

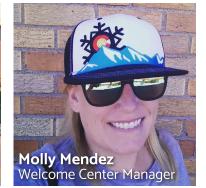
### VISIT ALAMOSA STAFF





Marketing Specialist





### ALAMOSA LOCAL MARKETING DISTRICT BOARD

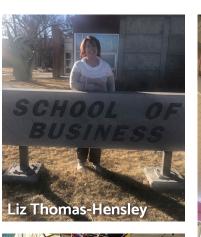
#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Local Marketing **District Board** shall promote small town hospitality with modern amenities to offer enhanced customer and visitor services. In addition, the Local Marketing District Board will assist in increasing lodging room nights, extending the summer season beyond the summer months, as well as enhancing the overall economic development of Alamosa County."

Not Pictured: Danielle Van Veghten Treasurer













### **TABLE OF CONTEN**

Budget & Tax Collections..... ROI & Economic Impact.... Alamosa.org Statistics.... Social Media Insights....

### **MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIR**

In 2020 we faced challenges never seen before. Adapting plans and finding new ways of conducting business was not a choice but a necessity. Tourism and the hospitality industry were one of the hardest hit industries along with our retail and restaurant partners that depend on travelers. We as an organization were able to find ways to safely promote travel to the region through strategic messaging to capture what travel we could. In a year full of unknowns and unprecedented challenges we still found silver linings, bright spots and opportunities that we want to share with you.

The purpose of this report is to serve as a resource. You will notice a running timeline throughout the report that represents the challenges and distinct moments for 2020. We will highlight what we believe to be opportunities with visitor behavior and where we can be competitive in this new environment. We are optimistic as we move into a new year with a great need to connect again, to travel and experience new landscapes.

ALAMOSA.ORG

#### Kale Mortensen Visit Alamosa **Executive Director**

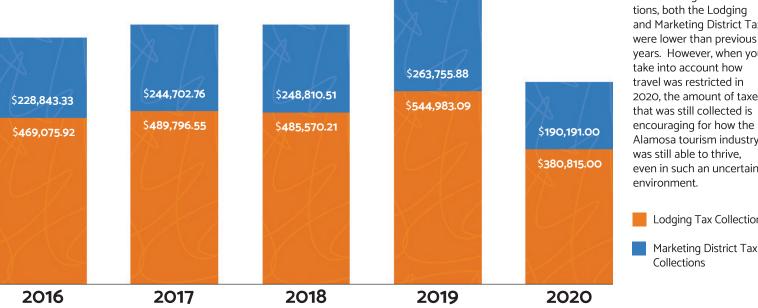
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR		MA	
		MARCH 5 First COVID Case in CO MARCH 25 CO "Stay At Home" Order Issued MARCH 26 First COVID Case in Alamosa	APRIL Great Dunes Park C APRIL "Safer Home Phase begins	Sand Nat. Ioses . 27 At	MAY 27 In-Perso dining services resume CO	

NTS	Tracking Trends	10
4	Marketing Highlights	
5	Notable Features	13
6	Colorado Welcome Center	
8	Event Grants	15

Cover Photo by Travis Stoker

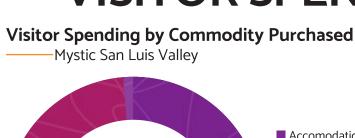


# **TAX COLLECTIONS**



As expected, with decreased travel in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions, both the Lodging and Marketing District Tax were lower than previous years. However, when you take into account how travel was restricted in 2020, the amount of taxes that was still collected is encouraging for how the Alamosa tourism industry was still able to thrive. even in such an uncertain environment Lodging Tax Collections

Collections





### **BUDGET EXPENSES BREAKDOWN**

6% Business Development \$O Colorado Welcome Center \$44.000 35% Convention & Visitors Bureau \$240.000 Event Grant Program -35% \$38.000 Museum \$64.500 Gateway Center/Overhead \$57.000 8% Tourism Marketing 6% \$234,000 10%

**#VISITALAMOSA** 

\$49.4 Million **Traveler Spending** 





# VISITOR SPENDING BREAKDOWN

Visitor Spenind by Type of Accomodation -Mystic San Luis Valley

## **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

**478 Jobs** Employment





For every dollar spent by the Alamosa Local Marketing District, Alamosa saw \$73.65 in travel expenditures.

# ALAMOSA.ORG STATISTICS

In response to travel restrictions, we paused our paid search. newsletter, emails and paid Google ads in March. We saw a dip in web traffic during this time, however, once restrictions were lifted, we reinstated these components and saw higher traffic levels than 2019. This resulted in overall increases in users, sessions, pageviews and organic search for 2020, compared to 2019. This is very encouraging looking ahead to 2021, showing great interest in traveling to Alamosa.

> Users 3.14% 159,624 (2020) vs 154,759 (2019)

> > Sessions 200.249 (2020) vs 199,200 (2019)

**Pageviews** 420,622 (2020) vs 410,145 (2019)

**Organic Search** 114,886 (2020) vs 85.652 (2019)

**1**34.13%

travelers

10.53%

2.55%

#### TOP PAGES 2) Great Sand Dunes 3) Things to Do 4) Blog: 10 Things to Know Before Planning a Trip to the Great Sand Dunes 5) Hot Springs 5) Germany 6) Great Sand Dunes (Listing Page) 7) Visitors Guide 8) Dining 9) Zapata Falls **AQUISITION CHANNELS** - Email



#### TOP VISITOR LOCATIONS

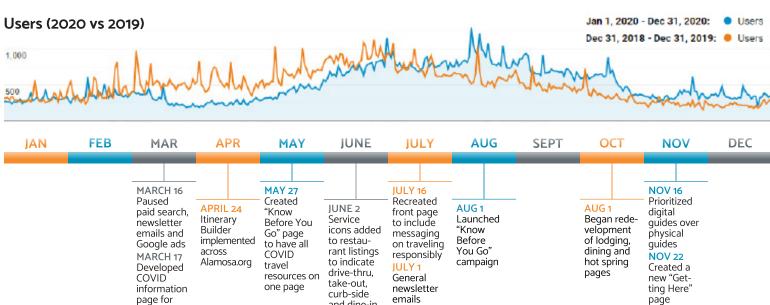
------ Foreign Countries: 2) China 3) United Kingdom

#### ------States:

4) New Mexico 5) Illinois

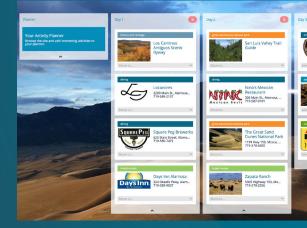
#### ------ Metro Areas:

2) Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX 3) Colorado Springs-Pueblo, CO 4) Albuquerque-Sante Fe, NM 5) Chicago, IL 8) Kansas City, MO 10) Washington, DC



# **ITINERARY PLANNER**

In 2019, Visit Alamosa participated in the Colorado Tourism Office's CRAFT 101 program. This brought together community members for a 14 week comprehensive tourism education and training program. As part of CRAFT 101, Visit Alamosa was awarded a \$10,000 CRAFT implementation grant to kick start one of the initiatives of this program. The CRAFT committee elected to develop an online itinerary planner for Alamosa.org to encourage longer visits, promote less-traveled destinations and off-peak activities.



### **ALAMOSA.ORG FEATURES "KNOW BEFORE YOU GO" PAGE**

In an effort to make accurate information readily available to travelers, we developed a "Know Before You Go" page that contained all COVID-19 travel resources in one place. This includes any attraction closures, guidelines for traveling, the current status of attractions and useful links for visitors. This page was featured on our homepage in order to ensure that all visitors to our website could easily find this information.



resume

and dine-in

## Roast, Craft Coffee Libations 420 San Juan Avenue, A... 719-587-2326 Roast . Zapata Falls Hwy 150, Mosca, CO, 8.. KOA

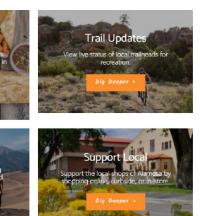
### + Add to Planner

The Itinerary Planner debuted on Alamosa.org on April 24. It is integrated throughout the entire website, allowing visitors to add activities, lodging and restaurants to their itinerary as they browse through the website by clicking the "Add to Planner" buttons. Then, they are able to drag and drop the activites into the various days of their trip. Once the itinerary is complete, the visitor can email the itinerary to themself or a travel buddy, and can share the Itinerary Planner on social media.

### Customize This Itinerary

In addition, we added "Customize This Itinerary" buttons to some of our most popular existing itineraries. This allows visitors to easily customize existing itineraries to their specific taste.

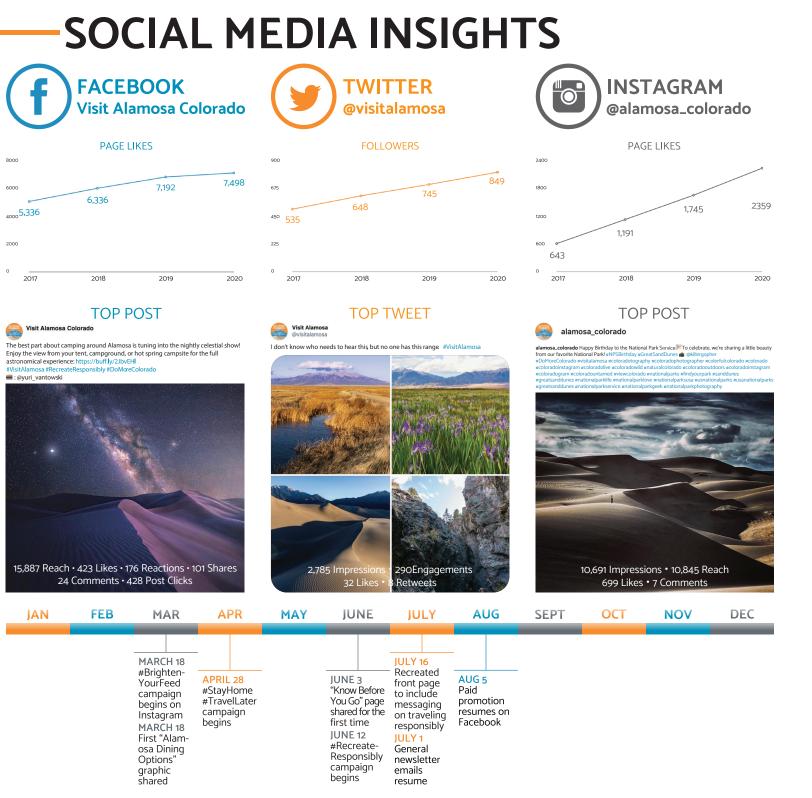
> Take-out Of Dine In R Curbside-Pickup Drive-Thru



#### DINING LISTINGS

On March 17, we began reaching out to restaurants to develop a dining listing to host on our website and also distribute to visitors through our lodging partners. These listings indicated what restaurants were offering dine-in, take-out, drive-thru and curbside-pickup and were updated daily. Initially, this information was listed as a PDF on our website. However, in an effort to make this information more user-friendly, we built these options into the dining listings themselves. As restrictions in our area changed, we were in close contact with restaurants to keep these listings current and ensure that visitors could find the most up-to-date information.

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Throughout 2020, our social media strategy adapted alongside the changing environment. While travel was being discouraged, our approach became "Stay Home, Travel Later." Underlying our messages across all platforms was the idea that, for now, the best course of action is to stav home. but that plans can be made to travel lat er. We promoted our Itinerary Planner during this time to encourage visitors to plan their future trip to Alamosa. On Facebook, we encouraged past visitors to share their happiest memories of Alamosa with us. From We also used this opportunity to share with visitors and locals how they could support their favorite Alamosa businesses from afar. as well as share what restaurants were able to offer curb-side, delivery and take-out. Through this strategy, we were able to make sure Alamosa was at the forefront of our audience's minds once travel restrictions were lifted.



- Canadar

comments😆

montell

Visit Alamosa Colorado

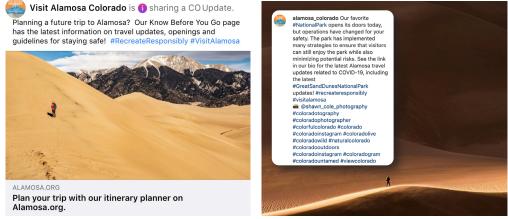
nemories of Alamosa. So, we have a little challenge

o take you down memory lane Pirst up, we invite

you to share a photo of your happiest memory at

the Great Sand Dunes with us! Just drop it in the

Once travel restrictions began lifting, we knew that there would still be some hesitation amoungst visitors, and they would look to us for timely and accurate information regarding visiting Alamosa. We used our social channels to encourage visitors to recreate responsibly, and to communicate the quidelines. We encouraged our visitors to bookmark and refer to our "Know Before You Go" page for the most current information. We were extremely careful in selecting content to share, inspiring visitors with activities that allow for social distancing, like our abundant vast, outdoor spaces. We welcomed our visitors back to Alamosa in a safe and responsible We could all use a smile today Although now way, informing them on what to expect and providing them with the most current information. s not the time to visit us, we'd love to see your happy



### **#BRIGHTENYOURFEED**

While travel was being discouraged due to COVID-19. we wanted to find a way to still meaningfully connect with our audience, while not actively encouraging travel at that time. On Instagram, we began a #BrightenYourFeed campaign, where we would share scenic photos of Alamosa and the surrounding area, in order to interrupt their Instagram stream with beautiful and serene imagery. This campaign resonated with our growing Instagram audience, and was a great way for us to highlight our beautiful landscapes







### **#RECREATERESPONSIBLY**

### **TRACKING TRENDS GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK VISITATION**

In order to best spend marketing dollars, our organization utilizes many partnerships and platforms to gather relevent marketing data. This page gives you a alimpse into the types of data that we track. which helps us to have a better understanding of where opportunities are for marketing Alamosa as a travel destination. Combined, these various sources give us a very thorough understanding. In 2020 in particular, this access helped us to navigate the changing environment and adapt to it.





Visitation to the Great Sand Dunes National Park gives us an important piece of overall tourism to Alamosa. Visitation was down from the record year of 2019, due in part to the park closure. Resassuringly, park visitation in the shoulder season (during the months of August-December) was up.

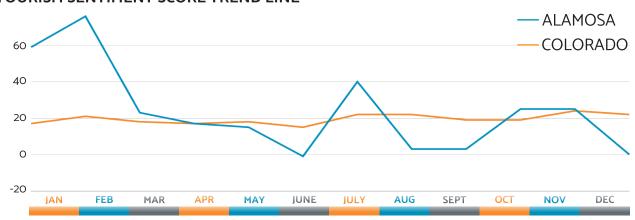
The STR Report gives us insight into what our lodging partners are seeing, allowing us to monitor occupancy trends, average rates and supply and demand. Through this report, we were able to monitor how 2020 impacted our lodging partners and we will be able to track and monitor recovery in 2021.

### **TOURISM SENTIMENT INDEX ALAMOSA SENTIMENT SCORE**

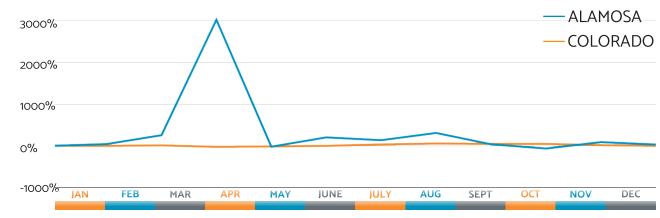
We partner with Destination Think! to track digital word-of-mouth. Online coversations about Alamosa are analyzed from media sites, forums, reviews and social media networks. In 2020, this proved to be an invaluable tool, allowing us to see what people were saying about our destination through various stages of opening. Through the Tourism Sentiment Index, or TSI, we are able to also understand what topics are driving conversations to better inform our marketing efforts. This way, we can better identify strengths and challenges when it comes to our our tourism offerings.



#### TOURISM SENTIMENT SCORE TREND LINE



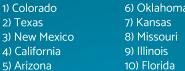
#### CONVERSATION VOLUME OVER TIME



### -LOCATION INTELLIGENCE DATA

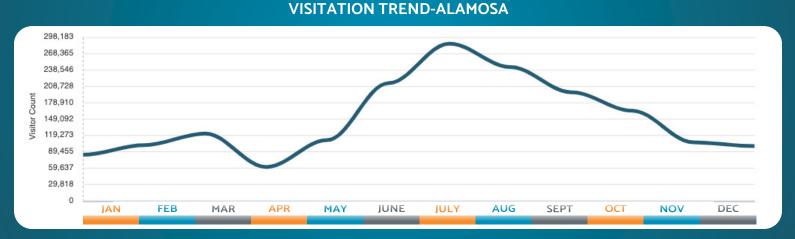
We partner with *Airsage* to monitor location data from sources such as GPS and mobile signals in order to inform our marketing efforts. Access to this data allows for us to analyze trends and track visitor movement. as well as identify visitor segments to target.





2) Texas

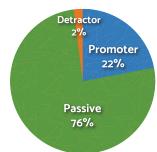
- 6) Oklahoma
- **TOP FEEDER MARKETS BY METRO AREA**
- 1) Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO
- 2) Colorado Springs, CO 3) Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX
- 4) Albuquerque, NM
- 5) Pueblo, CO



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the overall attitude towards Alamosa that is being expressed through visitors' online conversations. By comparison, the Sentiment Score for Colorado as a whole was 20.

100



The Tourism Sentiment Score is derived by tracking attitudes towards the tourism offering of Alamosa. Online conversations are classified as promoter, passive or detractor. Above is the breakdown of theses categories for Alamosa.

> The Tourism Sentiment Score Trend shows changes in sentiment regarding online coversations about Alamosa tourism. We are even able to dig deeper and see what topics are driving changes in sentiment scores and adjust our marketing accordingly. Here, Alamosa's sentiment is compared to Colorado as whole.

The Coversation Volume measures the percent change isn volume of conversations happening online. While there is a much higher volume of cnversations online about Colorado as a whole, by measuring percent change, these trends are much more comparable. This allows for us to monitor patterns in volume changes.

#### ALAMOSA.ORG

### MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS



Alamosa Visitors Guide

Print Material: 2020 Alamosa Visitors Guide, San Luis Valley Trail Guide

#### 25.000+ Visitor Guides Distributed in 2020

Digital Content: Colorado.com Destination Page, Valley Courier Onine, Colorado.com City Page, Visit USA Parks, NationalParksTrips.com, Brand USA, Trip Advisor. 9News.com Television: 9News



9News Pre-Roll Video Ad

**DO MORE** 

UNEXPECTED.

Print Advertisments: Colorado Official State Vacation Guide. Colorado Parks Journal, Love Colorado Magazine, AAA EnCompass Magazine, Colorado Vacation Activity Guide, Denver Nuggets Yearbook, Alamosa In-Room Guest Directories

#### **Totalling 1.87 Million in Readers & Distribution**



Denver Nuggets Yearbook Ad



Colorado Official Vacation Guide Ad

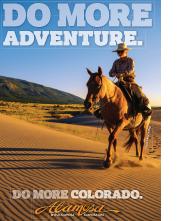
# DO MORE COLORADO

In 2020, we debuted our Do More Colorado 2.0 marketing campaign. This campaign built upon the success of our original Do More Colorado campaign, while adding some new and exciting elements. In this campaign, we combine our message of "Do More Colorado" with, allowing for customization of this message to the specific audience we're targeting. It also allows for us to highlight the many ways Alamosa can be experienced.



DO MORE COLORADO.

In-Room Guest Directories Ad



AAA Encompass Ad



In-Room Guest Directories Ad



Discover Colorado's most famous gator and the important work inside this familyfriendly reptile park



is gator in 'Happy Gilmore', is not even half the fu Wait until you chat with Jay Young, GM at Colorado Gators Reptile Park who will guickly put you and your family a ease to discover a love of gators and all things reptile. A visit is not just about feeding a tortoise, but learning about red species and the research helping to save our friends in the wild.

 5 Co
Here are
over the

**Date Publication** Article 1/31/2020 5280 5 Colorado Beer Trends to Watch Hot springs in Colorado: Splashland a family staple in San Luis Valley 6/14/2020 The Gazette 7/2/2020 Out There Colorado Things to do in Alamosa 7/28/2020 We Know Outdoors 7 of Colorado's best waterfalls that are off the beaten path All aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad 8/22/2020 9News 9/22/2020 Outside Magazine I Tried to Climb the Largest Sand Dune in North America 9/30/2020 National Geographic This stargazing road trip offers world-class night sky views 6 quick road trips in Colorado that are great for kids this fall 10/19/2020 Denver Post Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park is a top stargazing site 10/23/2020 Fox31 11/9/2020 Omaha World Herald Our Random Side Trip Leads to a Geological Wonder 11/19/2020 The Denver Channel Discover Colorado's most famous gator and the important work inside this family-friendly reptile park 12/6/2020 247 Wallst When We Can Travel Again: Most Beautiful Places to Visit in the US 12/7/2020 Freeskier The Importance of Being Useless Adventure at the eco corral: sustainable cattle ranching in Colorado 12/8/2020 Financial Times Discover Colorado's Great Sand Dunes park for an out-of-this-world night sky 12/18/2020 The Denver Channel Dark-sky designations bring the promise of starry nights -and tourist 12/25/2020 The Colorado Sun dollars-to rural Colorado

**#**VISITALAMOSA

### **NOTABLE FEATURES** 5280





o-owners Josh (left) and Jason Cody at Colorado Farm Brewery in Alamosa. Pho courtesy of TriState Energy

THE 5280 GUIDE TO COLORADO CRAFT BEER

#### olorado Beer Trends to Watch

e the things that will be playing out in your pint (or can, or Crowler) next few years

DENISE MICKELSEN AND PATRICIA KAOWTHUMRONG • JANUARY 31, 2020

#### Colorado is home to the latest International Dark Sky Park

ans of astronomy and beautiful night vistas have a new option for observing the Milky Wa



### **COLORADO WELCOME CENTER**

There are 10 Official Colorado State Welcome Centers, including Alamosa They are strategically positioned in key entrance points across the state. The centers, staffed completely by dedicated volunteers, serve as a great source of information for visitors coming to Colorado.

For the safety of our volunteers and visitors, the Colorado Welcome Center was closed for a portion of 2020. When it was safe to reopen, we did so in a, implementing enhanced safety measures and cleaning procedures.

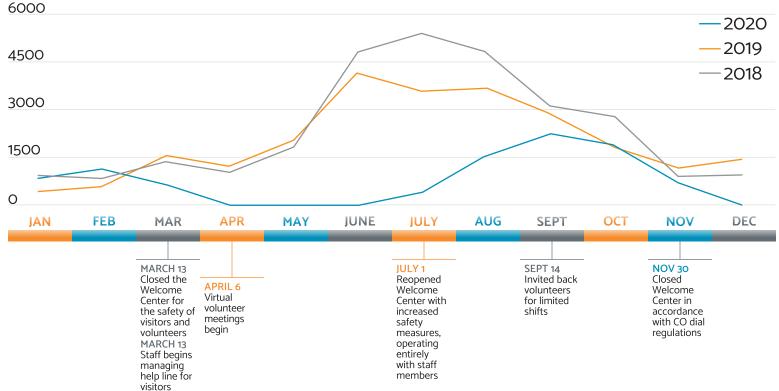
Special Thanks to our 2020 Volunteers: Anne Marie Rigby-Ortiz, Armon Elsworth, Bessie Konishi, Christine Newton, Dean Maddux, Don Thompson, Ellen Dodds, Elliot Graves, Jan Oen, Kathie Vest, Kay Laws, Linda Cozart, Margie Jones, Mary Susan Eldredge, Mary Robbins, Nancy Mortensen, Noel Harlan, Ronnie Wright



Physical barriers to minimize touching.

Hand Sanitizer readily available.





# **EVENT GRANTS**

During 2020, hosting events proved to be a challenging endevor. At their April meeting, the Marketing District Board made the decision to grant full funding to all event grant applicants. This was to give event organizers who were able to hold their events in 2020, the assistance they would require to hold safe events. While some events were not able to happen in 2020, 9 events were able to be funded by the Marketing District Board. Many of these events showed great adaptablily and inginuity, implimenting safety measures and modifying their events to ensure the safety of all attendees. Those efforts are highlighted below.

Event	Grant Amount Awarded
LoDoSweet Sounds	\$800
Rollin' Deep	\$3,500
Sunday's at Six	\$3,000
MOKI	\$1,000
Alamosa Farmer's Market	\$1,500
LOCAL Harvest Festival	\$1,000
Round-Up Rodeo	\$3,000
Alamosa Round-UP CONCERT	\$7,500
SLV Pride Fest	\$2,000
Early Iron Car Festival	\$5,000
Alamosa Art Festival	\$4,275
Cinco de Mayo Celebration	\$1,750
Oktobrufest	\$5,000
Splashland Annual Benefit Sprint T	riathlon \$2,500
Christmas Light Parade/Rudulph R	un \$500
Rio Frio Ice Fest	\$5,000



In 2020, we also rebranded our online events calendar to 365 Alamosa Event Calendar. This new branding on the event calendar is more memorable for visitors and allows us to communicate the calendar using a distinquishing graphic. This has been helpful in promoting the calendar and its usage.



Events that were able to happen in person enacted safety measures, such as social distancing and masking, to ensure that all event attendees could attend in a safe manner.



Alamosa Live Music Association was live. October 4, 2020 · 🔇

...

We are thrilled to be able to present Waverly Road this evening. Enjoy!







Many events in 2020 went virtual when holding an in-person event was not possible. Some opted to live-stream music performances and activities to an audience that could watch from the safety of their homes, fun runs were held on virtual platforms, and many other examples showing how adaptive event organizers were in 2020.



610 State Ave. Alamosa, CO 81101

PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ALAMOSA, COLORADO PERMIT NO. 5

@bec.b.outdoors

@mrspenceproductions

@jesstagrammm

@tamarasusaphoto

# **ENSTALAMOSA**

@joshlepik

@apandaportner

@leeahgilbert\_

@anjeli\_\_carol