these playa wetlands that are saturated with water and have high soil alkalinity. The numerous refuges, state parks, and national parks also are vital to support these graceful additions to the Valley.



**Snowy Plover**

Photo by Mike Baird



**Cinnamon Teal**

Photo by NPS/Patrick Myers

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# Gallegos defends Hare and Hound Championship

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — After a competitive season of racing, Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos has done it again, and defended her title in the AMA National Hare and Hound Championship Series.

She competed in the Pro Women 86CC-Open division of the nine-race series, winning four times and placing second five times. She was second in the final race in Lucerne Valley, Calif., on Oct. 23-24, and finished with 245 series points, ahead of second place Rachel Stout with 207 points.

Gallegos also received the Cody Lurtz Selfless Racer Award, an award that is only presented to two racers at the end of a season, for her sportsmanship and attitude with her competitors.

Gallegos also won the National Hare and Hound Championship in 2020.

The National Hare and Hound Series is an off-road motorcycle racing event in the Western US. The races are desert races, and riders compete against each other on natural terrain and with a course anywhere from 40 to 120 miles long, while riding through a string of checkpoints. Hare and Hound competition offer divisions for all skill levels and ages of riders.

The AMANational Hare and Hound Championship series was created in 1985. The AMA sports committee helped get the series started.

In September Gallegos also competed in the Six Days of Enduro Race in Italy and helped bring home the top women's prize for Team USA.

For more information on the National Hare and Hound racing event, visit [nationalhareandhound.com](http://nationalhareandhound.com).



Courtesy photos

Monte Vista's Britney Gallegos won her second straight AMA National Hare and Hound Championship Series title on Oct. 23-24 in Lucerne Valley, Calif.

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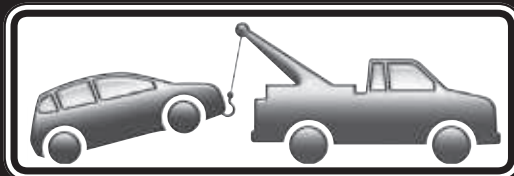
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Britney Gallegos

### Nominations sought for SLV 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 state-wide 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.



# New boat ramps completed on Rio Grande at Collier State Wildlife Area

## STAFF REPORT

**SOUTH FORK** — Work was completed this past week on two new boat ramps at the Collier State Wildlife Area on the Rio Grande River between Creede and South Fork.

Previously, the Upper Collier and Middle Collier access points featured dirt ramps, and the upper ramp had a very steep grade that required four-wheel drive vehicles. With the old dirt ramps, wet weather conditions also led to difficult mud and ruts being formed that required regular maintenance.

The new concrete ramps will increase accessibility for all users and alleviate the higher pressure on the middle ramp that had been used more frequently.

“Both ramps receive quite a bit

of use by the public during the summer based on the flows of the Rio Grande River,” said South Fork District Wildlife Manager Jeremy Gallegos. “The location of these ramps make them a common launching point or takeout for both anglers and recreational boaters.”

Though this stretch of the Rio Grande does not have Gold Medal waters designation, it is a quality fishery and a destination point for those seeking rainbow and brown trout fishing.

Construction of the new ramps took place in the fall to take advantage of lower flows and reduced use.

Collier SWA is a 579-acre property along the Rio Grande River. For more information, go to <https://cpw.state.co.us/swa/Collier%20SWA>.



## Generosity of CPAC benefits juvenile diabetes patients in the SLV

### STAFF REPORT

**MONTEVISTA** — Thanks to the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee of the SLV, Farm Fresh, SLV Health, and the City of Monte Vista, for raising funds and providing donations at the 2021 Tator Trot, a fun run that kicks off the well-attended fall Potato Festival, held at Chapman Park in Monte Vista in September.



Photo courtesy of SLVH

Pictured left to right, Jessica Crowther, CPAC Assistant Director, Roger Mix, CPAC Board Sect/Treasurer, and Alyssa Gallegos, Director of Primary Care Clinic Operations at San Luis Valley Health.

The funds raised are saved in a special Pediatric Diabetes Fund at SLV Health and are distributed to front line providers and nurses across all healthcare organizations in the San Luis Valley.

A diagnosis of diabetes for patients under the age of 18 can be overwhelming, but juvenile patients and their caregivers have access to many resources. Many of these excellent resources require some traveling outside of the SLV. These gift cards are given to the patient’s guardians, regardless of income, no strings attached, as a way to help defer expenses.

“Thank you to everyone who participated in the fun run, to the CPAC board for their matching donation, and to all the organizers of this year’s event,” SLVH stated.

## Gov. Polis appoints three from SLV to statewide committees

### BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Governor Polis announced his most recent rounds of appointments to statewide committees and boards on Monday, Nov. 1, naming three individuals from the San Luis Valley to serve in various capacities.

Statewide boards and committees were formed to include individuals with a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds in decisions that have statewide impact as well as to encourage participation from a diversity of communities.

Lori Laske, Alamosa County commissioner, was appointed to serve on the Colorado State Child Fatality Prevention Review Team (CFPS).

The purpose of the CFPS is to conduct multidisciplinary and comprehensive reviews of child fatalities that occur in Colorado in order to better understand how and why children die and to develop and implement strategies to prevent future deaths from occurring. These reviews are conducted by local child fatality prevention and review teams across the state.

The CFPS State Review Team is responsible for reviewing the aggregated data and recommendations submitted by local teams to identify

recommendations to prevent child deaths in Colorado, including policy recommendations. Commissioner Laske’s term is set to expire Sept. 1, 2024.

David Warsh of Center was appointed to serve on the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee. Warsh is a landowner actively engaged in agriculture.

The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee shall annually review proposed projects for expenditure of Colorado wildlife habitat stamp funds and make recommendations to the director and the wildlife commission.

Warsh’s term will expire Dec. 31, 2024.

Christine Canaly, a Democrat, non-attorney, member from Saguache County and resident of Crestone, was appointed to serve on the Twelfth Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission.

There is a judicial district nominating commission for each of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts that selects nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission. Canaly’s term will expire on Dec. 31, 2024.

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

Level: Advanced

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### 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

B	E	V	E	L	S	S	I	E	G	E	S		
P	A	R	O	L	E	E	O	P	P	O	S	E	S
R	B	L	I	V	E	R	P	O	O	L	P	C	
A	B	U	T	S	S	A	P	S	E	L	A	R	
U	L	N	A	F	A	D	E	S	M	I	R	I	
S	E	I	M	A	W	D	A	R	B	A	B		
V	A	I	N				D	E	L	E	T	E	
A	L	E	C	K			N	A	R	E	S		
S	A	R	T	R	E		S	A	N	A			
E	B	S	A	D	P		R	A	N	T	A	B	
P	R	A	T	T	A	C	E	T	S	E	R	A	
T	A	L	A	S	D	O	T	B	A	S	A	L	
I	D	W	H	I	R	L	I	G	I	G	B	A	
C	O	R	N	I	C	E	R	E	S	E	A	L	S
R	H	Y	M	E	S		E	M	E	R	G	E	



# Harvest season ends across San Luis Valley

By MECHHEL MEEK

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The sounds of harvest time have faded into the background for another year in the San Luis Valley.

According to harvest reports, 88 percent of the alfalfa fields have been harvested, and all potato fields are now harvested, and the potato harvest has been placed in storage barns or shipped.

According to the USDA, "Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture."

Also, of note in the USDA report, most livestock are in good condition, sheep and cattle deaths were average and pasture conditions are fair to good in most locations.

Across the Valley, farmers were

seen readying their fields for winter and applying fertilizer to nourish and return nutrients to the soil.

With the long-term forecast indicating a low precipitation trend in Colorado, some farmers expressed concern for the spring planting season.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), "There is a 90% chance that La Niña conditions will be in place from December 2021 to February 2022."

La Niña conditions generally result in below-average temperatures in the north of the country while the south experiences higher-than-normal temperatures. Precipitation is expected to be drier than average for the Southwest.



Photo by Mechhel Meek

San Luis Valley farmers are readying their fields for the winter and applying fertilizer to nourish and return nutrients to the soil.

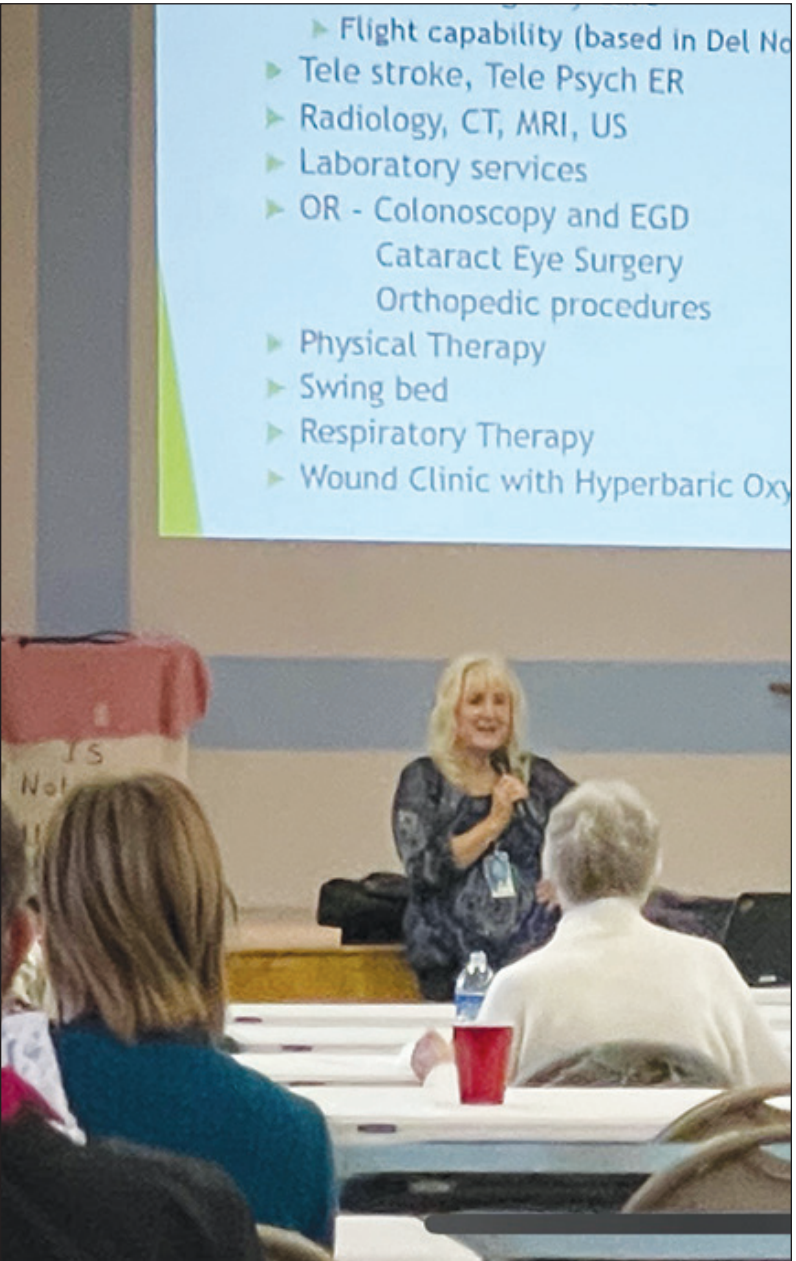


Photo courtesy of RGH

Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms speaks on Oct. 28 during the hospital's first Community Needs Assessment meeting of 2021.

## Rio Grande Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment begins

**STAFF REPORT**  
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) had a successful kick-off of its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) at the Knights of Columbus in Del Norte on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The CHNA is required of tax-exempt hospitals as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is an ongoing process for the hospital to evaluate the health needs of the communities they serve. This allows them to facilitate the priority of needs then and strategize to address them.

Local partners, stakeholders, and community members joined together for the first of three CHNAs meetings. Emily Brown, RGH Board member, welcomed the group and explained the

process. The first meeting focused on last year's CHNA outcomes.

RGH CEO Arlene Harms shared with the group how much they have grown, and a lot of it is thanks to the outcome from the last CHNA in 2018, including the many partnerships that have evolved from the 2018 meeting.

CFO Greg Porter reviewed financial information. Then Emily Brown distributed and explained the health data for Rio Grande County and the San Luis Valley.

RGH wants to hear from the community through its survey. This process allows RGH to hear the needs of the community. The survey can be found at [riograndehospital/chna](http://riograndehospital/chna). There people can also find more information about the next two meetings on Nov. 11 and Nov. 30.

# The News

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# Tourism reps hear from new state director

By **KEITH R. CERNY**

Regional Publisher

**ALAMOSA** — Local representatives of the tourism industry couldn't agree more with the statement that tourism in the San Luis Valley is recovering from the pandemic a lot faster than the rest of the state, particularly the front range.

Timothy Wolfe, recently appointed director of Colorado's Tourism Office, made that assessment while meeting with SLV leaders here Tuesday morning at the Colorado Welcome Center. Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa, who introduced Wolfe to about a dozen in attendance, echoed his feelings when looking at lodging numbers locally.

Kathleen Murphy, director of the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from Saguache County agreed noting record tourism numbers in 2020 and continuing into 2021.

"City sales taxes in the town of Creede doubled last year from 2019," Murphy said.

Wolfe estimated that tourism on the front range is still down about 35% from historic numbers. He talked about four or five grant programs that he is working on to promote and continue to grow tourism in Colorado.

Gigi Dennis, Alamosa County Administrator, and others encouraged the director to look at a tiered system of awarding grants across the state to avoid loading up larger population zones with funds. Wolfe, who is on a fact-finding

mission around Colorado, said he would certainly take that into consideration.

Wolfe, who had planned to visit the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on Tuesday's trip to the SLV, ran out of time after meeting with those at the welcome center. He called the Dunes a "geologic wonder," and said the industry needs to continue to work on improving the tourism experience while continuing to be good stewards of the state's resources.

With 25 years experienced in hospitality, Wolfe assumed his new role on Aug. 23 after being appointed by Pat Meyers, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT).

"Tim is a proven leader with exceptional industry experience, market knowledge and an outstanding record of management success," said Meyers in an announcement about the appointment. "As Colorado's tourism industry continues its economic recovery, Tim's hospitality and event experience will be invaluable in delivering a strong recovery for our urban centers and his understanding of Colorado's local values is critical to effectively serving the diverse needs of our rural destinations across the state. His experience is tailored for this moment."

Before his appointment as tourism director, Wolfe was most recently Complex General Manager of the 241-room iconic



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

**Timothy Wolfe, new executive director of the Colorado Tourism Office, met with SLV officials on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Alamosa Welcome Center. He is shown with Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa, and Gigi Dennis, Alamosa County Administrator.**

Brown Palace and the adjacent 231-room Holiday Inn Express Denver Downtown, a post that capped extensive service for multiple hotel groups and distinguished hospitality properties. A former Colorado Tourism Board chairman and former board member for the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association, his accolades include a 2015 induction into the CHLA Hall of Fame.

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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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**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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This lot has beautiful views all around with year round access, and is close to the Alamosa River, Rio Grande National Forest, La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife area, and Hot Creek SWA for easy access to hunting and fishing. The area would be a great place to build a comfortable home on. Call to view! **\$5,999** MLS#787432



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