



## Shorts



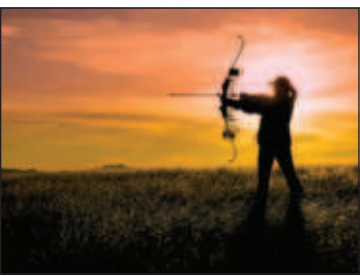
Former Saguache County deputy Wayne Clark

### Clark a no show for arraignment

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** - Former Saguache County deputy Wayne Clark failed to appear at his arraignment July 29 on charges of official misconduct, filed in July 2020 by district attorney Robert Willett.

One source close to law enforcement speculated he may have left the state. A warrant has been issued for Clark's arrest.

Clark was with the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for close to five years before being relieved of his duties.



### 3D archery shoot August 9

The Piedra Bowhunters Archery Club will hold a 3D archery shoot Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Rock Creek Range (southwest of Monte Vista). Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. Shoot begins at 9:00 AM. \$20 entry fee, \$40 max for family. 30 Targets. Lunch will be available for \$5.00. Social distancing and masks will be required during registration, lunch and awards ceremony. Volunteers are needed for set-up. Meet at the range Saturday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m. if you can assist. Contact Jeff Geiser at 575-309-3198 or Michael Wright at 719-580-3064 for more information.

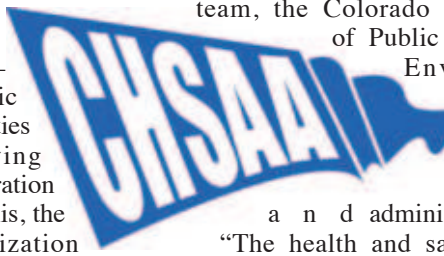
## CHSAA announces 2020-21 athletics/activities calendar

**COLORADO**-The Colorado High School Activities Association has announced its 2020-2021 interscholastic athletics and activities calendar. Following months of collaboration with Gov. Jared Polis, the CHSAA Resocialization Task Force, the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee,

the state's COVID-19 Response team, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the CHSAA Board of Directors and administrative staff. "The health and safety of our student participants, coaches, officials and essential personnel, including

volunteers is a primary concern for the return of interscholastic athletics and activities," said CHSAA Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green. "We are very grateful for the state, health and educational leaders for their shared commitment of a return to these highly beneficial education programs when it is deemed safe for all school communities." Note that the resumption of all activities and athletics are subject

to change based upon any changes to national, state or local guidelines. The 2020-21 season will be played with a modified sport schedule due to the on-going global pandemic, creating four separate sports seasons during the school year. The modified calendar splits sports into four seasons, concluding in late June: A, B, C and D. Dates and plans for non-athletic activities continue to be formulated. Please see CHSAA on Page 6A



## A beautiful graduation for 27 Center High School graduates



The CHS 2020 graduating class.

Courtesy photos

By CARRIE ZIMMERMAN

**CENTER** - It was a beautiful Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, evening and a great celebration for 27 Center High School graduates. The class chose the motto by Walt Disney, "Why worry? If you've done the very best you can, ... worrying won't make it better." The 2020 Class Valedictorian, Kristine Hoffner, and Salutatorian Dolores Estrada Hernandez both delivered moving messages. Class president, Jose Villagomez, also spoke to his fellow graduates and led the tassel exchange.

Graduates wore matching masks with the Class of 2020 logo, and COVID-19 safety guidelines were strictly followed. Each family of a graduate was given a 20x20 foot chalk marked box where up to nine immediate family members could sit. The box was divided into three equal parts to maintain social distancing with each part of the box able to accommodate up to three people who live in a household together. Families provided their own lawn chairs. Extended family members were able to watch

Please see GRADS on Page 6A



Each family of a graduate was given a 20x20 foot chalk marked box where up to nine immediate family members could sit.



CHS 2020 Salutatorian was Dolores Estrada Hernandez who delivered a moving message to her fellow graduates.



CHS 2020 Class Valedictorian was Kristine Hoffner.



Rio Grande County Commissioner John Noffsfer

## Petition circulates to recall Noffsfer

By LYNSIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY**- A petition is circulating throughout Rio Grande County to recall Rio Grande Commissioner John Noffsfer. A committee comprised of Mona Syring, Mettje Swift and Deanne Elliott began the petition due to their rising concerns with how Commissioner Noffsfer is handling everyday business and in relation to the recent employee turnover in the county offices.

According to county records and statements made by Syring, there have been several resignations and terminations during the time Noffsfer has been in office though some of these do include circumstances where individuals may have left the county for other reasons than those mentioned in the petition.

In the petition, reasons for the recall are as follows, "We, the voters of Please see RECALL on Page 7A

## International journalist warns about bizarre Crestone cult

### Possible Reisinger disappearance connection

**CRESTONE** - A prominent world journalist has written an article exposing a "bizarre" cult headquartered in Crestone's Casita Park subdivision that some parents and family members believe has subjected their loved ones to mind control and

physical harm.

It is believed that the cult may have some connection to the 2016 disappearance of Kristal Reisinger. According to the article's author, Be Scofield, some cult members share the same meth and drug circles frequented by Reisinger.

A group of mothers has banded together in support of their children impacted by the group, known as Love has Won. The article alleges cult leaders have conned

Please see CULT on Page 6A



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# Air Life Helicopter locates crash scene

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** - The Alamosa Regional Communications Center received a 911 call at approximately 8:15 a.m. Aug. 1 concerning a vehicle and injured occupant that was located by a passerby. The crash was determined to have occurred at approximately 5 p.m. the previous day on Saguache County Road 14NN, 1.2 miles east of Saguache County Road 17FF.

An Air Life Helicopter assisted in locating the crash scene. Upon finding the scene, the helicopter transported the driver to a hospital out of the

area for treatment. Investigation revealed the driver, 35 year old Salvador Bobadilla of Gunnison, was driving eastbound on County Road 14NN when his vehicle traveled off the left side of the road. Bobadilla overcorrected, sending his vehicle into a spin. The vehicle skidded off the right side of the roadway, down an embankment, rolling one time before coming to rest on its wheels.

Bobadilla is missing a dog that ran from the scene after the crash. We currently have no description of the dog. The investigation is ongoing.

# OBITUARY

## Rosemary Lounsbury, 82

**DELNORTE** — Lifetime Monte Vista resident Rosemary Lounsbury, 82, passed away peacefully July 29 at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte surrounded by family.

Rosemary was born in Monte Vista, Colorado on Nov. 24, 1937, the daughter to Earnest and Doris Livingston Stiver. She married her husband of 60 years, Donald Lee Lounsbury at the Methodist Church in Monte Vista July 5, 1959. They made their home in Monte Vista where she worked for the Monte Vista Hospital and later for the San Luis Valley Health as an X-ray technician. She completed more than 40 years in her trade. She loved her family and friends! Her greatest joys came from being a swimming and motorcycle Mom, jeeping, time spent at the cabin in Creede and time spent with friends in Arizona.

Rosemary is survived by their children Mark (Gigi Dennis) Lounsbury and Leanne (Louie Gonzales) Lounsbury; her sister Cheryl (John) Goad-Buchheim; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosemary is preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her



siblings Mitch Stiver and Jeanene Stiver Swaggerty.

Cremation was chosen and private services will be held at a later date. Contributions in her memory are suggested to the Monte Vista Ambulance and may be made through

the funeral home office at 404 Morris Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

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

# YOUR NIGHT SKY

## The Summer Triangle

BY DARLENE DANKO

The full moon was on the Aug. 3, and the first quarter moon will be on Aug. 11. Then the new moon is on the 18<sup>th</sup>. So as this month progresses we'll have great night sky viewing. Remember that the Perseids peak on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> but will be visible for another two weeks after that even though there will be fewer meteors as the days progress.

The Delta Aquarid meteor shower peaked July 28, but they're still visible now. Like the Perseids, they're best viewed from midnight until dawn. What's different about them is that they stay active as long as they're visible. Of course, even at their peak there are only 10 per hour, but the further south you are, there will be a few more than that. Look for them more to the south while you're viewing the Perseids.

What's interesting about meteors is that they're no larger than a pea and can be smaller to the size of a grain of sand. They originate when a comet orbits the Sun. The solar heat turns solids into gas which leaves a debris trail. Then small pieces of debris from comets or asteroids are what make up the meteors. They heat up when they enter our atmosphere and create a streak of light across the night sky.

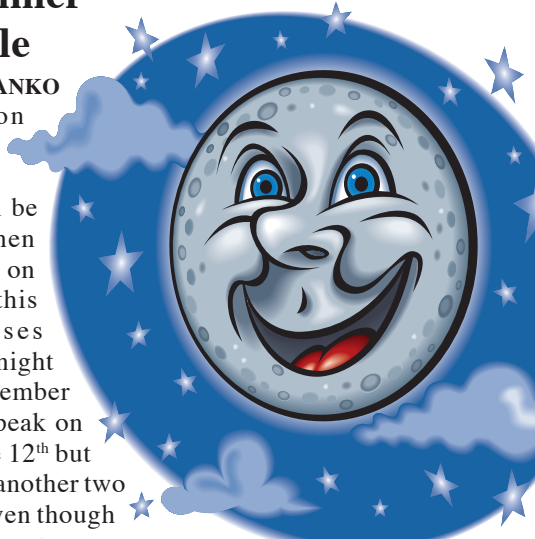
They enter our atmosphere at about 45,000 MPH, and this speed causes the air ahead to compress and heat up. Then they begin to vaporize and become a shooting star. The very bright ones are called fireballs. When our planet crosses that trail, the particles

enter our atmosphere and a meteor shower occurs! If per chance the meteor is large enough to survive the encounter and land on Earth, it becomes a meteorite. That rarely happens.

This is also a good month for viewing bright planets. Jupiter and Saturn become visible in the SE after the Sun sets, and stay visible all night. They start in the SE and gradually move to the west. Mars is currently visible after midnight, but later this month will begin to rise a little earlier. By October it will outshine Jupiter.

Mercury is currently visible low in the NE in the morning. By mid-month it will become an evening planet after the Sun sets. Venus rises in the east about 2:45 AM this month. The moon will join Venus on the 15th.

The Summer Triangle shines high overhead this month. It's made of 3 bright stars from different constellations. The Milky Way passes through it, so when you see the Milky Way you can find the Summer Triangle. Deneb is part of Cygnus the Swan, Vega is part of Lyra the Harp, and Altair is part of Aquilla the Eagle. So look over head at the Milky Way and see of you can find it.



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# Salmonella outbreak in California red onions

**COLORADO** - The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are monitoring a report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of an outbreak of *Salmonella* Newport in red onions that have been traced to a single provider in Bakersfield, California as the likely source. The outbreak has resulted in a number of consumers falling ill nationwide, including in Colorado.

The source of the outbreak is limited to the facility in California and is not related to onions grown in Colorado. Consumers and retailers should feel safe selecting and eating onions grown in Colorado. Information regarding the *Salmonella* Newport outbreak and the recall, as well as instructions for



consumers, can be found in this FDA Announcement and the CDC alert.

## Colorado teens report an alarming increase in use of ultra-potent marijuana

**COLORADO**-Six years after adult-use marijuana commercialization began in Colorado, teens report an alarming increase in their use of ultra-potent pot products in the form of dabs and vapes, according to official state data released today (Aug. 3, 2020).

More than half of high school students who use marijuana reported that they dab marijuana to get high. Among students who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, 52 percent said they dabbled it, up from 34.4 percent just two years ago—a 50 percent increase, according to the new bi-annual Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results, based on surveys of over 53,000 middle and high school students statewide last year.

“Dabbing” is a method of inhaling highly concentrated THC (commonly referred to as hash oil, wax or shatter) using a blow torch-heated delivery system commonly referred to as a dab rig. THC is the main high-inducing chemical in marijuana. (To download high-quality, free-to-publish photos of marijuana concentrates bought in Colorado, go to [THCphotos.org](http://THCphotos.org).)

The survey results also show a 69 percent increase in students vaping marijuana in two years. Among high school students who used marijuana in the past 30 days, 34.3 percent reported vaping it, up from 20.3 percent in 2017.

Denver, the epicenter of commercialization in the state, likewise experienced dramatic increases. High school dabbing increased over 80 percent in two years and vaping increased almost 50 percent.

Colorado has no limits on marijuana potency and has seen levels of THC steadily rise in commercial products. Some concentrates, which make up an increasingly large share of the market, can exceed 90 percent THC. Those potency increases have been documented in a state funded study.

At the request of the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado department of public health and Environment just completed a comprehensive analysis of the health effects of marijuana potency that acknowledged that almost 93 percent of products sold in Colorado are greater than 15 percent THC.

In the early 1990s, the average THC content in confiscated marijuana samples was less than 4 percent. Marijuana potency has accelerated in the past decade as marijuana commercialization expanded.

Rachel O’Bryan, one of Smart Colorado’s co-founders and an expert in the field of marijuana commercialization and the impacts on kids, said, “It’s no surprise that kids are switching to easily concealed ultra-potent pot when they are bombarded with images and marketing for these high-THC products that have proliferated since legalization. This is not the much milder marijuana of their parents’ generation.”

Peer-reviewed scientific studies show that marijuana harms developing brains yet researchers haven’t been able to fully explore the effects of these new ultra-potent products. A recent study found a significant association between



using marijuana concentrates and progressing to more frequent use among adolescents. The study found that the rate of persistence of use and progression of use is greater with concentrated THC than with other marijuana products.

When nationwide high school use of e-cigarettes soared by 78 percent in a single year and 26 percent of Colorado students, twice the national average, reported current e-cigarette use, then-Gov. John Hickenlooper and public health officials sounded the alarm, laws to ban flavored nicotine vaping liquid were passed and states, including Colorado, sued the e-cigarette manufacturer Juul for illegally marketing to children.

O’Bryan said she hopes these latest figures will finally shock the state into action.

“Commercialized marijuana in Colorado, and the way our state has chosen to leave the industry largely unregulated, is setting our children up for future addiction,” she said. “I hope this news is a wake-up call to policymakers that a serious discussion and immediate action on rampant pot potency is needed. Our children have only one chance to grow up and we as a community are failing them.”

## CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

**BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT**

Clerk and Recorder’s Office to visit town of Crestone bimonthly. Thanks to Steve and Elaine from the Crestone Mercantile, the County Clerk’s Office will set up visiting hours at the Sheriff’s Satellite Office. The office adjoins the mercantile located at 182 E Galena Ave. in the town of Crestone.

Citizen expectations are on the rise. It is our goal to engage citizens and personalize services for a better citizen experience.

Ben Gerade will spearhead the project. He will be available every second and fourth Tuesday of every month, beginning Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (with the exception of holidays and inclement weather). Though we are unable to set up State

equipment for vehicle registrations, Ben will be available to answer questions regarding the following:

- Title work
- Recording
- Vehicle registrations
- Duplicate title transactions
- Manufactured homes
- Marriage licenses
- Voter registration
- “Anything else” as related to our daily operations

Ben will be equipped with a laptop and an iPad to assist with limited online transactions. He can help you look up your voter registration, renew your vehicle registration online, etc. He will also have available some helpful handouts for you to take home.

For any transaction, please have your driver’s license (and proof of insurance for vehicle renewals) ready. Many transactions cannot be

processed on location. Ben will be happy to be the “go-between” courier for transporting documents back and forth for your convenience.

If you have an out-of-state title, please have your VIN verification from the Sheriff’s Department ready. For questions, please call 719-655-2512.

This will be a new “distance learning” experience for us all. Please remember, as a result of COVID-19, you are required to wear a mask and be conscious of six-foot social distancing.

Our team is excited to have Ben represent us in Crestone. We hope this needed service will be a benefit for all.



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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Shoot me in both legs

Way back in the days of marital bliss I had the greatest father-in-law a person could hope for. Matter of fact, he liked me more than my wife liked me and that was a good thing, until he died.

Wag, as he was known, was the spitting image of the actor Walter Matthau and acted just like his character in Grumpy Old Men. In fact, life with Wag was often like being in that movie as Wag's curmudgeonly approach to life often brought reprimands from the women in his life, laughter from the men and great admiration from his grandchildren. He was a real character.

He had served in WWII and saw a lot of combat and I loved to hear him talk about where he was and what he saw. Now men like that were real heroes one and all.

There came a time that the Germans decided to make one last gigantic effort and broke through the American lines in a surprise attack later named The Battle of the Bulge. Many Americans were killed, captured or wounded and Wag got shot in the leg which ended his military sojourn in Europe.

It took some 50 years after that injury for Wag to get approved for a military disability pension for the German shrapnel he carried in that leg his whole life. The day his first disability check arrived in the mail, he showed it to me proudly and remarked, "If I had known I would get that much I would have let them shoot me in the other leg, too."

Now that's a great attitude about a very serious thing and that's how those men were. Hardened veterans of life. The greatest generation can teach the rest of us a lot.

Wag and most of his friends have gone to their heavenly rewards, but Ol' Dutch found himself thinking about that story the other day when I had a similar experience.

No, I didn't get shot or serve in a war but it's a story, nonetheless. Back in about February, both Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie suffered a bout with some illness. Now this was before the coronavirus was documented in our land so we just thought we were feeling punky.

Miss Trixie, ever here effervescent self, sprung back like a sapling after a hurricane but Ol' Dutch had a tougher time. As long as I live with Miss Trixie, I don't know why she isn't more sympathetic when it comes to me expressing my despair during my time of need. Every



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

cough, snuffle or sneeze may not sound like a lot to her, but for me it is worthy of moaning, groaning and all-out medical intervention.

Now back to our February illness, one weird thing that happened is that we both lost our sense of smell and taste. Again, this was early on in the American experience with the COVID-19 and no one seemed to know this was one of the symptoms of having been exposed.

Now you would think that not being able to taste much would cause Ol' Dutch to soon find himself in fighting form and able to squeeze into those jeans I have saved since high school, but that doesn't seem to be the case, yet.

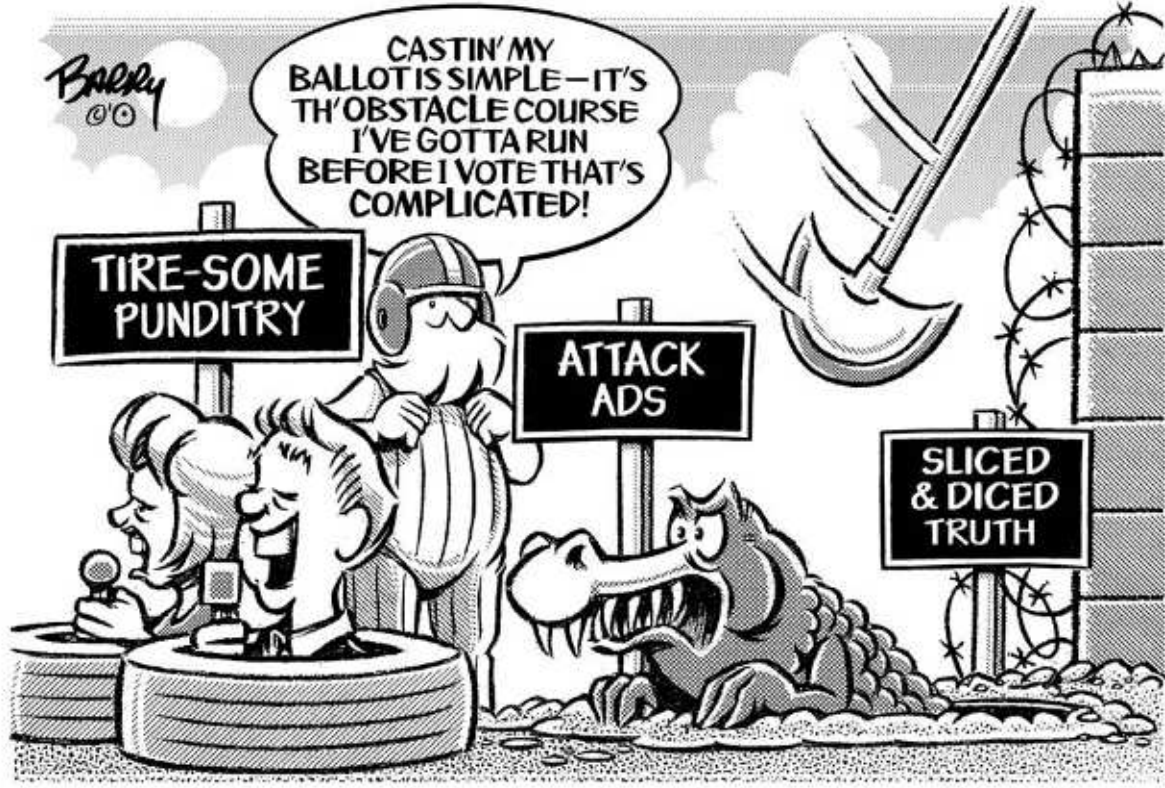
While my taste has not come back, one weird thing did return -- my eyesight. I have worn glasses since I was 25 years old, but since the possible exposure to the dreaded disease, Ol' Dutch does not need his eye glasses anymore.

I am wondering now if another round of Corona-lite might just heal my hearing to which Miss Trixie says, "Amen."

And like my father-in-law who would have taken another bullet for a better pension, Ol' Dutch just might sign up for round two if it was just a light dose.

If Miss Trixie ever begins encouraging me to go out without my mask, I'll know she either wants me to take a chance it will make my hearing better or she has taken out a life insurance policy unknown to me.

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



## LETTERS

### Recall Rio Grande County Commissioner John Noffske

To the editor,

A committee has been formed to recall Rio Grande County commissioner John Noffske. This non-partisan effort came about in light of serious concerns about how Rio Grande County is being managed. According to the organizational chart on the commissioners' website, the commissioners work for the citizens of the county, and many of our fellow citizens are questioning the actions of Mr. Noffske and the board, of which he is currently Chairman.

Our concerns are that Mr. Noffske: Has created an adversarial working environment for county employees, which has resulted in both volunteer and forced resignations, as well as terminations.

Has created an adversarial working environment for other elected county officials; some officials refuse to meet with him.

Is incompetent, unprepared for meetings, and fails to grasp issues that are important to the county, which delays important decisions and is clearly a failure to perform the duties sworn to in his oath of office.

Has difficulty communicating effectively with his constituents.

Conducts himself in an inappropriate manner with his peers, subordinates and external persons; he is frequently volatile, threatening, confrontational and unprofessional.

Fails to follow state and county policies, procedures, especially in terms of adhering to open meetings rules.

While our apprehension has been building for some time, we became truly distressed when the well-

qualified Director of Public Health was terminated in May. Only six weeks after that termination, the Interim Director of Public Health resigned, citing a lack of support from the board of county commissioners, which had also appointed themselves the County Board of Health. We believe that if there were perceived problems with the Public Health Department, the board would have made a plan to rectify those problems immediately upon the termination of the director. Now, more than two months later, and with yet a second interim director in place, no new hires have been made, and the department only has one nurse. This would be a troubling situation under any circumstances, but in the midst of a pandemic, with schools set to open, and with flu season nearly upon us, this is now a grave concern. The lack of prompt and effective action indicates that Mr. Noffske's leadership falls short of what is necessary to keep our county safe and functional.

The county's administration department has also lost two key people in the last week, including the County Administrator (also the second person in that position to resign while Mr. Noffske has been commissioner). Among other things, the ability to manage the payroll is now severely limited. As of the last regular meeting of the board, Mr. Noffske stated that a meeting needs to be held to determine how each commissioner can assist with administrative tasks. But that meeting has not been held yet—at least not in an

open meeting setting--which again delays decisions and could affect how and when county employees and suppliers get paid.

Citizens can watch these meetings for themselves on YouTube, on the "Rio Grande Seer" channel. We highly recommend that you watch all the posted meetings, particularly the ones held May 27 and July 27. It is worth noting that fellow Commissioner, Suzanne Bothell, asked Commissioner Noffske to resign during the July 27 meeting.

For many years, Rio Grande County has been respected and considered a great place to work. It has had its share of problems but has always worked in the spirit of solving the problems together. This is no longer the case under Mr. Noffske's ineffectual leadership. The citizens need and deserve a functional and reliable government for Rio Grande County, and thus have launched this effort to recall and replace Mr. Noffske with a qualified candidate, to be chosen in a subsequent election.

Time is of the essence if we are to get this important decision before the voters on the November ballot. Petitions are available for signature by registered voters of Rio Grande County. Please act quickly and contact Deanne Elliott at dliz.elliott@gmail.com; Virginia Christensen at forage1@gojade.org; Mettje Swift at mettjeswift@gmail.com, Laura Conchelos at lauraconchelos@gmail.com, or Mona Syring at msyring555@gmail.com to arrange to sign the petition.

*Mona Syring  
Monte Vista*

**Please see more Letters on Page 5A**

## Valley Publishing does not publish anonymous letters

From the editor, All submitted letters need to include your name, address and phone number for verification of the letter's author. If you have recently submitted an anonymous letter you can resubmit the letter with your

contact information for consideration for publication.

We also reserve the right to refuse letters due to length, frequent letters from the same person or organization; or are determined to be slanderous, nonfactual or obscene.

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# LETTERS

## Rio Grande County is in shambles and we have only ourselves to blame

To the editor,  
 "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, I'm from the government and I'm here to help." President Ronald Reagan's quote has come to fruition. For the past 35 years we have taken our skepticism of government and transformed it into complete distrust and slothful apathy. The years of rhetoric from political parties, media, business, and singular interest groups have led us to believe that government is inept. This collective governing of ourselves by imperfect servants is too complicated, too immature, too power hungry and too narcissistic to solve the everyday problems of society. We have come to that day where the problems on

the pile seem too high, too many to contemplate how to start to fix.  
 We have put every social servant in the barrel to take a lashing during this time of vitriol toward our fellow human. We've hated the teachers, the police, the politician, the public health worker, the inspector general; the list goes on. We don't respect experience or expertise. We don't just question authority; we send hate mail threatening to murder their family. We disregard facts, science, logic and reason when they don't align with our party, our beliefs or our conspiracy theory. We not only distrust government, we have successfully destroyed the tenets that uphold a government of the people.

COVID-19 has taught me one thing as I look around the world. National governments big and small, well-funded and poor have dealt with this pandemic in many different ways. The ones that have so far come away successful have acted with transparency and investment in their social systems to help their people. Accountability, action, creative problem-solving, hard work and honesty are hallmarks of great leadership in times of crisis or peace.  
 I watched an open session of Rio Grande County Commissioners meeting, July 27, and hung my head in shame. Not only have we elected leadership unable or unwilling to implore any of the hallmarks above, but

they've pushed out of the county government truly competent people through firing, forced resignation or quitting through sheer frustration. I am waiting. I am waiting to hear someone in leadership at any level; local, state or national say, "I am wrong. I got it wrong. My bad. I will fix it. Here's how." I assume I will be kept waiting. We are a nation of finger pointers. As citizens, we have failed to elect capable public servants and hold our government to a standard of competence, accountability and reliability. Rio Grande County is in shambles and we have only ourselves to blame.

*Kyler J. Brown  
 Monte Vista*

## A recall is the antithesis of democracy

To the editor,  
 Rio Grande County citizens are learning this week of an effort to gather signatures for a petition to recall Commissioner John Noffsfer. That's very sad, but not surprising; many of us supported Mr. Noffsfer because we were certain that he would be an agent of much-needed major change in RGC administration, management and most importantly, in the policies and future outlook of the County. And major changes in policy and personnel often involve difficult and unpopular measures.  
 Sponsors of the recall effort will be asking for citizens' signatures over the next several days. I expect that they may be successful, based primarily on a negative emotional appeal, in

gathering enough signatures to put the recall issue on the November ballot. But those of you who are asked to sign should remember these three factors:  
 An objective review of the voluntary and requested personnel changes, which appear to be a major reason for the recall effort, will show that although these changes were stressful for the individuals involved, they were, on balance, beneficial to County operations.  
 A fair assessment of Mr. Noffsfer and the other Commissioners will show that their performance has been, for the most part, of considerable benefit to the County - worthy of praise, not condemnation.  
 The recall instigators are likely to maintain, in their defense that their

effort is "democracy in action." A recall is the antithesis of democracy. A small group of people intending to void the result of a valid, fair, and democratic election is about as undemocratic as you can get. This probably is a basic reason why a 2018 study showed that almost two-thirds of recall efforts of state and local officials either didn't make it to the ballot or were defeated by vote.  
 I urge all Rio Grande County citizens to think and act much more on the basis of objectivity and reason and very much less on emotion. A fair evaluation will show that we have in Mr. Noffsfer a good public servant. Let's keep him in place.  
*Charles Spielman  
 Monte Vista*

## Citizens of Rio Grande County

To the editor,  
 This letter is written in reference to the recall effort against Rio Grande County Commissioner John Noffsfer.  
 The committee (one of whom is the mother of former Rio Grande County Public Health Officer, Emily Brown) has stated a number of reasons why they want Commissioner Noffsfer removed. I think we can agree the reasons are "vague" and "subjective." Many folks think this effort is nothing more than sour grapes because Mrs. Elliot's daughter was fired. As far as other employees being terminated or resigning, Commissioner Noffsfer was involved in only two of those terminations.  
 Common sense tells us that whenever someone steps into a leadership position (in private business or government) and attempts to have the organization operate on policy rather than what has become the norm (what's easier, more comfortable), the "new" person becomes the subject of much discord. Some folks understand operating within policy is best for the entity for which they work; others, however, will continue to buck the system, some will resign and find a job where it will be easier and some

will even resign because they fear they may be subject to legal ramifications for prior actions.  
 As I stated, this recall effort is nothing more than a sour grapes "revenge" effort by a group of people who haven't been able to manipulate Commissioner Noffsfer. Some folks associated with this recall group are also still bitter that Commissioner Noffsfer won against their candidate - and two years later, they still cannot accept the will of the voters.  
 Commissioner Noffsfer is a professional who follows policy and expects others to do the same. Sadly, in today's world that trait is becoming less of an admired quality in too many folks.  
 If this recall moves forward, the recall committee can be expected to twist the truth to their favor, take comments out of context, and use other political tactics to get you to sign their petition - and, if successful, convince you to vote to recall him in the general election. Look deeper. Use your critical thinking skills. I encourage you not to sign the petition. Allow Commissioner Noffsfer to continue to work toward making Rio Grande County a county of which we can be proud.  
*Cliff Kincannon  
 Monte Vista*

## What the heck is going on with the Rio Grande County government?

To the editor,  
 Does anybody know what the heck is going on with the Rio Grande County government? In the last few weeks, the county administrator has resigned, the public health director was fired and the interim county health director abruptly quit.  
 And there's more. In the last 18 months, another county administrator, two human resource officers, two bookkeepers, two emergency managers, two clerks, the head of maintenance and a weed district employee were all either forced to

resign or quit voluntarily.  
 I think we know why - county commissioner John Noffsfer. There is a petition circulating in the county that calls for his removal. It states he conducts himself in a "volatile, threatening, confrontational, aggressive, bullying and unprofessional manner."  
 Who wants to work for a guy like that? The petition also states that Noffsfer is incompetent and not prepared for meetings. It says he creates an adversarial environment and chaos with other elected county officials. He also failed to follow state

and county policy, procedures and statutes, including, but not limited to, open meeting laws.  
 This doesn't sound like a person who should be a public official. It sounds more like a person who is arrogant.  
 If you want to sign the petition to recall county commissioner John Noffsfer, contact one of the following people: Mona Syring (msyring555@gmail.com), Mettje Swift (mettjeswift@gmail.com) or Deanne Elliott (diz.elliott@gmail.com).  
*Becky Noland  
 Monte Vista*

## John's integrity is impeccable

To the editor,  
 Another election is upon us and I fear this will be the most important election in our country's history. Freedom is at stake and our country as we know it will be lost forever if the radical socialist democrats aren't stopped.  
 People we must wake up now. The global panic has been perpetrated via the controlled media. We are having a global economic meltdown and global people control in order to fast-track their global socialist agenda. It all seems so evil, but the fake press, radical socialist democrats are in our faces. They are doing everything they can to degrade this country. As if that is not enough, we have the same thing going on at our state and county level.  
 I was just made aware of a recall being organized against John Noffsfer. We have a small group working to perpetrate foolish claims. John was elected county commissioner for Rio Grande County and took office in January 2019. The position being filled by John was a breath of fresh air. His presence has been invaluable. He understands the importance of economics and long-term planning. He has jumped into the position

fighting for Rio Grande County first. I've heard complaints about the firing

of the Public health director. The  
*Please see LETTER on Page 6A*

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# GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

from their cars as the ceremony was broadcast over the radio and live streamed. Families and friends could



The beautiful sunset night was accentuated by a firework show to cap off the ceremony.

also watch from the stadium seats that were marked off to honor social distancing guidelines.

The ceremony ended with an awesome fireworks show that was organized by High School principal Kevin Jones.

The class sponsors were Jan Vigil, John Noriega, Stephanie Archuleta and Garret Myer. They did a great job putting everything for the event and its COVID-19 planning together that was approved by the Saguache County Health department.

# CHSAA

Continued from Page 1A

Due to the restrictive nature of the current state guidelines, and the ability to follow Colorado Department of Education requirements, all contact sports have been moved to a season which will commence later in the calendar and allow for playoffs and culminating events without creating new conflicts.

Each season is approximately seven weeks from start to finish. Sports will have their regular season competition limits reduced. The postseason for each sport will also be shortened, including the number of state qualifiers.

The following 2020 fall sports will begin as originally scheduled: boys golf began practice Aug. 3, softball and boys tennis is set to begin Aug. 10, and cross-country Aug. 12. According to the modified calendar, this is Season A.

The remaining traditional fall sports are unable to be played under current state health guidelines. These sports are field hockey, football, gymnastics, boys soccer, spirit, unified bowling and girls volleyball.

The sports played this fall will all be concluded by Oct. 17.

In anticipation of data from the state which shows a likely resurgence of COVID-19 cases in late fall, there will be a participation moratorium from Oct. 18, 2020, to Jan. 3, 2021.

Sports in Season B will begin Jan. 4 and conclude by March 6. These sports include: basketball, ice hockey, skiing, spirit, girls swimming and wrestling.

Season C, which begins March 1 and concludes with championships by May 1, includes the following sports: field hockey, football, gymnastics, boys soccer, unified bowling and girls volleyball.

The 2020-21 calendar will conclude with Season D. Sports include: baseball, girls golf, boys and girls lacrosse, girls soccer, girls tennis, boys swimming, track and field and boys volleyball. This season will begin with practice April 26, and it concludes with the final championship June 26.

Specific sport modifications, practice requirements, game requirements and procedures will be communicated by Thursday, including in bulletins that can be found on CHSAANow.com.

## CHSAA 2020-21 Sports/Activities Calendar

Season	Sport	Practice	First Competition	Championship (tentative)	Max Contests
Season A	Cross Country	12-Aug	15-Aug	17-Oct	7
	Boys Golf	3-Aug	6-Aug	10/5 & 10/6	198 holes
	Boys Tennis	10-Aug	13-Aug	9/25-9/26	See bulletin
	Softball	10-Aug	13-Aug	10-Oct	16
Season B	Basketball	4-Jan	7-Jan	6-Mar	16 (4A-5A); 13 (1A-3A)
	Ice Hockey	4-Jan	7-Jan	TBD	13
	Skiing	4-Jan	7-Jan	26-Feb	See bulletin
	Competitive Spirit	4-Jan	7-Jan	TBD	N/A
	Sideline Spirit	4-Jan	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Girls Swimming	4-Jan	7-Jan	TBD	7+ league
	Wrestling	4-Jan	7-Jan	6-Mar	7 duals / 7 days
Season C	Field Hockey	1-Mar	4-Mar	TBD	10
	Football	22-Feb	4-Mar	8-May	7
	Gymnastics	1-Mar	4-Mar	TBD	8
	Boys Soccer	1-Mar	4-Mar	TBD	10
	Unified Bowling	1-Mar	4-Mar	TBD	6
	Girls Volleyball	1-Mar	4-Mar	1-May	16
Season D	Baseball	26-Apr	29-Apr	26-Jun	16 (2A-5A); 13 (1A)
	Girls Golf	26-Apr	29-Apr	TBD	198 holes
	Boys Lacrosse	26-Apr	29-Apr	TBD	10
	Girls Lacrosse	26-Apr	29-Apr	23-Jun	10
	Girls Soccer	26-Apr	29-Apr	TBD	10
	Boys Swimming	26-Apr	29-Apr	TBD	7+ league
	Girls Tennis	26-Apr	29-Apr	6/11/12	See bulletin
	Track and Field	26-Apr	29-Apr	TBD	8
Activities	Student Leadership	Following a typical schedule.			
	Music	Following a typical schedule.			
	Speech - Festival		1-Oct	30-Jan	
	Speech - Tournament		1-Nov	20-Mar	

# LETTER

Continued from Page 5A

decision to fire her was unanimous. John as chairman did not vote. She would not give the commissioners the information they kept asking for.

The former commissioner Karla Shriver has been seen with the former Public health director's mother in front of a Monte Vista store collecting signatures for the recall petition. The petition has totally

misleading claims. John is the one to finally get the county to follow the state and county policies, etc.

John's integrity is impeccable and he should not have to bare such an attack, but remember these people are evil and will do anything to tear this county and country apart.

Steve Matthews  
Monte Vista



Center graduation Class President Jose Villagomez addresses attendees.

Courtesy photos

# CULT

Continued from Page 1A

members out of their trust funds, cars, disability and Social Security checks, and also large sums of money. Tommie Hilfiger's ex-wife Susie reportedly followed the group and almost gave them a blank check to support their mission.

The family of one member says he was brainwashed and left to die in the desert of Colorado. Ex-members say the leader, Amy Carlson, has sex with her followers, drinks heavily, uses drugs, only allows them to sleep three to four hours per night, verbally abuses members and rations their food.

A summary of the group's

activities prefacing the internet article explains that members believe the cult leaders are Mother God and Father God and have spent 19 billion years trying to save the planet. A final "ascension" is imminent.

Members are punished by being sent to live in "Desolation Row," a barren spot in the woods where they are forced to fend for themselves.

The leader claims that Donald Trump is her father. Deceased actor Robin Williams is listed as a "team member." They believe he is Archangel Zadkiel. Group members claim to be in regular contact with

Williams' ghost and believe he is supporting their mission.

Scofield's exhaustive review of Love Has Won can be found at <https://gurumag.com/crestone-cult-love-has-won-leaves-man-to-die-in-desert/>

(Be Scofield is one of the most prominent journalists in the world exposing cults and abusive gurus, according to her website. Her articles have over 1.5 million views in the last two years. Stories based on her work have appeared in The Guardian, The Daily Mail, VICE, Playboy, on CNN, CBC, New Zealand Herald, Die Zeit and more.)

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# Pike's Stockade historic site to reopen in August 2020

**SANFORD)** — History Colorado will reopen Pike's Stockade near Sanford, Colorado, on Friday, August 7, 2020. The stockade has been closed since 2018 due to tree fall damage.

Pike's Stockade is a historic site in the San Luis Valley, seventeen miles southeast of Alamosa on the Conejos River. It is a reconstruction of a log fortress built by United States soldiers on the Zebulon Pike Expedition in January 1807. The replica stockade was first built in 1952 and was named a National Historic Landmark in 1961. History Colorado has administered the site for nearly a century and today it is maintained by the staff at Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center. In addition to the log fortress, the site offers educational panels, walking paths, restrooms, and picnic areas.

The stockade was damaged by falling trees during a windstorm in 2018 and the site was closed until it could be made safe for visitors. Thanks to the support of the San Luis Valley Community Foundation and the San

Luis Valley Great Outdoors, History Colorado was able to make repairs to the site. Some work remains to be done to the structure itself and guests should heed all posted signs about maintaining distance from the stockade.

Pike's Stockade will be open daily from sunrise to sunset. In addition to the fortress, the grounds include walking trails, picnic tables, and plenty of space to socially distance. It is located at 22862 Co Rd 24, Sanford, CO, 81151. For questions about the site, contact the staff of Fort Garland Museum at 719-379-3512 or [eric.carpio@state.co.us](mailto:eric.carpio@state.co.us).

### About Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center

Fort Garland was built in 1858, ten years after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, during American expansion into the west. Today, visitors can explore life in a nineteenth century military fort by walking the parade grounds and touring five of the original adobe buildings. The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is a museum of History Colorado.

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is located at 29477 Hwy. 159, Fort Garland, Colorado, and is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.FortGarlandMuseum.org](http://www.FortGarlandMuseum.org) or call 719-379-3512 for more information.

### About History Colorado

History Colorado's eight museums around the state are now reopening to visitors. Inclusive, values-driven, and intentional, History Colorado has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with an agile reorganization. Its blitz has created new educational channels for adults and youth (including at-home summer-camp kits now available), full-length episodes of its podcasts, a series of Archaeology & Preservation webinars, a major volunteer project, a weekly digest with over 28,000 subscribers, and one of the nation's most comprehensive collecting initiatives: a partnership with dozens of schools, communities, and more than 40 newsrooms called History

in the Making. While working from home, its State Historical Fund staff distributed more than \$1 million in grant dollars to community projects across the state between March 20 and April 20, and continued its grant funding on schedule.

History Colorado's mission is to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past. We serve as the state's memory, preserving and sharing the places, stories, and material

culture of Colorado through educational programs, historic preservation grants, collecting, outreach to Colorado communities, the History Colorado Center and Stephen H. Hart Research Center in Denver, and nine other museums and historic attractions statewide. History Colorado is one of only six Smithsonian Affiliates in Colorado. Visit [HistoryColorado.org](http://HistoryColorado.org), or call 303-HISTORY, for more information.

Saguache County is currently accepting proposals for the Saguache County 2020 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 letter of interest and a proposal for services by November 6, 2020 at 3:00 PM to: Saguache County Administration office. For additional information contact Saguache County Administration at 719-655-2231 or [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

No. 1556 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20, 26, September 3, 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5 and 12, 2020.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Commissioners meeting Room located at 501 - 4th Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 at 3 PM**

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes. To view the proposed changes BEGINNING MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020, 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 also view the changes on our website at [www.saguachecounty.net](http://www.saguachecounty.net).

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, AUGUST 28, 2020 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: Jason Anderson, Chairman  
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1557 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 30 and August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2020.

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

Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking a member and an alternate from: Crestone/Baca area member and alternate

The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the Crestone/Baca area. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for a one-year term.

Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions through out each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items.

If you are interested please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Friday, August 28, 2020 or open until filled. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.

No. 1558 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2020.

## RECALL

Continued from Page 1A

Rio Grande County, hereby set forth recall proceedings against Rio Grande County Commissioner John Noffsfer. The grounds for this recall are actions by John Noffsfer that illustrate misfeasance and malfeasance of his elected office and include, but are not limited to, actions in violation of Rio Grande County Policies and procedures."

The complaint list states, "Creating hostile county employment environments resulting in volunteer and forced resignations and internal personnel chaos. Creating adversarial environments and chaos with other elected officials. Incompetence, not being prepared for meetings, and failure to grasp issues facing the county where important decisions were to be made on behalf of the county, which in turn is a failure to perform the oath of office. As an elected official, failure to effectively communicate with his constituency. Conducting himself in an inappropriate manner to his peers, subordinates and external citizens including, but not limited to, acting in a volatile, confrontational and unprofessional manner. Failure to follow state and county policies, procedures and statutes including, but not limited to, open meeting laws."

Four Rio Grande County elected officials spoke out contrarily to the reference "chaos with other elected officials" stating that they were never contacted by the committee that is proposing the recall petition and do not feel that they work in a

chaotic or hostile environment. In order to remain in compliance with their elected office roles and keep in good standing with the public that they serve, the four elected officials decided to remain anonymous. There is a total of 9 elected officials in the county including the three commissioners.

Commissioner John Noffsfer has refuted all allegations within the petition.

The timeline and state statute guidelines that must be followed in order for the petition to reach a ballot either through a special election or in time to be placed on the November ballot follows: "When a group or committee decides they want to start a recall, they first have to submit a sample petition to the Clerk and Recorder for approval. Statute lists what must be on the petition and what cannot be on the petition. Once approved, the Clerk notifies the committee that it is approved, and they can then start gathering signatures."


The Clerk also notifies the one(s) that are the subject of the recall petition. The committee designated on the petition must gather signatures from voters registered to vote in the county of the recall. Statute states the number of acceptable signatures is 25 percent of the votes cast for the position in the last general election - 909 verified signatures are needed to force a recall.

The designated committee has 60 days from the date of the approval to submit the petition to the County

Clerk and they can turn it in early if they choose to.

Once the petition is filed, the Clerk will verify the signatures as eligible and notify the committee. The person(s) who are the subject of the recall have 15 days to dispute any signatures. If there are disputed signatures, the clerk will verify or dismiss the disputed signatures. If there are a sufficient number of acceptable signatures, the clerk will notify the petition committee and set the date for the recall election not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the petition's approval.

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# BACK TO SCHOOL



## The benefits of a new approach to learning for students

The validity of the adage “necessity is the mother of invention” was on full display during the COVID-19 outbreak. People quickly had to learn to adapt to a new way of life, including an educational system that was transformed dramatically by social distancing guidelines.

More than 76 million students are enrolled in United States schools, per the latest Census Bureau information. In 2018, 2.12 million students were in Canadian postsecondary institutions alone. In a matter of days, millions of students who once attended classes in-person were forced to transition to virtual learning instruction. The process showed just how flexible learning systems can be, and how virtual instruction may become more than an emergency protocol in the future.

Schools utilized systems like Google Classroom, Canvas and virtual meeting apps to connect and learn. While in-class lessons provide the socialization and one-on-one inter-

action that can be vital for students’ academic success, there are many different reasons why virtual instruction can be a key component of learning models as well. When virtual learning is used in conjunction with traditional teaching, students may have a more well-rounded experience. Here are some potential benefits that may unfold as more data is collected.

- **Pace:** Virtual learning affords students the chance to work on lessons at a pace that fits their individual needs. Students can go back and re-read or re-work problems until they’re satisfied they have learned their lesson. Lessons can be slowed down or sped up depending on proficiency, creating a customized educational experience.

- **No more weather days.** Many school districts include snow or extreme weather days into their calendars, adding on extra days at the end of school year to meet the specified number of educational days. Remote learning can take over in these times

and keep school districts from having to pad calendars.

- **Convenience:** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to provide students the best chance to get the amount of sleep they need. Still, most adolescents currently start school before 8:30 a.m. Remote learning enables students to complete their assignments when it works best for them. This may help them get more sleep, too.

- **Apps:** Learning apps are a new wave of educational tools that have helped buoy virtual instruction. Primary school students or those with individual education plans may benefit the most from reinforced app skills that match their learning pace in fun ways.

Virtual home instruction may become a large part of the educational landscape even after it’s no longer a social distancing necessity. BS208043

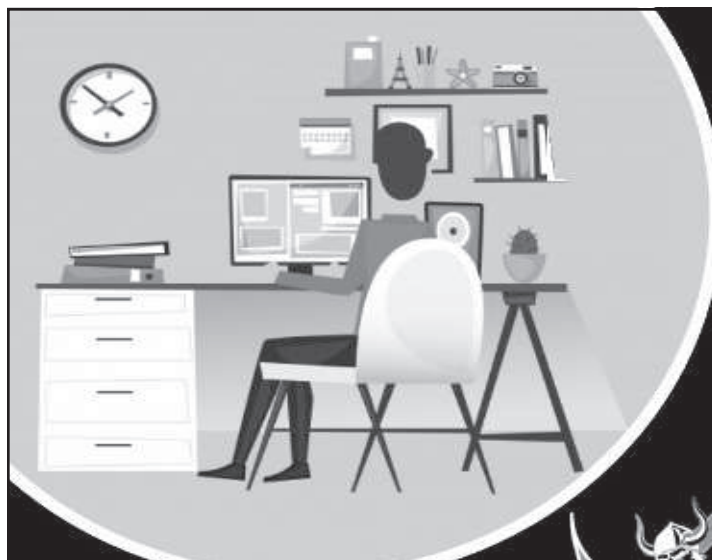
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The Center School District will be offering web based curriculum for the 2020-21 school year. Available to K-12 and adults wanting to finish their diploma.

**Option 1-Onsite Instruction with Blended Learning and Social Distancing**  
Center offers personalized learning with small group, targeted instruction. Students will receive high quality, direct instruction from highly qualified educators. Additional supports will be provided based on student specific learning plans. We will provide safe, appropriate instruction following social distancing guidelines.

**Option 2- 100% Online Instruction**  
Center is fortunate to have an established, successful online program already in place in our district. The Center Virtual Academy is an alternative, remote learning option that utilizes the Edgenuity curriculum which is rigorous and aligned with the Colorado State Standards. This is a viable option for students/families that do not feel comfortable with face to face instruction, but still want the high quality instruction that CCSD provides for all our students.

**Core Beliefs**  
*Our purpose is to increase academic achievement for ALL students. With our support ALL children can achieve at high levels and be successful in life. Quality planning, instruction, and assessment lead to high achievement for all students. Everyone must be committed to excellence in ALL they do every day.*

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- High school athletics: Volleyball, Boys & Girls Golf, Football, Track, Cross County, Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling & Baseball
- Fully Online Option Available, First Quarter will be at 50% capacity except for K-1 students. Please see our website for the full plan

**Monte Vista School District  
719-852-5996**  
**First day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020**  
Please see our website for our Reopening Plan or information about our online options  
<http://monte.k12.co.us>



# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 70 Alamosa, CO 81101



The architectural renderings are by Spencer Architecture Studio in Alamosa. These are visuals rendered by Andréa Bachman, Associate, & Intern Architect with the Spencer Studio, and there could still be some changes made to the final product.

## Ski Hi going down and moving forward

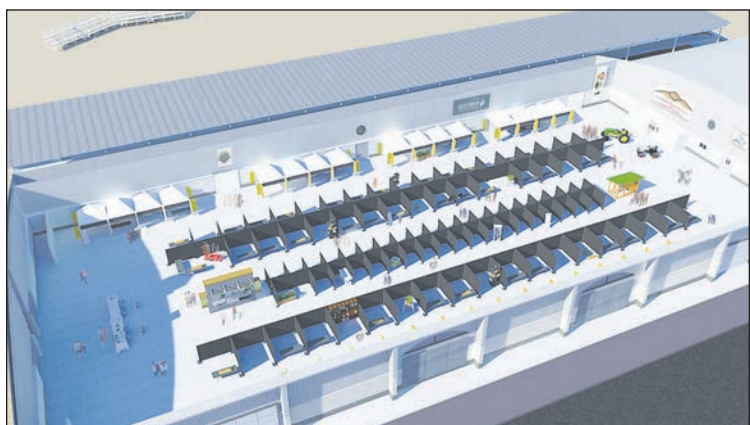
BY KARLA SHRIVER

**MONTE VISTA** - "The San Luis Valley Ski Hi Regional Event and Conference Center is moving forward," said co-chairs Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods. "This is an exciting time, yet scary at the same time. There is no going

back at this point as the building is down."

The Friends of Ski Hi committee have been working with Spencer Architecture Studio and Alcon Construction on the project design. Alcon and Spencers' put together

*Please see SKI HI on Page 2*



## Steam through the Rockies in your own private rail car

**ANTONITO** - It's a rail fan's dream come true: your own private rail car being pulled by a steam locomotive through some of the most gorgeous scenery in the nation. Because of COVID-19 safe practices and restrictions, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is making this dream a reality by offering an unprecedented special opportunity to rent your own personal rail car at a fraction of the typical cost.

All it takes is to for 10 friends or family to get together and make a group booking for a private car, which is available for the price of 10 regular-priced train tickets. In usual times, a group of 10 would only fill up half a train car, but due to social distancing, now a group of 10 can have the car all to themselves! It's a rare treat to experience the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in the company of only the family and friends you choose.

What's even better, you can add

additional passengers to your private rail car for just \$50 each for Coach, \$65 each for Deluxe and \$75 each for Parlor? Please note that no children are allowed in Parlor and no more than 10 additional people are allowed in a group car as maximum capacity is 20.

Your private Cumbres & Toltec railcar will be attached to the full day excursion train that leaves Antonito, Colorado at 10 a.m. The Cumbres & Toltec operates four days a week with departures on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The train steams through the mountains, cuts through tunnels, slices along the lip of Toltec Gorge and curls through Phantom Curve before arriving at Osier Station with spectacular open views.

The passengers on your private rail car will have their own socially distanced and spaced out table at Osier Station for a delicious lunch included in the ticket price. When the

conductor calls "All Aboard," gather your party to re-board your private rail car for the return trip down the mountain, arriving back in Antonito about 4:30 p.m.

Of course, all passengers in your private rail car will also have an opportunity to ride in the open air gondola car or stop at the bar car for snacks or libations.

The offer is based on availability and must be booked in advance. Certain restrictions apply and reservations must be made by calling the Depot at 1-888-286-2737. This offer is not available for online purchase. The Cumbres & Toltec is following all current COVID-19 safety restrictions. All passengers will take a temperature test before boarding and wear masks while onboard the train.

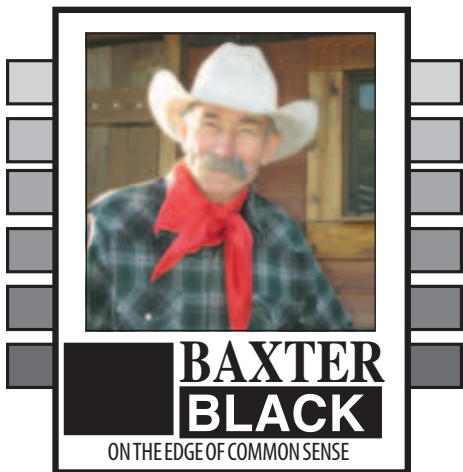
To book your private rail car, call the Depot at 1-888-286-2737. For more information on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, visit [www.cumbrestoltec.com](http://www.cumbrestoltec.com).

## David and Goliath of Television

When the market crashed in 1975, Richard had a ranch, feedlot, dairy, potatoes, alfalfa and a packing house.

Here we sit 45 years later and not much has changed. Today less than 1.3% of the American population, (and 7% in Canada), is involved in production agriculture. We, who are left with the responsibility of feeding the ever-growing population that now stands at 331 million people. We do it. It is lots of work. We have an enormous amount of scientific, technical, medical, and mechanical research and dedication looking over our shoulder as we break the ground, plant the wheat, brand the calf or drive the truck.

Imagine a 'Nóngmín' bent over in a rice field a thousand years before Christ came, not much different than a farmer bent over a furrow, feeling the soil today. What is our motive inspiration? Do we say, 'We're feeding the world?' 'I'll get famous!' 'The big money?' No. It is as simple as "It's what I do."



There are people who have a deep heart, have a conscience, are dedicated to those we work for, are close to God, maybe have guilt, or just kindness and care. They don't think 'money first'. Occasionally, the consumer has a chance to make farmers' lives easier, nicer,

more satisfying.

Let me suggest...their own television channels. Television waves are controlled by a handful of global companies. They have brought wonderful communication worldwide with hundreds of channels. 99.9% are dedicated to the majority polled, which are suburban folks.

The ag rural television, which is not 'about us' but 'for us', are limited to pillars like US FARM REPORT and Orion Samuelson and some local weeklies that are an hour long.

RFDTV Channel is the only exception; RFDTV contents are exclusively rural and agriculture, 24 hours a day. They are leading the effort to have Congress vote on HR 2682 that would ensure at least one percent, 0.1...1%, is devoted exclusively to the ag rural market.

Like ag publications and ag radio, ag television is part of what holds all of our ag community together. To those of us in ag media, it's not just a job. I think it has something to

do with our souls.

If you want to help, contact your Representative or Senator about passing HR 2682.

**HR 2682:**  
Agricultural News and Rural Content Act of 2020

This bill requires certain video programming distributors, such as cable providers, to use at least 1% of their channel capacity to transmit channels of programming that serve the needs and interests of rural areas.

*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](mailto:vikki@baxterblack.com)*

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# Adventures in the Land of Many Uses

Another Friday evening and, once again, my family and I are faced with what to do for the weekend. We didn't go camping like we do so often, but we are not going to crowded places these days so this presents a prime opportunity to check out our new forest. I looked out my window, checked the maps and weather forecast, made a quick plan and prepared gear for our next adventure.

Saturday morning arrived with clear skies, but I knew we'd get that welcomed afternoon thunderstorm as we do most days each July, so we set out early. We headed up forest road 28 past Rock Creek and Comstock campgrounds, taking note of the wonderful settings we'll surely return to for camping. The rea near the boundary with the BLM and the archery range, has recently undergone a hydro-axe thinning project that will benefit wildlife. Pushing further up the road we saw awesome aspen stands that will undoubtedly provide amazing views for the leaf peepers as Mother Nature paints the landscape with her annual palate of fall colors.

Several side roads with closed gates and the occasional large slash

pile indicated recent logging activity in the area. The areas of thinned forest provided open views, promise of prime wildlife habitat and, of course, an economic pulse to our local economy from the valuable lumber that was extracted on the East Sheep Salvage Timber sale in 2018. I have since learned that numerous cords of firewood have been gathered from the area as well.

Finally arriving at the end of the road, we geared up quickly and set out on a hike on the 702 trail. This trail is obviously used by numerous OHV's as evidence of tire tracks in the mud was clearly visible. I had seen some great rock formations at the top of the ridge so, shortly after crossing South Rock Creek, we abandoned the trail and headed up a narrow steep meadow where the wet, tall grass reminded us of what was to come later in the day. As we broke out into a more open meadow, we paused to drink water and appreciate the great view. OK, I'll admit it, I needed a rest too.

Looking across the valley my eye was drawn to a couple of white specks near the opposite ridgeline. Unlikely to be snow in that location,

## Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

I concluded they were probably Charolais cows when saw the other black spots moving nearby. I learned later that these cows were grazing on the Bennett Spring Allotment that the permittee has had on the Rio Grande National Forest for at least two generations.

It was about then that I realized that we were truly standing on a "Land of Many Uses." Recreation is certainly a large component of national forest use. From hiking to camping, winter sports to OHV riding, hunting to bird watching, the opportunities are too many to list here. Logging has provided forest products for over a century and with sustainable operations will continue to do so, indefinitely. Grazing on the forest has happened long before the national forest system was created. Again, by following best management practices, we'll continue to reap the benefits of grazing long into the future.

I have only just addressed the forest uses I noted in a single trip. There are so many more and I would

be remiss to not mention the other large public land managers. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service also all play an important role in managing our public lands. We here in the San Luis Valley are fortunate to have this great land to use so close to us, as

long as we do it responsibly.

We gained the ridge, walked to the summit of Windy Peak and breathed in the beauty of our natural surroundings. Several photos were in order but they can't replace the actual experience. They'll just provided a great reminder of where I need to return to. And I will go back.

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.*

## Vali Theater needs your help, GoFundMe.com

**MONTE VISTA** - The Vali 3 Theater is a pivotal economic institution for the downtown Monte Vista area. Our mission is to bring modern culture to our small town and provide a safe, fun and accessible environment for local youth and families to see interesting movies and socialize.

Although the building is owned by the City of Monte Vista, the Vali Theater Advisory Board is working to get our own nonprofit status and operate the theater in a way that keeps it affordable and fun for all citizens of the San Luis Valley.

COVID-19 closures dealt a serious monetary blow to the theater, we have been unable to open since March 2020. When the state allowed us to reopen on a limited basis and we prepared to reopen, we found out a recent power surge had dealt a serious blow to our projector, causing the need to replace



a \$30,000 part or replace the entire projector for \$33,000.

In 2019 we also received a donation of performance theatre lighting equipment from the Creede Repertory Theatre. We hope to also get enough money to repair or replace our projector, but also to do the minor renovations necessary to turn one of the open theater spaces into a performance space

for local artists and directors, including local youth organizations.

Help us continue to make Monte Vista a little brighter and keep our community connected by donating to our GoFundMe at the link below:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/reopen-the-vali-3?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/reopen-the-vali-3?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

## SKI HI

Continued from Page 1

the team of Burggraaf Associates, Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Engineers, Summit Engineering, Civil & Structural Engineers, and Sowden Associates, Acoustical & Sound and Video Engineers to also consult on the endeavor.

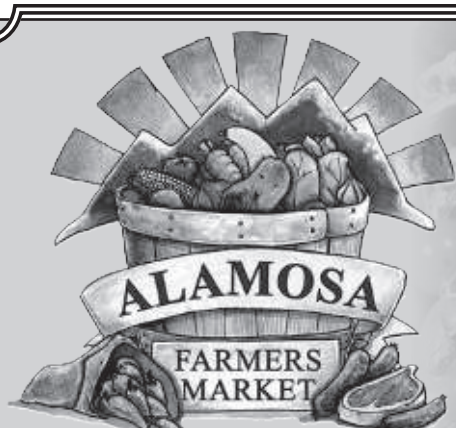
The metal building has been ordered and will require multiple deliveries to get all of the material to the site. The first section of the building is tentatively scheduled for delivery at the end of September with the final delivery scheduled in the first part of November.

The plan is to have the Event portion of the complex finished and completed by the end of February, in time for the Southern Colorado Agriculture Conference and the Crane Festival. The conference center structure will be up, but it is not anticipated to be finished until June 2021.

"The former Ski Hi Multi-Purpose building and the old swimming pool have given us all very fond memories to cherish," said Woods, "but it is time to move forward and create new

memories in the new building." Shriver stated, "I totally agree as I have some great memories in both areas. The swimming pool area had not been

used since 2005, and the multi-purpose building was starting to really show its age. The new building will be wonderful for the whole San Luis Valley."



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# Fire restrictions lifted on public lands in the San Luis Valley

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - Effective 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020, fire restrictions will be removed for all lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest, Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office and Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. While monsoonal flows have brought abundant moisture and higher humidity to the San Luis Valley and upper Rio Grande watershed, some areas have not received as much rain as others. Long term weather forecasts predict continued monsoons, but fire danger may remain higher in isolated areas.



Campfires are allowed in designated fire grates in developed campgrounds managed by each of the agencies and when dispersed camping on lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Valley Field Office.

Campfires are allowed in designated fire grates in developed campgrounds managed by each of the agencies and when dispersed camping on lands managed by the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Valley Field Office. "Although conditions are improving, visitors should be mindful that their actions can still cause an unwanted wildfire," said Chad Lewis, Fire Management Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.

Visitors are encouraged to practice these principles of outdoor fire safety:

- Clear all burnable material within 3 feet of campfire rings.
  - Keep fires small and manageable.
  - Never leave a fire unattended.
  - Extinguish fires completely. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.
  - Fireworks are always illegal on federally managed lands.
- For more information, please call the respective agencies:
- Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor's Office at 719-852-5941.
  - Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.
  - Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve at 719-378-6395.

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~ B.Gullette

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**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

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### 05 Notices

**Saguache County Sheriff's Department: Thanks for checking on LaRoy.** LaRoy, ya scared the snot outta me. You think going down that mountain side on a horse was wild? Hee hee, I took the brakes off your wheelchair. R brand on the side of the trailer, a lady pumping gas in Del Norte. A horse named Pain? Hope ya'll had a good day! SLV Puppy Chow (9/2)

**I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all Enemies foreign and domestic;** Ken Ketch. (8/5)

**Looking to Buy! Gold and Silver! Top Dollar Paid Coins, Bars, Rounds, Jewelry, Silverware.** Call for Details: 303-552-1501 Kevin. (8/05)

**WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160.** 719-657-0942 (8/19)TFN

**Unit 76 Archery Deer Landowner Voucher.** Wil pay top dollar. 970-641-4934. (8/19)

### 07 Help Wanted

**HELP WANTED BUILDING CUSTODIAN - Experienced individual needed for janitorial services with responsibility for cleaning various county buildings. Full-time position with variable hours which include evening and/or early morning work times.** Applications available at Saguache County Administration office. Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Applications close on Thursday August 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing and background check are required for final applicants. (8/19)

**Potato Harvest Help Needed to Sort San Luis Valley Research Center.** Center, CO Call Zach, Farm Manager (719) 225-9648. (8/26)

**HELP WANTED: Deputy Director - Department of Human Services Saguache County is seeking a Deputy Director of the Saguache County Department of Human Services. Deputy Director will assist the Director in the daily operations of staff**

**and programs of the Department of Human Services.** Knowledge of Social Services work a degree in related services or 3 years of experience in management of similar type work. Bookkeeping experience is a plus but not required. Applications available at [www.saguachecounty.net](http://www.saguachecounty.net) or in the Saguache County Administration Office. Please call Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 for more information. Applications close on Friday, August 21, 2020 at 3:00 P. M. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing and background check will be required for final applicants. (8/19)

**Reliable, dependable, and loving caregiver needed part time (Tuesday, Thursday) for disabled daughter in Antonito area.** Transfers and background check are required. Serious inquires only. Contact 719-588-9430

**HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED! Apply in person at TWIN RIVERS CABINS AND RV PARK,** west of Antonito. 719-376-5710 (8/20)

**Optometric Assistant: The Optometric Assistant works closely with the doctor to assist in providing their highest level of vision care to the patients.** The Optometric Assistant will be responsible for taking patient histories, performing routine pre-testing, contact lens instruction, while offering friendly, courteous, and confidential assistance to all patients. **Job Qualifications:** Requirements include completion of high school, or its equivalent. Manual dexterity, a neat appearance and tactfulness in dealing with patients are necessary for success with employment. Attention to detail is necessary with proficiency in spelling and great skills in communication, multitasking and 1 year clinical experience preferred. Bilingual speaker is a plus. Computer skills required. Full-Time position, Monday thru Friday. Approximately 37-40 hours \$12.00/Hour

No insurance benefits. **Job Close Date:** July 31, 2020 Resume will need to accompany Application which may be obtained at: [ggarcia@mveyecare.org](mailto:ggarcia@mveyecare.org)

ATTN:GINA GARCIA *No phone calls.*

**Medical Office Receptionist: The medical office receptionist provides assistance to patients, doctors, office employees, and other individuals.** This employee helps the clinic run smoothly by scheduling appointments, greeting and checking in patients, answering phones, maintaining accounts and records, and other tasks as needed. From the moment the patient walks through our door or calls, they should feel like part of the family. Whether in person or over the phone, you are typically the first face or voice our patients will see or hear. Your role in this process cannot be overstated! **Job Qualifications:** Requirements include completion of high school, or its equivalent. A neat appearance and tactfulness in dealing with patients are necessary for success with employment. Attention to detail is necessary with proficiency in spelling and great skills in communication, multitasking and 1 year office experience preferred. Demonstrated ability to interact with healthcare professionals, patients, and insurance companies alike, excellent customer service skills. Pleasant phone demeanor; bilingual speaker preferred. Computer skills required. Full-Time position, Monday thru Friday. Approximately 37-40 hours \$12.00/Hour No insurance benefits **Job Close Date:** July 31, 2020 Resume will need to accompany Application which may be obtained at: [ggarcia@mveyecare.org](mailto:ggarcia@mveyecare.org) ATTN: GINA GARCIA *No phone calls.*

**The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a full-time Art Teacher.** The position would include junior high Art classes and high school Studio Art classes. To apply please visit [dnscsd.org](http://dnscsd.org) to download the application and submit a completed application to Aaron Horrocks at [ahorrocks@urtigers.co](mailto:ahorrocks@urtigers.co) or call (719) 657-4040 ext 1001 for more information.

**Del Norte Elementary School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a PARA-EDUCATOR.** Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co); or call 719-657-4030. The position will be open until filled. Please pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at [dnscsd.org](http://dnscsd.org). (8/12)

**The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a full-time Physical Education Teacher.** The position would include Junior High PE classes and High School Strength and Conditioning class. To apply please visit [dnscsd.org](http://dnscsd.org) to download the application and submit completed applications to Aaron Horrocks at [ahorrocks@urtigers.co](mailto:ahorrocks@urtigers.co) or call (719) 657-4040 ext 1001 for more information. (8/12)

**WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions. REQUIREMENTS: Appli-**

cants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position - applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - [www.saguachecounty.net](http://www.saguachecounty.net) under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete job description is also available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge - at the address listed above, sent by email to [mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov) or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8/6)

# Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications \$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.**  
**Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week \$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**  
 Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One



Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with check or money order to:  
 Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144  
 Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

**All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid**

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

Words: \_\_\_\_\_ Times: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

*To place a 25-word COSCAN Network ad in 91 Colorado newspapers for only \$300, contact your local newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network at 303-571-5117.*

---

**WANTED**

**COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK**

**Cash for Mineral Rights**  
 Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details:  
 Call: 720-988-5617  
 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161  
 Email: [opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com](mailto:opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com)

Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$300 per week. Ask about our frequency discounts!  
 Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network 303-571-5117



# Valley Wide Classifieds

**WANTED: Saguache County Landfill is Hiring for an additional Full Time Attendant.** REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must fill out and submit an application, must be an experienced front end loader operator and possess a valid driver's license. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Final candidates applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background check. Pay D.O.E. Landfill Attendant is a full time 40 hour per week position - starting at 8:00 A.M. each day Tuesday through Saturday (subject to change). Those applying must be an experienced front end loader operator, have the ability to do strenuous outdoor physical labor in extreme weather conditions and be able to lift and/or move 20 lbs. to 75 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office 305 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - www.saguachecounty.net under the Landfill Department tab. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office - at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8/6)

**The Town of Center is accepting applications to fill an entry level position in their Utility Department.** Applicant should possess knowledge and skills in all aspects of high voltage power lines, gas systems, water distribution, and sanitation. Applicant should accept duties of construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of these systems. Applicant must also operate trucks, backhoe, and other equipment in the performance of these duties. The duties also included are heavy manual labor and utilization of a large variety of hand tools. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing upon hiring per CDOT regulations. CDL license preferable but not required. (8/5)

**Community Outreach Organizer job opening in Antonito.** Please visit [https://antonitotogether.org/?page\\_id=344](https://antonitotogether.org/?page_id=344) for more information. Deadline extended. (8/19)

**Calling all educators!** We at Alpine Achievers Initiative, a non-profit organization that serves the youth of the SLV are looking for facilitators to run programs for our Valley to Valley Homeschool Program. This could mean teaching in person or online foreign languages, gardening, project-based learning, STEM, outdoor education, dance or more! The position length is 1-2 times a week for a 4-8 week series between September - May 2020 with a maximum of 10 hours per week. \$20/hour and up to \$100 material cost. This is a contracted position

**DISCLAIMER**  
Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

with no benefits. To apply, email Holly at [coordinator@alpineachievers.org](mailto:coordinator@alpineachievers.org) with your ideas.

**Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa** is seeking to hire independent contractor massage therapists. Colorado license and insurance required. Talented and caring. Evening, morning and weekend shifts. Email [massage@jjhotsprings.com](mailto:massage@jjhotsprings.com). (8/12)

**10 Apartments for Rent Del Norte 3-bedroom, 1-bath country living Duplex. NO PETS. \$675.00 Per month, \$675.00 Deposit.** Call 719-580-5400 (8/12)

**Log Cabin in South Fork 2-Bedroom, Office, W/D Wood Stove and Garage. NO PETS. \$700.00 Per Month, \$700.00 Deposit.** Call 719-580-5400 (8/12)

**14 Business Properties For Rent OFFICE SPACE IN THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL BLDG. 803 FIRST, MONTE VISTA. PRIVATE ENTRANCE.** (719) 588-0906 (8/12)

**17 Real Estate For Sale PERFECT SMALL FARM: 59 acres with center pivot, new 60X120 steel shop, 2 1/2 shares of Rio Grande Canal, 2000 GPM well, 2 miles from Center.** Priced to Sell, Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

**11 circles in Center area with excellent potato ground, excellent wells and water rights, high production, sandy soil, 2 homes, shop, potato storage, first time ever on market and sold as full unit.** Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, LLC 719-580-0770. Serious inquires only (TFN)

**125-150 cow/calf ranch 1154 acres with top water rights, production, 1.2 miles of Rio Grande River and 1/2 mile of Conejos River.** \$1,750,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770 (TFN)

**Pasture Land, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location.** Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

**240 deeded acres in irrigated grass west of Monte Vista with 6 shares**

**Lariat ditch.** Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-873-1700.

**23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings.** 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (07/30 TFN)

**24 Garage Sales Multi Family Garage-Yard Sale Sat/Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 8-5, Sun/Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 8-12 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> Blocks. Cedar and Alder Del Norte. (8/6)**

**36 Miscellaneous WANTED: SMALL RENTAL HOUSING LONG TERM. ALSO PART TIME JOB. COLLEGE EDUCATED SENIOR MALE.** 830-499-0101 (8-26)

**100 Authentic Indian Arrow Heads \$1,500 takes them all.** Call 719-628-2672. (8/12)

**Items for SALE: Brand new propane smoker \$125.00. 125 Gallon Round Bottle of Propaner \$125.00. Used Cinder Blocks \$1.75 each.** Call 719- 850-2027. (8/26)

**Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers.** Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (9/2)

**For Sale: Connelly pool table, 4' x 7 1/2' ft, accessories, mint condition,** \$200.00 940 219 9830 (8/5)

**Moving Sale: Mission style desk/hutch/bookcase/Small Entertainment cabinet/Hall tree. Sectional sofa, recliner, coffee table.** Call Glynn @719-849-3415 for details and prices (8/5)

**TRUCKLOAD SALE! 240-WATT Solar Panels. 25% OFF. NEW!** Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (9/2)

**STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS - Sales, Rentals & Modifications!** Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Headworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (08/12 TFN)

**SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER.** We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum,

Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying at Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500.

**44 Farm Services POTATO STORAGE rent or buy 26,000 cwt capacity in Center.** Good. \$49,900 or \$16,900 rent OBO. (719)588-2425 (10/21)

**50 Livestock HERITAGE BREED TURKEY POULTS - Bourbon Reds from free range parents.** \$20 for 1 - \$15 each additional, 7 for \$100. Going fast. Ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832 (7/30)

**52 Camping Equipment For Sale: Cabellas 12x12 Tent, Wood stove, camp oven and cook stove Del Norte Co 763-350-7202.** (8/12)

**53 Trailers For Sale: 1995 Starcraft 25' 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Travel Trailer. A/C, microwave, queen bed. New Tires.** Gently used, immaculate. \$6,500. Call 719-852-2945 for more details. (8/05)

**55 RVs & Campers 1998 Ford V- 10 Jamboree VT 31H Slide Out. Everything Works Good Condition.** CLASS-C \$20,000 719-

850-2291.  
**58 Motorcycles 2003 HD Ultra Classic Electra Glide 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition 35 KMI \$12,000 OBO** 719-206-0292. (8/12)  
**2005 HD Sportster 1200 Custom Bars, Led Signals Side Pipes, Bags, Custom Seat 10KMI Very Clean \$6,500 OBO.** 719-206-0292 (8/12)

**59 Vehicles Wanted CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK CARS & TRUCKS:** We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN5-20)

**65 Professional Services Roofs (Metal, EPDM, TPO), Stucco, Flooring, Tile, Decks, New Co90oconstruction & Remodels.** Free Estimates. Reliable Carpentry, 45 years of Experience 719-496-7630 Drug and Alcohol Free (7/30)

**LICENSED PLUMBER** does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (07/31) TFN)

**THE BLIND GUY** window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403. (08/01/2020 TFN)

**Help is only a Phone Call Away**  
**COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line 719.589.3671**

If you are stressed, anxious, lonely, depressed, angry, or all of the above, you are not alone. We are in this together, and caring mental health professionals are available if you need to talk.

**Virtual Therapy & Psychiatry slvbhg.org/covid-19**

Behavioral Health therapy and psychiatry have never been easier to start. ALL SLVBHG locations are open for business virtually, providing services tot he convenience of your social distancing space by video consultations or over the phone. Call now to schedule an appointment: 719.589.3671

**Mobile Health Unit slvbhg.org/mobile**

Visit our website for an updated schedule of where the mobile unit will be. The Mobile Health Unit specializes in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY Behavioral Health Group**  
Dedicated to Hope, Healing and Recovery  
Approved Medicaid Provider | 24 hour hotline: 719.589.3671 | slvbhg.org

**This Week's Feature**

**Business Showcase**

**THE HOLY MOSES**

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Daily 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Nick & Vicki Kulyk  
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Bee happy, bee kind as our bee deco has buzzed in! Canisters, signs, towels, beehive cages, pillows, and salt & pepper shakers! Shop early before it flies away! Please wear a mask.

**The Holy Moses** 658-2848  
121 N. Main Creede  
OPEN Daily 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**Everything you could want from mountain living!**  
 4 bedrooms • 4.5 baths • 4,504 sq. ft.  
 • 6 acres • \$888,000  
 Custom-built home in River Island Ranch with a built in theater, 5 car heated garage and 2 car separate garage, screened-in porch, safe room, wet bar and much more! The yard has a sprinkler system and a fire pit, perfect for entertaining! POA includes access to fishing on the Rio Grande, road maintenance and snow removal. MLS# 765728  
 104 Explorer Way • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass Steffens & CO. Realty**  
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 bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**Thinking of Selling Your Home? If so, I can help!**  
 Residential/Commercial/Ranch  
 Call 719-850-1993

*We work hard for you!*

*Call Bernadette today!*

**Steffens & Company Realty, INC**  
 719-850-1993  
**Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate**  
 30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork  
 www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com



**GREAT PROPERTY NEAR GOLF COURSE!**

Wooded lot in planned unit development on a quiet cul-de-sac in town with water system and septic in. Seller will pay water tap fee. Lots of peace and wildlife. Don't miss out! 17 miles from world class skiing, 2 miles from Championship Golf, one mile from Gold Medal fly fishing in the Rio Grande River. \$25,000 MLS #761078

**Legends Premier Properties**  
**Kazie Hayes, Associate Broker** 719-850-2827  
 22 Jackson St. • South Fork  
 www.legendspremierproperties.com



**You won't believe your eyes! Stunning Views, Lots of Wildlife!**  
 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. • \$549,000  
 Check out some of the best, 360 degree, hilltop views in South Fork from your deck! Open kitchen, dining and living area, vaulted ceilings, Jacuzzi tub, finished basement with a rec room! MLS #767631  
 852 Soaring Eagle Lane • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com




**NEW PRICE!**

**SUPER MULTI LEVEL HOME** with lots of custom touches and stunning views. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (with sauna) an office, separate dining room, living room and great room. Kitchen boasts custom cabinets made by local artist/owner. Beautifully maintained lawns and gardens adorn separate outdoor living spaces. 3 car oversized attached garage holds everything - but there is a shed as well! Placed up on the hill, there is a feeling of "out of town" but all town amenities are easily accessible. This is a must see! \$345,000 MLS #765156

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 22 Jackson St. • South Fork  
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**UNDER CONTRACT**

**New Listing! Charming Family Home, Priced to Sell!**  
 4 bedroom • 2 bath • 1,850 sq. ft. • \$215,000  
 Comfortable family home with large balcony to enjoy your mountain views! Nice kitchen, stone fireplace, wood-burning stove and beautiful bathrooms! MLS # 758665  
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**PRICE REDUCED!**

**Beautiful Home on 35 Acres SW of Monte Vista!**  
 4 bedroom • 3 bath • 2,492 sq. ft. • \$377,500  
 Recently-built spacious home ready for your family! Enjoy 360 degree mountain views on an 1,800 sq. ft. deck 3-car garage and many more amenities!  
 515 Mountain View Blvd. • Monte Vista  
 MLS# 766729  
**Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa**  
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com



**PRICE REDUCTION**

Stunning mountain top home in gated community in South Fork on 18.67 acres. 360 degree view with fishing pond, pavilion, warming hut, and on site ranch manager. **\$645,000.** Call Kazie Hayes, Associate Broker with Legends Premier Properties in South Fork at 719-850-2827. Must be pre-qualified. Serious inquiries only. MLS# 767168

**Legends Premier Properties**  
**Kazie Hayes, Associate Broker** 719-850-2827  
 22 Jackson St. • South Fork  
 www.legendspremierproperties.com



**Price Just Reduced!!**  
 • 1 bedroom • 1 bathroom • \$74,900  
 Adorable Park Model home in the River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort! Everything is included, all it needs is you! All furniture, appliances and pots and pans come with this cozy home that includes an enclosed sun room, storage shed and work bench! MLS#760432  
 57 Denette Lane • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!**

5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • \$630,000  
 Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.  
 MLS# 769101  
**Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa**  
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com



**Well established Property Management Company for sale in South Fork. Serious inquiries only please.**

**Offered By:**  
**REAL ESTATE**  
**Legends Premier Properties**  
**Kazie Hayes**  
 719-850-2827  
 719-657-3000

**Call Kazie at 719-850-2827**

**Legends Premier Properties**  
**Kazie Hayes** Associate Broker  
 22 Jackson St. • South Fork  
 www.legendspremierproperties.com



**Cozy Home! Owner Will Carry Mortgage!**  
 1 bedroom • 1.75 bath • \$159,900  
 Park model with enclosed sun room in River's Edge Resort! Perfect as a second home or weekend getaway in a 55+ community! Includes all furniture and furnishings, down to the pots & pans. Private access to the river, lots of recreation activities and community activities! Owner will Carry Mortgage! MLS #762858  
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**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**Secluded Cabin Getaway!**

2 bedroom • 1 bath • 720 sq. ft. • \$179,000  
 This cabin has new a new roof, new plumbing, electrical and more, plus a full acre of property for privacy, only yards away from world class fly-fishing on the Conejos River. Two enclosed porches for relaxing with your family and taking in the sunshine!  
 MLS# 769112  
**Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa**  
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com



**New Listing! Golf Course Living at its finest!**  
 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,0978 sq. ft. • \$379,000  
 Stunning views in all directions with huge windows, luxurious master suite, rock propane fireplace, high-end Jenn Air appliances, custom cabinetry, large stone patio for entertaining, 2-car garage and so much more! Rio Grande Club Membership and Home Furnishings negotiable. MLS #767109  
 6827 Snead Ln • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



**Contact Chelsea or Trey for advertising information today!**  
**719-852-3531 or MonteVistaAds@gmail.com**





## Wolf Creek Ski Resort seeks public input

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**WOLF CREEK-** The owner of Wolf Creek Ski Resort, Roseanne H. Pitcher, is currently working with staff and local Public Health officials to gain public perspective on the reopening of the ski resort this winter. Pitcher explained that the resort has released a survey to returning customers through an email blast to see how people feel about coming to the resort to ski for the 2020/2021 season. Pitcher stated that the general public can access the survey online at their website [www.wolfcreekski.com](http://www.wolfcreekski.com), just look for the link on the homepage.

“We feel that we can responsibly and safely open to the public this winter. Everything I have seen and heard about the surrounding towns like Pagosa Springs, South Fork and even Creede is that people are continuing to come here to vacation. Why can’t we make sure they have something safe and fun to do for the winter? We feel that we can provide a safe and responsible outdoor recreation opportunity this winter and we want to get feedback from the public on what they think,” said Pitcher.

According to Pitcher, the resort has spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the changes that will have to be in place in order to open this winter season including

installing sneeze guards and plexi-glass shields in retail shops and rental counters throughout the mountain as well as putting a plan in place that would ensure the safety and well-being of employees and guests who come for a day of skiing.

“We really want to get a feel for what the community is feeling. We feel outdoor recreation and fresh air are important, especially with everything that is going on and we think we can provide that in a safe manner. We can spread people out over our entire 1,600 acres and put a plan in place that ensures mask requirements and social distancing guidelines are used.”

“With a reservation system and making some additional changes like limiting the number of people on the mountain on any given day, we can do this and be COVID-19 responsible. We can absolutely run a COVID-19 safe operation up here and give people something to do while they are here this winter.”

Besides getting ready for the coming winter season, the resort has been enjoying the recent rain and hopes that it will continue into the fall and eventually turn to snow. “We are excited for the coming season and know that we can do this. We have been open since 1939. We can do this.”

## Do not plant them

### Unsolicited seeds from China in mail

**COLORADO** - The Colorado Department of Agriculture has received numerous reports from across the state and from 27 states of people receiving unsolicited packages of seeds in the mail that appear to have originated from China and other countries and labeled as containing jewelry or other items. Unsolicited seeds could be invasive, introduce diseases to local plants, or be harmful to livestock.

In response to numerous reports from across the state of people receiving unsolicited packages of seeds in the mail, the Colorado Department of Agriculture has activated a dedicated reporting hotline number. Those



Photo by Alabama Dept. of Agriculture

**Example of seeds in packages that have been received in 27 states. The seeds are not the same in each package but the packaging is relatively the same and labeled containing jewelry and other items.**

who have received unsolicited seeds in the mail are asked to call 303-869-9081 to report them. Reports of mailings may also be submitted via email at [cda\\_nursery@state.co.us](mailto:cda_nursery@state.co.us).

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection and State departments of agriculture to prevent the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protect U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds.



Please hold on to the seeds and packaging in its original package safely, including the mailing label, until someone from the Colorado Department of Agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins, and do not put the seeds in the trash, which could ultimately end up in the landfill and then sprout.

# One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE  
It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can **go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines.** Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

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## American Standard

Walk-In Tubs

### WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500



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# Ski-Hi building comes down with a crash

**BY REBECCA COPLEY**  
**MONTE VISTA** - Thursday morning the final part of the main Ski-Hi building came down with a crashing thunder and a cloud of dust. The one story recreational building was built in 1960 and for years has housed many 4-H projects, Ag conferences, Crane Festival vendors and more. Nine years later the swimming pool building was added by the City of Monte Vista in 1969. Over this last week the main building and the pool have been demolished to make way for the construction of the new Ski-Hi complex.

Over this next week Alcon Construction, who is managing the project, will be continuing to haul debris from the demolition in preparation for dirt work. President and owner of Alcon, Brian Cook, told Valley Publishing that construction is expected to start as soon as the old building and its foundations are completely removed in two to three weeks.

Cook also sharing, "We anticipate having the main events portion of the building complete by March 1, 2021. The conference center and remainder of the project should be done by June 2021."

Before the demolition of the

buildings took place, all hazardous materials were tested for and abated by a certified contractor and inspected by CDPHE prior to the buildings coming down.

For many seeing the old Ski-Hi building and pool coming down is a bittersweet moment. The building has been a fixture in the community for 60 years. It has held a special place for many good memories that have been made there. But there is also excitement for the new building hopefully completed next spring.

The building will be state of the art and feature a multi-use event center and conference center to serve the entire San Luis Valley for years to come. The new facility also promises lots of fun and will have courts for volleyball, pickleball, basketball, wrestling, badminton, roller derby and more. The project has been the result of many years of hard work put in by local community members and stakeholders. The life expectancy of the new building is 100+ years according to the Friends of Ski-Hi's website. Standing strong for years to come to hold lifetimes of new memories. A motto on the Friends of Ski-Hi website puts it well saying, "This project embodies our past, serves

our present and builds our future!" More information about the new Ski-Hi complex and details about the project can be found on the Friends of Ski-Hi's website: <https://www.friendsofskihi.org/summary-of-the-project.html>. There you can also make a donation to the project.

## Community health needs assessment virtual meeting

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - San Luis Valley Health invites interested parties to participate in a community convening Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. This meeting provides an opportunity to review the health priorities established during SLVH's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Please call 719-589-1209 or email [donna.wehe@slvrmc.org](mailto:donna.wehe@slvrmc.org) before Aug. 7 for a link to the virtual meeting.

## Adams State art opening reception has been cancelled

**ALAMOSA** - The Adams State University Bachelor of Fine Arts exhibit and opening reception for "estorie: Past, Present, and Future," scheduled for August 8, 2020, has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.



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

Level: Advanced

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### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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# Innovative fitness programs for seniors

It is important to stay active and eat healthy foods in an effort to promote fitness and well-being. This is especially true for seniors, many of whom lead increasingly sedentary lifestyles as they age.

The American Heart Association says adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week, or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity, and a Harvard University study says that exercise can be an insurance policy for heart health.

Today's seniors have more fitness options at their disposal than ever before. SilverSneakers® is the leading community fitness program for older adults in the United States. SilverSneakers® members can participate in specially curated programs at participating gyms and community centers across the nation. According to the organization, there are more participating fitness locations available than there are Starbucks® coffee establishments. Classes are fit for everyone, no matter their experience level.

Those concerned about gym costs may find that SilverSneakers® already is included in their Medicare Advantage plan for no additional



cost. Plus, there is access to healthy living discounts from participating businesses.

Canada has begun to develop its own senior-centric fitness programs. The Healthy, Safe and Strong group exercise program is an introduction to safe exercises available for adults age 60 and older in the province of Ontario. The program can help develop better stamina, maintain or improve balance and increase strength and endurance. StrongerU Senior Fitness is a relatively new

program of pre-choreographed group fitness offering instruction in four program types: cardio, strength training, stretching, and circuit training. The program addresses a need in Canada for quality and consistent senior fitness programming.

As studies show that engaging in physical activity is the most effective way for aging men and women to stay healthy, more adults may be compelled to join fitness groups that cater to the 50-and-over market. LP203743

## Amazing benefits to seniors having pets

Pets bring much joy to the lives they touch. So it should come as no surprise that the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey, which was conducted by the American Pet Products Association, found that about 85 million families in the United States own a pet. In Canada, 7.5 million households are home to companion animals, states the PetBacker blog.

Pets offer companionship and unconditional love. While they are fitting for any family, seniors may find that having a pet is especially beneficial. The organization A Place for Mom, which helps match families with senior living residences, says pets provide a comfort system that produces measurable health results. Caring for pets and being around them can produce a chemical chain reaction in the brain that may help to lower stress hormones while also increasing production of the feel-good hormone serotonin.

This is not the only health benefit pets may provide. A recent study from the Mayo Clinic, which looked at 1,800 people between the ages of 25 and 64 who had healthy hearts, found that almost half owned a dog. Having a dog was likely to spur heart-healthy behaviors, like exercising with the pet, eating well and having ideal blood sugar levels.

Pets also provide emotional support and companionship that can help seniors — including those who may

be divorced or widowed — feel more secure and happy. The National Poll on Healthy Aging found that, among respondents who had pets, 88 percent said their pets helped them enjoy life, and 86 percent said their pets made them feel loved.

Seniors considering getting a pet can explore the many benefits to doing so.

- Reduce pain: A 2012 study published in Pain Magazine found therapy dogs provided “significant reduction in pain and emotional distress for chronic pain patients.”

- Feeling of purpose: Caring for an animal not only stimulates physical activity, but it also can give seniors a reason to get up and go, which equates to a feeling of purpose.

- Altered focus: Having a pet can help seniors focus on something other than physical or mental health issues and preoccupations about loss or aging, according to New York-based psychologist Penny B. Donnenfeld.

- Increased physical activity: Pets require care, and that interaction can get seniors moving more than if they didn't have a pet.

- Improved health: Ongoing research from Harvard Medical School has found dog owners have lower blood pressure, healthier cholesterol levels and lower risk of heart disease than those who don't own a dog.

- Stick to routine: Caring for pets helps seniors maintain a routine.

Having structure after retirement can be important to ward off risk of depression. Staying on top of feeding, grooming and other pet needs also can help prevent cognitive decline.

Pets bring many benefits to their owners' lives, and they may be the perfect remedy for seniors looking for a friend and purpose. LP203746

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This is Goofy, he is a one year old male pitbull/shepherd mix. He is very friendly with people and has a lot of energy.



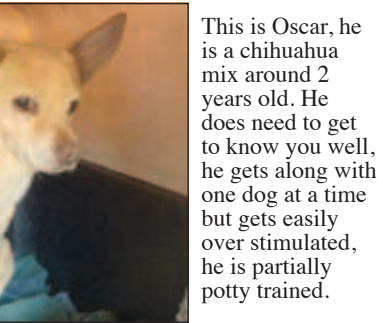
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This is Norman, he is a 2 year old shepherd mix. He is friendly with people but is a little shy at first, he does seem to do well with other animals.



This is Chris Redfield, he is a Staffordshire Terrier around 2-3 years old. He is very friendly with people and is friendly towards some dogs.



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# Celebrating seniors



## Different generations can learn and benefit from one another

In the not-so-distant past, extended families frequently lived in close proximity to one another. Such families shared meals and experiences and essentially grew up together. Nowadays, families separate for various reasons, such as job opportunities and cost of living concerns.

While there are advantages to spreading out, there are also some disadvantages, namely that grandparents and grandchildren may not see one another frequently enough. Even though people of different age groups may not entirely have the same interests, the interactions between generations can benefit both young people and their aging relatives.

### Finding renewed vigor

Senior living and active lifestyle communities provide invaluable care and amenities for seniors. While being around like-minded individuals can be handy, it's also limiting. Seniors who continue to age in place in mixed-age communities can extract joy from watching youthful children and young adults growing up, playing and socializing,

Being around multiple generations also can spark interesting conversation, and all parties involved can learn something from one another.

### Planning for the future

Younger generations may not understand the concept of "hard times" or "doing without" like a person who has lived through various ups and downs. Passing along advice about economic cycles, saving for the future and maintaining stability is one area of expertise at

which many seniors excel.

### Practicing interpersonal skills

All the technological savviness in the world cannot compensate for the power of strong interpersonal skills. Being able to address a group of people or speak one-on-one is essential in the workplace and in life. When younger generations speak to older adults, they may become stronger at verbal discourse and have greater perspective of different points of conversation.

### Learning new technology

Younger generations can impart knowledge of technological devices to older adults. People with skills are usually happy to share their knowledge. Even if seniors aren't ready to purchase tablets or smartphones, they may be excited to have their grandchildren teach them about the latest gadgets.

### Providing sense of purpose

Both seniors and younger generations can realize a greater sense of purpose when interacting with one

another. That person may be the reason the other one greets the day with a smile. Visits from grandchildren can reduce the likelihood of isolation and depression in older adults. And younger generations can discover the benefits of personal social interaction rather than communicating exclusively through social media apps.

Fostering intergenerational connections is a great way to broaden social circles, improve communication and learn new things. TF189312



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## \$5 Billion in funding issued to protect nursing and veterans' residents

WASHINGTON, D.C — July 30 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will award \$5 billion to long-term care facilities and state veterans' homes to combat COVID-19. The announcement also included several other initiatives to protect long-term care facility residents. The initia-

tives include delivering more than 15,000 COVID-19 testing devices to nursing homes as well as specialized training and technical assistance. Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. This funding is provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Eco-

nomics Security (CARES) Act and comes in addition to the \$4.9 billion delivered to nursing homes in May.

## Older drivers can approach vehicle maintenance and social distancing

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the winter of 2019-20 required people of all ages and backgrounds to make changes in their daily lives. Elderly men and women were among the groups the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified as high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19. That forced people 65 years and older to be especially cautious when engaging in otherwise normal activities, including having their vehicles serviced.

In recognition of the threat posed by COVID-19, many auto dealerships and service shops implemented changes to their operations to ensure the safety of their employees and their customers, including those in high-risk groups. Seniors can take additional measures to ensure they stay safe while having their vehicles serviced.

- Inquire about safety measures. Before booking vehicle maintenance appointments, seniors should call the dealership or body shop to determine what's being done to keep everyone safe. Many such businesses quickly implemented new safety protocols so they should be ready and willing to share this information over the phone. Look for specific information about sanitization practices. Are vehicle interiors being sprayed with disinfectant before and after maintenance appointments? Are employees wearing masks each

day? Are employees being checked for COVID-19 symptoms before each shift? These are some of the simple yet effective measures many dealerships and body shops are taking to ensure the safety of their customers.

- Ask about pickup service. Some communities that have reopened are encouraging high-risk segments of the population to adhere to stay-at-home measures. Elderly men and women are still vulnerable to COVID-19 even if the number of reported cases in their towns has decreased. Pickup service, in which a service shop employee will come pick up and then drop off a customer's car once the work is done, can be a great way for elderly drivers to have their vehicles serviced without going out in public. Even if pickup is not policy, ask if it's possible and request that your vehicle be disinfected upon being returned. If pickup is not an option, ask a younger friend or family member to drive your car in for maintenance in your place.

- Only visit safe facilities. Elderly drivers who must visit a dealership or body shop in person should confirm that waiting rooms feature socially distant seating. If possible, drop the car off and then go for a walk or find somewhere safe off the premises to read a book or listen to music while the work is being done.

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# Five questions families should ask as Colorado nursing homes reopen for visitors

**COLORADO** - As COVID-19 restrictions ease in Colorado, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities are preparing to resume visits for families. Visits won't be the same as before the pandemic, at least until the threat of coronavirus has passed. There may be limits on when, where and for how long you can see loved ones, and distancing rules will likely be in place.

"We've been through an unprecedented crisis with the pandemic," said AARP Colorado State Director Bob Murphy. "This was the first time many family members couldn't visit in-person with their loved ones for such a long period of time. Even as restrictions ease, visits will look different for the near future."

If your loved one's nursing home is resuming in-person visits, AARP recommends asking the facility five key questions to prepare:

**1. What is the nursing home doing to help make it safe for visitors to come back?** The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which regulates long-term care facilities, provided nursing homes with

recommendations about resuming in-person visits, including:

- At least 28 days without a new COVID-19 case in the facility.
- Declining cases in the surrounding community.
- Regular testing for residents.
- Adequate supplies of personal protective equipment.

**2. What kinds of health checks will be required for visitors?** The federal guidelines include:

- Checking visitors' temperatures.
- Asking visitors about COVID-19 symptoms and their potential exposure.
- Observing visitors for symptoms or signs of infection.

**3. Are visits restricted by time**

**and place?** Keep in mind that:

- You may need an appointment for your visit.
- Visiting hours may be restricted.
- Visits may be time-limited or allowed only in designated areas.
- You may be able to set a regular schedule for visiting your loved one.

**4. What protective and social-distancing measures are in place, in accordance with federal guidelines?** You may need to:

- Wear a mask or use hand sanitizer—ask if the facility will provide them.
- Stay six feet away from your loved one.
- If you want to bring food or gifts, ask the facility about their

policies first.

**5. Are you doing everything possible to minimize risks to residents?**

Don't visit if you feel ill, even if the symptoms are mild, or if you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the previous two weeks.

Keep visits short, and stay outdoors if possible.

Consider a virtual visit by phone or video chat as an alternative to visiting in-person.

"The top priority is keeping residents of nursing homes, assisted living and other long-term care facilities, their family members and staff safe as in-person visits resume," Murphy said.

In addition, AARP is urging

CONGRESS to ensure all nursing homes and other long-term care facilities regularly test residents and staff; have and correctly use personal protective equipment (PPE); publicly report COVID-10 cases and deaths daily; and facilitate virtual visits between residents and their families—even after in-person visits resume.

"A video chat with family and friends reduces loneliness for nursing home residents, and the pandemic has reminded us just how important that connection can be," Murphy said.

AARP has more resources available for family members with loved ones living in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities at [aarp.org/nursinghomes](http://aarp.org/nursinghomes).

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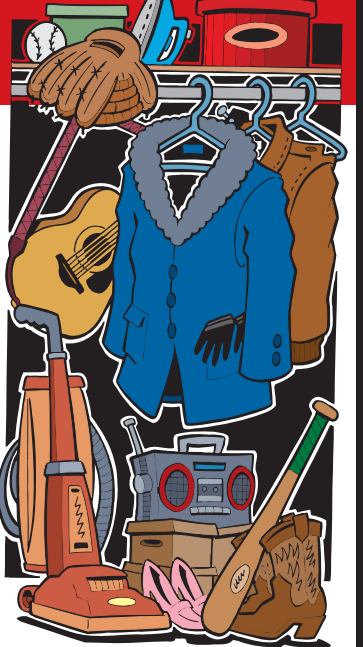
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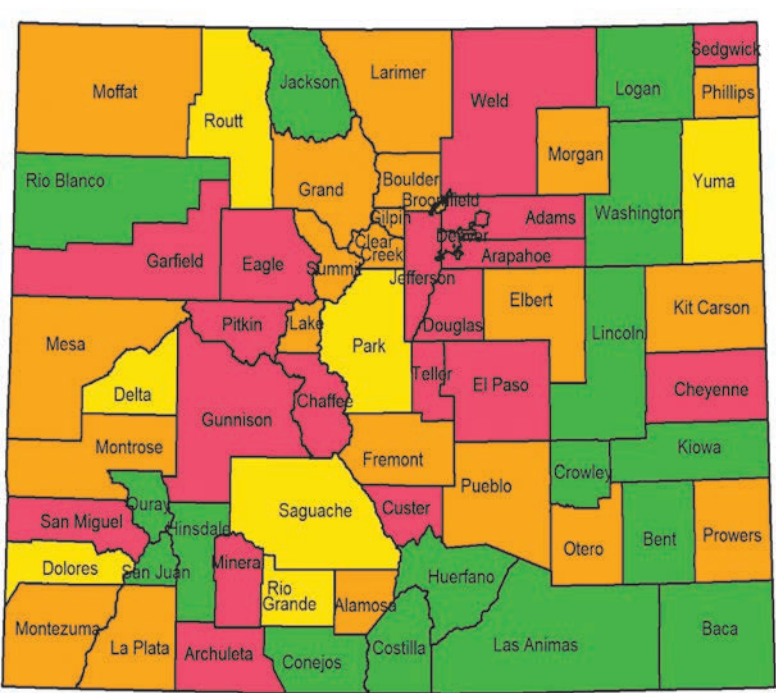


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# Counties warned of possible COVID-19 variance reversal

**BY TREY SPAULDING**

**COLORADO** - Tuesday, July 28, Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced that 15 Colorado counties with a daily average of 100+ positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people during the past two weeks (counties in red on map) have been notified that they could lose their COVID-19 variances if they do not reverse the 100+ threshold within two weeks of the date of their notification. Polis stated that counties who do not reverse their case growth rate will have to return to the “Safer at Home” phase. To reverse the growth, counties need to follow their mitigation plans which are administration required per their variance application with the state. Polis also cautioned that all counties with increasing growth rates who are below the 100+ daily cases threshold need to take prompt and bold action on the local level to lower case growth. In the San Luis Valley, Mineral county is the only county that exceeds the 100+ daily case threshold and could lose its variance. Alamosa county is in the 51-100 daily case rate while all other

counties in the area are seeing 50 or less daily cases per 100,000.

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**Mineral County**  
**Rio Grande County**  
**Saguache County**





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Photo by Patrick Shea

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Photo by Trey Spaulding

#### Floating the Rio Grande

Photo by Ryker Alonzo

#### Fort Garland Memorial Day

Courtesy Photo

#### Milky Way

Photo by Sally Harmon

#### Summer Fest

Photo by Jennifer Alonzo



Photo by Trey Spaulding





*Welcome!*

*“Every place has a story, welcome to ours.”*

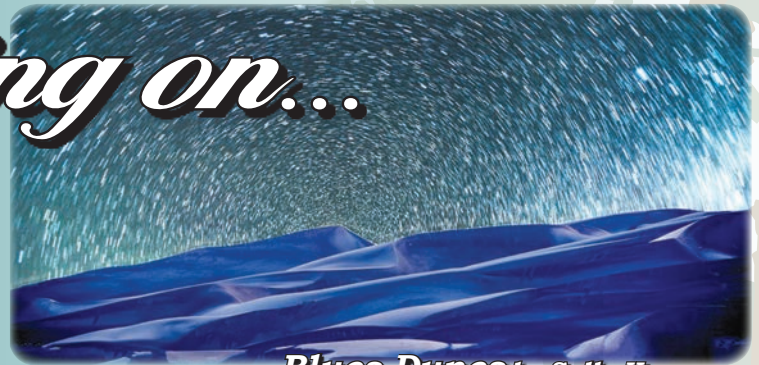
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# So much going on...

## Calendar of events

Due to the changing requirements and conditions caused by COVID-19, many of the scheduled events may be subject to changes in their delivery method, attendance restrictions or postponement. Please use the contact information listed for the most recent available information.



*Blues Dunes by Sally Harmon.*

### July

- 3 Independence Day Celebration, **South Fork**
- 4 July Fourth Celebration, **Creede**
- 5 Sundays at Six: The Richmond Brothers, Facebook Live/Cole Park, **Alamosa**
- Sunday Farmers Market, S. Main Street, **Creede**
- 10 Fireman and Engineer School, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**
- Mike Blakely performance, Society Hall, **Alamosa**

### San Luis Valley Farmers Markets

#### Alamosa

Saturdays from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., July 11 through October 3, State Ave. & 6th Street.

#### Creede

Fridays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., May 22nd through Sept. 18th, 10 S. Main Street. Also open for special events.

#### Monte Vista

Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 10 through September 18, 1st Ave across from the Monte Villa.

#### South Fork

Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May through September, Visitors Center.

- 10-11 Native American Artists Fair, First Ave. & Jefferson St., **Monte Vista**
- 12-18 Bike2Build for Habitat for Humanity, Virtual, **Alamosa**
- 15-16 Ladies Aid Society Bazaar, Old Gym, **Creede**
- 16 Creede Historical Society Series: Jack Morris/Last Chance Mine, Community Church, **Creede**
- 17 Star Party with Christine Kenyon, Headwaters Alliance, **Creede**
- 18-19 Astrophotography Class with Christine Kenyon, Headwaters Alliance, **Creede**
- 25 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hollyhock Festival, virtual, see [www.saguachechamber.org](http://www.saguachechamber.org), **Saguache**
- 25-26 Native American Artists Fair, First Ave. & Jefferson St., **Monte Vista**

### August

- 1 Snowshoe Shuffle, Basham Park, **Creede**
- Junior Ranger Day, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- SLV Pride Art Show Opening, Milagros Coffee House, **Alamosa**
- 1-8 118<sup>th</sup> Annual San Luis Valley Fair, Ski-Hi Park, **Monte Vista**
- 2 Wildflower/Botany Train, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**
- 6 Giulia Millanta performance, Society Hall, **Alamosa**
- 7-10 Fireman and Engineer School, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**
- 7-8 Mushroom Foray, **South Fork**

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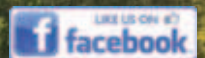
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- 8 LOCAL! Harvest Festival, Rio Grande Farm Park, **Alamosa**  
Silverthread Artists' Studio Tour, **Creede**
- 8-9 Gatorfest, Colorado Gators, **Mosca**  
Native American Artists Fair, First Ave. & Jefferson St., **Monte Vista**
- 9 Sundays at Six: Ol' Scratch, Facebook Live, **Alamosa**
- 14 Public Stargazing Event (with telescope), Colorado College, **Crestone**
- 15 Dark Sky Dinner Train with Flamenco Guitar by Luis Campos Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts Walk, **Downtown Saguache**  
Josh Grider Band performance, Society Hall, **Alamosa**  
Kahler Memorial Golf Tournament, Cattails Golf Course, **Alamosa**  
Annual Astronomy Event, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- 16-26 Stephen Quiller Watercolor Painting Workshops, Quiller Gallery, **Creede**
- 20 Creede Historical Society Series: Pam Houston: Deep Creek Book Signing, Community Church, **Creede**  
Intertribal Pow Wow Celebration, Otto Mears Park, **Saguache**
- 25 National Park Birthday-Free Entry, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- 28-30 Round-up Rodeo, Fairgrounds, **Alamosa**  
Fiber Weaving Demonstration, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- 29 SLV Pridefest, Virtual at [www.slvpride.org](http://www.slvpride.org), **Alamosa**
- 29-30 Native American Artists Fair, First Ave. & Jefferson St., **Monte Vista**
- 31 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 4UR Ranch, **Creede**

## September

- 4-7 Labor Day Weekend Celebration, **Creede**
- 6 Gravity Derby, **Creede**
- 5 Susan Gibson performance, Society Hall, **Alamosa**
- 7 Labor Day Celebration, **Antonito**
- 11-13 Crestone Energy Fair, Town Park, **Crestone**
- 11-15 Fireman and Engineer School, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**
- 15 Ordinary Elephant performance, Society Hall, **Alamosa**
- 17 Creede Historical Society Series: Kandra Payne: Creede's Ghost Stories, Community Church, **Creede**
- 18-19 Alamosa Arts Festival, Downtown **Alamosa**  
Annual Celebration & Arts Festival, Society Hall, **Alamosa**
- 19 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival & Quilt Show, Otto Mears Park, **Saguache**  
Sunset Dinner Train featuring Speakeasy, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, **Antonito**  
Master Santero Geronimo Olivas presentation, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- 19-20 Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show, **Creede**
- 26 Oktobrufest, Sunset Park, **Alamosa**  
National Public Lands Day-Free Entry, **Great Sand Dunes National Park**
- 27 10/03 Stephen Quiller Watercolor Painting Workshops, Quiller Gallery, **Creede**
- TBD South Fork Colorfest



# Rio Grande Prevention Partners

*Rio Grande Prevention Partners is a community coalition to prevent youth substance use. We use the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach and evidence-based methods to address risk factors and reinforce protective factors in our communities.*



**Positive Youth Development Guiding Principles:**  
Strengths Based -Inclusive-Engages Youth as Partners-Collaborative-Sustainable  
Effective youth development programs provide youth with safety, appropriate structure, supportive relationships, opportunities to belong, positive social norms, responsibilities and challenges and opportunities for skill-building.



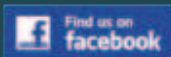
### How can you help?

We need dedicated community members from a variety of organizations and parents who can give a couple hours a month and are interested in using the PYD approach and proven methods of prevention science to help achieve our vision.  
Contact Nancy Molina at [nmolina@riograndecounty.org](mailto:nmolina@riograndecounty.org)



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# Events



Photo by Helen Smith



# Music, muttons and mud

## Alamosa County events

### Farmers Market, July 11-Oct. 10 Saturdays

Located in the heart of Alamosa's downtown, the farmer's market includes local growers, certified dairy producers and meat producers. The market has also served as an incubator opportunity for local entrepreneurs who produce baked goods, jams, jellies and a variety of crafts. In addition to the great local produce, the market features cultural events, cooking demos and activities for the whole family. The market runs each Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and State in downtown Alamosa. Info: [www.alamosafarmersmarket.org](http://www.alamosafarmersmarket.org)



### Rollin' Deep Car Show, July 26

Head on out to Cole Park for the 26th Annual Rollin' Deep Lowrider & Custom Carshow (postponed from its usual time on Father's Day)—open to all vehicles: all makes, models, and years of cars and motorcycles, along with some custom bicycles. Enjoy live music, vendors and kids activities while checking out the great entries. Info: 719-580-3939, 719-274-5224

### Gatorfest, Colorado Gators, Aug. 8-9

Come try real Gator wrestling and see wranglers catching alligators all weekend for checkups, medication and moving to new pens. The theme for this year's festival is aptly, "The Roaring 20s." The park is open 9 a.m. to 5p.m. Info: [www.coloradogators.com](http://www.coloradogators.com)

### Kahler Memorial Golf Tournament, Aug. 7-9

This exciting 36-hole men's stroke play tournament takes place at Cattails Golf Course north of Alamosa on North River Road. Info: [www.alamosacattails.com](http://www.alamosacattails.com)

### Alamosa Roundup, August 27-30

The Alamosa Round-UP has been a part of the San Luis Valley heritage for almost 40 years. With multiple days of exciting events, and an Old West Cattle Drive, it is the biggest event in Alamosa.

The fun kicks off Thursday, August 27, with the High Noon parade and cattle drive through downtown Alamosa. At 6p.m. visit the Kick-Off BBQ benefiting "Round up a CURE" cancer fight. Mutton bustin' hits the Alamosa Rodeo Grounds arena at 6:30 p.m. along with the local barrel race qualifier event.

On Friday, Aug. 28, A Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) slack event will be at 10 a.m. and the PRCA Rodeo, First Responders Appreciation Night, will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Midnight Rodeo Dance and Block Party will be at 9 p.m. downtown, featuring The Chris Roberts Band.

This event draws the top cowboys and cowgirls in the sport of professional rodeo to Alamosa to compete in all seven major events of rodeo. (bareback riding, steer wrestling, tie down roping, saddle bronc riding, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding) The Alamosa Round-UP is proud to be a part of The All American Series of The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). More than 350 Cowboys and Cowgirls make their way to beautiful Alamosa each year to compete for over \$45,000 in prize money.

Cowboy church will begin Saturday, Aug. 29, at 10 a.m. The PRCA Rodeo will roar out of the chutes at 6:30 p.m., with National Guard Military Appreciation and Round up a CURE featured. The Second

Annual Round-UP Concert begins at 8:00 p.m. with The Chris Roberts Band followed by Chancey Williams and The Younger Brothers Band at 9p.m.

Long awaited and much-anticipated, the metal crashing demolition derby winds up — or maybe increases — the excitement with two performances, 11a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Tickets will be available online for ALL events and the concert! Combo rodeo/concert packages are also available! Advance tickets will be available online until August 1, then prices go up! Info: [www.alamosaroundup.com](http://www.alamosaroundup.com)

### Alamosa Arts Festival, September 18-19

Take a walk through downtown Alamosa and see artists of various different two and three-dimensional mediums creating one-of-a-kind work, much of which will be displayed for a tour downtown. An annual celebration featuring local musicians and performers will also take place at

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Society Hall. Info: [www.cityofalamosa.org/public-art](http://www.cityofalamosa.org/public-art) and [www.societyhall.org](http://www.societyhall.org)

### **Oktobrufest, Sept. 26**

Sunset Park in Alamosa will be filled with live music, contests, games (both for adults and children), food and of course a variety of the best beers and beverages local breweries and distilleries have to offer! Come relax and enjoy the autumn weather with a cold brew. Info: [www.alamosa.org](http://www.alamosa.org)

### **See you Next Year!**

*These events are fun for the whole family and are not to be missed in 2021: (2021 dates are tentative, please see the contact information listed for more details)*

### **Summerfest on the Rio, June 4-6, 2021**

SummerFest on the Rio kicks off summertime in Alamosa's beautiful Cole Park. This annual, free festival includes extensive art and craft talents, musical entertainment for the entire family and plenty of activities for the kids. It's a quintessential rural community celebration ready to go at 4 p.m. Friday, when food vendors and the beer garden gear up for the signature concert in the park from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday is the big day and lasts well into the night. The annual benefit Poker Run roars out at 8 a.m. and vendors are all set to go at 10 a.m. and two stages coordinate a variety of musical genres from local and visiting artists, offsetting each other so the audience won't have to miss one.

Then Sunday opens up at 10 a.m. with music playing from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Pets (unless certified), bicycles or firearms are not permitted within the park during this weekend. Please keep them around the perimeter of the park

or leave them at home for everyone's safety. Info: [www.summerfestontherio.org](http://www.summerfestontherio.org)

### **Independence Day, July 4**

Celebrate our nation's independence in Alamosa, July 4. Begin the day with the Kiwanis pancake breakfast in the San Luis Valley Federal parking lot, then make your way to Main Street for the annual parade. At dusk don't miss the gala fireworks at the fairgrounds. Info: [www.alamosa.org](http://www.alamosa.org)

### **Colorado Gators EggFest, July 2021**

The Colorado Gator Farm's annual EggFest is July 6-7. This is the time of the year the alligators begin laying their eggs; enjoy excellent games, including egg races and egg toss. Info: 719-378-2612, [www.coloradogators.com](http://www.coloradogators.com)

### **Sundays at Six**

One of the mainstays of the Alamosa Live Music Association is its free summer concert series in Cole Park, known locally as Sundays at Six. Sundays at Six started a number of years back and has grown into a hallmark of the San Luis Valley summertime season. During the most beautiful months in the Valley, the community is exposed to all kinds of music, performed by everyone from the neighbor down the street to nationally recognized touring musicians, with a different genre represented each week. Info: [www.almaonline.org](http://www.almaonline.org)

### **Beat the Heat BBQ, Brews & Chili, Aug. 6-8, 2021**

Come check out the San Luis Valley Beat the Heat BBQ, a sanctioned Kansas City Barbecue Society and Rocky Mountain Barbecue Association State Championship event, at Alamosa's Cole Park. Enjoy BBQ, beer, and sample a little green chili to wake up your taste buds. Live music all day Saturday with kids' games

and family entertainment. Cookers will compete for prizes in chicken, pork, ribs and brisket, all judged by certified Kansas City BBQ Society judges. Events for the public include a kid's Q challenge, steak cook-off, people's choice taste testing, a hogwaller mud run and a cornhole tournament. Info: [www.slvbeattheheat.com](http://www.slvbeattheheat.com)

### **Early Iron Festival, Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 4-6, 2021**

The Early Iron Festival is a premier event of Alamosa and the surrounding area, bringing visitors from Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Utah, Kansas and beyond to Cole Park. Alamosa is a true "Hot Rod Town" with the city council setting aside "Early Iron Day" the Saturday before Labor Day. It now draws well over 600 rodders and street car enthusiasts.

This is a three-day event starting on Friday and ending on Sunday, jam-packed with

parties, music, vintage nitro, pinstriping, slow cruising and of course, awesome hot rod displays!

On Saturday, the park opens at 7 a.m. with registration lasting until 11 a.m. Show and Shine will run from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. A crowd favorite, the nitro car burn will take place at 10 a.m., followed by a panel jam auction at 11.

Show and Shine winners will be announced from 3 to 4 p.m., then dinner will be served at the Knights of Columbus, with a door prize, drawings and presentation of the Rodder's Choice and Lady's Choice awards

Always popular, vehicles will participate in a slow cruise through downtown Alamosa, "dragging Main" and showing off for spectators, families and people looking for fun.

On Sunday, a Rodder Church Service will be at 8:15 a.m., with a poker run planned to follow. Info: [www.earlyironclub.com](http://www.earlyironclub.com)

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# Reliving the past

## Conejos/Costilla County events



### Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad opening day, June 13

Antonito celebrates the beginning of the scenic railroad's season at the depot with music, ceremonies and family fun. The train runs six days a week and tickets include a meal at the scenic Osier Station lunch stop, half way between both starting points. The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad will only be offering a select number of special trains this year, so if you're interested in the wildflower/botany train or the performance trains, sign up soon! Info: 1-888-286-2737, [www.cumbrestoltec.com](http://www.cumbrestoltec.com)



### Encampment at Fort Garland, May 29-30, 2021

Fort Garland Museum will hold its annual living history military encampment on Memorial Day weekend, May 29 and 30. Throughout the weekend the Fort Garland Memorial Regiment and the Artillery Company of New Mexico will present activities and displays that depict 19th century garrison life at Fort Garland. A tea served by the Ladies of the Garrison and a regimental ball will be open to the public on Saturday. To participate you must be attired in period costume. Sunday morning there will be a flag raising ceremony followed by a non-denominational service in the Soldiers Theater. Info: [www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum.html](http://www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum.html) or 719-379-3512

### La Jara Glory Days, June 19, 2021

Celebrating the glory of a small town, La Jara Glory Days begins with a pancake breakfast followed by a 5K run and two-mile walk starting from Our Lady of

Please see **EVENTS** on Page 46

### See you next year!

*These family-friendly events are not to be missed in 2021!*

(2021 dates are tentative, please see the contact information listed for more details)

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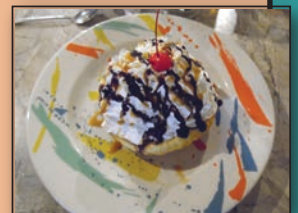
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# Tasty fun heats up Creede

## Mineral County events



### Creede Farmers Market, May 22-Sept. 18, Fridays

The Creede Farmers Market runs on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 10 S. Main Street. Other special occasion dates will be added in as well. Browse vendors selling produce, other food items, crafts and antiques and enjoy activities, entertainment and more. Info: [www.creedefarmersmarket.com](http://www.creedefarmersmarket.com)

### Star Party and Astrophotography Class w/ Christine Kenyon, July 17

Join the Headwaters Alliance on July 17th for the ultimate Star Party with award winning photographer Christine Kenyon! Kenyon will share her passion for night sky conservation and photography, including showcasing select astrophotography pieces. Coming from Salt Lake City, Kenyon will speak about the intrinsic value of dark skies and more ([christinekenyon.com](http://christinekenyon.com)). After her presentation, we will step outside to view the glorious night sky, several telescopes will be set up to enhance viewing. Kenyon will be hosting an astrophotography class for 10 photographers on Sunday July 18th from 8:30pm to 12:30am; \$175 per person. The class will begin with an astrophotography tutorial and then allow photographers an hour and a half to capture some milky way photos of their own!

Info: [www.headwatersalliance.com](http://www.headwatersalliance.com)

### Silver Thread Studio Tour, Aug. 8

The Silver Thread Studio Tour is a self-guided driving tour of artist studios along the beautiful Silver Thread Scenic Byway surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest. Artists' studios are located from South Fork through historic Creede, and along the route towards The Studios at Bristol. Local artists will welcome participants into their home studios and galleries where they will answer questions, share techniques, perform demonstrations and showcase a variety of works available for purchase. Info: [www.creedeartsCouncil.com](http://www.creedeartsCouncil.com)



### Stephen Quiller Watercolor Painting Workshops, Aug. 12-26: Intensive Color and Water Media

This is a ten-day workshop focusing on color, plein air painting and water media in this beautiful mountain village. The afternoon of August 16 will be the check-in, dinner and evening presentation. August 17-19 we will meet in the studio and focus on color using watercolor and gouache. August 20th and 21st we will work plain-air in our mountain region. The 22nd will be an open day. Artists can work in the studio or explore the town and area. August 23-25 we will meet in the studio and focus on new directions in experimental water media.

We will use watercolor, gouache and acrylic and their combinations. Marta and Steven Quiller will host a closing night dinner at their home with a tour of their studio on the evening of the 25th. The morning of August 26th will be a final critique. Cost \$995. Info: [www.quillergallery.com](http://www.quillergallery.com)

### Quiller Gallery 50th Anniversary Celebration, Aug. 31

A pillar of the Creede art community, the Quiller Gallery and artist Steven Quiller will be celebrating 50 years here, with two special edition paintings available. Info: [www.quillergallery.com](http://www.quillergallery.com)



### Labor Day weekend celebrations, Sept. 5-7

Over the Labor Day weekend, revelers have plenty of options for action or audience participation.

The Creede Mountain Run includes four separate races to continue a summer-ending tradition on Saturday. The two-, 12- and 22-mile and 50k courses offer (or force) breath-taking views of the San Juan Mountains, starting and ending in Creede.

Also on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Salsa Fiesta will feature more than a dozen locations downtown where local chefs create one of four kinds of original salsa: red, green, fruit and freestyle. In addition, children can head to Basham Park to enjoy a bouncy house and carnival games from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be an outdoor movie at the ball field at 8:30p.m. for families and

live music at Tommyknockers at 9p.m. for adults. Pending appropriate conditions, the postponed Independence Day Fireworks will be launched Friday night!

On Sunday, Sept. 6, enjoy the rescheduled Gravity Derby on Main Street! This is a free-style soapbox derby! The race includes multiple heats, featuring many age groups. Only three rules apply: rides must steer, brake and stop! (well, and no motors or pedal power - let gravity do the work!)

The ATV Rodeo at the Mineral County Fairgrounds on Monday starts at noon, where ATVs, OHVs and UTVs are used in events such as barrel racing, pole bending, and flags - testing speed and ATV driving abilities.

Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)



### Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show, Sept. 18-20

The Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show is an autumn event that inspires car fanatics to motor along the beautiful Upper Rio Grande and enjoy the fall landscapes of red, gold and yellow. Final destination: Creede, where Main Street is lined with a kaleidoscope of colors and the public is welcome to stroll through the variety of vintage vehicles, enjoy the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s music, and vote on their favorites on Saturday. The day ends with a Rod Run to the famous North Clear Creek Falls Overlook and a burger at Freemon's Ranch. Finish the weekend with Sunday morning breakfast and Fly-In at the Mineral County Airport. Dozens of planes come in and out of the Valley, putting on quite the show. Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

See **MINERAL** on Page 10



# MINERAL

Continued from Page 9

**See you next year!**  
*These family friendly events are not to be missed in 2021!*

**(2021 dates are tentative, please see the information listed for more specifics)**



## **Taste of Creede, May 28-31, 2021**

The 31st Annual Taste of Creede on Memorial Day weekend will showcase all the “tastes” around town, where taste includes much more than food. Music lovers will sample melodies all weekend. Art aficionados can tour all the galleries in town and attend the National Small Print Show opening on Saturday. In addition to viewing finished pieces, visitors can watch the “Quick Draw” competition on Sunday. Competitors have one hour to turn a blank canvas into an original creation, all of which are auctioned off.

Pitting local chefs against each other, the Silver Chef Competition is on Saturday. Competitors receive surprise ingredients from Shamrock Foods, and they have 45 minutes to prepare a treat for the judges. Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

## **Memorial Day ceremony, May 31, 2021**

Creede Elks Lodge, BPOE #506 hosts a ceremony celebrating U.S. soldiers and veterans on Memorial Day in Basham Park. Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

## **Runoff Runoff, June 2021**

Throughout the summer, racers can choose to ride

ATVs, run alone or run with a donkey. The Runoff Runoff includes three races (6K, half-marathon and marathon) with a festive finish line in the heart of Creede. Following the flow of the Rio Grande, the race raises money to support river preservation projects. Following the races there is a fun celebration for the whole family, complete with live music, local beer and food. Info: [www.runoffrunoff.com](http://www.runoffrunoff.com)



## **Donkey Dash & Gravity Derby June 12-13, 2021**

The Fourth Annual Creede Donkey Dash races into Main Street on Saturday. The course covers about 10 miles through Creede’s Historic Mining District; teams consist of a burro and runner. Also, don’t miss the mini donkey race, street festival and live music.

On Sunday, join the annual free-style soapbox derby down Main Street! The race includes multiple heats, featuring many age groups. Only three rules apply: rides must steer, brake and stop! (well, and no motors or pedal power - let gravity do the work!) Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

## **Independence Day celebration, July 4-5, 2021**

The Fourth of July festival and parade runs Thursday and Friday in Creede, beginning with a parade on July 4. Street vendors will offer food and crafts, and a beer garden will pour brain-softeners throughout the two-day event. Unless it’s too dry and dangerous, a fireworks display will wrap

up Independence Day. The Elks Lodge Annual Dance is open to everyone. Visitors get to see mining competitions, rodeo events and the Days of ’92 Mining Championship. Since the 1970s, the Days of ’92 has drawn professional mineworkers from the southwestern United States to battle for the “Best Overall Miner of the Year” award. Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)



## **Woodcarvers Rendezvous, July 10-16, 2021**

Woodworkers will congregate in Creede for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodcarvers Rendezvous where they can sell their wares or even learn a new skill. Each year offers new demonstrations, classes and contests. Beginners can pick up their first woodworking tools, while those with more experience can find just about anything they’re looking for. Info: [www.creedewoodcarvers.com](http://www.creedewoodcarvers.com)

## **Creede Sculpture Show, July 2021**

The Creede Sculpture Show is a juried display of sculptors from the Rocky Mountain region. The annual show takes place in beautiful Basham Park in Creede. The park provides space for tents and sculptures to spread out and makes for a wonderful place where visitors can be seen meandering and day-dreaming as they view each piece setup along the path. Info: [www.creedeartsCouncil.com](http://www.creedeartsCouncil.com)



## **Rock and Mineral Show, Aug. 6-8, 2021**

Over 40 exhibitors will be showing and selling a fascinating array of gems, geodes, fossils, silver ore, turquoise nuggets, Australian opals, beads, jewelry and stone carvings at Creede’s Underground Mining Museum. Plus all types of rock and mineral specimens from around the world will intrigue viewers, buyers, collectors and rockhounds of all ages. Evening Programs are held both Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Info: [www.creederocks.com](http://www.creederocks.com)

## **Snowshoe Shuffle, Aug. 6, 2021**

A benefit for Mineral County Search and Rescue, the 35th Annual Snowshoe Shuffle starts with a 5K run and a 5K walk two minutes later. The course starts and ends in Basham Park with registration beginning at 8 a.m. for race-day signups. Info: [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

## **Headwaters Music Festival, Late Aug. 2021**

Music lovers head to Creede for the Fifth Annual Headwaters Music Festival, where fans can camp near the concert site, and visitors who plan ahead can make reservations in the RV parks, hotels, motels and other lodging options in town. Musical acts are for all ears. Rivertown Folk, Mito DeSoto, Roderick & Somewhere On the Spectrum, Moors & McCumber and Rayland Baxter all take the stage on Saturday, followed by Camper Special, McLeod Nine, Thom Sheperd & Coley McCabe and The Rifters on Sunday. Info: [www.HeadwatersMusicFestival.com](http://www.HeadwatersMusicFestival.com)



# Loggers, lassos and live music

## Rio Grande County events

### South Fork Friday Market

South Fork boasts one of the most unique and largest farmers markets in the area. The South Fork Friday Market is sponsored by Sol Mountain Farm and will be set up at the South Fork Visitor Center every Friday, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. through Sept. 11. The market has become known as one of the best markets in the Valley for local food, produce, arts, craft and jewelry. An abundantly diverse group of local vendors gather to share their passions with the community which include such things as local honey, pasture-raised meat, organic produce, spices, art, food, handmade wood work, pottery and more. Info: [www.southforkfm.com](http://www.southforkfm.com)



more. The market runs Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Sept. 18. Info: [www.facebook.com/MonteVistaFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/MonteVistaFarmersMarket)

### Native American Artists Fair

Come see Monte Vista's newest event, July 10-11 and 25-26, Aug. 8-9 and 29-30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot on U.S. Hwy. 160 at Jefferson Street and at Faemooon Wolf Designs, 122 Adams St. The fair will feature Native American vendors and crafters from around the west with a variety of wares that honor their individual cultures.

### Monte Vista Farmers Market, opens July 10

The Monte Vista Farmers Market, located in the parking lot on U.S. Hwy. 160 at Jefferson Street, across from the Information Center, offers local produce, freshly baked goods and

### San Luis Valley Fair, Aug. 1-8

A SLV tradition, come see the 118th fair in Monte Vista. The Fair starts with the Horse Exhibitors events Saturday and has numerous 4H events over the week, split between the Nazarene Gym and Ski-Hi. The culminating event is the junior livestock auction Friday, Aug. 7. For more information see [www.slvfair.com](http://www.slvfair.com)



### South Fork Mushroom Foray, Aug. 7-8

For mushroom enthusiasts and wanna-be mushroom enthusiasts. Get quick tips regarding the proper way to identify and collect mushrooms from an expert and then head out for a nearby hike to look for and collect mushroom species. Once all of the mushrooms

have been collected, the participants return to the South Fork Visitors Center for identification and discussion of what was discovered. Info: 719-873-5512, [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org)

### South Fork Colorfest, September

The leaves determine this informal celebration of Mother Nature. Stop by the South Fork Visitor Center for a list of drivable or hikeable routes to see the stunning colors offered by changing Aspen trees in the mountains, or just enjoy the main highway routes which also offer breathtaking views. Info: [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org)

### See You Next Year!

*These Events are fun for the whole family and are not to be missed in 2021!*

*(Dates listed are tentative, please see the websites listed for more information)*

### Memorial Day, May 31, 2021

The Veterans Center at Homelake in Monte Vista boasts a proud tradition of honoring our nation's heroes. The center will host its annual Memorial Day

See RIO GRANDE on Page 47

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# Saluting our heritage

## Saguache County events



### Hollyhock Festival, July 25

This year will see the Ninth Annual Hollyhock Festival on July 25, typically started at the Community Building located in Otto Mears Parks in Saguache, but this year it will be hosted as a virtual event on Facebook. Prizes will be awarded for the best gardens in Saguache, obtain information from gardeners, enjoy the art exhibits and more. The hollyhock is the official flower for the town of Saguache. *Alcea rosea*, Hollyhock, was one of the earliest plants brought to the New World. Originally from Asia, the plant's hardiness, drought tolerance, and soil adaptability supported its cultivation throughout the Middle East, Europe, and North American Continent. Info: 719-849-0240, [www.saguachechamber.org](http://www.saguachechamber.org)



### Saguache Arts Walk, Aug. 15

Held in downtown Saguache, local artists

will display their work through the downtown area in businesses, as well as in several galleries for the 11th annual Saguache Arts Walk. Enjoy a stroll around the town to not only see all the different venues and the artists but also to experience all the opportunities offered by the unique shops. Make it a day to remember by viewing artisans at work, including the local pottery shop creating treasures. Info: 719-849-0240, [www.saguachechamber.org](http://www.saguachechamber.org)

### Stargazing Event, Aug. 14

The Town of Crestone will be acquiring a new telescope, courtesy of Kim Malville, in order to hold public stargazing events, with the first one on August 14 at Colorado College's Baca Campus. Info: (719) 256-4313



### Inter-Tribal Pow Wow Celebration, Aug. 29-30

A weekend of Native American celebrations and events in Otto Mears Park, vendors will be selling their wares at the ninth annual pow wow and Indian drummers, singers and dancers will be performing throughout the event. Info: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

[SaguachePowwow](http://www.saguachechamber.org)

### Crestone Energy Fair, Sept. 11-13

The Crestone Energy Fair is an annual event highlighting innovative and visionary energy, building, and human relations technologies while networking the skill sets and resources of local, regional and global communities who practice sustainable, regenerative and whole systems designs. This is the longest running sustainability fair in the nation and this year's theme is *Connecting Community!* Info: [www.crestoneenergyfair.org](http://www.crestoneenergyfair.org)



### Saguache Fall Festival & Quilt Show, Sept. 19

The 27th Annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show will take place at Otto Mears Park and the community building in Saguache. Fun starts at 9 a.m. on Sept. 19 and continues until 4 p.m. Vendors from all over come to exhibit their wares, including the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters. These ladies will be showing their efforts for the year along with offering the chance to win a quilt door prize. Come make a bid on silent auction items, offered as the only annual fundraiser for the Saguache Chamber. Artists will be offering treasures for the eye and the body and soul. In conjunction with this year's event, the Seventh Annual Saguache

County Photo Contest will culminate with judging of the entries. Have a seat or get some exercise dancing to live music during the day. Info: [www.saguachechamber.org](http://www.saguachechamber.org)



### See you next year!

*These events are family friendly and not to be missed in 2021!*

**(Dates are tentative, please see contact information listed for specific information)**

### Memorial Day Celebration, Saguache County Museum Opening, May 29

Memorial Day celebrations in Saguache and the Saguache County Museum's grand opening kick-off the summer season in the county and the time to enjoy all the many local fairs and special events in the area. The pancake breakfast starts the day in the Otto Mears Park Pavilion (at Highway 285 and Pitkin Avenue) from 7-11 a.m. At 9 a.m., the museum opens for its 61st year. The day of fun also includes a parade, hot dog lunch, craft and food vendors in the park, kiddie events, music and events at the museum. Info: 719-655-2232, [www.saguache.org](http://www.saguache.org)



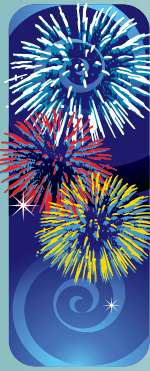
**San Juan Fiesta, June 2021**

The annual San Juan Fiesta will be celebrated with Saturday mass at St. John the Baptist Church in La Garita. Following the mass, festivities will begin in the downtown park in Center on Worth Street. The music, games, dancing, raffles and food vendors at the park will resume on Sunday as well. A Sunday mass will be held at St. Francis Jerome Church, followed by a procession from the church to the park and

the presentation of fiesta royalty. Info: 719-852-2673

**Town of Center 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration**

Enjoy "Fun in the Sun" celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Center with a parade, activities at Casa Blanca Park, live music, vendors, a beer garden and more. Info: 754-3497



**Town of Crestone Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, July 4**

The Fourth of July celebration is participatory with events that everyone can join. The central event is a parade through the downtown area, with a "Creation Station" for children to decorate themselves and their bikes prior to the parade. Anyone may enter the parade by reporting to the line-up at 11 am. Other features include a 5K Run, Walk or Crawl Race, festivities in the park, music and entertainment, arts and crafts and games. Info: 719-256-4313

**12 Hours of Penitence, Sept. 11**

12 Hours of Penitence is an endurance mountain bike race held in the Penitente Canyon Recreation Area from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's a family-friendly, festival-type atmosphere all day while racers are racking up miles on the course. Food, beer and merchandise vendors available, as well as live entertainment. Proceeds from the event benefit local youth cycling and outdoor recreation initiatives in the San Luis Valley. Info: www.12hoursofpenitence.com





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9<sup>th</sup> Annual  
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11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Arts Walk  
 August 15, 2020  
 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Fall Festival &  
 Quilt Show  
 September 19, 2020  
 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



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# Adventure



Photo by Ryker Alonzo





# An outdoor paradise

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## Camping, RVing

Abundant developed and rustic campsites are available throughout the Rio Grande National Forest and near special attractions in the area. The Forest has 33 campgrounds with over 651 individual sites. A majority of the campgrounds are operated by Scenic Canyons Recreational Services and some have on-site hosts. While electric, sewer, and water hook-ups and showers are not available, most campgrounds have potable water and vault toilets. Eight of the campgrounds have sites that can be reserved.

To find places to camp in the vast Rio Grande National Forest call 719-852-5941. For a complete list of campgrounds and cabins available from the Rio Grande National Forest, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

offers sites as well with amenities for RVs, trailers and tents. Due to COVID-19, the park is reopening in phases and limited sites/amenities are available. Please visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) for the most current information on access to the Dunes.



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# Conquer the mountain

## 14ers, mountaineering and rock climbing

The mountains rimming the San Luis Valley have long attracted mountaineers and rock climbers. The mountaineers head to the Sangre de Cristo Range on the east side, to test their mettle on its nine 14ers (peaks more than 14,000 feet high). The rock climbers tend to head west to the foothills of the San Juans, where short but challenging rock routes are accessible with a short hike.

## Mountaineering in the Sangres

The 14ers of the Sangres occur in two distinct clusters, in the Crestone Group east of Crestone and in the Blanca Group north of Blanca and Fort Garland. The Crestone Group boasts five 14ers on the divide (Challenger Point-14,087'; Kit Carson Mountain-14,171'; Crestone Peak-14,300'; Crestone Needle-14,203'), with Humboldt Peak just east of the divide (14,064'). The Crestone Group are considered the hardest climbs on Colorado's 14ers and were described by early

Colorado mountaineers as "unclimbable." Today the standard routes range from scrambling up to the summits (Challenger Pt., Kit Carson Mtn.), to steeper semi-technical climbs (Crestone Pk., Crestone Needle), to difficult technical rock climbs (the Crestone Peak-to-Needle Traverse, and the Prow route on Kit Carson Mtn.) Challenger Point is the most popular destination, having the shortest approach from Crestone and the easiest route.

Five trailheads provide access to the peaks, all reached by county roads from Crestone. See local maps at the information center south of Crestone or at the museum & welcome center in downtown Crestone.

The Blanca Group forms a huge, circular massif shaped like a crown with four distinct high points (Blanca Peak, 14,351'; Ellingwood Point, 14,048'; Mt. Lindsey, 14,048'; Little Bear Peak, 14,043'). Access to the canyons leading to the high peaks is complicated by private land ownership, so the most

popular approach is the jeep road up to Como Lake (11,750') on the west side. The Como Lake Road takes off east from CO 150 (road to the Sand Dunes) three miles north of U.S.160, but is extremely rough so most people park near the bottom and hike up. From a base camp near the lake one can bag multiple peaks in a single, long traverse. The Blanca-Ellingwood traverse is semi-technical but highly exposed. The Little-Bear Blanca traverse is even more difficult, but has been described in 14er guidebooks as "Colorado's most astonishing connecting ridge." Compared to the bare rock slabs of the Crestone Group, on the Blanca Group be prepared for scrambling up loose talus and rock rubble to summits. But don't come too early. In heavy snow years these routes may not open up until July.

If the rugged 14ers seem too daunting, then consider some of the 13ers that form the spine of the Sangres. These peaks offer climbs for beginners and intermediates and can be reached from range-

front trailheads along the range from Valley View Hot Springs to Great Sand Dunes NP. For example, in just the 16 mile-long stretch of mountains centered on the Crestone Group there are 35 13ers! These range from the "almost a 14er" Columbia Point (aka Kit Carson) at 13,980', down to 10 unnamed peaks between 13,005' to 13,270' elevation.

## Rock climbing in the San Juan foothills

Penitente Canyon, located west of La Garita on BLM land, has become a destination for roped technical climbing on vertical walls of hard, welded volcanic tuff. More than 50 routes have been put up, many protected by bolts. But the easiest routes are 5.8 and most are 5.10 and higher, so be prepared. BLM permits fee camping with individual and group sites, so your crew of free-climbers can set up a base camp there and explore the canyon at your leisure. For non-climbers, watching an ascent party can give you a flavor of the mechanics of climbing; the hardware, the rock, and the comradery of the rope.



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# Hiking

From sheer cliffs, massive boulder fields and spectacular volcanic creations, the San Luis Valley is a hiking paradise. Hikers in the lower elevation and rocky areas need to be aware that rattlesnakes are common in these areas of the Valley.

Among the most spectacular and challenging are the cliffs and formations in Penitente Canyon, South Zapata Lake, the Creede Caldera and Wheeler Geologic Area, the latter two are difficult to access. All are popular but come with a cautionary note for even the most experienced hikers.

Penitente Canyon offers numerous hiking routes and ample opportunity for exploration. High on the canyon wall, someone painted a fresco of the Virgin Mary.

An easier, but no less spectacular, hiking area is the La Garita Arch, a wind-carved window in a sheer rock formation. The arch can be accessed via FSR 660. Info: Saguache Ranger District, 719-655-2547 For more hiking trails, check out the San Luis Valley Trail Guide online at [www.alamosa.org/san-luis-valley-trail-guide](http://www.alamosa.org/san-luis-valley-trail-guide).

A full list of trails on Colorado State land is also available on [www.trails.colorado.gov](http://www.trails.colorado.gov)



# Bicycling

Trail and street bicycle riders of all ages and experience will find adventure in the mountains, with terrain ranging from easy to thigh-burning trails. The terrain between Del Norte and Summitville is legendary, but so are the bike paths down below. Almost every Valley community has special bicycle lanes along the city streets. Experienced bikers can explore the rough roads

and shale surfaces beyond the Old Spanish Trail monument east of Del Norte or traverse Penitente Canyon's challenging trails, pedal to La Garita Arch/Witches Canyon or explore the mining roads

above Creede. Bikers in the lower elevation and rocky areas need to be aware that rattlesnakes are common in these areas of the Valley. Info: [www.mtbproject.com/directory/8012291/san-luis-valley](http://www.mtbproject.com/directory/8012291/san-luis-valley)



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# ATVs & 4-wheelers

Restrictions for ATV and four-wheeling trails are enforced in many parts of the national forests in the Valley. Look for regulation signs and posted areas when riding through the backcountry. The road to Lake Como, the area around the historic Uracca Cemetery with its 19<sup>th</sup> century cabins and the mining areas in Creede are all popular four-wheeling spots. Check out the great jeeping

and ATV map at <https://www.coloradodirectory.com/maps/atv-san-luis-valley.html>.

The Town of South Fork and City of Creede also have ATV/UTV trails and roads. For more information on open trails and roads visit: [www.southfork.org/jeep-4x4-atv](http://www.southfork.org/jeep-4x4-atv) and [www.creede.com/recreation-activities/outdoor-adventures/jeeping-atv.html](http://www.creede.com/recreation-activities/outdoor-adventures/jeeping-atv.html)



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## Watchable wildlife

Visit the Alamosa and Monte Vista national wildlife refuges and see elk, deer, antelope, small animals and the more than 100 species of birds that are native to the area including thousands of Sandhill Cranes which visit the Valley in early spring and late summer. Look for Bald Eagles and other raptors. For

more information see [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/monte\\_vista/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/monte_vista/), also <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/alamosa/> for maps and additional information. Colorado Gators, a private wildlife refuge north of Alamosa, and the Great Sand Dunes preserve also are popular areas for wildlife viewing.



Photo by Andy Cook

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# Taste Colorado

## Ribeye Ranch

Five miles west of Del Norte on U.S. Highway 160, between mile markers 196 and 197, visitors to the Valley will discover a unique southern Colorado icon. The Ribeye Ranch is home to docile elk and reindeer and the headquarters of the nationally known ElkUSA.com and Grande Natural Meats.

Grande Natural sells prime cuts of farm-raised USDA-inspected elk, buffalo, goat, whitetail deer, red deer and fallow deer, wild boar, rabbit, plus antler sets or mounts and many antler dog chews. ELKUSA actually created the current antler dog chew craze in 2005.

Owner Rich Forrest and his late wife built the business from scratch starting 20 years ago and have become the nation's largest elk meat retailer. Together with a charming ranch store, their key to success is the internet, which gives shoppers across the nation access to healthy, all-natural meat alternatives.



The ranch's quaint log cabin outlet store stocks jerky and sausage, plus various frozen red meat items. Discount meats are always available, as are the nationally distributed game meat dog foods and antler dog chews. Moving meat in large quantities, the inventory of all-natural meats is replenished regularly, guaranteeing customers fresh, recently flash-frozen game products. Their prices are very competitive and some of the lowest in the game meat business.

All meats sold by Grande Natural are derived from grass-fed, USDA-inspected deer and elk free from steroids, antibiotics and

animal by-products. The buffalo are grain-finished to ensure juicy, tender steaks. Forrest noted, "Now, everyone can enjoy full-flavored elk or deer meat without the wild gamey taste." The products are shipped via UPS to some of the finest restaurants nationwide, including several local establishments.

Additionally, their select meats sell in hundreds of natural grocery stores and chains in an eight-state region. Products are prepared for sale by numerous independent USDA processors, three located in Colorado. Products can be sold to the public in affordable bulk packages ranging from whole animals down to fifth animal bundles of elk and as whole bundles down to one-eighth bundles of buffalo meat. Gift packages and jerky-sausage combos for holiday and special events are also available.

A number of their products have been highlighted in magazines and books, including *ForbesLife* and *The Complete Venison Cookbook*. *Maxim Magazine's* 2010 jerky competition selected Grande Natural Meat's

buffalo pepper jerky to be in the top 10 nationwide. Also, in the winter of 2011 Grande Meats was featured in *Cooking Wild Magazine* with an article titled "Buying Meat Online." This was a great compliment, as many of the other stories featured are some of the largest and most well-known providers in the nation.

Since game meats are heart-healthy, running 90-95 percent lean, it can be assumed that the business will continue to thrive. "Physicians are recommending buffalo and elk for their cardiac patients much more often, and veterinarians prefer the non-allergenic meat for pets."

A new, rustic shop-freezer building, packed with game meat products seems to substantiate this optimistic claim, well stocked with hundreds of products.

So, stop at Grande Natural Meats for elk steaks, buffalo burgers, all-natural jerky or sausage, some really great frozen dog food or well-acclaimed antler dog chews. Maybe just stop to view the animals and say "hi," they're betting you want to take something home with you.

Info: 719-657-0942, [www.ElkUSA.com](http://www.ElkUSA.com)



Photos by Staci Turner





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## Boating

For great boating adventures, try Beaver Creek (nowake regulations enforced) and Big Meadows reservoirs near South Fork. Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Smith Reservoir outside of Blanca or Mountain Home Reservoir near Fort Garland.

## Fishing

The San Luis Valley offers a variety of fishing opportunities. If you are 16 or older you must have a Colorado fishing license. Children under 16 do not need a fishing license as long as they are fishing with an adult with a valid license. Or you can purchase licenses online at <https://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/Fishing.aspx>

When stream fishing make sure that you are not trespassing as in Colorado private landowners adjacent to rivers and streams own the riverbed. Colorado lakes and rivers offer a chance to catch cutthroat, brown, brook and rainbow trout. Some reservoirs are stocked with bass, yellow perch, pike and landlocked kokanee salmon — if you're looking for great catches, the Valley has it all.

Fish close to a town or far away, by hiking to one of the remote backcountry lakes or

streams.

Drift boat fish down the Gold Medal Rio Grande with artificial flies and lures only and you may be lucky enough to land a Rio Grande cutthroat trout — it doesn't get any better. The Conejos River offers a lot of public access and is an excellent wild brown and rainbow trout fishery. It is an artificial flies and lures only stream. Fly fishing in area rivers gets better around July when the runoff has subsided.

The area is also dotted with 80 lakes and reservoirs, many of them remote; others easily accessible. Some 13 lakes and reservoirs are only 30 minutes from the town of South Fork. Among these are:

- Million Reservoir — four acres of water, 8,700 feet elev., rainbow trout, great sightseeing;
- Big Meadows, — 114 acres of water, 9,200 feet elev., rainbow, brook trout, kokanee salmon, German browns, great for children and seniors, handicap access;
- Beaver Creek Reservoir — 114 acres of water, same 8,850 elev., Bait and artificial lures are allowed. There is a boat ramp but boats must abide by no wake laws and distance rules from those fishing from the bank. The reservoir offers the chance to catch a variety of trout and kokanee salmon.
- Shaw Lake — 20 acres,



9,850 feet elev., great trolling for cutthroats and brookies, handicap access, boat ramp and restrooms;

• Alberta Park Reservoir — Elevation 10,202, forest and meadows, large trout and brooks;

• Poage Lake is located at 11,000 feet elevation south of the town of South Fork. Artificial flies and lures can only be used and you can keep two fish per day under 12 inches.

• Hunters Lake — 8 acres of water, 11,400 elev., fly-fishing good for rainbows, a half-hour hike from car;

• Tucker Ponds — Four acres of water, 9,700 elev., rainbows, great for children and novices, camping, picnicking, restrooms,

handicap access;

• Pass Creek Pond — Good for bait and fly fishing, rainbows, limited parking;

• Three high mountain lakes — Archuleta, Crystal and Crater — are all between 11,300 and 12,700 elevation. To access Archuleta and Crater lakes requires a four-wheel drive vehicle or involves a difficult hike.

On the eastern side of the Valley, Sanchez Reservoir and San Luis lakes have previously experienced extremely low water levels, so it's best to check before making a trek there. (See complete list for all the above at [www.southfork.org/fish](http://www.southfork.org/fish)). For other fishing destinations in the area, visit [http://coloradofishing.net/wtf\\_sw.htm](http://coloradofishing.net/wtf_sw.htm)



# Valley Curiosities

## Colorado Gators Reptile Park

At first glance, the desert area of the San Luis Valley might not be thought of as a place to view alligators, turtles, fish, peacocks, ostriches, geese, ducks and snakes. This is surprisingly not the case. Colorado Gators Reptile Park, located 17 miles north of Alamosa in Mosca along Highway 17, offers one of the Valley's most unique attractions.

Colorado Gators is in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, with 100 baby alligators having been purchased in 1997, and the farm being opened to the public in 1990. Erwin and Lynne Young purchased the 80-acre farm in 1977. The first 100 alligators that were bought were with the purpose to dispose of dead fish and remains of filleted fish from their tilapia farm.

The baby alligators grew quickly in the warm geothermal water available in the Valley, and the public became interested in seeing them. The rest has become living history. Colorado Gators has also now become a sanctuary for exotic pets. Individuals with overgrown alligators and other reptiles such as large pythons, tortoises, iguanas and more drop off the creatures on the farm. The organization works hard to take care of the animals and to also educate the public on the dangers of

owning such pets.

More than 200 alligators call the farm their home in 2020. More than 200 species of birds have also been spotted on the park. Within the farm is a greenhouse/fish breeding area that also houses mature bamboo, papyrus and other exotic plants for viewing pleasure. As a visitor walks the park and follows painted alligator footprints, they will no doubt bump into huge tortoises walking the grounds. As they step outside, they'll join turkeys, chickens and other domestic birds and critters.

If you are brave and daring enough, you can learn how to wrestle alligators in one of the ponds and earn a commemorative t-shirt and certificate.

Also if you have ever wanted to see a movie-star, Colorado Gators provides this opportunity. One of the residents is retired Hollywood actor 500-pound Morris. He is best known for starring in Adam Sandler's movie "Happy Gilmore."

Don't miss their annual Gatorfest weekend, August 8-9, 2020. The theme this year is "The Roaring 20s!"

The park is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week!

Info: 719-378-2612, [www.coloradogators.com](http://www.coloradogators.com)



## UFO Watchtower

Believer, skeptic or just curious, the UFO Watchtower is a "must see" for seekers of the unusual.

In a valley where a horse who died almost 50 years ago is on TV from time to time and the night sky is nothing short of amazing, the tower seems to fit in. At its base is a gift shop/museum and vortexes at its eastern foot offer healing and, some believe, gates to parallel universes.

Owner Judy Messoline first bought the land as a cow pasture and soon learned that it had another purpose. People were stopping nearby to scan the night sky for evidence of beings from outer space. People have claimed such sightings since the first explorers visited the barren lands.

Psychics who have visited the property have pinpointed the vortexes and countless visitors have left items there for good luck. It's bad karma to

take anything, so some items have lain there for years.

Owner Judy Messoline is always a fruitful source of information on aliens and UFOs and the watchtower.

Visit the rock garden and take a photo with an alien while at the watchtower. Or schedule an out-of-this-world wedding at the site.

Signs along the road embody the stereotypical "little green men," who point the way to the tower, located 17 miles north of Alamosa and two and one-half miles north of the tiny town of Hooper.

Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 per car and camping is available. Please wear masks and follow appropriate social distancing. Summer hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily or call Judy at 719-378-2296 or Candace at 805-886-6959, for other arrangements.

Info: 719-378-2296, [www.ufowatchtower.com](http://www.ufowatchtower.com)



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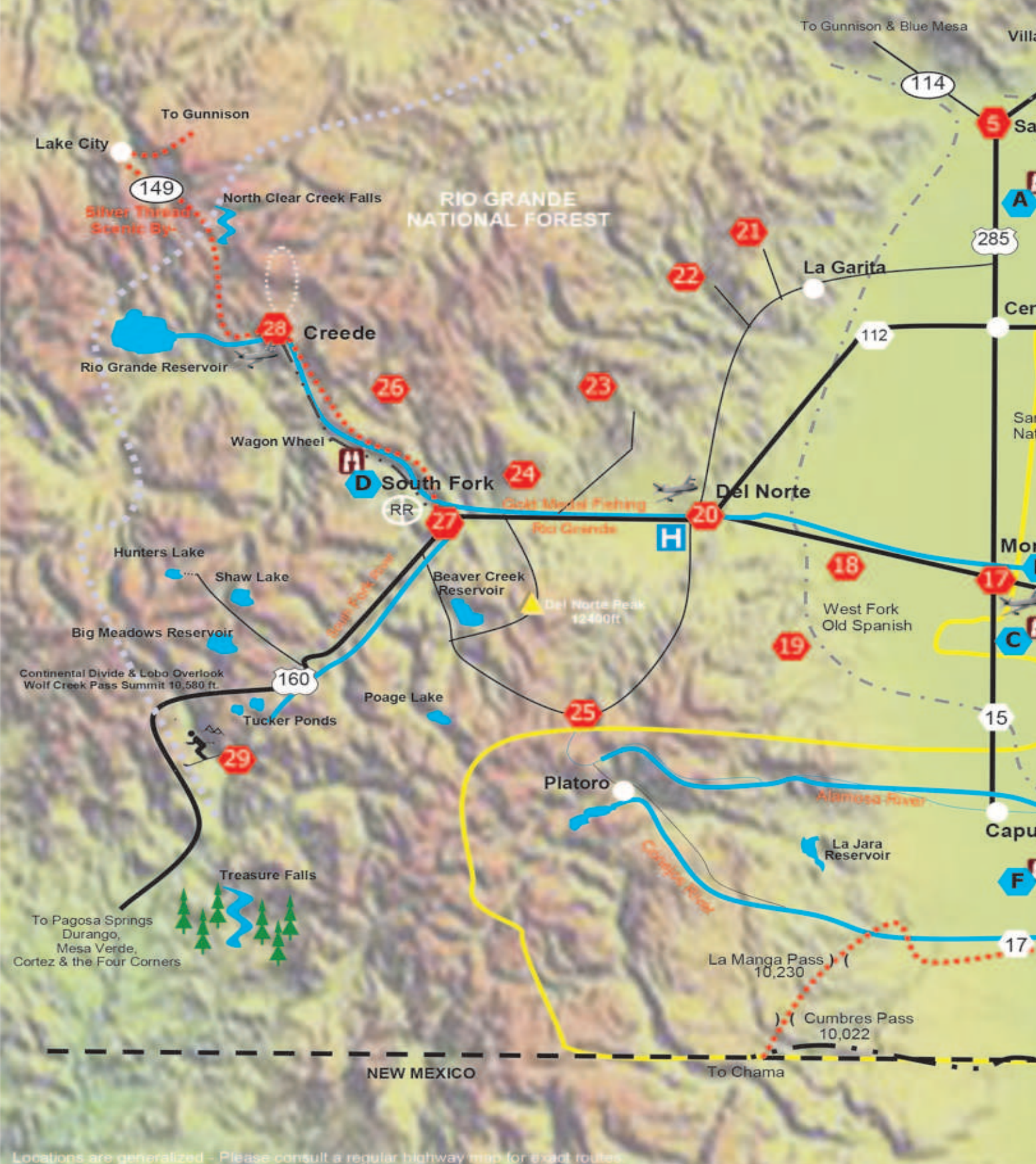
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# San Luis Valley





# Map Key

- 1 Orient Mine & Bat Cave
  - 2 Joyful Journey Hot Springs
  - 3 **Crestone**
  - 4 UFO Watchtower
  - 5 **Saguache**
  - 6 Sand Dunes Swimming Pool
  - 7 San Luis Lakes State Park
  - 8 Colorado Gators Reptile Park
  - 9 **Alamosa**
  - 10 **Fort Garland**  
Fort Garland Museum
  - 11 POW/MIA Memorial
  - 12 Pikes Stockade
  - 13 **Manassa**  
Jack Dempsey Museum
  - 14 San Luis  
Stations of the Cross & Murals
  - 15 Oldest Church in Colorado
  - 16 **Antonito**  
Cumbres & Toltec Railroad  
Conejos County Museum
  - 17 **Monte Vista**  
Home Lake Veterans Center  
Transportation of the West  
Museum
  - 18 Old Spanish Trail Monument
  - 19 Stone Quarry
  - 20 **Del Norte**  
Rio Grande History Museum  
Observatory
  - 21 Penitente Canyon
  - 22 Natural Arch  
Wagon Tracks  
Elephant Rocks
  - 23 Fremonts Christmas Camp
  - 24 Pfeiffer's Grave
  - 25 Summitville Gold Mine
  - 26 Wheeler Geologic Area
  - 27 **South Fork**  
Silver Thread Scenic Byway
  - 28 **Creede**  
Historical Museum  
Underground Mining Museum  
Underground Firehouse  
Repertory Theatre  
Bachelor Loop Historic Tour
  - 29 Wolf Creek Ski Area
- 
- A Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area  
 B Alamosa Wildlife Refuge  
 C Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge  
 D Coller State Wildlife Area  
 E Rio Grande State Wildlife Area  
 F La Jara & Hot Creek State Wildlife Area



See map for general locations of; Blanca, Center, Capulin, Conejos, Hooper, Moffat, Mosca. La Garita, La Jara, Lake City, Platoro and Romeo.

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# *History*



*Photo by Helen Smith*



# Our history and heritage

## San Luis Valley history



Photo by Trey Spaulding

Located south of Monte Vista off highway 15 and to the west 6 miles on County Road 2S is the Rock Creek Cemetery which was established in 1874.

The world's largest volcanic eruption occurred over 28 million years ago in the San Luis Valley. The eruption's depression is known as the La Garita Caldera and spans 22 miles wide by 62 miles long. Much of the caldera is located within Mineral County as it spans west of La Garita, Colorado to near the town of Creede.

Rich in beauty and adventure, the San Luis Valley has unique and abundant history, as well. Humans have inhabited and visited the area for more than 12,000 years. Archaeological evidence shows Paleoindians arrived near the end of the last ice age. The Nomads were hunters and gathers who hunted large mammals such as bison and woolly mammoths. Artifacts found in the Valley were generally associated with hunting and included spear points, butchering tools and small encampments.

The Province of New Mexico, established in 1598 later dispatched explorers from its capital city of Santa Fe. Expeditions were sent out from Nueva Hispana. In 1779, Don Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through the San Luis Valley and over Poncha Pass in an attempt to crush the Comanches, who

threatened the New Mexican settlements. Other explorers entering the area included Don Juan de Oñate, Juan Maria Rivera, Juan Bautista Silva, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Jacob Fowler, George Frederick Ruxton, John C. Fremont and John Williams Gunnison. The area was later administered as part of the province of Nuevo Mexico until the area was ceded to the United States in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo after the Mexican-American war.

### Farming

Drawn by the San Luis Valley's abundant agricultural promise, settlers finally established communities in the 1850s. Farmers developed irrigation systems, as well as traditional communities. The People's Ditch at San Luis is Colorado's earliest adjudicated water right.

Mexican land grants, aimed at filling the area with settlers, remained virtually empty until the area became U.S. territory in 1848. The Sangre de Cristo Land Grant was established in 1851 and settlers moved in.

The first permanent settlement in Colorado, San Luis de la Culebra, now known as San Luis, was established in 1851

along the Rio Culebra on the Sangre de Cristo Grant. Garcia would've been the first town but was never incorporated.

San Luis was established in 1849 and named when its post office opened.

Fort Massachusetts, was built north of San Luis in 1852 to protect the early settlements but was unsuitable leading to the creation of Fort Garland.

Across the vast valley, Hispanic families who left the Santa Fe area founded La Loma de San Jose, near the present town of Del Norte. In 1859 irrigation ditches were built and farming followed. More farms were started in the 1880s near Hooper when large-scale irrigation systems were built near Monte Vista.

Center, believed to be the middle of the Valley, was established in the 1890s, and has continually been a farming community to this day.

### Mining

The mining boom began when gold and silver were discovered near Summitville in 1870. Del Norte, one of Colorado's first cities, was

established in 1872 as a supply point and gateway to the San Juan mining camps, as well as, a busy wide-open frontier town. The first ore strike at Creede was in 1889, and the town's rowdy history was memorialized in prose, "It's day all day in the daytime, and there is no night in Creede." Other mining sites followed.

### The Iron Horse

The railroad awakened the sleepy economy with its trains smoking, whistling and belching through the Valley serving the farmers, ranchers and miners. The native tribes called them "iron horses," while the settlers called them "progress."

Railroads gave birth to Alamosa, Monte Vista, Antonito and San Acacio, which needed a way to haul their abundance out of the Valley to the cities for sale and the area needed a way to attract more people and new industry.

The area's history is evident in nearly every location. Museums celebrate the unique identity of each community, with historic artifacts and displays showing the art, agriculture and religious traditions that have blended to become the unique, welcoming, place that is the San Luis Valley.



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# Chugging into the past



## Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) added two more trains a week to its schedule, starting July 1, 2020. The historic steam railroad (voted twice by *USA Today* as the best train ride in America) will now offer trains six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday, with all trains departing at 10 a.m. from Antonito, Colorado on a modified schedule. Passenger trains leave Antonito station and travel to historic Osier, Colorado for a delicious one hour lunch stop, included in the ticket price. The trains then return to Antonito by 4:40 p.m. There are no half day trips, and currently no departures from Chama, New Mexico due to COVID restrictions in New Mexico. There are no trains operating



on Mondays. “We are hopeful that we will have permission to run trains out of Chama, NM soon,” said John Bush, president/general manager of the C&TSRR. “Because the train operates in two states, we have to follow the guidelines of each state. Even though the train isn’t running yet, the town of Chama, only 50 minutes from Antonito by highway, is open for business and welcomes visitors.”

Because of changing conditions, the Cumbres & Toltec is offering a full refund to anyone who needs to cancel their reservation this season and does so at least 48 hours before your trip.

To ensure safety for all, masks are required for all passengers and there will be

a temperature check before boarding the train. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be refunded their ticket and declined a ride on the train.

Seating on the Cumbres & Toltec has been distanced per state guidelines and additional open air gondola cars have been added to each departure. Passengers will have plenty of room to spread out and socially distance.

The 2020 schedule is subject to change and passengers will be required to follow all current federal and state safety precautions. Passengers are encouraged to check the website for the

most up-to-date information.

The Cumbres & Toltec is a National Historic Landmark that moves – a museum on wheels -- and was judged by *USA Today* 10Best to be the No. 1 train ride in the nation.

Featured in more than 40 motion pictures, the railroad has the country’s largest collection of narrow gauge locomotives and cars. Traveling on the train provides an authentic look at steam railroading in the 1880s where passengers can move between cars, ride outdoors on a gondola car, listen to a steam whistle echo down a canyon, enjoy a mile after mile of aspen and

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conifer forest, see wildlife such as elk, deer and even bear or visit the bar and snack car— all at a stately top speed of 12 mph.

### History of the railroad

Originally built in 1880, the railroad is part of the Denver & Rio Grande Western, San Juan extension, designed to connect silver mining towns in the San Juan mountains with Denver. It was traveled by Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and almost every famous outlaw and gunman in the Old West. Indiana Jones grew up next to the railroad, and frequently hopped a ride on circus trains. At least, he did that in the film, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. The house in Antonito that stood in for Indiana Jones' boyhood home is located in Antonito. The Cumbres &



Toltec was featured prominently in the film *Hostiles*, starring Christian Bale. Seth MacFarlane rode the train in *A Million Ways to Die in the West* and Jason Momoa produced two Carhartt commercials in Chama, New Mexico and Antonito. For more on the history and the importance of railroading in America, watch the short film about the Cumbres & Toltec appearing in the National Geographic Short Film Showcase: *The Railroader*.



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# Scenic Byways

The best way to view the Valley is to take one of the scenic and historic byways. These roads are recognized due to their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic



qualities.

## Los Caminos Antiguos

Los Caminos Antiguos ("The Ancient Roads") is the best route to follow through the Valley floor – the northern outpost of 16th century Spanish territorial expansion. Begin the tour in the hub of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa; then venture to the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve to experience the ever-changing landscape. The sand resting at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains is a beautiful, but perplexing site.

Travel south to visit Fort Garland; then 15 miles south on Highway 159 lies San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado. Continue the tour into Conejos County and board the Cumbres

& Toltec Scenic Railroad in Antonito for a narrow-gauge railroad experience. The tour is complete with beautiful views at the top of La Manga Pass.

22 exhibits explain the natural and historical significance of the many points of interest along the route.

Driving time: 129 miles; 3-4 hours; Info: [www.sangreheritage.org/los-caminos/](http://www.sangreheritage.org/los-caminos/)



## Silver Thread Scenic Byway and Bachelor's Loop

For a scenic 117-mile tour of the Valley's San Juan Mountain range, travelers can course the paved byway year-round that winds through both the Rio Grande and Gunnison national forests. Once a toll road and the Barlow and Sanderson stage route, visitors can take advantage of breathtaking overlooks that offer insight into geology and local history while providing ample opportunity to enjoy spectacular views.

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway took its name from



the plentiful veins of silver along the wayside of this U.S. National Forest route.

This magnificent display of mountain scenery begins in South Fork, runs into Creede, then to Lake City and into Gunnison. The route also traverses the La Garita, Weminuche and Powderhorn wilderness areas. This magnificent display of mountain scenery begins in South Fork, runs on to Creede then to Lake City into Gunnison.

While in Creede, visitors can also explore the Bachelor Loop, with its ghost towns and old mines.

There are signs along the loop, and maps are available around Creede to help spot the sites along the 17-mile drive.

Driving time: 2-4 hours; Info: [www.silverthreadbyway.com/](http://www.silverthreadbyway.com/)

## Old Spanish Trail

Visitors to the San Luis Valley who travel west for a few miles on Highway 160 between Monte Vista and Del Norte will come across an ancient and historic route—the Old



Spanish Trail.

The trail was used as a trade route between Santa Fe N.M. and Los Angeles from 1829 to 1848. The items that were exchanged were woolen textiles from New Mexico for strong mules and horses from California. These items are still a strong part of the culture of the states which the Old Spanish Trail ran through. There are three branches of the trail: the Armijo Route, the Main Route and the North Branch. The North Branch runs through the length of the San Luis Valley.

Markers for the North Branch of the trail can be found throughout the Valley. Alamosa, Monte Vista, Del Norte, Saguache, La Garita and Crestone all have designated spaces marking where the trail runs. The North Branch ran through the length of the San Luis Valley. Info: [www.oldspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org)

## Darkness: One more reason to love the Silver Thread Scenic Byway

In addition to the nearly 30 points of interest along the 117 mile Silver Thread Scenic Byway, stretching from South Fork through Creede, Lake City and up to Blue Mesa Reservoir, the Silver Thread provides a great opportunity for stargazing. The mountains that surround and form the scenic byway, traveled by humans since 1300 A.D., protects it from the light pollution of nearby cities, making it an ideal place to capture breathtaking views of mountain scenery in the daytime and unparalleled galaxy views at night.

In addition to stargazing, the historic mining town of Creede, Colorado boasts several unique events, retail stores and world-class restaurants in a comfortable, small-town atmosphere. If viewing wildlife

is more your forte, try the Collier State Wildlife Area, Antelope Springs, watch for Big Horn Sheep near Wagon Wheel Gap or just keep your eyes peeled along the drive for a variety of native creatures.

If you want to spend more time in nature, visit the Wheeler Geologic Area, North Clear Creek Falls, South Clear Creek Falls, Bristol Head or many of the other stops along the way.

If appreciation for historical sites is what brings you to the area, be sure to visit San Juan City, the Post Office Rock or if you're brave enough, the Devil's Creek Railroad Trestle and the Alferd Packer Massacre Site.

For more information on the Silver Thread, visit [www.silverthreadbyway.com](http://www.silverthreadbyway.com)



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# Protecting the Valley

## Fort Garland

Fort Garland was established in 1858 to protect San Luis Valley settlers. At that time Colorado was still part of New Mexico Territory.

Fort Garland was built to replace Fort Massachusetts, just six miles to the north, because the other fort was vulnerable to attack and the land around it was too swamp-like. Fort Garland was named in honor of Brevet Brigadier General John Garland, who then was the commander for the Dept. of New Mexico.

The fort's 20 adobe buildings could accommodate two companies of 100 men and officers. Various companies of infantrymen, mounted riflemen and volunteers would eventually call the fort home. The fort even sported its own laundry and laundresses.

Only two forts existed in Colorado when the Civil War broke out in 1861. Once the war broke out, the 200 men stationed at Fort Garland were put on alert and eventually were called into service in 1862 to assist Texas Confederates in fighting the battle at Glorieta Pass.

The pass is located at the southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains southeast of Santa Fe. This battle proved to be the turning point of the Civil War, fought in New Mexico Territory.

Following the war, Kit Carson took



command of the post as a Brigadier General, in recognition of his valor at the Battle of Valverde, also in New Mexico Territory, Carson was well known for his successful work with the Indians and while at Fort Garland was asked to negotiate with the Ute Indians. For a time, Carson's efforts were successful and the Indians lived in peace with Colorado settlers. He retired for health reasons in 1867.

The Ninth Cavalry was brought to the fort during the gold and silver rush days because the Indians were rebelling against the arrival of so many

prospectors searching for their fortunes in the state. In 1876 the fort became home to the Buffalo Soldiers.

The Utes were forced by the Army to retire to reservations created for them in southwestern Colorado in 1880. Troops at the fort were then reassigned, and by 1883 the fort was abandoned. It was purchased in 1930 by the Colorado Historical Society and since that time it has operated as a military museum.

The fort is open from March 1–Oct. 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Info: 719-379-3512, [www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum](http://www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum)

## Pikes Stockade

Located along the north bank of the Conejos River, the site marks the spot where, in 1807, Zebulon Pike raised the American flag over what was then Spanish territory. The site is now owned by History Colorado and a replica of the stockade exists near the location of the original structure. To learn more about Zebulon Pike and Pike's Stockade go to the Pike National Historic Trail Association's website, [www.zebulonpike.org/](http://www.zebulonpike.org/) or [www.historycolorado.org/location/pikes-stockade-site](http://www.historycolorado.org/location/pikes-stockade-site).





# Take a spiritual journey

## Historic churches

When the first settlers arrived in the often-inhospitable San Luis Valley, their commitment to remaining likely wavered. Some moved away, while those who remained seem to have agreed that prayer was one answer.

The first settlers in the San Luis Valley were native tribes, who left little behind when they moved on, but their images left behind on rock art reflect that they, too, believed.

Spaniards arrived with land grants in hand. Most were Catholic and each small community had its own patron saint, but the Presbyterians weren't far behind. Mormons, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were ordered to settle here in 1879 and Seventh Day Adventists sunk their roots in Jaroso.

The old The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) building at Richfield still stands, but has

long been unused, while the church at Jaroso has been turned into a home.

Many are gone, but not forgotten. A burned-out church along the highway west of Antonito still hosts wedding ceremonies and masses in the summer despite its devastation in 1975.

While San Luis is the oldest incorporated settlement in Colorado, the oldest Catholic Parish is in Conejos and the oldest church structure still in use is in San Acacio, southwest of San Luis.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church was the first church, built in 1863, but it burned in 1926 and a new church was dedicated two years later. It included some parts of the first church, but La Capilla de Viejo San Acacio mission was declared the oldest, built by Hispanic settlers between 1853 and 1856.

Parish documents from Our Lady of Guadalupe are stored at St. Augustine Catholic Church at Antonito and the San Acacio mission

is part of the same parish.

The second oldest church in Conejos County is San Rafael Presbyterian Church at Mogote west of Antonito. The church was probably built in 1895-97 and is one of the few earliest Spanish-speaking Presbyterian churches in Colorado.

The building represents inroads made by the Presbyterian Church into Hispanic southern Colorado, which was predominantly Catholic.

Among all the historic places of worship, the Community Church at Blanca was founded in 1902 and met above a community business before becoming able to afford its own building, which is now more than 100 years old.

Images were important and each parish had its own.

In San Rafael at the northeastern edge of Mogote, the Catholic Church is dedicated to San Pedro and San Rafael and parishioners have graced the cross with straps and items of bondage signifying the crucifixion of Christ.

In San Francisco southeast of San Luis, a Penitente



Photo by Sylvia Lobato

morada built around 1908 reflects the religious and governmental support in poor rural areas of predominantly Hispanic populations and the aid societies that formed as a result. Los Hermanos Penitentes, a lay religious and fraternal organization, constructed and used the building as a chapel and meeting hall. The organization also served as a cultural force, preserving language, lore, customs and faith within the isolated communities. It also is being restored with state historical funds.

## Crestone temples



When miners first built their tent city in the town of Crestone in 1879-80, they would have been thunderstruck to learn that 100 years later, gold fever would be replaced by a

rush to spirituality, with Buddhist and Hindu temples dotting the landscape.

In the 1970s-80s, international figures Maurice and Hannah Strong provided land grants to monasteries and religious institutes to build retreat centers and monasteries in the northeastern Saguache County town.

The resulting interfaith mix of groups that congregated in and around Crestone, and continue to flock there, has drawn many followers of different religious traditions to the area to recreate and meditate. Some have described the scenic atmosphere there as a Shangri-La type ambience reminiscent of that portrayed in British author James Hilton's classic work *Lost Horizon*. Some of the religious centers in Crestone open to the public include the Spiritual Life Institute and the Nada Hermitage Retreat Center, a Catholic Carmelite Monastery; the Crestone Mountain Zen; the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram; a replica of the Chartres Cathedral dromenon and the Shumei International Institute.

## Stations of the Cross Shrine

Strikingly life-like bronze sculptures created by renowned artist Huberto Maestas guide visitors along a recreation of the path trod by Christ during the last journey of His life, the Stations of the Cross near San Luis. The site is an especially popular tourist attraction just before Easter.

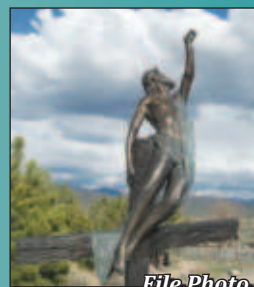
The shrine was constructed in 1986 and dedicated in 1990. The sculptures were created as an act of love and devotion by the faithful of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Parish at San Luis, reflecting their spiritual traditions.

The shrine embodies the vital role of religion in southern communities. Locals come to the shrine throughout the year for prayer, reflection and celebration.

Visitors can find the stations along a one-mile walking trail that begins just off Highway 159, 19 miles south of Fort Garland and just west of San Luis. The stations are situated on a bluff above San Luis.

Fifteen art pieces can be found along the trail depicting the 12 stations of His journey, Calvary and Crucifixion.

At the top is the shrine known as La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia (The Mesa of Piety and Mercy); the grotto features



File Photo

pink sandstone statues of the Virgin Mary and Saint Juan Diego. The mesa top pathway is also lined with many statues of the saints.

As visitors walk up the trail, they are afforded spectacular views of several of Colorado's mountain peaks that tower over 14,000 feet above sea level, while San Luis and the San Luis Valley are spread at their feet.

Complete the journey with a visit to the Memorial de los Martires Mexicanos, at the top of journey.

The shrine draws an average of 40,000 visitors annually.

Access to the shrine can be found at the northern portion of San Luis. There is no charge to visit the shrine.

Info: 719-992-0122, [www.sdcparrish.org](http://www.sdcparrish.org)





# Faith Directory



*Connecting You With Faith-Based Communities*

These area houses of worship invite you to join them. It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
Southern Baptist  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista  
(719)852-5090

**Calvary Bible Chapel**  
Non-Denominational  
June-August Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Message 11 a.m.  
7160 Brush Lane • Alamosa  
(719)589-2150  
[www.calvarybiblechapelalamosa.churchfoyer.com](http://www.calvarybiblechapelalamosa.churchfoyer.com)

**Creede Baptist Church**  
Summer Schedule  
Sunday Worship 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Wednesdays: 6 p.m. Bring & Share Dinner  
7 p.m. Youth Group/Adult Bible Study  
600 La Garita Creede  
(719) 658-2312  
[www.creedebaptistcuhuch.org](http://www.creedebaptistcuhuch.org)

**Emmanuel Chapel**  
*Celebrating our 80th Anniversary Year*  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
0432 Hwy. 149 • South Fork  
[www.emmanuelchapelsf.com](http://www.emmanuelchapelsf.com)

**Gateway Church**  
Baptist  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
975 Grand Ave., Del Norte  
(719)657-3681  
[www.churchatgateway.com](http://www.churchatgateway.com)

**Living Water Bible Fellowship**  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
2910 Clark Street • Alamosa  
(719)589-6351  
[www.livingwateralamosa.org](http://www.livingwateralamosa.org)

**Monte Vista United Methodist Church**  
Protestant  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
215 Washington • Monte Vista  
(719)852-3435

**New Hope Church**  
Non-Denominational  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Soup at 6:00 p.m. & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
25258 W. Hwy 160, South Fork  
(719)873-1202  
[www.newhopesf.com](http://www.newhopesf.com)

**Pioneer United Church**  
Eco-Presbyterian  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.  
630 Spruce St., Del Norte  
(719)657-3375

**Shumei International Institute**  
Non-Denominational  
Daily 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Site Tours Everyday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
3000 East Dream Way Road, Crestone  
(719)256-5284  
[www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org)

**South Fork Church of Christ**  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Class 6:30 p.m.  
0205 Birch Street, South Fork  
(719)873-1259  
[www.southforkchurchofchrist.org](http://www.southforkchurchofchrist.org)

**St. Stephen the Martyr**  
Episcopal  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Washington & 3rd Ave.  
Monte Vista  
(719)852-3274  
[www.ststephchurch.wordpress.com](http://www.ststephchurch.wordpress.com)



# Where creativity flows

## Art in the San Luis Valley

The San Luis Valley is a prime location for any artist that has a need for solitude, a chance to step away and be inspired every day. Many of the area's cities and towns display artful reminders of the inspiration that can be found all over the Valley. Sculptures line street corners, fences display works of art and galleries of every type of artistic talent can be found throughout the communities. Local patrons forge friendships and offer support for any wishing to enjoy the inspirational beauty the Valley has to offer.

Amazing mountain views and scenery that varies from the desert-like sand dunes to wetlands and the Rio Grande River have inspired works in paint, sketch, ceramic, sculpture, fiber and more. Nearly every Valley town hosts a gallery or shop that features fine art from more than 500 artists living in the San Luis Valley area.

The Valley's artistic nature can be seen even among the signs and banners decorating local businesses.

In between the peaks of the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountain ranges

are more than one dozen art galleries and hundreds of individual artists showing and selling their work.

In Antonito, the town's magnificent Silo Park has murals telling the story of the Conejos County's founding and development; down the road a lone silo is graced with a mural of the sacred cranes of the Valley; a warehouse tells the story of the sheep industry just outside of La Jara, and a family of metal sculpture whooping cranes sit along a field.

San Luis tells a story all its own in murals and public art, the story of the past and present.

Monte Vista is adorned with cranes in schoolyards and parks, which showcase the story of the bird. This year, local artists participated in the "Swoop of the Cranes" project. Light posts around Monte Vista have metal Sandhill Cranes decorated by a variety of local artists both to celebrate the famous bird, which migrates through Monte Vista in the spring and fall, and so they can be auctioned off to help raise money for a new Ski-Hi Complex. Viewers can scan QR codes on the back of the cranes

to vote for your favorites.

Alamosa has several art galleries chock full of masterpieces. Several of the area's artists display their works of art in shop windows along Main Street, inviting curious shoppers inside for a splendid peak.

Nature and history is shown in the public art around Del Norte, including the huge elk that sits atop a bluff just outside of town.

Historic Creede presents numerous opportunities for viewing art and plenty of galleries sure to help you find that piece of art to make your home complete.

Saguache County, the Town of Saguache and the Town of Crestone are also home to numerous unique art galleries, from the abstract to those using the open skies



and beautiful mountain views as inspiration.

Whether you're looking for paintings, photography, pottery or jewelry, you're sure to be able to find it among the unique surroundings offered in the area.

For information on specific art galleries, contact the local chamber of commerce.



**Crestone  
Artisans  
Gallery**



An artists'  
cooperative  
with a

diversity of contributing artists from the local community. As one visitor recently said "this gallery has heart".

Open year-round ... see our website for seasonal hours [crestoneartisansgallery.com](http://crestoneartisansgallery.com)  
Find us on Facebook

120 South Cottonwood  
Crestone CO 81131  
719-298-3003



**Quiller Gallery**

Established 1970



*Inesconnetobien, Autumn and the Artist 34" x 26" Acrylic*

Open Daily in Summer Season • Main Street • Creede, Colorado

[www.quillergallery.com](http://www.quillergallery.com) • 719.658.2741



# Agriculture and ranching



## Valley grown

The most important contribution of the early Hispanic families migrating from Mexico and New Mexico in the 1700s and 1800s was the agricultural and ranching skills they carefully honed over two centuries just to survive. While Hispanics were the first settlers to farm in the Valley, they were soon followed by European and Japanese immigrants who helped make the Valley what it is today.

Eventually the San Luis Valley became a major grain and vegetable producing region, and farmers now export agricultural products nationwide. Among these exports are the Valley's main crops — potatoes, alfalfa, barley and lettuce. Many local

products find their way to the tables of area restaurants in the Valley, and the Valley is now one of the primary producers of the ancient grain quinoa.

The first potato crops were grown here in 1882. Ninety percent of Colorado's potatoes are grown in the San



Courtesy of Alamosa Farmers Market.

Luis Valley; the Valley is the fourth largest potato producer in the U.S. Some of the most popular varieties grown locally include: Centennial Russet, Russet Norkotah, Russet Nugget and one red variety, Sangre.

A major hay-producing region, the San Luis Valley hay crop rakes in millions of dollars each year for growers. Alfalfa is not far behind potatoes as the Valley's second most



valuable crop. Because of its high nutritional qualities, alfalfa from the Valley is purchased by dairies in northern Colorado and New Mexico.

To discourage weed growth and for disease control purposes, small grains are rotated every two years with potatoes. Barley and wheat are the main crops. The Valley is said to be the world's primary producer of the ancient grain quinoa, a tiny millet-sized grain with many nutritional advantages.

While machinery is used to plant and cultivate crops of

head and Romaine lettuce, migrant laborers weed, thin, then harvest the crops. Planting takes place around May 1 and the crop is harvested in stages from mid-July to October.

Carrots also are grown in the Valley and shipped to Western markets.

Newer to the San Luis Valley, hemp, the impotent cousin of the marijuana plant, does not require the acres of pesticides and herbicides farmers traditionally have to pay for. There are benefits to field conditions when potato farmers use hemp as a rotation crop. Another cost savings is the limited water needed to grow hemp.

Cattle empires flourished from 1865 to 1889 in southern Colorado but sheep also were raised throughout the region. Historic cattle operations such as the Zapata and Salazar ranches are reminders of how the early settlers ran working ranches.

Today many ranchers still raise cattle in the Valley, mostly on a small-scale basis. Some cattle producers, however, have recently retired their acreages, owing to production costs and water issues.





# Preserving the past

## San Luis Valley Museums

### **Alamosa**

#### **Luther Bean Museum**

CLOSED for 2020-visit virtually at [www.adams.edu/lutherbean/](http://www.adams.edu/lutherbean/) and [www.blogs.adams.edu/salazar-center/](http://www.blogs.adams.edu/salazar-center/)

The main gallery features a collection donated by Charles and Beryl Woodard. Two galleries contain artwork by Stephen Quiller, William Moyers and Joseph Henry Sharp.

Upstairs, cases contain Native American pottery, including pieces by Maria Martinez, San Ildefonso artist; santos and retablos and weavings, including one by Eppie Archuleta.

Info: 719-587-7151



Museum at 401 Hunt Ave. features educational displays of artifacts, photographs, antiques and collectibles portraying early ranch and farm life, as well as Native American artifacts, Hispanic settlers, the Japanese-American community, Adams State College, Military regalia and early railroading.

Museum displays show what an early mercantile or general store was like, along with a model historic U.S. Post Office of years' past and a typical country grade school classroom designed around a fictitious Valley town.

Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$5, Free admission to - Children under 5yrs old, students (K-12), teachers, retired teachers, active military and veterans.

Info: 719-587-0667, [www.museumtrail.org/san-luis-valley-museum.html](http://www.museumtrail.org/san-luis-valley-museum.html)



#### **Ryan Geology Museum**

In 2004, Mr. Edward M. Ryan donated his collection of more than 5,000 fossils and minerals to Adams State for academic and public use. After exploring several possible homes for his collection, he determined Adams State was "the most perfect place." Over 7,000 visitors have seen this collection.

Hours: By appointment only  
Admission: Free-Access to some ASU Campus facilities is currently restricted

Info: 719-587-7921, [www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/geosciences/ryan-geology-museum/](http://www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/geosciences/ryan-geology-museum/)

#### **San Luis Valley Museum**

The San Luis Valley



### **Antonito**

#### **Conejos County Museum**

CLOSED for 2020

Located at the intersection of Highways 285 and 17, it

features memorabilia from the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, Silo Park, the 1913 Warshauer Mansion and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Info: 719-580-4070, [www.museumtrail.org/conejos-county-museum.html](http://www.museumtrail.org/conejos-county-museum.html)



### **Creede**

#### **Creede Historical Museum**

CLOSED for 2020

Located at 17 Main St., in the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad depot, dating back to 1891-92. View old photographs, history reference books, a hand-drawn fire wagon, horse-drawn hearse and Bob Ford assassination mural.

Info: 719-658-2004, <https://creede-historical-society.business.site>

#### **Underground Mining Museum**

The museum is at the edge of Creede on Forest Service Rd. No. 9. Built by miners in honor of miners, the museum chronicles the history of nearly 100 years of hard-rock mining and shows how real silver mining was done.

Hours: Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (summer season), guided tours at 10a.m. and 3p.m., audio tours at 9a.m. and 4p.m. (reservations recommended)

Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children (ages 6-11) \$5, Under age 6 free

Info: 719-658-0811, [www.undergroundminingmuseum.com](http://www.undergroundminingmuseum.com)

### **Crestone**

#### **Crestone Historical Museum**

Located near downtown Crestone at 222 Cottonwood Street, the museum exhibits highlight the Gold Rush days (1870-1920) of the Crestone and El Dorado mining districts; 135 years of mountaineering on local 14ers (1877 to present) and the founding and evolution of the 100,000-acre Luis Maria Baca Grant.

Hours: By appointment only

Admission: By donation

Info: 719-588-4279, [www.museumtrail.org/crestone-historical-museum.html](http://www.museumtrail.org/crestone-historical-museum.html)



### **Del Norte**

#### **Rio Grande County Museum**

CLOSED for Summer 2020

They came for the adventure and more. Stories from the past of individuals and groups who made Rio Grande County history. Stories of Native Americans, fur trappers, settlers from New Mexico, gold seekers, farmers, ranchers, cowboys and merchants are told in exhibits and displays. Seasonal art shows and traveling exhibits are shown during the summer as well.

Hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Admission: Adults, \$2, Children \$1

Info: 719-657-2847, [www.riograndecounty.org/museum](http://www.riograndecounty.org/museum)





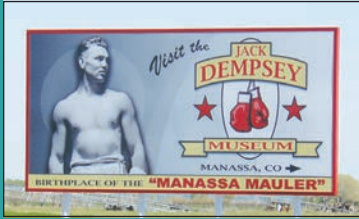
**Fort Garland  
Fort Garland Museum**

Historic Fort Garland is a proud historic landmark in the town that bears its name. Fort Garland was once commanded by the legendary Christopher "Kit" Carson and was home to the 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers.

Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (summer season)

Admission: Adults \$5, Children (ages 6-16) \$3.50, Seniors \$4.50, Children (under age six) free. Active military and their families, and History Colorado members are free!

Info: 719-379-3512, www.museumtrail.org/fort-garland-museum.html



**Manassa  
Jack Dempsey Museum**

The Jack Dempsey Museum is at 412 Main St., the birthplace of the legendary "Manassa Mauler," the world's greatest heavyweight boxer of the 20th century. View a wealth of photos and memorabilia of Dempsey's legendary career.

Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (summer season)

Admission: Free

Info: 719-843-5207, www.museumtrail.org/jack-dempsey-museum.html

**Monte Vista**

**Monte Vista History Museum and Transportation of the West Museum**

Both CLOSED for 2020

The history museum, at 110 Jefferson Ave. (next to Carnegie Library), houses more than 4,000

historical photos, and some memorabilia of Monte Vista and the entire San Luis Valley.

To view photos and artifacts regarding transportation and agriculture in the area, visit the Transportation of the West Museum, located at 916 First Ave.

Info: 719-849-9320, www.museumtrail.org/monte-vista-historical-society-museum.html



**Homelake Veterans History Museum**

CLOSED for 2020

Based at the Colorado State Veterans Center (CSVC) at Homelake, the Veterans History Center houses military and veterans organization artifacts dating back to the 1800s.

The center also is home to a growing collection of military records gathered from old CSVC records and military veterans still living who volunteer them.

Founded as the Soldiers and Sailors home to house homeless and elderly Civil war and Spanish American war veterans; 52 of the CSVC structures are listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

An on-site veterans history museum houses memorabilia and artifacts gathered over the years, as well as what has come in since 2002 when the Colorado General Assembly passed a statute to establish the center as a repository for all unclaimed military memorabilia.

Info: www.homelakeveteransmuseum.org



**Saguache  
Saguache County Museum/Hazard House**

CLOSED for 2020

Some call it the best little museum in Colorado, the Saguache County Museum takes visitors on a trip to the pioneering era. Check out what's cookin' in the kitchen. Visit the schoolroom, the parlor, or see what an old western jailhouse was like. Which minerals glow the brightest? The Spanish/Indian Room contains artifacts from these two cultures. View arrowheads, saddles and spurs. The museum yard contains antique farm equipment and much more. The gift shop offers a large selection of books, local crafts, t-shirts and caps.

Info: 719-655-2557, www.museumtrail.org/saguache-county-museum.html



**Sanford  
Sanford Museum**

Located at 778 Main St. in Sanford, it was established to preserve and display the heritage of Sanford, Las Saucos and surrounding areas. The collection includes photographs, books and artifacts relating to early Mormon and Hispanic settlement, as well as contemporary materials. Military uniforms and information about veterans are important features of the Museum, as well as Church history, agriculture, school and sports, music and even

a doll collection.

Hours: By appointment only  
Info: 719-274-4382, 719-580-4114, 719-588-6410, www.museumtrail.org/sanford-museum.html

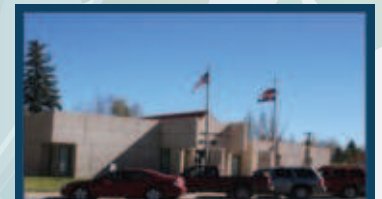


**San Luis  
Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center**

CLOSED for renovations  
Housed at 401 Church Pl., the museum features murals and works of art from its own collection and on loan from various artists and collectors, many of whom are local residents. Because much of the original decor has been maintained throughout the building, the original vigas (roof supports) and fireplace still grace the theatre inside.

Info: 719-672-0999, www.museumtrail.org/sangre-de-cristo-heritage-center.html

For more information on all local museums, visit MuseumTrail.org, sponsored by the San Luis Valley Museum Association, "Your pathway to the history of the San Luis Valley." Info: 719-580-4346, Facebook: museumtrail.org, museumtrail@yahoo.com



**Rio Grande County  
Museum and  
Cultural Center**

580 Oak Street  
Del Norte, Colorado  
(719) 657-2847

Visit us on Facebook

E-mail at rgmuseum@riograndecounty.org

Hours:  
Tuesday - Friday 10-4  
Saturday 10-3



# *Nature*





# Beauty in the backcountry

## National forests & wildlife refuges

Those who travel to the Valley to photograph or view wildlife and native plant species have come to the right place. Bring on the cameras and binoculars and enjoy.

## Alamosa, Monte Vista and Baca National Wildlife Refuges

Visitors to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge will discover a wide variety of water birds, raptors, songbirds including the endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher, mule deer, beaver and coyotes. The Rio Grande Nature Trail begins at the visitor center and takes visitors along the river. There is an auto tour route around a wetland. Travel east and south about nine miles to the Bluff Overlook where there is a picnic table, interpretive site, a second hiking trail and excellent views into the Rio Grande valley. The Alamosa Refuge's Visitor Center, open intermittently, is located four miles east of Alamosa on Highway 160 and two miles south on El Rancho Lane. An information kiosk with maps are available there. Info: 719-589-4021

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge boasts many species of waterfowl, American Avocets, White-faced Ibis and Killdeer, plus songbirds, mule deer and muskrats. During spring and fall migrations, 20,000 Sandhill Cranes come thru the San Luis Valley and most of them spend their time on the refuge roosting in the safety of the wetlands at night and foraging in the grain fields during the day. Viewing of cranes and other wildlife can be done safely by using the pullouts along the refuge on Highway 15. To reach the Monte Vista main office travel six miles south of the town of Monte Vista on Highway 15. There is an information kiosk and the start of an auto tour

route through the wetlands at the office. Info: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Alamosa/About\\_the\\_Complex.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Alamosa/About_the_Complex.html)

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, "The 92,500 acre Baca Refuge is a highly diverse combination of shrublands, grasslands, wet meadows, playa wetlands, and riparian areas. This Refuge was set aside not only as another haven for migratory birds and resident wildlife, but also as an important piece in a broader conservation effort to protect the wildlife, habitat, and water of the north and eastern portions of the San Luis Valley."

At this time, visitor opportunities on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge are limited to the Visitor Contact Station at the office. From Highway 17 in Moffat, take CR T east for 10.5 miles to the turn right into the office. Info: 719-256-5527

## Blanca Wetlands

There are 158 species of shorebirds that take refuge at the Blanca Wetlands, birds one would normally expect to find along the seashore. 13 threatened, endangered and sensitive species can also be spotted here. In addition to the birds, visitors also will find amphibians, mammals, fish and insects. Trails are wheelchair accessible so everyone can enjoy birdwatching at the salty marshlands.

The Blanca Wetlands are located 11 miles northeast of Alamosa on County Road 2S. For more information, contact the San Luis Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management at (719)852-7074.

## Zapata Ranch/Refuge

The 100,000-acre Zapata Ranch next door to the Great Sand Dunes National Park is home to buffalo, bobcats, coyotes and a plethora of bird species, mule deer, elk and

horned lizards. It's owned by the Nature Conservancy and managed by Ranchlands in a partnership model that emphasizes environmental conservation practices. Those staying as guests at the ranch can also take advantage of guided horseback tours of the sand dunes. Rare plants and insects native to the area will be of interest and nature lovers will delight in the cactus varieties and wildflowers abundant in the spring.

The ranch is located just off Highway 150 near the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Mosca. Info: 719-378-2356, [www.zranch.org](http://www.zranch.org)

## Russell Lakes

To reach Russell Lakes from Saguache, go nine miles south on U.S. 285 to CR R, then 1.5 miles east to the property, spread across 793 luscious acres. The lakes are open from July 16 to Feb. 14 for nesting. Hunting is permitted for rabbit, dove and waterfowl. The lakes are an excellent choice for wildlife observation.

Restrictions:

- Camping is prohibited except in self-contained units in designated areas.

- Field trials may be authorized in February, March, August and September only.

- Visitors may park only in established parking areas.

- The lakes are closed except as posted and are closed after 1 p.m. during the first waterfowl season. Section 29 is closed during waterfowl season.

For more information contact the Colorado Parks and Wildlife office at (719)587-6900.

## National forests

The Rio Grande National Forest on the Valley's west side encompasses 1.86 million acres and is one of the prime wilderness treasures in the

state. High up in the San Juan Mountains, the Rio Grande begins its 1,800 mile trek to the Gulf of Mexico, located in the far western part of the forest. The Continental Divide runs for 236 miles along most of the western border of the forest and the 14-ers and lower peaks topping the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range forms the eastern border. The San Luis Valley, one of the largest agricultural alpine valleys in the world, lies between these two ranges.

The Rio Grande National Forest is open, free of charge, for visitor use and enjoyment, although fees may be charged and permits required for some activities and locations. The offices may be closed because of COVID-19 restrictions but you can find more information at [www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande](http://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande) or 719-852-5941

## BLM land

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) purpose is to preserve wildlife and riparian areas, protect ecosystems, manage river resources, supervise permitted grazing and allow for recreational activities on its lands. It encompasses 33 miles of the Rio Grande River banks, from the southern border of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to the Colorado/New Mexico border. The natural area extends out 1/4 mile on either side of the river, totaling over 10,000 acres. Approximately 35 percent is BLM and the remainder is private land.

The BLM prepares public participation plans and involves citizens in implementing these plans for use of the lands. The Rio Grande Natural Area, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006, consists of nine members with an interest or responsibility in public land management, including such individuals as conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, Tribal officials and academics.



# *An ancient treasure*

## Great Sand Dunes National Park

A place sacred to the Ute and Navajo tribes, first explored 400 years ago by the Spanish, the Great Sand Dunes National Park still radiates that aura of otherworldliness, whether standing atop of a dune, scanning the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the distance, or hiking its picturesque trails dotted with dainty wildflowers and local fauna.

Grasslands, shrublands and wetlands surround the tallest dunes in North America on three sides, providing countless opportunities for nature lovers and explorers. Set at the base of the magnificent Sangre de Cristo Mountain range, the Great Sand Dunes are home to a wide variety of plants

and wildlife, existing in a unique ecosystem preserved for all to enjoy.

The park and preserve encompasses 150,000 acres, including Medano Creek wetlands, Medano Ranch, San Luis Lake State Park and San Luis Lakes State Wildlife Area. Add to this the sand dunes themselves and the possibilities for enjoying the park are endless.

### **Sandboarding in the dunes**

Visitors are permitted to slide, ski, or sled on the tallest dunes in



North America wherever vegetation is not visible. Cardboard won't work, but sandboards or snowboards will. Anything slick and flat on the bottom will do the trick, but wait till the dunes have had some moisture before trying to ski or sled. Visitors may ski and sled on the snow-covered Dunes in winter as well.

### **Go 4-wheelin'**

High clearance four-wheel drive vehicles can use the Medano Pass four-wheel-drive road, although the road is not suited to small sport utility vehicles. The road is a special treat for visitors during the fall. Caution is urged during the spring when water is high and creek crossing can be hazardous. The road is closed during the winter.

The Oasis store near the park boundary offers four-wheel-drive tours for those without a four-wheel drive vehicle, offered May through October at Alpine Trails.

Medano Lake and Mount Herard trailhead also can be accessed from the Medano Pass four-wheel drive road. Starting at 10,000-foot elevation, the trail ascends upward 2,000 feet, winding through lush meadows and forests, ending at an alpine lake at timberline. Advanced hikers can continue climbing to the Mount Herard summit at 13,297 feet, which affords a spectacular aerial view of the dunes.

### **General park info**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Great Sand Dunes will be reopening operations on a limited basis. The following facilities and areas are currently OPEN:

Dunes parking area and dunefield access

Medano Pass Primitive Road, including established campsites on a first-come, first-served basis

All trails: Mosca Pass, Montville Nature, Sand Sheet Loop, Wellington Ditch, Dunes Overlook, Sand Ramp, Medano Lake, and Music Pass

All picnic areas: Mosca Creek, Sand Pit, and Castle Creek

Entrance Station, including the collection of entrance fees

Pinon Flats Campground Loop 1 and Loop 2, including restroom facilities

Overnight backcountry access in the National Park, including the dune field and sites along the Sand Ramp Trail

The following facilities and areas are currently CLOSED:

South Ramada group picnic site in the Mosca Creek Picnic Area

Visitor Center interior exhibits, restrooms, and the Western National Parks Association (WNPA) park store.

Pinon Flats Campground Group Loop

Please visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) for the most up-to-date information

## *See the stars at the Great Sand Dunes*

In May of 2019 the Great Sand Dunes National Park was designated an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The following is from an IDA Press Release.



Great Sand Dunes joins three other national park sites in Colorado and approximately two dozen national parks around the country that have been designated as International Dark Sky Parks. "It's no surprise that Great Sand Dunes has been building a reputation for good night sky viewing," says Great Sand Dunes Superintendent Pamela Rice, "The dry air, high elevation, and lack of light pollution all make the park an ideal dark-sky destination. We are thrilled with receiving this recognition as an International Dark Sky Park."

The Great Sand Dunes has served as an astronomy destination for decades. "A starlit night at Great Sand Dunes can bring opportunities for wonder, perspective, and a more intimate connection with the natural world than we have in the daytime," says Park Ranger Patrick Myers. "Besides seeing countless stars, our other senses open up and we become aware of the unique sounds of owls and toads, the scent of piñon pines, and the soft feel of polished grains of sand."

For more information on the IDA, visit [www.DarkSky.org](http://www.DarkSky.org) and for more information about the Great Sand Dunes visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa)



# Swing into action

## Golf courses

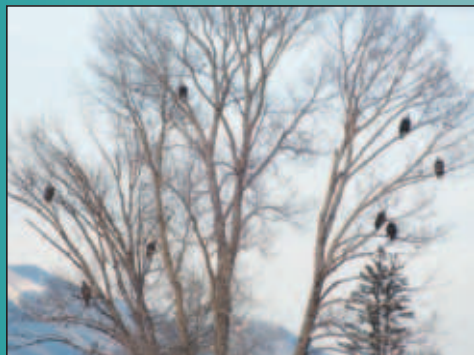
With clean crisp air, 180-degree views of the mountains and no hustle and bustle, those visiting the Valley can truly enjoy teeing off while vacationing or just passing through. Golfing is a great experience, and the Valley boasts four courses, all in scenic locations.

destination.

Travel north from Main Street on State Avenue, across the bridge, and the Cattails' entrance will be on the left. Info: 719-589-9515, [www.alamosacattails.com](http://www.alamosacattails.com)

### Monte Vista Golf Club

The Monte Vista Golf Club is nestled in the heart of Monte Vista on 40 acres.



The nine-hole course was one of the first 15 courses in the state; it opened in 1928 sporting sand greens. In 1948 the club was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and work started to convert the greens to grass.

The course was originally flood irrigated and many of the old dykes are still recognizable. Though the fairways are relatively straight, they are very narrow for today's standards and are lined with trees of varying maturity.

The greens are quite small and have Penncross Bent and their own strain of annual blue grass. All of these factors create quite a challenge for the experienced golfer and forgiveness for the beginner.

There is a large driving range, and a quaint pro

### Cattails Golf Course

The Cattails Golf Course on the edge of Alamosa offers an 18-hole public course with a 71-par rating. Just north of the Rio Grande, with mountains ranging majestically on either side, the course features fantastic views and challenging play for all skill levels. Well-groomed fairways and greens, the driving range and putting green, cart and club rentals, as well as a full-service, pro line golf shop make the course a terrific golf



shop with everything a golfer needs to get on the course is also available.

Tee times are recommended. Membership to the club is easy and affordable.

From downtown Monte Vista, go west on Highway 160 to Dunham Street, then north to the course; or from Highway 285, go west on Prospect Avenue past the high school to Dunham Street, then north to the course. Info: 719-852 4906, [www.golfmontevista.com](http://www.golfmontevista.com)

### Rio Grande Club

South Fork's Rio Grande Club is a world-class golf course featuring 18 holes, with eye-pleasing rock outcroppings and shots across the Rio Grande.

Players enjoy the award-winning combination of sandstone outcroppings, pine, aspen and cottonwood groves. The back nine consists of dramatic elevations, serene Alder Creek and a truly mountain style nine that will seal-the-deal for a return visit.

The clubhouse offers full service dining at the Restaurant, which includes

a diverse menu that takes old world tradition, all natural ingredients and progressive American culinary inspiration to satisfy a wide array of palates. The Big River Grille also is a more casual environment and a great place to enjoy the scenery of the 18th hole and enjoy a drink with friends. Info: 719-873-1995, [www.riograndeclubandresort.com](http://www.riograndeclubandresort.com)

### Challenger Golf Course

The 9-hole Challenger Golf Course in Crestone along County Road T is a semi-private course with long holes, laid out at the very foot



of the magnificent Sangre de Cristo range, great for golfing with unparalleled views. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the course cannot offer Golf Cart rentals this year and will be adhering to state mask requirements. For more information, contact the Baca Grande Property Owners Association: 719-256-4171



# Soothing waters

## Hot springs and pools

Visitors looking for relaxation may want to bask in one of the Valley's swimming hot spots. Whether looking for soothing waters or for entertainment, there are a few to choose from.

### Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa

Enlighten your senses with rejuvenating waters, relaxing massage therapies and magnificent views of the Sangre De Cristo mountain range at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa. Geothermally heated waters are offered in three pools. The 98 degrees Fahrenheit cool pool is perfect for those with low tolerance of hot water but still want to get the benefit of the minerals. The 104 degrees Fahrenheit tower pool is a great middle temperature for soaking, and the 108 degrees Fahrenheit hot pool is an ideal temperature for those with arthritis, joint and muscle issues – with spectacular views of the mountains. The water is a sodium bicarbonate type with significant levels of boron, calcium, lithium

and magnesium along with several other beneficial minerals. A variety of therapies are available, along with many massage options.

A variety of accommodations are available; all lodging prices include soaking in the hot springs, continental breakfast, use of bathhouse, robes and towels.

Available are hotel and conference facilities, along with dry RV accommodations and tent camping, as well as rental of tipis and Mongolian yurts. Laundry and shower facilities are also available as are various massage and facial options. Be sure to walk the labyrinth.

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., the facility is 50 miles north of Alamosa on Colo. Highway 17.

**Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, appointments need to be booked at specific times. Please see the guidelines and more information at [www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com](http://www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com) or 719-256-4328.**



**Sand Dunes Recreation**

### Sand Dunes Recreation

Among the favorite Valley swimming spots is Sand Dunes Recreation, known by many locals as the "Hooper Pool." Created when early oil drillers struck hot water, this pool has offered hot water recreation to generations of swimmers.

The pools are fed by geothermally-heated waters, ranging from 98-100 degrees Fahrenheit in the pool to 107 degrees in the spa. Somewhat cooler, the children's pool is shallow and safe for little ones.

Offering scenic views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, suits and water toys are available for rent. The Mile Deep Grille offers a full menu and is open for lunch and dinner every day, but Thursday.

Opened in 2017 is a one-of-a-kind soaking area built as an adults-only soaking escape in a 10,000 square foot greenhouse. The new area features three small soaking tubs with varying temperatures, a 10 by 75 foot zero entry pool complete with a water fountain feature, a 10-person sauna, gardens, numerous deck and patio spaces and an on-site libation stop, Steel Box Bar.

Camping, RV and family trailer parking, tent sites and some cabin options are available. Summer pool hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m., closed Thursdays.

**Due to COVID-19**

**Restrictions, appointments need to be booked at specific times. Please see the guidelines and more information at [www.sanddunespool.com](http://www.sanddunespool.com) or 719-378-2807**

### Splashland Hot Springs

Splashland Hot Springs is a family centered, warm, geothermal-well fed, outdoor swimming pool that has been an important part of Alamosa's history since 1955. Water temperature enters the pool at 104 degrees with the average pool temperatures of 93-96 degrees throughout. It is the largest outdoor swimming pool in the San Luis Valley

The pool complex is newly remodeled with a food court, two 50-foot water slides, picnic areas, BBQ grill and menu, shade cabanas, an ADA accessible pool lift and facilities, warming hut, and four new lap lanes.

They offer swimming lessons, water aerobics and fitness classes; season passes and various punch passes are available. They would love to host family, company or school events, birthday, graduation, reunion or other special



**Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa**



occasions. The pool is open seasonally and is located one mile north of Alamosa on Highway 17.

**Because of COVID-19 gathering restrictions, the pool is booking swimming sessions for 1.5 hours followed by a half hour of cleaning. Please contact them for more information.**



*Splashland Hot Springs*

Info: 719-589-6258, [www.splashlandllc.com](http://www.splashlandllc.com)

**Valley View Hot Springs at the Orient Land Trust -Currently closed due to COVID-19 Restrictions-**

Clothing optional, the pools at this historic facility are heated by geothermal springs gushing out of the terrain high on the Sangre



*Valley View Hot Springs Spa*

de Cristo Mountain range.

Valley View Hot Springs is a beautiful, historic village that offers a safe and natural place to relax and enjoy low-impact, off-grid enjoyment. Six ponds, a hot tub and a swimming pool are available for guests. Natural rock ponds are filled with warm bubbling water and

generally range from 93 to 107 degrees. On site are restored, historic mining cabins that are available for rent, along with a sauna and ample hiking opportunities.

The campground is open year-round. Memberships are for sale and ensure admission. Info: 719-256-4315, [www.olt.org](http://www.olt.org)

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# Del Norte Playwave open as River Front Project Continues

By Lyndsie Ferrell

**DEL NORTE-** Nestled in the Rio Grande river valley, the town of Del Norte is a hidden gem with sweeping landscapes, epic outdoor recreational trails and now a new addition, the Del Norte Playwave.

Just on the outside of town along Highway 112, Del Norte River Park is great location to spend the day. It features a large grassy area equipped with barbeque grills and picnic tables, a quarter mile walking trail that weaves next to the Rio Grande River and now guests can come and enjoy the new playwave.

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) Executive Director Emma Reesor announced the new Del Norte Playwave is now open to the public. The playwave, located in the Rio Grande river is part of the Del Norte Riverfront project, a grassroots effort to address community needs like access to the river, recreational opportunities, economic diversity, and to improve the environmental condition of the river corridor.

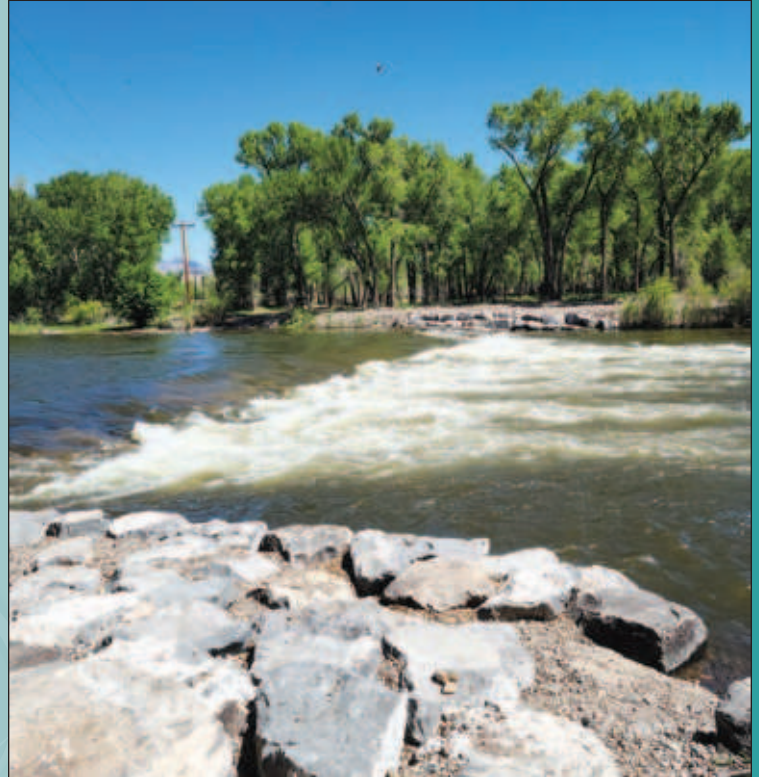
"From several conversations came the vision of the project, which is to create connectivity between the community of the San Luis Valley and the river. By doing that, we created

recreation opportunities, improved access and improved the ecological condition of the aquatic and riparian habitat."

Reesor explained the RGHRP is a local nonprofit organization with the mission to restore the health of the river for all those who use it, including ecosystems and wildlife, agriculture, recreation and community safety. "We accomplish this through partnerships to implement multipurpose projects and the Del Norte Riverfront project is a great example of that."

The project had been identified as a priority in 2008 with the Del Norte Trails masterplan which identified the need for river recreation in the area. "The Del Norte Trails masterplan identified the important need of the community to have river recreational opportunities and the SLVGO masterplan identified that need as well. Those two documents really highlighted that the communities of the Valley wanted to focus on river recreation."

The playwave is only the beginning of the Riverfront Project which will also include improvements to the River Park, a playground area and picnic pavilion which is scheduled to be built in the



near future.

The river is home to several types of aquatic life and the park is an excellent place to access the river through the newly built boat ramp which is located on the North side of the Highway 112 bridge.

Rafters, kayakers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have already been out on the river this summer, eager to enjoy the new playwave.

The playwave is not very deep, but parents should still

supervise their children and exercise caution when they are in the area, as this is still part of a fast-moving river. Water levels can vary from day to day, so it is always best to check weather forecasts and be familiar with river recreation responsibilities before heading out on the water.

## Zapata Falls

For the truly adventurous with cameras in hand, Zapata Falls will provide stories and photos to enjoy for years to come.

The falls are located on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land south of the Great Sand Dunes National Park off Highway 150.

The best time to visit the falls is in the summer, especially at sunrise and sunset, to catch the spectacular panorama of the entire dunefield and San Luis Valley bathed in light.

The trip is not advisable for those

unsteady on their feet, and even the surefooted are cautioned to watch for slippery rocks. In early summer especially, water may be deep and swift during the annual snowmelt.

Rarely, rocks may fall from above into the chasm. Otherwise, enjoy the climb and the breathtaking views.

To reach the falls from the dunes visitors center, drive south about eight miles along Highway 150, then turn east onto a gravel road. Drive 3.5 miles to the trailhead.

Campground Info: [www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/riogrande/recarea/?recid=74116](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/riogrande/recarea/?recid=74116)



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# Restaurant Guide

Presenting a tasty assortment of local restaurants for you to enjoy.

See our ad on page...

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Children's Menu

Alcohol Served

Fine Dining

Fast Food/To Go

Steak/Chops

Seafood

Homestyle

BBQ

Soups/Salads/Sandwiches

Burgers

Mexican

Pizza/Pasta

Buffet

Vegetarian

## ANTONITO

Dos Hermanas, 435 Main St., 719-376-5589	8		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
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## GREEDE

Bristol Head Bakery, Tiny House at 7th & Main, 918-944-0282	Inside Back Cover	●						●			●								●
MJ's Cafe, 801 La Garita Ave., 719-658-0340	Inside Back Cover	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●					

## CRESTONE

Mandala Pizza, 150 W. Silver Ave., 719-256-5656			●	●				●					●				●		●
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## DEL NORTE

Carther's Roadhouse, 505 Spruce St., 719-657-1909	27		●	●	●	●					●		●	●					●
Los Chavalos Mexican Restaurant, 580 Grand Ave., 719-657-9038	17	●	●	●	●	●		●	●				●	●	●				●
Three Barrel Brewing Co., 475 Grand Ave., 719-657-0681			●	●	●	●		●			●		●					●	●

## HOOOPER

Lisa's Grill, 11704 N. Hwy. 17, 719-378-2006			●		●						●		●	●					●
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## MOFFAT

Grammy's Kitchen, 17396 Hwy 17, 719-256-6000		●	●	●	●			●			●		●	●	●				●
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## MONTE VISTA

China Garden, 819 1st Ave., 719-852-2002			●	●	●	●		●			●		●					●	●
Quincy's Steak & Spirits, 138 Adams Street, 719-852-8977	16			●		●	●	●	●										
Sunflour Cafe & Catering, 278 N Broadway, 719-852-6945		●	●		●			●			●		●	●	●				●
Worth the Drive Family Bakery, 5115 Rd. 9 S., 719-852-0967	44	●						●			●								●

## SOUTH FORK

Rachel's Keep On Keepin' On, 26 Escondia Dr., 719-657-1157		●	●		●			●			●		●	●					●
Rio Grande Club, 0285 Rio Grande Club Trail, 719-873-1995			●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●			
Tiny Timbers Coffee Bistro, 28422 Hwy 160, 719-657-1134	46	●	●		●			●			●		●						●



# EVENTS

**See you next year!**  
*These family-friendly events are not to be missed in 2021!*

**(2021 dates are tentative, please see the contact information listed for more details)**

the Valley Catholic Church on U.S. Highway 285. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. on Main Street and offers patriotic entries, vintage cars and lots of fun. Vendors set up in the town park after the parade will offer yummy food, along with drinks and souvenirs, arts and crafts. Bands will take the stage later for toe-tapping enjoyment. Info: <https://colorado.gov/townoflajara> or 719-274-5363

## **From Land to Hand: Fiber Arts in the San Luis Valley, June 2021**

It will be a weekend of “all things fiber” at Fort Garland. The event will celebrate the tradition of sheep raising, the

**Continued from Page 8 —**

new industry of hemp fiber production and works by fiber artists in the San Luis Valley. Throughout the day there will be workshops by artists who will be sharing their skills and love of their craft. Music, great food and a marketplace with vendors selling supplies for your own projects and some of the region’s most beautiful fiber work by local artists. Info: 719-379-3512, [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

## **Summer Rocks Concert Series, La Jara, Saturdays June -August, 2021**

Bands in the park will begin rocking the crowd from 7-9 p.m. on Saturday evenings. The performances are free and include a variety of local performers and genres. Bring lawn chairs and get ready for fun! 719-274-5363.

## **Sanford Pioneer Days, July 15, 2021**

This small town celebrates its history, rooted deeply in

the lives of the pioneers who settled here between 1880 and 1890. Mormon pioneers of Sanford came from Utah in covered wagons, first living in Ephraim and Richfield until Sanford was located. Info: 719-274-4024

## **Manassa Pioneer Days, July 16-17, 2021**

The Pioneer Days Celebration started with its namesake—the pioneers. From Spanish explorers in the late 1500s, to Mormon pioneers in the 1800s, Manassa’s settlement history rings true to the Southwestern spirit of intellectual innovation, spiritual perseverance and the ceaselessly American trait of discovery. Experience yesterday and today in this small town. Generations of Manassa’s families descend on the town from far and wide for the two-day celebration of history, legacy and family. The town bustles with carnival rides, food, bands, Miss Pioneer and her princesses and a parade so great it runs up and down Main Street twice, known for some of the most creative and beautiful floats in the San Luis Valley. At nighttime Saturday, it’s the gritty, grinding demolition derby, long-awaited and filled with thrills and excitement. Info: [www.facebook.com/manassapioneerdays/](http://www.facebook.com/manassapioneerdays/)

## **Santa Ana y Santiago Fiesta, July 23-25, 2021**

San Luis, Colorado’s oldest town, honors and celebrates the area’s faith and culture as

it plays host to mariachis, local bands, spectacular parades, traditional singers, fabulous food and more. On Saturday catch live performances from local artists. Info: [www.townofsanluisco.org/santana.html](http://www.townofsanluisco.org/santana.html)

## **Headwaters Hoedown, Sept. 2021**

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust is the only local land trust in the San Luis Valley that serves the entire Valley. Celebrate the land and heritage at the annual Headwaters Hoedown. Featuring a meal of local foods, wine and beer, live music, activities and more, the event is most importantly a celebration of the private land conservation along the Rio Grande and Conejos rivers. Info: [www.riograndelandtrust.org](http://www.riograndelandtrust.org), 719-657-0800

## **Antonito Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 4-6**

Labor Day is always the first Monday in September, but no place welcomes it in like Antonito, with celebrations Saturday and Sunday. The day begins with a pancake breakfast next to the mansion town hall, followed by a parade where vendors, information and souvenir booths will be set up. Live entertainment will be included on the mansion porch all day and into the night. Also creating excitement during the weekend, a softball tournament draws teams from Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. Info: 719-376-2355



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# RIO GRANDE

Continued from Page 11

## See you next year!

*These family-friendly events are not to be missed in 2021!*

(2021 dates are tentative, please see the contact information listed for more details)

event beginning at 10 a.m. The event will include a flyover, color guard, wreath presentation and a special guest speaker. Info: 719-852-5118

## Thunder in the Valley Motorcycle Rally, June 11-12, 2021

Brothers Keepers Motorcycle Club, Chapter 19, presents the third annual Thunder in the Valley Motorcycle Rally, this year to be held at Ski Hi Park. With a poker run, silent auction, beer garden, games, live music and dance. The money raised goes toward the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley. Info: [www.brotherskeepersmc.com/bkmc/event/35](http://www.brotherskeepersmc.com/bkmc/event/35)

## Logger Days, July 16-18

South Fork will celebrate the area's culture and history during the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Logger Days Festival. Events and competitions taking place throughout the weekend celebrate the time-honored tradition of logging, an initial economic draw for the area. Crowd-favorite competitions include chain saw carving, the ax throw, the two-man crosscut and a relay-type race with team members pulled from the audience. Info: 719-873-5512, [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org).

## Poor Boy Club Car Show, July 17

Named the Poor Boys Club, because the members do not sink a lot of money into the cars but do the majority of the work themselves; the group will host the eighth annual classic car show at a new location this year—the South Fork Community Building during South Fork Logger Days. The best of each class receives a handmade trophy. The car show is open to all makes and models of any era or year including



motorcycles, trucks, rat rods, tractors or work in progress. Info: 719-580-2673

## Ski Hi Stampede, July 22-25

The largest special event in the San Luis Valley is Ski Hi Stampede in Monte Vista. Celebrating its 99<sup>th</sup> year, the Ski Hi Stampede is Colorado's oldest professional rodeo.

It was founded in the late 1800s for local cowpoke to compare skills they learned while riding the range. Today, it's an official Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) event, where the pros accumulate points toward competing in the National Pro Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada

However, this four-day event is not only a rodeo. There are several other fun, big events to participate in. There are parades Friday and Saturday, with Saturday being the largest day, a chuck wagon dinner Thursday night right before the concert which features A-list country western recording artists, dances, concerts and a carnival at Ski Hi Park. New for 2021, the event will be celebrating their first year in a brand-new facility after the Friends of Ski-Hi spent 2019 and 2020 brainstorming, fundraising and planning to replace the dated event center. Info: [www.skihistampede.com](http://www.skihistampede.com)

## Covered Wagon Days, July 30- Aug. 1

Del Norte turns back the clock for some good

old time fun with events harking back to when the West was born. The themed event begins with the kick-off of the quilt show at Kathy's Fabric earlier in the week. "Meet Your Neighbors" Thursday for dinner at the Knights of Columbus; Friday welcomes the traditional pig roast to benefit SLV veterans and a concert. Saturday is packed full of events which include a pancake breakfast, a parade, the popular and traditional firefighters' barbecue lunch, high school mud volleyball tournament, old-fashioned games, a car show, hay wagon tours, donation yard sale and more. Sunday closes the event with a fly-in/cruise-in breakfast, a church service in the park and a community cook-out. Info: [www.coveredwagondays.com](http://www.coveredwagondays.com)

## Rhythms on the Rio Musical Festival, Aug. 6-8, 2021

The South Fork Music Association presents the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhythms on the Rio Music Festival at the River Mill Festival Field, 2821 W. Highway 160 in South Fork. Each year this festival offers three days of music in the great outdoors on riverfront property. Peruse the vendors, play horseshoes and dance to more than 10 bands. The bands featured are an eclectic selection and even features Grammy Award winners. On-site camping is part of the whole rhythms experience. There is a fee for parking and camping. Info: [www.rhythmsontherio.com](http://www.rhythmsontherio.com)

## San Luis Valley Potato Festival, Sept. 4, 2021

Celebrating one of the most important crops to the region, the San Luis Valley Potato Festival celebrates the potato and kicks off the harvest season. The day is filled with fun for the entire family. The festival boasts exciting activities including a 5k Tator Trot race, craft and food vendors, guided agricultural tours, chef demonstrations, narrated train tours, a truck and semi show, the famous mashed potato dunk tank and much more! Also, don't miss the motorsport aerial stunt show at Ski Hi Park at 6 p.m. Info: 719-852-3322, [www.coloradopotato.org](http://www.coloradopotato.org)







### Altitude sickness

When planning a trip to the San Luis Valley, keep in mind that much of the area sits above 7,800 ft.

Symptoms of high altitude sickness include headache, lightheadedness, weakness, trouble sleeping and an upset stomach. These most often pass as your body adjusts. If you have confusion and difficulty breathing, even while resting, consult a doctor immediately.

Severe high altitude sickness can be treated with doctor prescribed medications.

A simple way to prevent altitude sickness is to take traveling to a higher altitude slowly, rest often and drink plenty of water.

Those with certain lung and heart problems are encouraged to consult their physician before visiting the Valley.

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Photo by Trey Spaulding

## Marijuana quick facts

### Purchase

In Colorado, only those 21 and older can purchase marijuana by presenting a valid, government-issued ID. Out-of-state residents can purchase up to one-quarter ounce at a time.

### Consumption

Public consumption remains illegal; it is prohibited in national parks, on federal lands, at ski areas or outdoors. A hotel has the right to forbid it, just as they forbid pets and cigarette smoking.

### DUID laws

The legal limit in Colorado is 5 nano-grams of active THC to be considered substantially impaired, depending on the concentration of the product smoked or ingested. The levels for most individuals will fall below 5 ng/ml three hours after consumption.

### THC concentrations

Watch the THC content of the product being used to avoid over-imbibing; Colorado marijuana is known for its potency.

### About edibles

Be careful consuming edibles. Always check the THC content; be aware that edibles may take several hours to register a high. Overindulgence can have severe medical consequences. Always keep edibles out of the reach of children.

### Transportation

Marijuana cannot be transported in a vehicle unless it is in the trunk of a car. It cannot be transported across state lines once purchased in Colorado.



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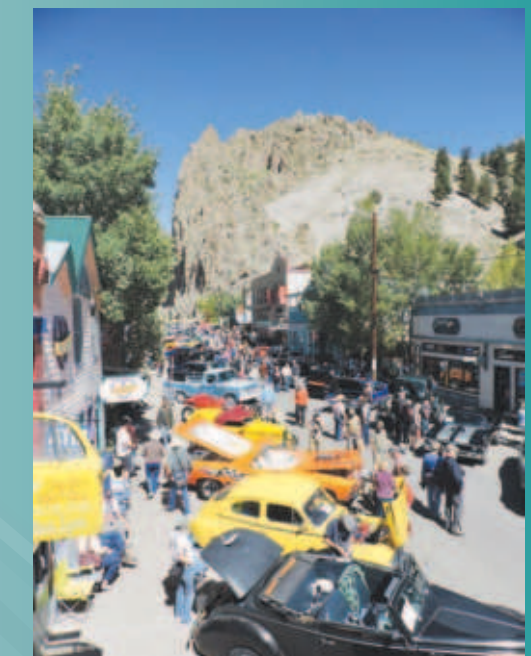
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