Speech writing: Hoffman will give five speeches in four days in Gunnison, Alamosa and Denver.

She doesn’t have jokes written into her speeches. “I don’t read jokes well,” she says. Instead she spontaneously spices her talks with personal anecdotes.

She’ll come off the trail ride near Keystone on Sunday to give a noon speech to a community group in Gunnison on Monday. That’s followed by three talks in Alamosa on Tuesday and Wednesday. She’ll be in Denver on Thursday to speak at the CU Denver convocation.

The three-day San Luis Valley trip is one in a series of rural Colorado “community tours” Hoffman initiated. When she became president she vowed to “bring CU back to the people of Colorado.”

“She comes over to the Western Slope and that’s played very well over here,” says state Rep. Gayle Berry, R-Grand Junction.

Hoffman’s goal when she took office was to meet Colorado’s federal delegation and all 101 state lawmakers before the legislature convened within five years. Still, some skeptics wondered how a rookie president could pull purse strings in the legislature.

“I think she’s been a refreshing breath of fresh air,” says Berry, a member of the powerful Joint Budget Committee. “She has a very engaging personality and she’s worked very hard in the legislature.”

While the rural tours are equal doses student recruitment and PR, Hoffman sees them very hard in the legislature.

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, oil imports are now at 57% and growing rapidly. If we are to meet our domestic energy needs, we must decrease our reliance on foreign imports by boosting domestic energy supply. A workable energy plan requires attention to all areas, conservation, production, alternative fuels, research, and especially common sense.

Over the last 20 years, the increase in demand for energy has outpaced the increase in supply. Since 1980, the supply has only increased by 18%, while energy demand has increased 24%. The United States is also far too dependent on foreign oil. Today, 57% of our oil comes from other countries; compared to 35% in 1973, and 48% 10 years ago.

Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge may provide the necessary increase in production of energy. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates there are up to 16 billion barrels of oil in ANWR; this would be enough to replace all imports from Saudi Arabia for the next 30 years. My family and I lived on the North Slope for a year. The family we lived with perfected the ice pad drilling technique, which leaves virtually no footprint. We can drill in ANWR safely and in an environmentally responsible way. We should do this to secure America’s future energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve the affordable and reliable energy supply that this bill can provide. I commend the bill’s sponsor and the many members and staff who have devoted so much time to this effort, and I ask my colleagues to support this comprehensive energy policy for the future of our country.