

*Home to Colorado's  
First and Oldest*

## Highlights of Summer 2016

### Events/Exhibits

Each Thurs – the SLV-Alamosa Museum hosts a weekly Veterans' Coffee as an informal social gathering from 8:30 - 11am

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday – the San Luis Valley Women Veterans Organization meets the second Saturday of every month from 10am to noon at the SLV-Alamosa Museum.

Spring 2017 - Rio Grande County Museum will be hosting a Summitville Mine exhibit.

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – SLV Historical Society's annual open meeting will feature Dana Echohawk.

2017 Give-Away – plans are in the works for next year's giveaway with new and exciting prizes.

See our [calendar](#) for a full listing of events at the Valley's Museums

The [Homelake Veterans' History Museum](#) celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Home to more than 4,000 service veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents, the center was established by an act of the Colorado State Legislature in 1889 after lobbying by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) for a home for the aging and disabled veterans of the Civil War. The first resident was admitted in November 1891 — 125 years ago.

“Homelake is the oldest veterans' home in the state,” said Aaron Termain, VCLC Director for the Colorado

Department of Human Services. “Its 125-year

mission is a testament to the unwavering commitment the people of Colorado have made to support our nation's service members. That commitment continues today and onward.”

Restorations - The new windows have been installed in the future home for the museum – Homelake's Old Admin Building.



Department of English), Tori Vigil Martinez (sociologist and community activist), Claudia Ebel (food and justice advocate), Dr. Kristy Duran (ASU Department of Biology), Bertha Velarde (wilderness advocate), and Peggy Godfrey (rancher).

The women in the exhibition, who include midwives, healers, watershed preservationists, storytellers, musicians, farmers, ranchers, and more, were chosen for their contributions to community and their creative endeavors. Their life stories, and those of female ancestors they have chosen to honor, are also documented in film and story as part of the exhibition.



*State Senator Crowder*





The [Saguache County Museum](#) hosted an autograph signing of the man-behind-the-photo (Larry Ward owner of one of Colorado’s Centennial Farms) for the Valley’s museum’s t-shirt selling some 50+ t-shirts on that day.

The [Rio Grande County Museum](#) hosted several exhibits including a local artist, Byron Williams, (from Saguache), an exhibit for the Old Spanish Trail and its development of communities in the area, and a Cultural Heritage exhibit celebrating the varied cultures that left their mark and have made the area their home.

The [Hinsdale County Museum](#) put the finishing touches on their Alpine Loop geology map and exhibit. The exhibit coordinates the museum’s collection of mineral samples to the mine location via a touch-screen computer and LED lights on a large map of the Alpine Loop.



### Projects

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- *Photo Digitization Project* – the consultants completed their site-visits to all of the participating museums to assess the size, importance and condition of all the museum photograph collections. Next phase of the project is to apply for another grant.

- The [Monte Vista Historical Society](#) secured enough community funds to complete the much needed repairs to their museum’s roof. The building was Monte Vista’s first library having been built in 1895.



*Tim Goddard, Photo Digitization consultant at Sanford Museum with Frankie Colton and Mayor Bailey (not pictured)*

- The [San Luis Valley Historical Society](#) sponsored two field trips this past summer. One to the ghost town at Summitville Mine located north of Del Norte and the second to the archaeological dig site for Fort Massachusetts just north of the town of Fort Garland. The dig site is a project of the Adams State University’s Field School.

Buy your *Get Caught Up in History* t-shirt at any of our museums!!



- The *town of Blanca* is acquiring an old railroad depot to be moved near the location of the town’s original 1910 depot as part of developing a Heritage Park.