



## Get Ready for The Parade of Lights in Alamosa



Sienna Gallegos  
—Section Editor—

As the crisp winter air settles in, Alamosa transforms into a festive wonderland, heralding the arrival of beloved holiday traditions.

Adorning the light poles that line the streets since November 14th, holiday decorations have cast a warm and inviting glow, fostering a sense of community that resonates throughout the town.

As December begins the locals of Alamosa have many winter activities to participate in.

No matter your age, a beacon of seasonal joy, Alamosa's highly anticipated Parade of Lights, now in its sixteenth year, promises to once again captivate the hearts of residents and visitors alike.

On the evening of December 23rd, Main Street will become the enchanting stage for a spectacular procession of lights. This will be marking a cherished

moment in the city's winter calendar. What makes this tradition truly remarkable is the enthusiastic participation of the community.

From families and friends to local businesses, the Parade of Lights brings together the entire valley in a display of unity and holiday cheer.

The city's historic Main Street, adorned with festive lights and decorations, serves as the perfect backdrop for this dazzling event.

For the past fifteen years, local businesses have been an integral part of the parade.

These businesses will be adorning floats with creative displays that showcase their products and services.

Often times, the floats will pass out swag, gear, and as all parades, candy.

The result is a kaleidoscope of colors and themes that not only brighten Main Street but also reflect the vibrancy of Alamosa's community. As the community is especially close, the city,

library, and school, among other entities, add their own unique flair to the parade, creating a diverse and lively celebration for all to enjoy.

This parade is brought to the public by the Alamosa Round Up. The Round Up is known for its fun and exciting rodeos.

As The Round Up describes itself, "The Alam-

osa Round-UP is proud to be a part of such a wonderful community!"

The Alamosa Round-UP is supported by The City of Alamosa, The Alamosa Marketing District and over 85 local families and businesses!"

Make sure to wear cozy gear to watch the parade as this winter has be-

come much chillier. Other businesses along Main Street are sure to participate.

One may grab a hot chocolate to keep themselves warm as they watch.

So, in your favorite beanie, coat, and gloves, get your family ready to watch the amazing Parade of Lights!



Photo by: Alamosa News

**HOLIDAY DECORATIONS-** In years past, many have decorate vehicles to show off in the parade

## How AHS Stays Involved During The Thanksgiving Season



Paloma Zahringer  
—Staff Writer—

Thanksgiving is one of the most well known holidays in the west.

It is typically celebrated with the gathering of families and friends to celebrate the things they are grateful for.

With this, AHS has found new ways to celebrate and give back to the community. Key Club is known for their year round community service projects. This November they decided to host a goods drive.

On Saturday, November 18, Key Club gathered at the Food Bank Warehouse in Alamosa to put together and directly distribute boxes of food to community members.

In the first shift, Key Clubbers put together boxes on an assembly line and helped the other pantries load their trucks to distribute to other communities.

During the second shift, Key Club members directly distributed these boxes to folks in Alamosa.

Volunteers also helped carry boxes out and clean up afterwards. Furthermore, Key Club has also decided to

collaborate with the Marine Toys4Tots group this holiday season.

Dhara Patel, President of the Key Club here in Alamosa says that this is her personal favorite volunteer opportunity.

This organization helps economically disadvantaged families and children during Christmas by collecting new and unwrapped toys for children to receive.

Dhara states, " I really love this cause and I feel that no one should be left out during the holidays."

The core values of Key Club International are leadership, character building, caring and inclusiveness.

Here at Alamosa High School, Key Club members aim to make a difference in our community through service and volunteerism.

In addition to Key Club, the National Honors Society is also doing a food drive this holiday season.

Adrianna Portillo, sponsor of NHS states, "The main reason why we decided to do the drive is because these months are hardest for most families.

For some of these families their main meals come

from school, so being off of school is another worry for them. We want to ease that worry."

We plan to run it for the next two weeks and be done just in time to turn in our donations for fall break".

The Alamosa Elementary and High School will both be taking part in this. As reward for the classes who gain the most donations, NHS will be providing an ice cream sandwich party.

This especially motivated the children to donate as much as possible. There was a winner in both the K-2 and 3-5 schools.

Items that will be donated in the food drive include canned goods and non-perishable items.

The NHS's goal in our community is to encourage kindness, support, and opportunities to build a better world for the future.

Seeing as the Thanksgiving season is to commemorate one's blessings, acts of kindness such as these are a heartwarming way to bring joy and hope to our community.

The Future Business Leaders of America, decided to do Turkey Treats and Gob-

ble Goodies this November as a fun way to spread the giving spirit.

Jessilynn Malouff, the treasurer of FBLA says that this is a great way to raise money for the program as well as show the thanksgiving holiday spirit.

These holiday treats consist of cupcakes, candy and other treats. They could be ordered by wire for delivery with an accompanying message.

On a wider scale in our community, the local family of programs, La Puente will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving dinner.

This heartwarming tradition has taken place for around 15-20 years.

Laura Fierce and Claire Kennis are to thank for coordinating this event. The La Puente dinner is for everyone, this time of year may be hard for those who may not have family or friends to gather with.

Laura shared that "Before I even worked at La Puente my family would always come to the Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate."

The food for this event is cooked by the kind volunteers of La Puente. Typically 150-200 people will gather and eat

every year at La Puente. In addition to the food served at the state street location, volunteers will host a food delivery for those who may not be able to leave their homes.

Many people will contribute to this event by donating food ingredients or helping cook dishes.

A local farm provided La Puente with potatoes and other local volunteers have offered to cook them and bring them right to La Puente Thanksgiving morning.

Claire Kennis displays her directing and coordinating skills by saying "I just call people and ask if they are interested in contributing."

La Puente seeks to practice love and compassion by creating a safe environment for the people of the San Luis Valley.

This Thanksgiving dinner is just one of their many empathetic programs.

La Puente is a great place for people of all ages to find a variety of programs and help the less fortunate.

Their kind souls have made a massive impact on the lives of many especially during the holiday season.

Happy holiday to everyone!