

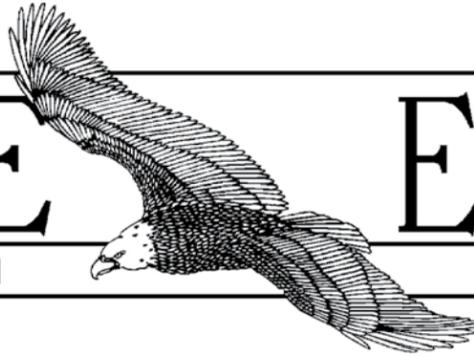
# The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 30, Number 1

January, 2019 \$2

30 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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A local ranch gate blanketed with a fresh coat of snow.. photo by Lori Nagel. To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://www.crestoneeagle.com)

## A new plan to export SLV water is proposed

by Mary Lowers

According to reports in the *Alamosa Courier* and *Center Post Dispatch*, a plan to sell San Luis Valley (SLV) water to municipalities on the eastern slope, in the works since 2016, was officially announced at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) meeting December 7. The plan outlined at the meeting would make available 22,000 acre-feet of water per year for export from the northern SLV to the water-poor cities

on the eastern slope, specifically Douglas County.

A version of this water transfer plan was presented to the Saguache County Commissioners in 2014 by the late Gary Boyce under the umbrella of an organization called Sustainable Water Resources. Advocates of this new water plan contend the Commissioners at the time did not “seem to oppose the plan.” That water export plan was eventually defeated. After Boyce’s death in March 2016 the organiza-

tion remerged as Renewable Water Resources (RWR). Sean Tonner of RWR bought Boyce’s 11,500 acres of water holdings from his estate.

RWR attorney Kevin Kinnear said the water, which would come primarily from Saguache County, would be purchased for \$2000 per acre foot, this price depending on both groundwater and surface water rights. Jerry Berry, who has farmed in Saguache County since 1996, is manager of RWR property.

*continued on page 4*



The adventure of skiing into backcountry yurts. See feature story on page B-1

## Town of Moffat & Saguache County put on notice about annexation procedures for Potch LLC

by Lisa Cyriacks

Residents of the Town of Moffat and Saguache County have retained the services of Salida law firm Cain & Skarnulis PLLC to review the Potch LLC annexation. In a letter dated December 3, 2018, the law firm puts the Town and Saguache County on notice that statutory and constitutional requirements for annexation were not met.

The letter details specific deficiencies in the process as conducted by the Town.

Specific requirements and

procedures can be found in the Municipal Annexation Act of 1965. The Act requires specific notice requirements of the town clerk, requiring that public hearings be scheduled not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days once the town council determines by resolution that a petition for annexation substantially complies with statutory requirements for annexation.

The resolution establishing a hearing date was set forward in Moffat Resolution No. 2018-7 dated effective May 1, 2018. However

Resolution 2018-7 backdated the public hearing to April 16, 2018 at 6:30pm. Based on statutory requirements the hearing should have been held between May 31, 2018 and June 30, 2018.

A public hearing is an opportunity for interested individuals to present their views to a board and to participate in an exchange of views with board members. Adequate notice is a very important requirement to allow impacted residents and property owners sufficient

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## The Crestone Eagle

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**Comments or opinions expressed in The Crestone Eagle are not necessarily those of the publisher,**

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Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit, or reject advertising, letters or articles. Letters may be sent to parties mentioned or referenced for response. All rights reserved.



# Letters

## Mtn. Mama fan mail

Dear Kizzen,  
 Brava!

What a great installment! Congratulations. You really have a great, lyrical descriptive style of writing. I enjoy it.

Can't wait for the next episode.

Best,  
 Patrick Moore

## On supporting a local economy

Dear Editor,

Most of us moved here to Crestone from the city, (note that I said "most"), or from towns, that are much, much larger than this village that we call "home" now. Having lived most of my life in relatively larger towns, I recognize that whenever I needed to buy something, I had a good selection of readily available vendors to choose from. That created a mindset of looking for the best deal and quality without really much thought about where the money went once I spent it. I got my bottom line. Usually, if it was small enough, I could even ride my bicycle to get it. That was sweet.

Moving to a rural area has offered me some opportunities to look at this habit. It never occurred to me back then that if I (we) didn't buy from an establishment that one day it might be gone and that a favorite item or that comfortable ambiance, familiarity or whatever might disappear. Disappear. When things aren't nurtured that's what happens: they die, disappear, disintegrate. Sometimes they are biodegradable, which is nice. Other times they might sit empty for decades, boarded up. Have you been out on the eastern plains of Colorado or east into Kansas lately? Once bustling farming towns supporting healthy (local) economies are ghost towns. I lived in Saguache for two years when there was not a grocery store. It died. People had been buying their groceries cheaper in Salida and Alamosa, from large, corporate chains.

Okay, that is probably enough ranting. The object here is that we are blessed to have the community of merchants that are here in Crestone. Whether one recognizes it or not, these merchants are walking a fine line between making it and "fading away", and I haven't noticed strong signs of gentrification either. A small town like this is a tough place to make it as a retailer. Next time you go on line and price

shop for a two by four or a gallon of milk, and then add in your cost of gas and time, reconsider maybe, as "uncle sugar" would say, not what you can do for yourself, but what you can do for your community. Gracias!

In support,  
 Wade Lockhart

## Transportation for vets

Dear Editor,

I am the Veteran Service Officer for Saguache County and, as such, my task is to help veterans and their families receive the federal benefits they deserve. Another aspect of my job is to assist veterans through grant funds for things like utilities, rent, food and gas. Lately I have been attending meetings of the West San Luis Valley Transit Committee while they plan and develop a viable bus service along the 285 corridor. I am happy to report that this has begun and is now being used by folks on the west side of the valley.

A long-standing issue for veterans in Saguache County has been their difficulty in getting to medical appointments at VA facilities in Denver and elsewhere. While there are vans that leave from Alamosa and Salida that

take veterans to these facilities, some vets find it difficult, if not impossible, to get to the Alamosa van at such an early hour in the morning. One question the committee has considered is, would veterans in Moffat and Crestone benefit from and utilize a bus service that would take them to Alamosa in time to catch the VA van to Denver? At this point it is simply one of many questions the Transit Committee is considering, given the obvious need for better public transportation in the valley.

I have been asked to canvas veterans in the Moffat/Crestone area to see how many would use such a bus service to Alamosa. The best way to accomplish this would be for people to call my office and leave a message indicating they would use this bus service. Your help in this endeavor is much appreciated and will further enable the fine men and women I've met in the committee to bring public transportation to you and all SLV residents.

Jim Sheeran,  
 Veteran Service Officer  
 Saguache County  
 719-655-2680

## Editor's Notes

### 30 years!

I'm amazed to be celebrating *The Crestone Eagle's* 30th year. This all started out as a part-time job of me working for the POA producing their *Baca Grande News*. After 3 years of doing that I had expanded their newsletter into a newspaper that had gone beyond just POA news—and the POA wasn't totally happy with that. I was going to quit, but instead the POA (thank you Petie Lipscomb) decided they didn't want to be in the newspaper business, it was costing them a lot of money each month, and they practically gave it to me. I had mixed feelings, but I needed a job.

In 1901 Crestone had a short-lived newspaper that was called *The Crestone Eagle*. I decided a reincarnation was in order and the new *Eagle* was born.

I'm here looking at the very first one. The main headline was "Division of Wildlife to hold water use plan hearing," a story on how we need to plan for and protect water. Thirty years later and our front page is again about water.

The *Eagle* has been on the forefront of many environmental battles—reporting on efforts to export water, drill for oil and gas, turn our skies into bombing practice runs by the air force. It allowed us all to raise our voices and be heard.

The *Eagle*, with the help of numerous contributors, has put Crestone and the northern San Luis Valley on the map.

A small town newspaper is essential for a community's identity—sharing stories, news, events, opinions, saying "this is who we are and what we care about."

It has been a huge honor to be in service to our wonderful community for 30 years. What a wonderful journey it has been. Thank you for helping make it happen. Come celebrate with us on January 12, noon-4pm.

—Kizzen

## Climate Justice Now!

My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old. I am from Sweden.

I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now.

Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do.

But I've learned you are never too small to make a difference.

And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to. But to do that, we have to speak clearly, no matter how uncomfortable that may be.

You only speak of green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake.

You are not mature enough to tell it like is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet.

Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money.

Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act.

You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis.

We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.

We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again.

We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time.

We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.

Thank you.

**Support Crestone Baca Resiliency**  
[crestonebacaresiliency.net](http://crestonebacaresiliency.net)



May the New Year be filled with peace and hope and blessings  
 for our community and all the world.

-the Eaglettes



## Crashes highlight the need for seatbelt use

by Mary Lowers

On December 16 two crashes, one fatal, took place on our region's roads. According to a press release from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), at 1:14am on the sixteenth, a one-car rollover was reported on Hwy. 368 (also known as Alamosa County Rd. 14S). A 2011 Jeep Wrangler driven by Cayce Houge, 31, of La Jara was travelling west-bound when she lost control of the vehicle. The Jeep rotated in a counter clockwise direction travelling off the left side of the road where it struck a fence. The car then rolled two and three quarters times, coming to rest on the driver's side in a field.

Houge, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Derrick Heersink, 29, of La Jara a passenger in the Jeep sustained serious injuries and was transported to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (SLVRMC). Heersink was wearing his seatbelt. CSP said alcohol and speed are suspected to be factor in this crash.

CSP was called to the scene

of another one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 160 east of Pagosa Springs. A 2016 Ford F150 pickup was west-bound on the highway, headed toward Pagosa Springs, when something caused the truck to veer off on the right side of the road, striking a tree before rotating into a fence.

Holly Buffington-Yake, 33, of Cortez, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Multiple Archuleta County agencies responded to the call out for this accident. Two boys, ages nine and ten, and a twelve-year-old girl were passengers in the truck and received serious injuries and were transported to the hospital. Two girls, ages six and fourteen, who were also passengers, received minor injuries. The driver, Richard T. Yake, 33, of Cortez, sustained no injuries in the crash. CSP said drugs, alcohol and speed are not considered factors in this incident.

CSP would like all drivers to take a minute to buckle up. As the responders to crashes statewide, they know this can make the difference between life and death in vehicle accidents.

## Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) was busy in December. Former Baca resident David Freeman, 61, jailed in Saguache and facing charges including first degree felony kidnapping and lewd behavior in connection with the kidnapping of a twelve year old Baca boy who he took to Utah, escaped from the Saguache County Jail at 11pm on Thursday, December 20. Freeman who made his escape in prison orange was recaptured without incident in Saguache on Friday, December, 21 just before noon. Details of how he escaped and where he was are not available as we go to press.

Detective Jim McCloskey was able to take prisoner without incident a Louisiana man, 33, who is held in jail on \$50,000 bail on charges of assault in the third degree and felony menacing. The incident took place at North Crestone Campground. A Salida man, 50, was given a sentence of ninety days in jail for second degree kidnapping. A Saguache County man, 76, was jailed on charges of sexual contact without consent with his bail listed at \$1000.

A Moffat woman, 30, facing charges in Rio Grande and Saguache Counties was jailed in Saguache with no bail amount listed. The charges against her include harassment, domestic violence, and criminal mischief. A Saguache County man, 50, went to jail on charges of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol with \$5000 bail listed. A Center man, 18, was jailed on two contempt of court charges with \$2500 bail. First degree burglary charges landed a Saguache man, 36, in jailed with a \$50000 bail listed.

In the warrant round up, a Moffat woman, 23, was jailed in Saguache with no bail listed on fugitive from justice charges. A Baca man, 53, was held on \$300 bail on failure to appear charges. A Del Norte woman, 23, was jailed on failure to appear charges with \$500 bail listed.

Despite the "real" winter this year people continue to speed on icy roads. Be careful out there pay attention and buckle up.

## Stake-wielding man arrested at North Crestone Creek Campground

by Mary Lowers

In the early morning hours of Friday November 30, a call came into the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) from a man camping in his RV up at the North Crestone Campground. The "frantic call" came in from a man, who refused to identify himself. He claimed there was a man outside his RV threatening to assault him with a stake. At 7:30 AM just fifteen minutes after the dispatcher got the call for assistance Undersheriff Jim McCloskey was on the scene.

McCloskey located the white RV with two men in confrontation. One man was holding a 14" wooden stake at head level threatening anyone who got near him. Both men were told to "drop to their knees and get cuffed" until Undersheriff McCloskey could figure out what was going on.

The man brandishing the wooden stake was identified as David Patrick Watts, 33, from Roseine, LA. He told McCloskey that "he was God and that the RV dweller was evil and needed to die by burning." Watts told the undersheriff, "that under Jehovah's Law he was making a citizen arrest" of the man in the RV. Burning the man was necessary because according to Watts "he had been shooting

at people and had the power to manifest bullets."

The RV dweller told McCloskey he's been parked at the North Crestone Campground a few days and that Watts was camping in a tent about a hundred yards from his RV. The day before Watts had walked by and kicked the RV causing some minor damage. Watts had come back around 7:15AM on Friday "yelling and screaming nonsense." Watts was able to force open the RV's door and tried to stab the man with a fourteen inch wooden stake. The man managed to wrestle Watts outside and then called SCSO. The victim told McCloskey that he "had no idea why Watts wanted to kill him." Upon hearing the story the undersheriff released the RV owner and proceeded to arrest Watts.

Watts forcibly resisted being put into the SCSO vehicle, "He yelled at me that he was God and that I needed to call the National Security Agency (NSA) and they would tell me who he was and to release him" McCloskey said in his report. Watts continued to resist saying he would not leave without his Bible. McCloskey then called for backup so he could get Watts into the vehicle without using extreme force." SCSO deputy Captain Hansen came to assist the undersheriff who had retrieved Watts Bible "hoping to calm him down" Watts then cooperated and was on the way to jail.

Watts was booked into the Saguache County Jail on charges including burglary, third degree assault, and felony menacing with a real or simulated weapon. Mental health services were contacted to evaluate Watts. His bail was set at \$50,000.

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# Water export

*continued from page 1*

He said there are locals interested in selling their water. To sweeten the water sale, RWR is adding a fifty-million dollar community fund to the contract. RWR says this fund could be spent on everything from schools, to law enforcement, to conservation easements.

According to RWR's plan, water would be pumped from the SLV with buyers paying for pipeline construction at an estimated cost of \$550 to \$600 million. The whole project, if it gains traction, would take about ten years to complete with the first five years dedicated to capitalizing the project. Tonner said RWR has been working on this project for four years and would like to file their paperwork in Division 3 Water Court sometime in 2019.

RGWCD Board President, Greg Higel said he questions if the 22,000 acre-feet would be enough for thirsty eastern slope towns like Castle Rock and Aurora. Tonner said that buyers and sellers "are ok" with pipeline restrictions. The pipeline RWR is envisioning for the project cannot carry more water than the agreed-upon 22,000 acre-feet. RWR says it has held "numerous" community meetings in Saguache as well as "nearly one hundred" meetings across the SLV about the planned water sale. RGWCD Board member Bill McClure of Saguache said he was not aware of any community meetings about RWR's plans in the area. Saguache County Commissioner Tim Lovato said that RWR has not yet met with County Commissioners about the water sale plan. The Town of Crestone, not far from the Boyce San Isabel property, hadn't heard anything about this plan.

There were plans to sell water out of the SLV in the late 1980s involving some board members of the late Maurice Strong's Arizona Land



The 8th annual Concert of Carols was performed at the Colorado College Auditorium on Friday, December 21. It is a program to benefit and present students of the Mt. Blanca Fine Arts Association, therefore conservatory participants perform alongside professional musicians. photo by Lori Nagel

and Cattle Company, who called themselves American Water Development, Incorporated (AWDI). The late Gary Boyce then picked up the gauntlet, after AWDI was defeated in a Water Court Case in 1992, and renamed the trans-basin water project Stockmen's Water. Throughout most of the 1990s, Boyce's plan surfaced in different forms, but mostly in the public policy arena, culminating with two ballot initiatives that were launched in the state of Colorado in 1998 designed to cripple the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and water users of the San Luis Valley. Citizens worked diligently throughout the valley to inform Colorado voters of the initiatives' true intention, to cripple water users, although they were masquerading as education bills. The voters of Colorado defeated the two ballot initiatives with a 70% majority.

Valley residents then looked towards a long term solution. A bi-partisan effort emerged to redirect the water diversion attempts that were taking place on the

then-Luis Maria Baca Grant #4 Ranch, and in 18 months pushed through legislation that culminated with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000, (creating the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Baca National Wildlife Refuge and Baca Mountain Tract). The federal government purchased the approximately fifty-square-mile Baca Ranch for \$33 million, placing the Baca Ranch into public hands, thereby removing the temptation of selling off those private water rights.

The National Park has since become a sustainable economic anchor, as opposed to a boom and bust cycle, creating over 400 jobs and bringing a cumulative impact of over \$36 million/year to the San Luis Valley region. The Park estimates that over half a million visitors toured during the 2018 season. The investment made in 2000 has greatly enriched the American public portfolio and future generation legacy.

"RWR's plan looks exactly like what we have seen in the past" says Christine Canaly, Director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, who was very active in opposing the trans-basin water diversion attempts in the late 80s and throughout the 90s. "The first time I met Alex Crutchfield, the Vice-President of American Water Development, Inc., he said I could sit on a Board and figure out how to spend all the millions they would make pumping water out of here, on local community projects. My perspective has not changed, as I said to Crutchfield then 'what good is this place without the water?' Especially now, we are in severe drought conditions, what part of climate change and over-appropriation is RWR not understanding?"

While Renewable Water Resources had presented their plan to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, at this time no official documents have been filed in water court.



**Need Help Paying your Winter Heating Bills?**

Do you need assistance with your heating bill; starting Nov 1, 2018 the LEAP program can assist you with that portion of the cost. LEAP is designed to assist low-income households with paying their winter home heating cost but is not intended to pay the entire cost of home heating or utility usage. LEAP benefits are available to all eligible persons/households without regard to race, color, and sex, age, handicap, and national origin, political or religious beliefs.

You can pick up an application at the Social Services office serving two locations, Center branch located at 220 Worth St. in Center and 605 Christy Ave in Saguache, if you are unable to pick up an application at either office you can call any of the locations, you can call the Center office at 719-754-2308, and ask for Gloria Quintana and she can assist you with any questions you might have, and mail you an application if needed, you can call the Saguache office at 719-655-2537 and ask for Ilene DuPont, and she can also assist you with any questions you might have about LEAP.

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# Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

Writing this at the end of the year, I thought it appropriate to offer a perspective of the County. A State of the Union for our rural county of less than 7,000 people is in many ways impressive. Yet, it has also been a year of mixed results: some progress and regrettably, some disappointment. The strategic plan adopted three years ago as well as recent events provide a bench mark. Economic growth was stated as a priority yet, except for marijuana cultivation, there are still not enough streams of revenue.

## County budget

David Bitler, hired just weeks earlier as County Administrator, resigned abruptly, catching everyone off guard. There are rumors why he left, but that is not a profitable direction to go in. It means that once again Wendi Maez will effectively be taking on two jobs: doing her own job as Land Use Coordinator, and filling in the administrator position until a new person is hired. In that capacity, she presented the mill levy which was reckoned with help from Jackie Stephens and Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer. The BOCC adopted 2019 mill levy certification. The mill levy is the "tax rate" that is applied to the assessed value of a property and it is holding steady. By the way, the Baca Grande Water District had the third-highest mill levy in the state. Maez also presented the final budget for 2019 to the Commissioners. After months of meetings and deliberation with departments, and allowing time for public input, the BOCC approved the budget for 2019, a total of \$14,145,085.84. Revenue was approximately \$68,000 over expenses and part of that included about \$8500 collected from marijuana.

I praise the many workers who make this County run and sometimes do it under difficult conditions. Employees have been granted a 3% COLA raise and a \$500 bonus. However, department heads have not had a raise for the past 6 years, and the pay scale in comparison to nearby Alamosa and Chaffee counties means that Saguache County is not always attracting or keeping the best potential applicants.

## Needed: a more environmentally responsible attitude

Standing in the back of a pickup looking out over the landfill, aka dump, one can see what several other news articles have mentioned. The landfill is a chaotic mess that extends outside the boundaries. Back in the '90s the landfill was, according to *High Country News*, a model landfill. It's been a long, dirty slide since then that's brought us to this

point. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CD-PHE) inspections noted violations that demand a corrective action plan to come into compliance. Being out of compliance is the highest level of action issued when a landfill fails to comply with regs or clean up environmental problems. This includes things such as not having a functioning liner to prevent decomposing waste from seeping heavy metals and pathogens into groundwater. Plus, there is trash and recycling scattered everywhere.

Colorado is seen as a state with "green credentials," but Harlin Savage with Boulder-based Eco-Cycle, one of the largest non-profit recyclers in the country, said that in practice, Colorado ranks in the bottom half of states for how little it recycles. The Commissioners have dialoged over a long period this year without accomplishing much. They did visit a transfer station in Hinsdale in December, so some movement is happening.

The real problem is one of attitude. It is not responsible to say the County is not in the trash business. And when I talk to the Commissioners or Randy Arredondo, who oversees the landfill, I get a shrug or a note saying no penalties, no big deal, the State is just looking for a time plan. The health and safety of our communities should be one of the BOCC's top priorities, and while not specifically stated in their strategic plan, they need to show they care about the environment and the risks to public health through atmospheric and hydrological effects at the land fill. This will require they take a more proactive stance in the coming year and effect real change.

## The Northern Saguache County Library District

It is said that a library is an indispensable part of democracy. In a year where many feel democracy in the country is being attacked, Sarah Koehn Frey, director of the Northern Saguache County Library District (NSCLD) presented a strong yearly report. The Saguache and Baca Grande libraries welcomed around 32,000 visitors to the libraries, hosted 116 meetings and had 112 unique wifi visitors in Saguache alone. This coming year the Baca library will be able to better track wifi users. In February, the District will launch a new digital media platform that will offer our patrons free access to over 650,000 movies, tv shows, educational/instructional videos, documentaries, and music titles approved for over \$30,000 in grants. Congratulations to Joel Weston. The BOCC approved his appointment as the new NSCLD board member from Crestone.

## Wreaths across America

In 2005 a photo of 5,000 snow-covered headstones adorned with Christmas wreaths in the Arlington National Cemetery was posted on the internet and went viral. Thus began the tradition of laying "Wreaths across America," on the gravesites of U.S. veterans on the second Saturday in December as a

way of honoring their sacrifice and service. Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer, and Gene Gowens have made it their mission to ensure that the veterans of Saguache County are honored and remembered. To mark the event wreaths were laid in Crestone, Rito Alto Cemetery and Villa Grove among others. Commissioner Tim Lovato took part in the laying of wreaths in Chicago cemetery. County cemeteries include burial sites for Union Army Civil War veterans, and veterans of the Mexican War and the Indian Wars.

Trujillo thanked the Saguache Board of County Commissioners for granting Wreaths Across America \$2,500 from the spring 2018 sales tax for the purchase of the Christmas wreaths which were laid at the Colorado State Veterans Center and other centers in Saguache County.

## Attention present-day vets

Jim Sheehan, Director of the County's Veteran's Services, has requested \$1500 emergency funds from the sales tax in order to fund end-of-the-year services.

There are also resources available to help veterans purchase a home. You can contact Jim at 655-2680.

## Is the County prepared for a wildfire?

The specter of the recent California fires has many concerned about high risk areas. How can the County get property owners to do mitigation? Jason Anderson noted that in the Baca subdivision there are many absentee owners whose property has incredible overgrowth. How to address that risk? The Baca POA could address it, but if a fire breaks out in unincorporated areas (such as the Baca Grande), the County has to deal with it. Perhaps a countywide fire code would bring more properties into compliance, or maybe mitigation can be part of a building permit. Now is the time to act, not when fire season is upon us.

## Sheriff's Department update

Dan Warwick, Sheriff, is advertising for several positions. Warwick noted that population is up in the county and drug use as well. Seventeen inmates are being housed in the County jail. His department keeps working on cooperative agreements to enhance services in areas such as victim



Wreaths laid at vets' gravesites.

assistance and nursing. Alamosa County, which frequently houses our inmates as we do theirs, may work out a nursing arrangement with our inmates.

## Summary of voter turnout

The total number of voters in the November midterm election was 2,737 out of a county of fewer than 7,000. Colorado had the nation's second-highest turnout rate among its voting-eligible population in the midterm election, according to the latest figures from the Secretary of State and according to the U.S. Elections Project. At 61.9% of that population, Colorado ranked second behind Minnesota, which turned out 64.3% of its voting-eligible population.

## Attention all techies

Saguache County is currently accepting proposals for the Saguache County 2019 Fiscal Year Service Plan for computer, server and phone. The ideal firm or individual will have extensive knowledge and experience related to network/phone installation, printer repair/maintenance, PC/server installation, configuration and repair, phone tech support for miscellaneous issues, user configuration on the network, software installation, configuration updates, phone moves/adds/changes, security and camera installation, configuration and repair. All interested parties should submit a letter of interest and a proposal for services by January 19, 2019 at 3:30pm to: Saguache County Administration. For additional information contact Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

With hopeful anticipation of the new year, I wish all of you a happy, healthy new year.

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## POA NEWS

### Reflections & a look ahead

**by Fredrica Solana-Clark**

Your Baca Grande Property Owners Association hopes that you had a joyful Holiday season, and wish you a sincere Happy New Year. As a new year begins it's easy to get sentimental about the old one . . . to relive happy memories and reflect on how everyone has grown. It's also nice to look forward to a bright new year knowing that 2019 will bring even more good things for us and our community. The Baca Grande Property Owners Association has accomplished a lot in 2018, and we would like to thank all of our members and volunteers for their hard work.

Looking ahead, renovations of the club house at the golf course will continue into the new year. We hope to have the facility complete by mid-summer of 2019 and ready for a tenant. In 2018, we made considerable improvements to the website and will continue to grow the site by adding content and up-to-date information. We are continually finding ways to ensure members stay up-to-date and informed, such as electronically via our website and email blasts, on social media, or by mailing out a bi-annual newsletter. Any suggestions for additional content to the website is greatly appreciated and can be sent to our Director of Communications.

The Baca Grande hosted many successful community forums in 2018 such as Bear Awareness, Community Safety, and Fire Safety, as well as community-focused events like the Community Yard Sale, Community BBQ and the Pathway of Lights. The goal of these community meetings and forums is to provide diverse activity to foster and promote fellowship to members of the Association and to serve the needs of our greater surrounding community. In 2019, members will have the opportunity to actively participate in the recre-

ational, social and cultural activities of the community, and even help plan activities that can help people get to know each other and build our community.

We would like to welcome Mark Repp and David Peak to the Baca Grande POA Board of Directors. The current POA Board consists of Steve Dossenback, President; Mark Repp, Vice President; Joanna Theriault, Secretary; Sugandha Brooks, Treasurer; and David Peak, Member at Large.

**Participate**

The new year is also a good time for the Baca Grande POA to remind members about several ways they can help make the community an even better place to live in this year and beyond. We would like to encourage our members to have a voice in the Association. The Baca Grande POA Board benefits from the expertise, ideas, perspectives and concerns of the members. The best forum to do this is at POA Board meetings. You can easily stay abreast of current meeting dates and times on our website [and in the Crestone Eagle Calendar]. Another way to participate is by joining a committee. Committee activity is thriving, thanks to our neighbors who generously contribute their efforts for the betterment of our community. Consider volunteering for one of the committees; it is fun and rewarding. You can find the contact information in the Baca Grande POA website. We are looking for people to join the Election Taskforce Committee and the Elk Park Committee. Please reach out if you are interested.

One of our biggest challenges this year has been educating members on the importance of keeping their homes, yards and property areas maintained and in otherwise good repair. We have no desire to act as dictators over someone else's property. However, the responsibility of the Baca Grande POA Board



Solstice full moon and luminaria star at the POA Golf Course. So beautiful to see all the lights! Let's hope this becomes an annual tradition. Thanks, Fredrica, for creating this event!  
photo by Kate Steichen

is to ensure all homeowners and renters are abiding by the Covenants and Bylaws agreed to when purchasing a property in the Baca Grande.

**Friendly reminders:**

- Assessment payments are due and payable by January 1, 2019; however, we provide a grace period through March 31 before a late fee is charged. Anyone interested in payment plans can contact the POA office to set up a monthly or quarterly payment arrangement. Payments can be made through the Baca Grande POA's web portal.
- Please notify us in writing of any changes to your account that are not reflected on your statement.
- Please be respectful to your

neighbors. We have received a lot of blight, building without a permit, and dogs-at-large complaints over the past year.

- To report abandoned vehicles, loose dogs, blight, building without a permit, or other covenant violations, you can find the forms on the Baca Grande POA website or come in to the office.

- Please notify the police about any disturbances or criminal activity. If the situation is an emergency, call 911 or the Saguache County Sheriff non-emergency line at 719-655-2525.

Thank you to all of our members for your participation in making our community the best it can be. Please reach out to the Baca Grande Property Owners Association by emailing [info@bacapoa.org](mailto:info@bacapoa.org) or calling 719-256-4171 with any suggestions or feedback.

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***POA news:***

**Members express concern over trail use & abuse on POA greenbelts**

*by John Rowe*

The regularly scheduled POA Board meeting was held at 10am on Thursday, December 13, at the POA Hall. All five Board members were in attendance as were seven audience members.

The meeting opened with the agenda being unanimously approved and moved quickly to Member Forum, an outlet for any POA member to express briefly anything pertinent to Baca living that he or she may choose. In response to an audience inquiry, an update on the improvements to the old clubhouse was given. New exterior insulation and new windows have been completed and the work has moved inside now that it has gotten colder. A thorough going-over will take place over the next several months. By early next summer the dilapidated old building will be much improved and ready for its next incarnation. The Board has no hard and fast plans in place and welcomes POA member suggestions. It may just be

that the clubhouse will be available for renting—stay tuned for further updates.

Two long-time residents spoke next and expressed concern over the increased trail usage on all the creek drainages as the Crestone/Baca population has spiked over the last few years. Horse, bicycle, and foot traffic has increased just about everywhere and the signs of that are becoming noticeable. There has been trail rutting, particularly up South Crestone Creek, which has caused trail widening as people have walked along the edges to avoid rivulets of water running down. A number of side trails have also sprung up along South Crestone Creek, probably the most popular of all Baca creek drainage trails. A brand new trail has appeared winding its way along Spanish Creek, up above Wagon Wheel, extending perhaps 10,000 feet through the woods. The Board was not sure how that happened. Both of these fellows



*People have been noticing a deer around downtown Crestone that has lots of white markings on it. This young deer was born this spring. It has white legs, white ears and nose and white spots. Very unusual. Part albino? Pretty.*

would like to see more Board oversight on all Baca trails and to begin the process of regulating all creek greenbelt use. This commentary was well received by the Board and they want to have community input on this matter over the next several months. The feeling is that we have grown too much to continue to just let things happen as they may, and real community input is necessary here to preserve the beauty and wildlife of these places well into the future.

A few odd and ends were either dealt with or put off until January. The most noteworthy of these is the continuation and renewal of the Risk/Share Collection Program, a practice of sending severely delinquent POA dues accounts to a collection agency. This was begun last year in response to a growing problem of unpaid dues. The Board is encouraged by the results and will continue the practice.

**Congratulations to the Crestone Eagle  
 on your 30th Anniversary! —Love, T&E**

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*Happy New Year!*



*Thank you for your continuing support!*



by **Allyson Ransom,**  
**Crestone Town Clerk**  
**December 10, 2018 Board**  
**of Trustees meeting**

The meeting began at 9:30am and was held in the Alder Meeting Room located at 111 S. Alder Ave.

The Board of Trustees passed the following motions:

- To approve the agenda
- To approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting from November 12, 2018

- To approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 3, 2018

- To approve paying the bills and employee holiday bonuses as presented by the Treasurer

- To approve the Financial Report as presented by the Treasurer

- To authorize Mayor Danforth to investigate Crestone becoming an International Dark-Sky community and attend a workshop on the subject in Westcliffe, Colorado

- To appoint Mayor Danforth and Trustee Goergen as Town representatives to the Crestone-Baca Sub Area Planning District for 2019

- To approve applying for non-matching grant funds for noxious weed control in conjunction with the Baca Wildlife Refuge which will submit a joint proposal to the Center Weed Control District

- To approve the 2019 Art Gallery liquor license for specified event dates to be held at the Crestone Artisans Gallery

- To adopt Resolution #012-2018, Setting the Mill Levy for 2019

- To adopt Resolution #013-2018, Water Enterprise Fund 2018 Supplemental Budget Appropriations

- To direct Trustee Laki to communicate with the Crestone/Baca Resiliency Group and Ann Bunting about a solar project for the Town wells

- To approve paying Alcon Construction's last bill in 2018 for the amount of \$188,442.14 for work done on Phase II of the Downtown Development Project

- To adjourn the meeting at 4:02pm

**Reports**

Treasurer Gwynn Busby presented a detailed financial report and the month's bills for approval. The following items were discussed with the Trustees:

- Grants still open and progress on purchasing supplies for the Public Works building through a reimbursable grant

- Sales tax revenue for November 2018, which totaled \$21,916.52

- The Crestone Town Hall building has been paid off in full, which was cause for celebration among the Trustees

Mayor Kairina Danforth reported on the following during her report:

- The Center Weed Control District is expected to receive funds to distribute for noxious weed eradication; Crestone could receive financial assistance if the Town supplies a list of needs and a dollar amount to the Baca Wildlife Refuge office, whose personnel are writing a proposal to submit to the CWCD

- Crestone could apply to receive designation as an International Dark-Sky Community, and Crestone already has light ordinance #2004-007 in effect.

Further discussion included the use of goats to graze to control weeds and having the code officer talk to residents who are non-compliant with un-hooded outdoor lights shining too brightly at night. The staff was directed to include a copy of Crestone's dark sky ordinance #2004-007 with all future business licenses and building permits.

Clerk Allyson Ransom discussed the following in her report:

- Trustee appointments needed for the Crestone-Baca Planning Commission

- Reminder of the yearly Board retreat—the Board changed the date to January 13, 2019

- The Firewise Committee needed to schedule a meeting by the end of the year

- Pedestrian improvements on Lime Ave.

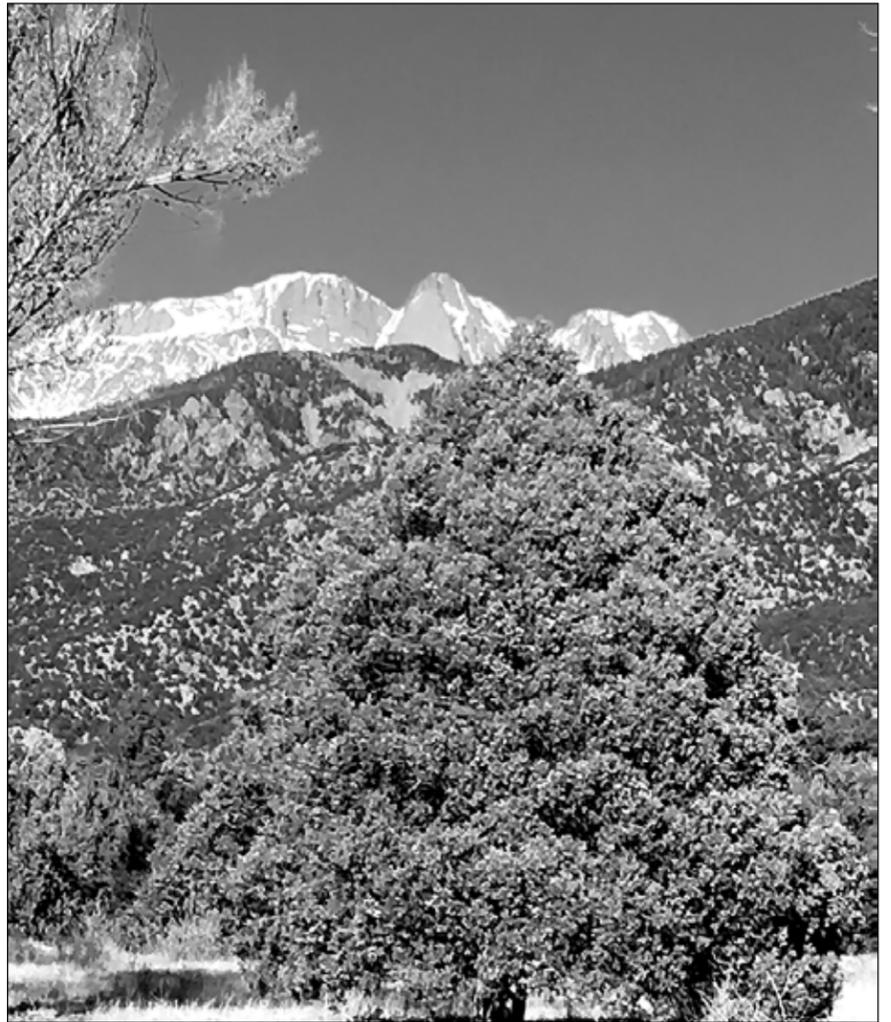
- Code Enforcement issues during the past month involving abandoned vehicles, loose dogs and stench coming from a residential lot on the east side of town

- Verification that proper procedures had been completed by the water system manager when installing the new water line extension on W. Copper Ave.

- "Here to Listen" sessions to be discontinued for the winter and instead organizing open house dates with Trustees as community outreach options

**Public hearing**

Eugene Farish, as hearing officer, opened the public hearing at 3:45pm for the purpose of presenting Resolution #13-2018 for water fund appropriations supplement for 2018. Farish confirmed that re-



Two fourteeners, Challenger and Kit Carson, seen from Deadman Creek.

photo by Larry Calloway

quirements for posting of the hearing were met, and he acknowledged that a quorum was present. The attorney read the resolution, which had been assigned the new number, Resolution #013-2018. Farish asked for comments or questions and as none were made, he declared the public hearing closed at 3:50pm. The matter was remanded to the Board for action.

Gene Farish also reviewed a liquor license application for art gallery events in 2019. Rose Burek of the Crestone Artisan's Gallery spoke for a few minutes, and Attorney Farish confirmed that requirements had been met. As there were no comments from the audience or the Trustees, Farish remanded the matter to the Board for action.

**Presentations**

- Burt Wadman reported on Alcon's construction work that had been completed to date and provided a spring construction schedule for the remaining Phase II Downtown Development Project which would include paving the streets.

- Sam Mamet of the Colorado Municipal League presented information to the Trustees on Home Rule, its history, procedures

to apply for Home Rule and various pros and cons, which were followed by a question and answer period.

**Announcements**

The Town of Crestone administrative staff has created a new and improved website, which is going live this month. Please go to: [www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofcrestone](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofcrestone).

The Crestone Planning Commission will now meet at 9am and still on the first Monday of each month. The meeting place is in the same location at 111 S. Alder, which is the Board meeting room and is accessible from the east porch of Town Hall.

In case of health hazards from spills such as gas, oil, and septic effluent, call the state's 24-hour spill hotline at: 877-518-5608 and also inform Town Hall.

Free brush pick-up for town residents takes place at the beginning of each month. Contact Town Hall to schedule a pick-up. Green trimmings, weeds and brush piles accepted. For trash, old appliances, junk furniture, batteries, lumber scraps, and more, contact the Saguache County Landfill at 719-221-1956.

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## San Luis Valley pride initiative creates Safe Space program

by Ryan Johns

This winter you might start seeing rainbow stickers showing up in store fronts around the valley. This is due to the newly formed San Luis Valley Pride initiative and its Safe Space program. For the past 2 months a group of individuals from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) community and their allies have been meeting in Alamosa



in an attempt to create community and visibility within this group across the valley. Our next meeting at the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative in Alamosa will be held at 6:15pm on January 22. All are welcome to attend!

The first meeting on October 16 at Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative (our first designated Safe Space!) in Alamosa and was a huge success with over 30 people gathering together. At that meeting the group decided on 3 primary focus areas. The first is simply to create outings and community-building events like bowling nights, book clubs, ice skating, holiday parties, etc. The second primary focus is to create visibility around the valley which is where the Safe Space program was born. We will work to find businesses who want to self-identi-

fy as a Safe Space and we will be adding all of these businesses to a growing "Purple Pages", a public list of all self-identified Safe Space businesses. Our third and final initiative is to organize a San Luis Valley Pride Event for the public during the summer of 2019. The group met again on November 27 at Milagros Coffee Shop and began to actively work on these initiatives, breaking out into work groups and addressing envelopes, scheduling activities, and identifying local businesses that may be interested in a safe space designation.

This is an undertaking that has never been done before in this way for the San Luis Valley. There are many places an initiative like this can grow into. We have had discussions about creating a youth drop-in center or creating formal LGBTQ Safe Zone trainings for local school districts. All decisions will be made through the monthly gatherings from those directly involved in the community and as funding allows. We are so excited to see this initiative take off and grow so quickly. You know you are headed in the right direction when so many people jump on board to help!

If you would like to designate your business as a Safe Space, receive a sticker for your store front and be added to our fast growing "Purple Pages" directory or sign up for our emailing group to receive further information about events, etc., please send us an email at sanluisvalleypride@gmail.com or call 303-563-9767 for more information. Please spread the word and join us for our next meeting at the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative in Alamosa on January 22 at 6:15pm. See you then!



Kathy Strathearn's weaving "fireworks."

## Crestone Artisans Gallery News

by Paula Hudson

Just to catch you up, the Gallery had a great December. One of our long-time members suggested that we have our very first Annual Art Sale. So, we scrambled to get the word out. You probably saw the ad in the *Eagle*. About 7 of the Gallery artists participated. There was jewelry, photographs, paintings, rugs and pottery for sale. We had 120+ visitors and the artists sold a goodly amount of art. The gallery sold non-sale art as well. The event will definitely help the gallery out through the slow months. I hope you came. It was relaxed, fun event. A few of the artists have left some

items at sale prices; come in and see.

Kathy Strathearn is our featured artist. Her beautiful handwoven rugs are displayed on the BGW (big grey wall) in the back. Her rugs add so much color and design to the whole wall its like a fireworks display. Come and see. (By the way, during the Gallery Holiday Party, Kathy favored us with a rendition of the "the little fat man in the little red suit . . . stuck in . . . the—you get the idea. This performance came as a complete surprise, considering Kathy is very shy.)

Other artists have been doing new work as well. Judy Arnold has a "parliament" of owls set up in her display, all with their own personalities.



Chris Argenta's pottery face.

Our new guy, Amir, the glass artist, has brought in a new piece. When you look at his work, take some time look closely and appreciate the intricacy of each piece. Lynn Drake is working in glass mosaics now. Her work incorporates her skills with clay into her new medium.

Do not forget the gallery back room when you come. Breeze back there and see the cards, books, hats, scarves, Crestone Eagle gift bags, pottery, paintings and much more available from our artists whose work is represented on consignment. Sasha has been making cards, which are works of art in themselves. Each one could be framed and displayed as a small, intimate art work. Look for cards by Ish, Kathy and Patrick as well.

There are new pieces coming in all the time, so keep us in mind as a good way to spend an afternoon.

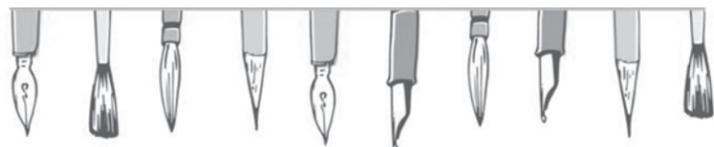
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## Grisha Krivchenia brings classical piano to Shumei January 27

Sunday, January 27 at 3pm join us at Shumei in Crestone for an afternoon of classical music with Grisha Krivchenia. Grisha Krivchenia is a composer and pianist residing in Santa Fe and the Seattle area. He enjoys a busy performance schedule. Professional ensembles throughout North America and Europe realize his compositions, and recent premieres have taken place in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Bucharest.

Grisha completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. Other teachers include Lewis Nielson, Eric Larsen, Marilyn Neeley, and Falko Steinbach.

Grisha has devoted the past few years to exploring ways in which a musical career can intersect with a life of public service. In 2007, Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor (WA), where he taught for seven years. In 2008, Grisha collaborated with students, families, and the Gates Foundation to build a recording studio for all Friday Harbor youth. He writes original music with veterans, hospice patients, and refugees in an effort to tell the

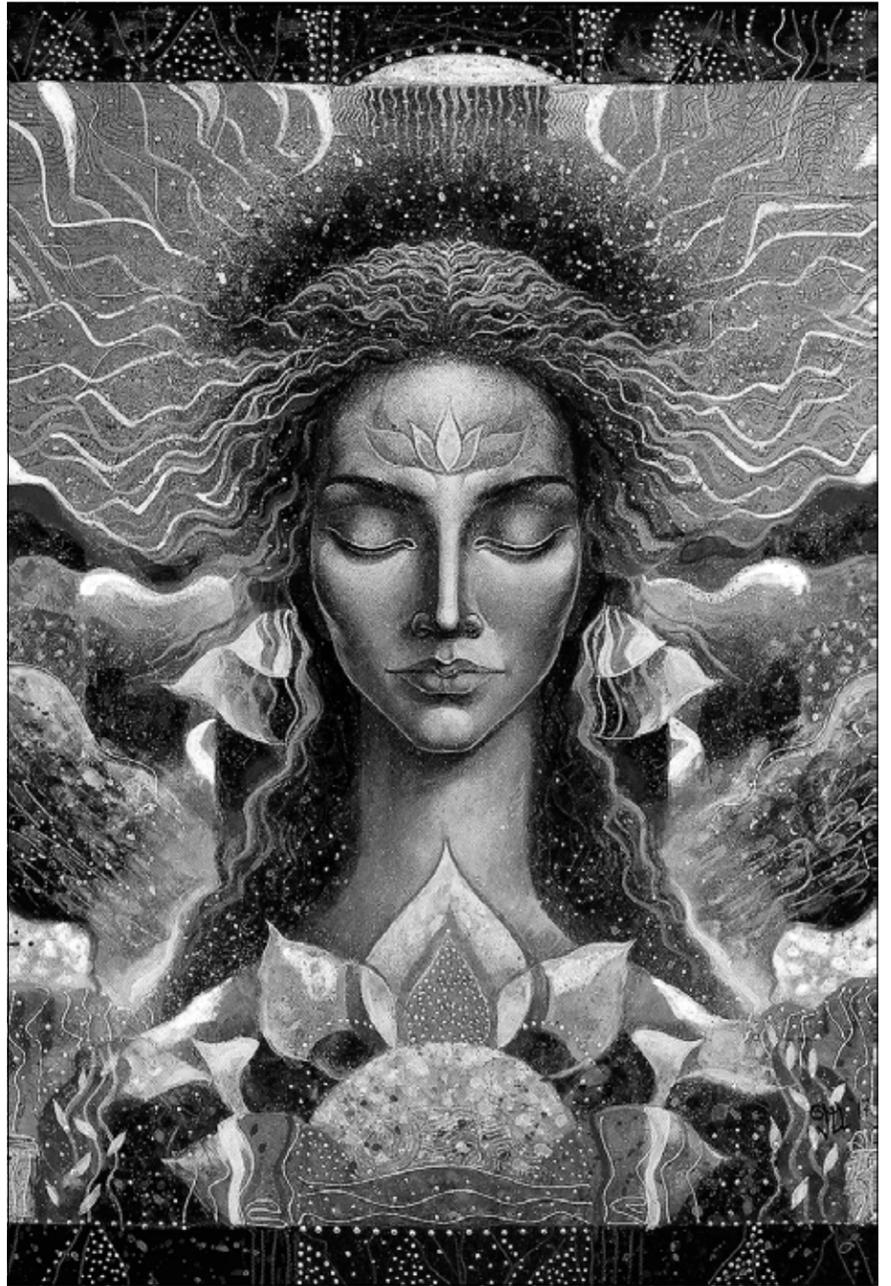


Grisha returns to Shumei International Institute on Sunday January 27th at 3pm.

stories of those who usually go unheard.

To hear examples of Grisha's work visit <http://grishakrivchenia.com>, or look him up on YouTube.

Call 256-5284 or visit [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) for further information. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.



"Dream Flower", by Gergana Yordanova.

## Gergana Yordanova featured artist at Shumei; symposium January 20

Gergana Yordanova's paintings will be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone from January 3 to the end of February. A symposium with Gergana will be held on Sunday, January 20 starting at 3pm. A reception will follow.

Gergana Yordanova was born in Haskovo, Bulgaria. She graduated with a Fine Arts degree from the University of Turnovo. Since then, she has taken part in a number of exhibitions throughout Bulgaria and abroad. In the words of Bulgarian artist and composer Nikolai Ivanov OM, "In her works Gergana Yordanova develops themes from the traditional 'Landscape' and 'Still Life' genres, as well as figurative pictures in a modern context emphasizing on the richness of the pictorial stuff and complex detail. This creates a particular 'fairyland' spirit and 'multilayeredness' of this art of

painting and makes its impact especially strong. Gergana Yordanova's paintings can be rediscovered every time again—delicate picturesque harmonies, beautiful factures creating a peculiar vibration—a mixture of acrylic, plastic pastes, graphite and gold and silver. On the background of the complex picture in the contemporary art these works remind us again that the *aesthetic* meaning remains of primary importance and the picture as an object must be a bearer of vibrating *spirituality* and *beauty*."

Come meet Gergana and learn more about her art on Sunday, January 20, 3-5pm. This event is free to the public. Please visit [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) or call 256-5284 for more information or directions. Please call the office to make sure the gallery is open.



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Text for Appointment 719.580.9146

# Shumei announces The Whole Living Symposium Series

*First presenters Thomas & Lillian McCracken, January 19*

Shumei International Institute is happy to announce a new offering for our Crestone community. This is our local version of the Green Life Food Festival being offered by Shumei American in California. In line with Shumei philosophy, our hope is to create a regular space for presenters to share topics on mindful living. This symposia program will cover a variety of topics such as gardening, business, health or wellness. By looking at the whole we can achieve a happier, healthier, and more fulfilling lifestyle. Whether you are looking to provide healthier food for you and your family, improve your relationships, or simply gain a sense of peace and connection, our hope is to provide a space where ideas on these topics can be shared by community members who are practicing their craft. We are honored to have Thomas and Lillian McCracken as our first presenters on January 19 from 3 to 4. This event is free to the public.

Thomas and Lillian McCracken, who both have extensive backgrounds in sustainable agriculture and a long-term commitment to environmental preservation, are the co-founders and managers of Green Earth, Inc.

Thomas was a founding member of Healing Light, a holistic health community dedicated to the education and practice of alternative healing and organic farming. He was also a senior partner in Cottage Industries, a forestry collective responsible for thousands of acres of reforestation throughout the U.S.

Lillian has been a student and practitioner of the healing arts with a focus on herbalism since the late 1960s. She has studied with many of the leading herbal practitioners and traditional healers of our time. She joined Tom in his life work at Healing Light and Cottage Industries when they met at Healing Waters, an alternative health retreat and education center. They later created Green Earth Forestry to continue their work of reforestation.

In 1986 they were managers of the World Garden and Quinoa research project in Crestone. The following year they started Green Earth Farm in Saguache and became founding members of the Colorado Organic Producers' Association. The 170-acre irrigated farm produced a wide variety of crops including herbs, vegetables, alfalfa and grains. They produced

a variety of White Wheat used for Shumei's pasta project. Their vegetables were distributed widely from Albuquerque to Ft. Collins.

With Green Earth Farm's move to their new location on the western slope of the Sangre de Cristo range on the eastern side of the



*Happy kale at Thomas and Lillian McCracken's Green Earth Farm.*

San Luis Valley, Tom and Lillian are in their 30th year of organic production in the valley. The farm's Archaic Orchard & perennial herb gardens are located at 8200 feet adjacent to the Sangre de Cristo wilderness. The rich soils, pure air, water flowing from the mountains, and intense high altitude climate produces potent herbs, tender vegetables and sweet fruit and berries. A permaculture farm, they have planted over 50 fruit trees, raspberries, strawberries, and many perennial herbs, vegetables and fruiting bushes. They continue to be certified organic.

During Lillian's many years of training and personal experience with herbs she has created 2 lines of products that nourish and heal the body and soul. The ATerra line consists of skin care products such as cremes, lotions and balms, and the Earth Garden Botanical line of herbal tea blends and tinctures for everyday enjoyment or occasional discomfort and specific use. Additionally they offer a line of blended essential oils that are wonderful for massage and aromatherapy.

## Crestone Poetry Festival coming soon

The Crestone Poetry Festival (Poem Fest), a gathering of poets from Colorado and New Mexico, will be taking place in Crestone, February 21-24. This four-day celebration of the spoken word includes readings, workshops, open mic opportunities, and lots of time for poets from around the region to get acquainted. The event is intended to help grow and sustain a community of poets, writers, and literature enthusiasts in the mountains and high deserts of Colorado and New Mexico, with a special emphasis on the Sangre de Cristo region.

On Thursday evening February 21, the festivities will begin at 6pm at the Crestone Charter School, with readings from local poets and storytellers. At 7pm, featured readings will include Glenwood Springs poet Claudia Putnam and CSU-Pueblo professor Juan Morales.

John Brandi and Renee Gregorio, both well known New Mexico poets from El Rito, will be reading from *Pa' Siempre: Cuba Poems*, their latest book. The reading will be followed by a poets' party at the Crestone Brewing Company featuring the Celtic music of Nerea the Fiddler and Friends.

On Friday afternoon February 22, a variety of writing workshops and classes, open to young and old alike, will be offered at the Crestone Charter School beginning at 1pm. At 4pm, Taos poet Anne MacNaughton will be reading and hosting a happy hour open mic at Earth Tribe Studio. The evening's featured readers will be Santa Fe poet Gary Worth Moody, former Tucson poet laureate Wil-

liam Pitt Root, and American Book Award winner Pam Uschuk. Later in the evening, there will be a Poet's Café at the Cloud Station in Crestone beginning at 9, featuring Colorado poet and singer Rosemary Wahtola Trommer and local jazz musicians with open mic reading opportunities as well.

On Saturday February 23, from 10 to 11:30am, a coffee house and open mic event will be held at the Crestone Charter School, followed by a variety of writing workshops from 1 to 3pm. Colorado poets Danny Rosen and Laurie James will host another Happy Hour Open Mic at Earth Tribe Studio from 4 to 5:30pm. Following a poets' banquet at 6:30pm, poet Art Goodtimes will host an evening of poetry readings and performance, including a reading by Colorado State Poet Laureate Joe Hutchison, and performances by former Oklahoma Poet Laureate and songwriter Nathan Brown, Denver spoken word artist Molina Speaks, and Colorado performance poet Andrea Moore.

On Sunday February 24, at 9am, local high school students will be hosting a breakfast and book signing event at the Charter School. Following breakfast, poet Art Goodtimes will close out the weekend with a poetry circle from 10am to noon.

A full description of the schedule of events and biographical information on participating poets can be found at the Poetry Festival website: [www.poemfest.com](http://www.poemfest.com). Questions can be directed to Peter Anderson (email address: [pilgrimage@fairpoint.net](mailto:pilgrimage@fairpoint.net)).

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**Pastel workshop with Emmy Savage**

Local pastel artist Emmy Savage will be offering a workshop in the use of soft pastels February 16 and 17. Emmy is donating her time but there will be a small fee to cover the cost of materials. The workshop will cover technique, materials and color theory and will run from 10 to 2 on Saturday and 1 to 4 on Sunday. Please contact Emmy at emmysavage@yahoo.com if you are interested. The workshop is open to all levels.

**Women's March January 19 in Alamosa**

It's time to march again! San Luis Valley Women ACT invites everyone to the third annual Women's March, Saturday, January 19. Marches will be held across the country and around the world. The San Luis Valley march is a non-partisan event to promote rights, freedom and justice in a respectful manner.

Meet at 10am on the corner of Main and Richardson in Alamosa. The march will be followed by a one-hour program of music and speakers in Adam State University's McDaniel Hall at 1st and Richardson. Topics include Women in Government, Healthcare, Immigration, and LGBTQIA issues.

All are welcome. Warm beverages will be provided. For more information call 719-480-4771.

**Crestone Eagle 30th Anniversary Open House January 12**

Come join the fun and help celebrate the Crestone Eagle's 30 years on Saturday, January 12 from noon to 4pm. There will be food and drink, prizes and gifts. (Mary's cooking!)

The Crestone Eagle is the oldest continual business in Crestone Now that's something to celebrate!.

**Energy Efficient Checklist update event**

*by Donovan Spitzman*

The third Gallery Stroll in the Energy Efficient Checklist Update series will be hosted January 12 at Earth Tribe Studio from 6-8pm. Join us and share your ideas and insights for the future of regenerative living in our remote location. We are asking contractors, builders, owner-builders and new residents to join this interactive experience of developing a vision for the future. This invite is not exclusive! If you missed the previous Gallery Stroll events, please join us and add your ideas and insights to this living document.

There have been several great ideas and motivations stemming from the previous events. The most notable is the idea of a "Community Awards" program and the creation of a community activist work force. Keep an eye out for the launching of these new local movements.

Bring a snack or a song if you'd like to the next interactive Gallery Stroll event. Join in the discussion and actions that help stimulate our regenerative future.

The Gallery Stroll format is an interactive way of visually sharing information that allows everyone's voice to be heard equally. Join in the adventure.



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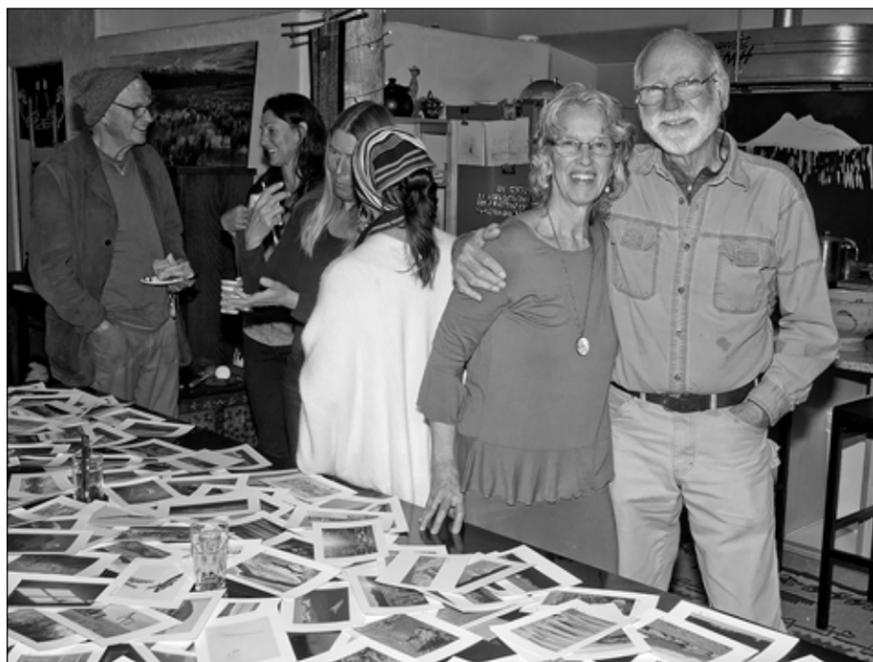
After Blue Rooster played at Winterfest on Dec. 1, they stopped by the photo booth for a pic or two. L-R Dale Smith, John Hefty, Peter Taylor and Eli Dokson. photo by Lori Nagel



Starry Bella Summers and Natalie Newman pose for a photo by Natalie's lovely art prints she was selling at Winterfest, held this year at the Moffat School. photo by Lori Nagel



Niamh Kelly Weston (L) and her sister, Aoife Kelly (R) join Aoife's girls for their Santa photo. photo by Lori Nagel



Left: Jillian Klarl Ellzey & Bill Ellzey hosted their annual art show of Bill's fabulous photography at their home on Dec. 8 & 9. Always a gala fun time! photo by Lori Nagel

# Community Calendar—January 2019

Get the details at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://www.crestoneeagle.com) // NOW UPDATED DAILY ONLINE!!!

If you would like more information on any of the below events, please consult our online calendar at [www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar](http://www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar).

calendar listing, with a discount for *Eagle* display advertisers. For more information call us at 719-256-4956.

It's free and easy to place an item on our online calendar any time of month. Just fill out the form at [www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent](http://www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent).

To list your event in the upcoming edition of the *Eagle*, please submit it by the 22nd of the month via our website, [www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent](http://www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent) (preferred) ~or~ e-mail to: [events@crestoneeagle.com](mailto:events@crestoneeagle.com) ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131.

The print calendar is free for non-profit events; for-profit classes/events are \$5 per

## Monthly Events

### Friday, January 4

- New Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am

### Saturday, January 5

- New-Moon Fire Ceremony & Calendar Blessing followed by a Meal, Haidakhandi Ashram 10-noon [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108

### Monday, January 7

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Meeting, Alder Meeting Room 9:-11am 719-256-4313

### Wednesday, January 9

- CPCH Potluck & Movie – Chu Residence 4:00 pm 719-745-7826, 719-256-4320
- CEOLP/IFC monthly meeting – Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm [informedfinalchoices.org](http://informedfinalchoices.org)

### Thursday, January 10

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome 4-6pm [nurashkijerrahi.org](http://nurashkijerrahi.org)

### Saturday, January 12

- End-of-Life Preparation Workshop – Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm \$40.00
- Crestone Eagle's 30th Anniversary Open House noon-4pm 719-256-4956
- Energy Efficient Checklist update – Earth Tribe Studio 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Free

### Sunday, January 13

- Shumei's monthly Sampai 10:30am-noon, free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284

### Wednesday, January 16

- Crestone Baca Village open meeting, Little Shepherd Church 1-3pm [cbvillage.net](http://cbvillage.net) 719-480-8757
- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

### Friday, January 18

- Baca Water & Sanitation Board meeting – BGW&S District Office 9:00 am [www.bacawater.com](http://www.bacawater.com) 719-256-4310

### Saturday, January 19

- Saturday Prayer Breakfast – Crestone Baptist Church 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Shumei Whole Living Symposium with Thomas & Lillian McCracken – 3:00 pm-4:00 pm free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284

### Sunday, January 20

- Full Moon Fire Ceremony followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-12:00 pm [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108
- Art Symposium at Shumei Gallery for Gergana Yordanova – Shumei Gallery 3:00 pm-5:00 pm free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284

### Monday, January 21

- Full Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – YES office 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Grisha Krivchenia classical concert at Shumei – 3pm \$10 719-256-5284

### Tuesday, January 22

- SLV Pride meeting – Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative 6:15 pm 303-563-9767

### Thursday, January 24

- Golden Light Sufi Dhikr. All welcome! – 4:00 pm-6:00 pm [nurashkijerrahi.org](http://nurashkijerrahi.org) 719-588-8602

### Wednesday, January 30

- Dakini Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6-8pm

### Monday, February 4

- "Here to Listen" Session – Cloud Station 10:00 am-12:00 pm 719-256-4313

### Tuesday, February 5

- Care & Share Food Distribution – Alder Meeting Room 8:00 am-1:00 pm 719-256-4313

### Saturday, February 9

- San Luis Valley Seed Exchange – Joyful Journey Hot Springs All Day Free 719-256-4328

### Sunday, February 10

- San Luis Valley Seed Exchange – Joyful Journey Hot Springs All Day Free 719-256-4328

## Daily/Weekly Events

The Crestone Eagle does not carry events over to the following month automatically.

### Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7-8am, 256-4108, [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery & Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284
- Open meditation & prayers in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room 9-10am daily; Traditional Buddhist Shrine Room available till dusk;
- All welcome to come and practice. 719-256-5539 [vajraavidya.com](http://vajraavidya.com)
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, [info@babajashram.org](mailto:info@babajashram.org), [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, [info@babajashram.org](mailto:info@babajashram.org), [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)

### Sunday

- Sunday masses at Nada Hermitage 9-10am 719-256-4778
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church 10am-noon
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-256-4250

### Monday

- Monday Yoga, Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 10-11:15am [www.RadiantFlow.co](http://www.RadiantFlow.co)

### Tuesday

- Cooking Matters class, First Presbyterian Church, Alamosa, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm, Free, [hrrmc.com/events](http://hrrmc.com/events) 719-530-2057
- Tai Chi Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm-7:00 pm By donation 719-256-4531
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668

### Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668
- Wednesday night Bible Study Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm-7:30 pm 719-256-4845
- AA Meeting Lazy KV The Clubhouse at Lazy KV 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

### Thursday

- Tai Chi Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm-7:00 pm 719-256-4531
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668

### Friday

- Energy Workshop w/Fay Ferris Little Shepherd Church 12:45-2:45pm, donation, 719-937-7684

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## What positive changes would you like to see in Crestone in 2019?



### Gussie Fauntleroy

First, snow and then lots of rain, to recharge the snowpack, streams and aquifers, feed all the animals and people, and lessen the chance of wildfire. That's number one. Next, I'd love to have the community continue and increase the communication and collaboration that is already starting to happen between different groups and individuals working toward some of the same goals, like helping people, better communication among us all, greater sustainability and resiliency for water, food, affordable housing. I'd love to see some concrete steps toward renewable energy goals, whatever we can get done. And also with water, to once again push back the entities that want to take the water out of the valley. That's a huge goal.

Personally, I'm involved with the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP), and we've been trying to communicate and collaborate with other groups, too, just to help everybody know what's out there for people. I'm also involved with the Crestone/Baca resiliency organization. And I pray all the time for snow and rain!



### Mary Lowers

I'd like to see more unity in our community, continuing to work

together to make sure everybody's fed, warm, and a big one: everyone has housing. I think the way to do this is for more people to become active in various groups that are moving toward goals they're comfortable with, like Crestone/Baca Village, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the food bank, the free feed, Care n' Share. We do a lot in this community, pulling together, and I would like to see more people participate. I would like to see us lobby our governments, whether it's the POA or the Town of Crestone, to help us figure out ways to get affordable housing for people here. That's a super big issue and it's not going to get any smaller.

I'd also like people to be responsible about their pets, contribute to Pet Partners, make sure your dogs aren't chasing deer, etc. And I'd love to see us get a good program for the kids here. For many years we had programs for the youth, and it's kind of fallen by the wayside. I'd love to see people get together and work on a skate park for the kids, for which grants are available. I'd also like to see more activities for the kids year round to integrate them more into the community. Years ago, when my son Jesse (who's 35 now) was a kid here, there were a lot more activities that included children, partially because Crestone was smaller, but I really feel like in our community activities we need to engage the young people and let them know why it's important and why we do this. And yeah, just work toward a more sustainable, happy, healthy, warm, dry future for Crestonians!



### Eddie High

Positive change I'd like to see is a county-wide and county-run recycling program like the Rickey Recycling Center of Alamosa, which is county-owned and operated. All

funds generated through recycling go right back into the county. Not sure how much we as Saguache County would generate, but the stuff wouldn't just sit in an open area. It could be taken to Pueblo or Denver. The County already has the land set up, which needs to be cleared out and then we'd just start over. Not sure what I can do to help any more than what I've been doing. I no longer take any of my recycling, except metal and appliances, out to Saguache County landfill. Those items are definitely recycled. Tires are being recycled from there. They had 60+ tons of tires that were just bailed and taken off last summer. So, they're starting back over with the tires and charging for that. The recycling center could be a lot bigger than what it is, which would definitely help. A lot of people are spending a lot of money to drive to Salida or Alamosa to simply drop off their recycling. Not everybody comes to me, and I charge a minimal amount, but if there was a center in Saguache, or even at the landfill, more people would be more inclined to recycle versus throwing their recyclables in the trash. I'm not sure how we can move forward with that. That's going to involve grants, private donations, and general help from all the communities—not just the Crestone/Baca area, but Saguache itself and possibly even Center.

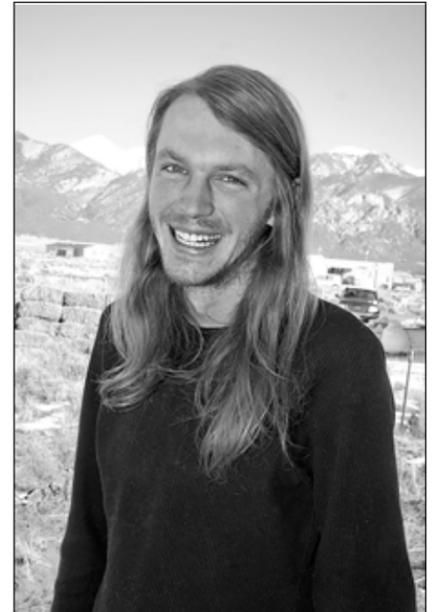


### Andrea Long

For 2019 in Crestone, I'd like to see more collaboration between the elderly and the youth, like performances, storytelling and really learning from each other. It's part of a healthy community to have that blending of ages across the board, and I'd love to see that here. Another thing we could really use is a community space. If there was somebody, or a group of us, who wanted to coordinate that, it's been spoken about a lot. And I could help out, however that would be: watch children, donate something or fundraise. I really feel that Crestone would support the arts, and this is a missing link here with bringing community together. People are really interested in the arts and want to support it, but we don't have a big enough space or the correct facilities.

Another important issue has to do with the Baca—everybody talks about it being its own entity and being free of all the restrictions of the Property Owners As-

sociation. I don't want to create walls, but I do feel like there's a great amount of potential if we could have more freedom to build sustainable housing and really be what people talk about when they move here. It doesn't seem to happen because we're building big houses and there's not even enough housing, which is the other thing. There are barely any places to rent now with all the Air BnB's, so affordable housing is important



for single mothers and that sort of thing.

### Devin Ross

For positive change in Crestone, I'd love to see more work opportunities and cheaper housing options. That would be a big contribution to having more people overall staying here. Houses right now are crazy, crazy expensive, and there's just no opportunity for work! There are probably 3-4 establishments in town hiring, and they're not always actively hiring. In turn, housing is \$1500+ a month for just a smaller house. I'd like to see people band together and create more opportunities for local people to make money, even if it's just construction work, manual labor, anything. Rent prices are higher than average mortgage prices here, so if people could get together to find cheaper housing solutions, like a community of yurts or tiny homes or something that's cheap, that'd be great for Crestone. That's what I'd definitely like to see changed here. Different housing options would help a lot of people out, allowing them to stay in Crestone.

A lot of people I know are struggling to just pay all their bills and find anywhere to work. It's really tough. There are a bunch of people out here who used to grow weed which isn't profitable anymore, so now suddenly they're all looking for jobs, which are very hard to find. If we could all band together and create some sort of cheap living spaces for people, while at the same time providing more opportunities for employment, I really think that could help improve Crestone a lot.

*If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email [peacelori@peacelori.com](mailto:peacelori@peacelori.com). In addition to being the Staff Photographer for The Crestone Eagle since 2012, Lori Nagel is a freelance photographer, graphic designer & web designer. [www.sunflowerstudios.us.com](http://www.sunflowerstudios.us.com).*

## How to rest in peace before you die

by Marcella Friel

If you're a member of one of the many spiritual communities of our town, or if you have an unaffiliated spiritual practice of your own, you no doubt have some sense about what happens at death.

Perhaps you believe that death is a gateway to the bliss of heaven or the terrors of the bar-do. You might feel that death is a new beginning rather than a definitive end. Or maybe you believe, in the words of Deepak Chopra, that death is a "creative opportunity to reinvent yourself."

But what about preparing for your own death? Do you find yourself mired in procrastination, resistance, or denial when it comes to facing this inevitable fact of life?

You know it's time—it's past time, in fact—to create your last will and testament, to establish your medical directives, to let loved ones and friends know what to do with your body and your possessions, and to make peace spiritually with your regrets and unresolved relationships so that you don't drag those karmic residues into your afterlife journey.

You want to get it done. But you never get around to it.

Fear not—help is on the way.

Join me from 10am to noon on Saturday, January 12, at the Crestone Baptist Church to learn more about an 8-week course I'll be facilitating called "LeaveLight: Rest in Peace Before You Die," a journey through holistic end-of-life planning. The course is sponsored by the Crestone End of Life Project's educational outreach arm, Informed Final Choices, and is not affiliated with any religious or spiritual group.

The course itself will take place from 10am to noon each Saturday from Jan. 26 through March 16. There is no charge for the introductory session. The full course is \$40.

LeaveLight will not only help you tackle the nuts and bolts of end-of-life care, such as wills and advance directives; it will also give you a supportive group space to reflect on your life journey, tie up unfinished emotional business with others, and plan the details of your departure from this earth so that loved ones can navigate your transition with ease, so that you can rest in peace before you die.

Contact Informed Final Choices for more information: 719-588-7415 or informedfinalchoices@gmail.com.

## Living Wisdom Village: Elders creating community

by Barbara Hoepfner

Congratulations Crestonians and the people of the Baca! You have shown up in supporting Crestone Peak Community Housing's project "Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community" affordable housing for those 55+. Our goal was to raise \$5,000 by the end of 2018. In less than 3 weeks, you donated over that amount! Thank you!

And, now the real work begins. We will need more of your help. CPCH needs to raise an estimated \$75,000 in the year 2019. These funds will go for the purchase and hiring of an architect to render the structural and mechanical components of LWV. Some of the money will come through grants; grantors, however, require matching funds. The good news is that when, for example, CPCH raises \$25,000 in private donations, we can use these matching funds for multiple grants.

We needed to raise \$5,000 in order to retain our status with the Enterprise Zone. The EZ enables contributors of \$100+ to receive a large tax deduction on the state level. We still have need for more donations to purchase land which is near the commercial district of Crestone. For more information call our Project Manager Akia Tanara at 719-256-4037.

## A bit of history for Crestone Peak Community Housing

by Barbara Hoepfner

Over the years, one of the very important things that was found missing in our wonderful community, was how to provide care and housing for our seniors . . . the very people who have lived, supported and made Crestone the community it is today. Many have had to leave due to the fact that they could no longer care for their homes and/or medical reasons. (Three of our former board members have had to do so.) Crestone has lost a vast wealth of wisdom because of this. The development of Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community began in 2013 (now a project of Crestone Peak Community Housing, a 501(c)3), to address this issue.

After many years and meetings, we did surveys to find out, first of all, if this was a viable project. We also asked our elders what they would like this housing project to be like in terms of living style, looks, amenities and where would be the best location for it. We are now in the process of negotiating the purchase of land within walking distance of the commercial district which will provide seniors ease in getting their needs met. Board member Steve Elliot has been doing renderings of what Living Wisdom Village could look like. Once the land is purchased, we will be looking for an architect who is knowledgeable in designing affordable housing for those 55+.

We have recently been joined on the board with three very knowledgeable people. Although fairly new to our community, they come with a wealth of information regarding aging in place.

Tom deMers graduated, with honors in English, from the University of Connecticut. He is a creative writer with a wide variety of experience gained while working with the Boulder Housing Authority. For five years he worked with the elderly and disabled residents in public housing, many of whom had been homeless. He has assisted two of his friends in passing.

Richard Sandersons, MA is a practicing psychologist in Crestone and southern Colorado. He is a national consultant for the U.S. Department on Aging, providing technical assistance to states focused on eliminating premature or unnecessary admission to nursing facilities and unwanted retention of residents. This experience affords Richard opportunities to advance their needs, especially as it relates to affordable housing. He is encouraged by the proliferation of "aging in place" initiatives that delay or eliminate the need for institutional care and enhance opportunities for elders to age in communities of choice.

Tricia Toney comes to us after spending 30 years as a freelance writer and 10 years as a real estate agent. She has owned and rehabilitated several properties and served a secretary and head of maintenance of her homeowners association.

And, last but not least, for a fun Sunday evening on Jan. 9 check out the "Oldies but Goodies" movies of the 60s & 70s that have made a difference in your life! For more detailed information on check out Facebook and our website: [www.crestone-peakcommunityhousing.org](http://www.crestone-peakcommunityhousing.org).

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## Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

### *The mystery of the Self*

by Dr. Eric Weiss, MFT

Many spiritual teachings tell us that we should “dwell within.” But it’s not always clear to me where to look for the inward dimension.

I sit and meditate, and I often find myself trying to let go of the world around me. I know that I spend most of my time thinking about, and trying to master, the outer world. So I try to let go of the outer world and go within. Perhaps I pay attention to my breath, or to my bodily sensations. But is that really inside? Isn’t my body also part of the world? So when I attend to sensations in my body, rather than going “inside,” I am just transferring my attention from one part of the world (outside my body) to another part of the world (inside my body).

It must be the case that the world is one whole thing. And if the world is one whole thing, a thing of which I am a part, then it’s the same world inside my body and outside my body. The world is that from which both the inside of the body and its outside are carved. Every sensation to which I pay attention is part of the world. If I want to really go inside, then rather than paying attention inside or outside my body, I must pay attention to the one who is paying attention. Who or what is that?

Who is that observes my sensations, my emotions, my thoughts, and yet is none of those? Who is it that is other than any definition of it I can possibly give? To truly go inside puts immediately up against the mystery of the Self.

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Sketch of Ashram's proposed three hermitages for long-term residents. Ramloti's, in the back, is complete. Can you help us with this project?

## Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

### great sales at the Maha Lakshmi Shop

by Ramloti

Christmas, particularly Christmas Eve, was a lovely time at the Ashram that we shared with many families. The whole month seemed to have a fairly steady flow of visitors.

The new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Saturday, January 5 and we will bless our 2019 calendars at this time and give Ashram calendars to all that attend. The full-moon fire ceremony is on Sunday, January 20. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small fire ceremony when we do not have a large one. At this time of year the small ones at 8am are indoors but the 10am large ones remain outside unless there is a storm. Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies, and any other questions.

The Ashram Board of Directors has voted to continue on our proposed plan to build three hermitages for the long-time residents. The first of these (in the back of the sketch shown) has been completed for Ramloti. We hope to build the second one this summer. The estimated cost of this is \$81,000. Your prayers and support would be deeply appreciated. Call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 for more information.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has been busy through the holidays but still has lots of great items.

Our lovely Ashram 2019 calendar has been reduced to \$5. These have stunning photos of the Divine Mother and Babaji and quotes, as well as dates of all the fire ceremonies and festivals. Recently one of our distributors went out of business and we were able to acquire quite a bit of stock at reduced prices. So we have many great deals on some of our statues, wooden boxes, incense burners, prayer shawls, prayer bells, hanging oms, bracelets, rings, stickers, and wall hangings. We also have a good supply of malas, singing bowls, perfumes, books, cd's, tablecloths, yoga pants, men's shirts, bags, and other cloth items. We still have lots and lots of yards of beautiful silks and other yummy fabrics, which we are selling for only \$2 a yard. We also have an overflowing amount of gently used clothes, which are 50% off this month.

This month the shop is open every day from 10am until 4pm. We invite you to come in and look around. We deeply appreciate your support. If you mention this article you will receive 10% off your purchase, except for sale items. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.org>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at [www.babajiashram.org](http://www.babajiashram.org). We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.

<p><b>January Special</b></p> <p>A Blessed New Year to all from the Ashram and Maha Lakshmi Shop. 50% off all gently used cloth items. 10% off to all our Eagle readers except sale items.</p> <p>Winter store hours: 9am-4pm</p>	<p><b>Maha Lakshmi Shop</b></p> <p>Incense, scarves, shawls, saris, candles, jewelry, oils, diffusers, prayer flags, singing bowls, CDs, crystals, books, purses, statues, clothes, Weleda products, &amp; more.</p> <p>Call: (719) 256-4108 email: at <a href="mailto:shop@Babajiasram.org">shop@Babajiasram.org</a> <a href="http://www.Babajiasram.org">www.Babajiasram.org</a></p>
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Jose & Sandy Villa (right) from Crestone enjoying themselves at last year's SLV Seed Exchange, which was held at Joyful Journey. photo by Lori Nagel

## SLV Seed Exchange happening Feb. 9 & 10—now for two days!

The 9th annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange will be held on February 9 and 10 at the Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa & Event Center. The two-day event is free to the public. Community members are invited to bring clearly labeled heirloom seeds for trade and gifting on the community table. In addition to garden vegetables and flower seeds, the 2019 exchange is open to licensed vendors selling and trading hemp seeds and clones. The event will include buying, selling, trading seeds and associated vendor products, and there will be speakers, food merchants, and door prizes. Saturday will hold the traditional community seed-swap, focusing on food seeds and gardening. On Sunday hemp is the focus. Vendors are encouraged to set up both days.

Seed exchanges are part of how local communities can maintain food sovereignty. In relation to seeds, food security and food sovereignty differ in these ways; having access to seeds for growing food from a large, non-local seed company gives our community a level of food security; having High Ground Gardens, a Crestone-based company in our community, gives us a measure of food sovereignty. The difference here is in the knowledge held within our community by our local plant breeding experts. An even deeper level of food sovereignty comes when the knowledge of proper seed saving and breeding is held and shared by backyard gardeners. Events like the SLV Seed Exchange are tools to enhance food sovereignty.

This year there will speakers on seed saving techniques and food gardening in the high desert/San Luis Valley. As speakers and event details are confirmed, they will be added to the website and Facebook page. The addition of hemp brings new topics to the event including home-scale medicinal hemp growing, and the challenges of commercial hemp growing in the SLV. A roundtable discussion on commercial hemp production, processing, marketing, and regulatory hurdles will happen Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2pm. Growers, processors, equipment manufacturers, government representatives, and brokers are encouraged to attend.

There are differences between hemp and marijuana, though both are cannabis plants. Just like there are hundreds of varieties of tomatoes or apples, there are hundreds of strains of cannabis, all with their distinctive properties. With hemp/marijuana, we are looking at cannabinoid and terpene profiles. What differentiates hemp from marijuana is the percentage of THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). Currently, to be considered "hemp", government regulatory agencies require that the THC content be less than 0.3%. Marijuana has a much higher THC content and is not allowed at the SLV Seed Exchange.

As of Dec 19, we still have space for all types of vendors. If you would like to have a booth, or if you would like to sponsor the 2019 event, you must pre-register. With hemp, only registered vendors, licensed in their state, are permitted to trade or sell at the SLV Seed Exchange.

All proceeds of the SLV Seed Exchange will be donated to the Community Garden at Mountain Valley School in Saguache and to the Student Greenhouse Project at the k-12 Moffat Consolidated School.

For general questions about the event, please contact the Event Coordinator at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa 719-256-4328, or visit the San Luis Valley Seed Exchange website at [slvseedexchange.com](http://slvseedexchange.com). For questions related to hemp, please contact Bob Pederson at 719-458-0548. We look forward to seeing you at the Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa!

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## January & February

- Celebrate the New Year with the 2019 January Hotel Special: \$19 off 1-night stay, \$29 off 2-nights, \$39 off 3-nights & \$49 off a 4-night stay.
  - Indulge in a Spa Special this Valentine's Day! Couple's Massage, combination Facial & Massage, and Facial Specials.
  - 9th Annual SLV Seed Exchange on February 9th and 10th. Admission is free. To become a vendor or sponsor, please visit [SLVSeedExchange.com](http://SLVSeedExchange.com). This year, hemp is included.
  - Qi Gong. Join Tad Howard, RMT, Wed, Sat & Sun at 7:30am. Meditative and Energizing. Free (Donations Accepted).
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## Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



### God's mercy as received by Earl LeRoy

My Child, I want you to consider My Mercy. It is new every morning. Just like every day starts fresh and anew, so My Mercy flows out to the world so that My Mercy is the first thing that this world wakes up to. I Love each and every person with an everlasting Love. "But God commended His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. Jesus became the perfect sacrificial Lamb, who paid the price for all sins so that you can have an intimate relationship once again with Me . . . your Creator and Redeemer. This is a free gift of life! All you have to do is repent of all sins, receive My Mercy, and accept the price Jesus has paid on the cross.

The enemy (Satan and his demonic spirits) wants to remind everyone that all they face is judgment and accusation every morning. He tries to discourage each person and causes them to face the day in failure and despair. My Mercy brings hope to the earth every day. Reconciliation and justification await every person each morning.

My forgiveness was released on Mt. Calvary 2000 years ago. My forgiveness has no control valve, but it flows like an artesian well without stopping. So My Mercy, My love and My forgiveness are always in front of Me. No one comes to Me without first experiencing My love, mercy and forgiveness. These things were provided by My

son Jesus, the Anointed One.

To receive these free gifts, I call each person to choose to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord and start as a new creation of Love and hope . . ." Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new!" 2 Cor 5:17

Who will stand on the mountain and proclaim the good news that My Mercy, love and forgiveness are My first gifts available to each person everyday? Who will tell the discouraged and despondent that they can be free of all accusation and guilt? Who will tell them that I want them to call to Me and I will come into them? Who will re-assure them that My love overcomes all their failures, mistakes and sin? Who will lead them to My throne of Mercy and love?

I Am sending you this message. Are you ready to receive your salvation? I have anointed you to receive this message, and to receive My Mercy first. Once you experience My Mercy, you will repent because of My love, not because of your guilt or shame. You will hunger for My Word that is the food for your spirit that will become alive! Then, we will communicate continually and intimately. "My sheep hear My voice." Then you can tell and show others about how much they are loved as well. Today is the day of salvation. I Am ready to hear from you.

Love, Daddy

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\* Please feel free to call Earl LeRoy at 719-650-9737 or Tim Brenner at 588-1857 if you have any questions.

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## Clips from the Clerk 2019 Goals

by Trish Gilbert  
Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

2018 has been a big year, from mid-term upsets and sky-high voter turnout, to a whole new motor vehicle system, to receiving a sizable grant to digitize our old books.

We've kept busy gathering insights from the citizens and updating our technology.

We look forward to bringing more of your suggestions and ideas to the table in 2019.

Thank you for the feedback you've provided this year. We look forward to your continued input and incorporating it into our current and future endeavors.

The public's input will be key in helping us pivot toward more flexible solutions.

For the next 4-year term, the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's Office will work to more effectively target services and achieve better outcomes to efficiently serve our citizens needs; including, but not limited to:

- Apply for a second grant to complete indexing of our digitized books
- Continue to train, cross-train and keep certifications current
- Regain responsibilities of minute-taker for the Board of County Commissioners
- Work with the Secretary of State's office to place additional outside ballot drop boxes within the county
- Maintain an open line of communication with all citizens
- Continue to make improvements to our webpage
- Keep the public informed via "Clips from the Clerk"
- Build on relationships/community contacts, especially for persons needing Spanish-language assistance

The Clerk's office would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very "Happy New Year" from Jane, Desiree, Ben, Dominique and Trish.

May every day of 2019 bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements and a lot of new inspirations in your life.

As Joey Adams says, "May all your troubles last as long as your resolutions".

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*Noon - 4*

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Great prizes for kids at the CPI Carnival in Crestone.

## Crestone Performances: Year in review

by Tom Dessain

Crestone Performances Inc. was very busy in 2018. Though we are not out of the woods yet, we substantially felled some financial woes. Meanwhile, we were able to grow our community services and school programs. We produced a total of fourteen school performances using five different presenters. To date we have produced 222 shows in the San Luis Valley using 47 different presenters. We also initiated our new Carnivals program in 2018. We produced five Carnivals in Saguache County with each school receiving 100% of the proceeds. We raised a total of \$3,045 for the schools. We also helped assist and produce eleven different San Luis Valley community events.

This was all made possible through individual donations, grants from Saguache County, The Anchutz Family Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries and our sponsors. Our sponsors are Saguache County, *The Crestone Eagle*, Orient Land Trust, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Sangre de Cristo Real Estate, First Street Flooring in Salida, Manitou In-

stitute and Conservancy, Colorado Creative Industries, Anchutz Family Foundation and Amicas Restaurant in Salida.

So what's next? 2019 will see us continue to shovel the dirt off and become more solvent, stable and interesting. We will continue to grow our current school programs and community services. New stuff will include rethinking, revamping and kick-starting our student scholarship program. We are also sponsoring a student open-mic night once a month at the Cloud Station in Crestone. The first open-mic will be Monday, February 11 from 5:30 to 7pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

If you would like more information or would like to contribute to our efforts through sponsorship or donation, please go our web site, [crestfest.org](http://crestfest.org) and/or give us a call at 719-256-4533. Our address is PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. Thanks for your time and stay tuned! Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit community service organization now in its 17th year! All donations are tax deductible.

## New student open-mic starts February 11

Crestone Performances will be sponsoring and producing an Open-Mic for students at the Cloud Station in Crestone. The first will be Monday, February 11 from 5:30 to 7pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. This is open to students from all over the valley and will be held the second Monday of every month. There is a lot of young talent around but very few venues for them to exhibit their talents. This is open to a variety of performing arts. So come on out to see and hear the future! For more information and to reserve a spot, please call 719-256-4533.

## Get on board

Crestone Performances Inc. is extending an invitation to those in the community who might be interested in joining our Board of Directors. They meet once a month and also participate in fundraising events. As CPI evolves, we need new board members to help steer us into the future. Current board members are: Don Richmond, Eli Dokson, Cheryl Rowe, Sarah Koehn Frye and Peter Taylor. The meetings are fun and our mission is certainly rewarding. Our mission is to create a positive cultural, educational, and economic impact in Saguache County and the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to presentations representing diverse traditions and cultures. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 17th year. For more information please peruse our web site, email us at [tomdessain@yahoo.com](mailto:tomdessain@yahoo.com) or call us at 719-256-4533. Thank you!



All ages played at the CPI Carnival in Center.

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# Feeding wildlife during winter does more harm than good

*from Colorado Parks & Wildlife*

As Colorado enters the depths of the winter season, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds citizens that feeding big game in Colorado is not only illegal but can also harm them.

“Native species are well adapted to survive the winter months on natural food sources,” said J. Wenum, area wildlife manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Gunnison. “Feeding big game, especially deer, whether it’s hay, corn, dog food or other livestock-type food, can kill them. Their digestive systems aren’t designed to handle these types of rich foods.”

Unfortunately, every year, people see deer in their yards or near their property and some people decide to feed them; and every year deer die as a consequence.

“People want to help. But the reality of it is that feeding generally doesn’t help wildlife, it harms them,” Wenum said. “Winter is a tough time of year, and it has always been how nature eliminates the sick, the weak and less-fit animals from the population. It’s ironic, but the toughest time of the year is what makes wildlife populations healthy.”

In some areas of Colorado big-horn sheep get close to residential areas during the winter. Bighorns, also, should not be fed.

Feeding animals can cause other problems. Deer crowding around a food source can transfer diseases or parasites from animal to animal. When animals bunch up they also become easy targets for predators, including mountain lions. While deer and mountain lions have evolved naturally together, having large predators in residential areas is not natural and is never a good idea.

Feeding big game can draw them away from their natural habitats and disturb migration patterns. In some areas, deer that have been fed during the winter haven’t moved on as they should when spring arrives.

Feeding is not just a concern with big game. CPW also advises people to refrain from feeding small animals such as coyotes, foxes, squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks or turkeys. These animals also aren’t equipped to eat human-provided food. And just like deer, animals can bunch up, draw in predators and create unnecessary conflicts.

Wild animals are unpredictable and can be dangerous to people who decide to get close to them. They can be particularly aggressive or defensive around food sources, during breeding seasons and when they have dependent young nearby.

“Winter in Colorado is often a great time to watch big game animals. They are more visible when they congregate on low-elevation, more open winter ranges,” explained Wenum. “Please, observe them from a distance, keep your dog on a leash and don’t be tempted to offer any food.”

For more information about wildlife in Colorado, see cpw.state.co.us.



Snowy deer come by hoping to find bits of bird seed—or maybe an apple? Please resist the temptation to feed them. People food can do them more harm than good.



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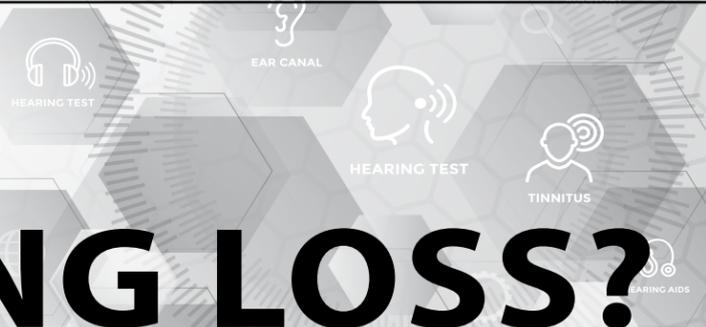


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# KIDZ CORNER



M. Diane Bairstow is a Children's Book Author. She hosted the Fairy Train Radio show on KRZA for 5 years, and performed many puppets show in and around the Crestone area. Her 4 children's books are available at all local retailers.

## The Jokerster

What does the Easter Bunny say on New Year's Day?  
*Hoppy New Year!*

What do you call always having a date for New Year's Eve?  
*Social Security.*

What happened to the man who considered giving up candy in the New Year?  
*He decided to give up thinking instead.*

Why did the police go to the daycare center on New Year's Eve?  
*It was naptime and someone was resisting a rest.*

What did one traffic light say to the other traffic light on New Year's Eve?  
*Close your eyes... I'm changing!*

It was New Year's Eve. Why did the girl sprinkle sugar on her pillow?  
*She wanted to have a sweet dream!*

What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?  
*A dino-snore!*

What do you call a droid that takes the long way around?  
*R2 detour.*

How much does it cost a pirate to get his ears pierced?  
*About a buck an ear.*

How do you talk to a giant?  
*Use big words!*

What building in New York City has the most stories?  
*The public library!*

What did one volcano say to the other?  
*I lava you!*

How does a scientist freshen her breath?  
*With experi-mints!*

What was the first animal in space?  
*The cow that jumped over the moon*

What did the banana say to the dog?  
*Nothing. Bananas can't talk.*

How does a cucumber become a pickle?  
*It goes through a jarring experience.*

Two pickles fell out of a jar onto the floor. What did one say to the other?  
*Dill with it.*

What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?  
*A tuba toothpaste.*

### MAZE

Help Jimmy get his snowball to the snowman  
 (You can cross lines—see answer below)

What song does a vampire sing on New Year's Eve?

*Auld FANG Syne*

### Jungle Animal Crossword

### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

*fast-food*

H	L	D	O	N	U	T	A	F	R
A	C	P	A	N	C	A	K	E	Q
M	U	N	K	A	R	C	H	S	A
B	P	S	C	B	L	O	E	A	J
U	C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T
R	A	D	Y	B	R	E	A	D	N
G	K	P	A	R	I	S	U	W	C
E	E	Q	H	M	U	F	F	I	N
R	F	P	E	L	M	C	S	C	D
I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	H	Z

### Find 10 differences

### Let's draw!

*Killen*

- ### Crossword Answers
- Snake
  - Flamingo
  - Jaguar
  - Zebra
  - Giraffe
  - Elephant
  - Lion
  - Ostrich
  - Gorilla

### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

*fast-food*

Z	H	W	C	R	E	A	M
D	S	G	W	L	M	C	S
C	F	E	L	M	C	S	D
N	I	N	F	I	N	E	Q
C	R	I	S	S	A	N	T
W	C	A	R	I	S	U	W
A	R	I	S	S	A	N	T
N	T	I	S	S	A	N	T
A	J	O	E	A	J	B	P
A	S	A	C	H	S	A	M
Q	A	C	A	K	E	R	A
R	A	F	R	L	D	O	N





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## Kindness is contagious at Moffat School

by Jillian Sciacca,  
Moffat School Principal

For countless years, Patte Smith, Moffat School's Parent and Family Liaison and District Librarian, has been heading up a food drive to take care of those in need of some extra support during the holidays. Patte wears many hats, but this does not keep her from taking care of those who need a little help.

She is a positive role model for all, and her thoughtful spirit is wearing off on Moffat students. This year along with the annual canned food drive that is headed up by Smith and her Key Club, the Middle School Student Council decided to hold a toy drive. "We thought it would be nice to give to others, and not just have everything for ourselves," stated Middle School Student Council President, Logan Gallegos. The students were inspired by how Ms. Patte has organized the canned food drive each year. According to Sophie Crofts, the Middle School Student Council Vice President, they decided to run their toy drive just like Ms. Patte runs her canned food drive, since this drive is "very organized and well put together." Ac-

ording to Skylar Coleman, the Middle School Student Council Secretary, "it is always important to think of other people since this is the season of giving."

Moffat School is so lucky to have Patte Smith who does so much for our school while taking care of our community and inspiring students through her caring spirit. According to Patte, she is motivated "to change the world by serving children, one child, and one community at a time. Collecting food for our local food banks provides a basic service to our community and serves both old and young with the necessary nutrition to keep their bodies and minds healthy."

Along with the canned food drive, each year Patte and her Key Club donate stuffed toys to the Heart of the Rockies Hospital pediatric ward, while also assisting in gift giving with the Crestone Mercantile and other generous benefactors in providing for the children in our community that may not receive a gift this season. Patte noted that she "works with many dedicated and thoughtful people to make these things happen. It is a true community effort."

As we embark upon the new year and reflect upon our goals for 2019, I am inspired by the kindness of our community along with Moffat students and staff. What inspires your goals for 2019?



Patte Smith was nominated by her colleagues as the December Team Member of the Month.



Logan Gallegos, Moffat Schools Middle School Student Council President, showing off a toy that was collected during the toy drive at Moffat School.



Patte Smith with Kandra Pollard showing off cans collected for the canned food drive at Moffat School.

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Intermediate students playing with Early Elementary students.



Intermediary students baking gingerbread houses with Sandy Arnd.

## Crestone Charter School News

### Movie Night Fundraiser

### for the CCS High School trip to Brazil

by Noah Beljaars,  
CCS 10th grade student

With the holidays coming up, and the yearly spring trip soon after that, the school is doing lots of fundraising. Recently the high school did a movie night and it was amazing. It made a lot of money, and everyone there had a lot of fun.

Although last year the high school stayed in the country, this year we are going to Brazil on a large international trip, and for this trip, each student is paying a total of \$1000 over a four-month period. To help us with this, the school has been doing lots of student-driven fundraisers where all the proceeds go to the student volunteers' fundraising.

One of these fundraisers was a movie night where the high school showed the movie Grease, a seventies classic. The movie, as many may know, is based in the fifties, so we decided to theme the night around that period. Whenever someone walked into the door, they would be greeted by two people running a table near the entrance. Then they could buy movie tickets or food tickets. The movie tickets were adorable because they were made of cut-outs from scenes in the movie, designed by the high school math teacher, Fabricio Fernandez. The food tickets were all made of different color construction paper made by one of the students, Ian Montgomery. Then they could either walk into Rainbow Hall through the door right be-



Intermediary students baking.

hind the table and watch the movie, or walk through a hallway to the right down to the cafe and get their food.

For food, we had pizza, popcorn, soup, and lemonade. The pizza was bought by Stefania Tellez, a high school parent, the soup was donated by the Desert Sage, and the lemonade was donated by Crystal England, another high school parent. The only thing the school had to buy was the popcorn. For the popcorn, we also got popcorn bags in the same fifties movie theater style.

The little kids also had their own movie going in one of the classrooms, with an adult and some students in there watching all the younger children. They turned on a cute little Christmas movie and played games. It was a lot of fun to watch and play with them.

In the end it was an extremely successful event with good food, cute tickets, and a great movie.

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# 2018 Farm Bill makes hemp legal at federal level

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

After nearly a century of suppression, one of mankind's oldest and most versatile fiber plants has finally been freed for use in the U.S.A.. Hemp, the fiber used in the sails that brought European settlers to America, can again be grown and used for myriad products as a result of its inclusion in the 2018 Farm Bill passed in early December by the U.S. Congress. The definition portion of the Farm Bill related to hemp reads as follows:

"(1) HEMP—The term 'hemp' means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis." Thus states Subtitle G—Hemp Production Sec. 297A. Definitions, of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, otherwise known as the Farm Bill, which was passed on December 11, 2018 by the U. S. Senate, 87 to 13, and the next day, by the House of Representatives, 369 to 47. Both Senators from Colorado, Michael Bennett and Cory Gardner, sponsored the bill, and governor-elect Jared Polis sponsored it in the House of Representatives. President Trump is expected to sign it.

Although marijuana and THC

will still be illegal, the language in this bill makes it sound like hemp and CBD (cannabidiol, a non-hallucinogenic extract from hemp) and other hemp products will now be able to be bought, sold and traded like any other farm commodity. But there are limitations.

The Drug Enforcement Agency still considers CBD to be a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance, while the Food and Drug Administration agrees. Unless and until this is changed, CBD oils and salves and such will still be illegal. David Hones, in [www.leafly.com](http://www.leafly.com), writes that "according to David Mangone, director of government affairs for Americans for Safe Access, federal agencies will now have to respond to the farm bill, once it becomes law, by adjusting their policies regarding CBD. 'The DEA will have to issue a rescheduling position on CBD that is consistent with this farm bill in the coming weeks,' Mangone says. 'The FDA will also have to change their policies about CBD in edibles and dietary supplements as well to reflect this new law.' But don't expect perfect clarity. 'There will still be that conflict between DEA and the Department of Agriculture about how to regulate this.' Mangone says that he thinks new federal regulations about hemp production will come during the first months of 2019."

A second reason that CBD may not be readily available is

that the new Farm Bill sets very specific criteria for the growing and processing of hemp products. The grower of hemp must register the precise location of the property whereon the hemp is to be grown and must undergo a testing procedure to assure that the products do not contain more than the legal .3% of THC. This will likely limit small-scale sales of homegrown products. The bill also describes penalties for not following these rules.

The Farm Bill gives considerable power to the states to regulate hemp production and product development, so long as it does not conflict with the new federal regulations. States are at liberty to create their own rules within federal parameters, but if they choose not to do so, federal guidelines will apply.

The Farm Bill has some real positives for hemp growers. No longer will it be illegal to carry hemp across state lines. Research into the production and uses of hemp will now be eligible for federal funding. Approved hemp growers can now use the general banking system without the uncertainty of federal prosecution. Federal crop insurance will now be available to approved growers.

The Farm Bill, of course, covers many aspects of agriculture other than the legalization of hemp. The Department of Agriculture also regulates and administers several farm programs and forestry

programs, as well as commodity food distribution. A hotly contested issue was whether recipients of food stamps, aka SNAP, would be forced to work. Currently, single adults under the age of 50 are required to seek employment. Many conservatives in the House wanted to expand that to older Americans and families with older children. The provision had been included in an earlier House version of the bill, but was opposed by the Senate. It did not appear in the final bill.

The U.S. Forest Service is a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and there was concern that the House version made drastic changes to management of National Forests, the NEPA process, Roadless Areas, and the Endangered Species Act. These threats to forests were also removed in the final bill.

Michael Bennett, Democratic Senator from Colorado said, "The farmers and ranchers of Colorado wrote enormous parts of this legislation, and what passed today is a reflection of their priorities."

"In the Senate Agriculture Committee, we don't have partisan differences—we have regional differences that we resolve. That's because farmers and ranchers don't have the luxury of pretending politics is the only thing that matters. They're focused on handing the next generation more opportunity. That's what this bill does."

## Moffat Annexation

*continued from page 1*

time to ask questions and to bring their concerns to the attention of trustees prior to decisions being made.

A public hearing achieves, at the very least, the exchange of information and opinions on a topic—in this case whether or not annex property owned by Potch LLC. In the petition for annexation, Potch LLC proposed to develop approximately 100 acres for residential, commercial and commercial marijuana use.

Adjoining landowners and residents contend that there was little or no notice of the annexation and the corresponding decision to expand marijuana operations in the Town of Moffat. Details in the letter from Cain & Skarnulis PLLC seem to support this assertion that notice requirements were not met.

The letter goes on to question the process by which the town trustees determined the eligibility of the unincorporated property for annexation. The annexation ordinance adopted by the town does not include the specific findings that the annexation petition is in compliance with the statutory and constitutional requirements for annexation. Further, no annexation is effective until the annexing municipality files three certified copies of the annexation ordinance and map of the area annexed including the legal description of the area with

the County Clerk and Recorder. There is no legal proof that the required recordings were made.

The letter concludes: "Ultimately, the Town of Moffat did not comply with the requirements for annexation of the land owned by Potch LLC. This analysis is intended to draw attention to these past deficiencies for correction and to assist with future compliance in annexations. We understand there is a significant amount of development activity occurring at the annexed area and an apparent attempt by the Town of Moffat to expand the number of commercial cultivation farms in the area in question. We are very concerned that this activity is occurring at a time when the annexation is clearly deficient and subject to legal challenge.

"Finally, please note that this letter is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of issues relative to the Potch LLC annexation."

Mayor Patricia Riegel comments, "I am doing the best that I can." She goes on to outline the challenges the Town has had with staffing, including legal representation, as the Area 420 project proceeds apace. The Town is currently searching for a new attorney.

This expedited pace of development without apparent consideration for legal requirements is precisely why residents are concerned about the proposed development. They contend that Moffat is pushing forward with plans to expand marijuana business under their own rules and for the benefit of a select few insiders.

The Town of Moffat does not have regulations or other policy guidance for land use development. As acknowledged by the Mayor, there is no planning commission or Master Plan.

Saguache County has not provided any oversight or review of the annexation process as required under statutory rules that ensure coordination with local, county, state and federal regulatory agencies.

The Town's website reinforces this relationship between the town, county and state by referring applicants for building permits to all three agencies. To quote: "The State of Colorado, County of Saguache and Town of Moffat have certain requirements, which must be met when constructing buildings intended for human occupancy. The purpose of these requirements is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants and any person who might enter these structures."

At its December 12, 2018 meeting the Town approved four licenses for hemp cultivation and two additional retail marijuana licenses bringing the total for ap-

proved business licenses for retail marijuana cultivations and marijuana-infused products to 16.

A second public hearing for the proposed re-subdivision of parcels within Area 420 is scheduled for January 8, 2019 at 6:30pm. The hearing will be at the Town Hall located at 401 Lincoln in Moffat. For more information or to arrange to review the proposed subdivision changes call 719-256-4538.



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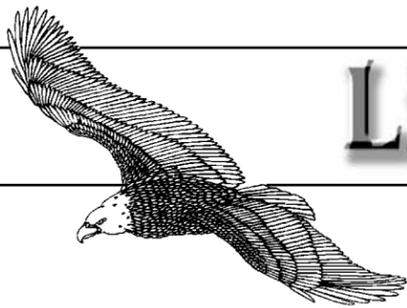
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**"To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure" - J.K. Rowling**

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, January 9**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.



# Living on the Earth

## Winter trails & Colorado cabins: A unique wonderland

story and photos  
by Thomas Cleary

I have been walking all day across the top of the snow, this time on skis. The sky is brilliant blue, and the snow surface consists of a few inches of light powder on top of a firm old snow surface. During the night, in places where cold air had made the moisture condense out and freeze into surface hoar, feathery crystals had grown as big as my pinky nail and now glint in the sun like a million tiny mirrors. As I move within the absolute stillness of

the track I examine now is different. Most tracks show the last frame of a video clip that had recorded the travel of an animal over several minutes, but this track is the snapshot of an instant. A bird had dropped out of that blue sky, perhaps to snatch a hardy bug or wind-blown seed, then flapped away, leaving a bodyprint and the brushstrokes of its wingtips across a canvas of snow.

Traveling in winter, even for a few hours, can yield experiences rarely found on summer trails. In addition to



Traveling over snow, high up in Conundrum Creek.

cold by hiking faster or adding layers. I am more in tune with my visual environment, both to follow the gap in the trees that indicates the trail and because the contrast between the dark pines and the brilliant snow urges my eyes to any glint of color or motion. I am more in tune with smells and tastes since cold air holds less odor-carrying moisture (plus my nose is frozen!) making my trail mix or PBJ a taste explosion. Likewise, in the sound-deadened snowscape, the flap of wings, the tinkling of snow, even my own breathing, stand out.

The challenges of winter travel are not as great as you might think. Dress in layers of clothes, non-cotton if possible, and adjust for temperature control often. Bring lots of warm, non-caffeinated, non-alcohol beverages in your waterbottle, and lots of high fat snacks such as nuts. Wear gaiters that cover your lower leg and keep snow from getting in the top of your boots. In shallow or on old, consolidated snow, boots are enough; in fresh or soft snow use snowshoes or skis to help distribute your weight. Travel with others. Bring more than you think you will need as a safety buffer. Scale back your destinations until you build up your winter experience and stamina. As a matter of fact, even your own backyard may look very foreign under a fresh blanket of snow. More of the white stuff will soon fly in Crestone and, hopefully, you too will (again?) feel your pulse surge in anticipation of the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings of a winter snowscape.

Another *easy* option for those wanting to travel farther than their backyard are backcountry yurts and huts. I have skied to some of these

cabins with infants less than 1 month old, pregnant moms, and grandpas and grandmas. They are stocked with wood and propane, outfitted with beds and kitchens, and some even have saunas and musical instruments! All you need to bring is a sleeping bag, personal clothes and gear, and food! Websites and reservation packets include suggested gear lists. Lodgings vary from 3 beds to over 20, with costs starting around \$25 per person or exclusive use for as little as \$65 a night. See the table for backcountry huts around the state.



An impression in the snow recording a bird taking flight.



The Grass Creek Yurt in the Never Summer Nordic System.

the landscape, the disturbed frost tinkles with the sound of a trembling crystal chandelier. As I break trail, the tips of my skis slice through the snow like side-by-side dolphins alternately bounding through glassy waters, leaving a wake of broken snow.

While I produce my own tracks, I see many other tracks on the fresh surface, fox or coyote, squirrel or ermine, even an actual ptarmigan at the end of a short furrowed track between the skeletons of willows. But

animal tracks, there tend to be fewer human travelers and winter hikes often provide a deeper experience of quiet and solitude. With trails covered by snow, every path is a "road less traveled" and the feeling of adventure and exploration is dramatically increased. I find that winter hikes refine my senses, for instance, I am more in tune with my body, monitoring my temperature to avoid sweating that could later lead to chills and I am vigilant about rewarming at the first sign of

The closest and easiest hut to reach for us in the northern SLV is the Lost Wonder Hut, west of Salida, near the town of Garfield; [www.lostwonderhut.com](http://www.lostwonderhut.com), 719-539-2096. A 2.6 mile walk with about 1200 feet of elevation gain, on snowshoes, skis, or even boots depending on trail conditions, will bring you to the cabin that sleeps up to 12. Cost is \$100 for a weekday half cabin (4 person) rental to share with another 4 person group, \$200 for a weekday exclusive (whole cabin) rental, or \$300 for a weekend night exclusive rental.

In the southern SLV are 3 more cabins. The first is Pass Creek Yurt, located SE of Wolf Creek Pass; [www](http://www).

*continued on page B-9*



by *Kim Malville*

**January 1, 4:33 am MST:** The first radio signal from the New Horizons spacecraft when it flies past Ultima Thule should arrive. The encounter occurred six hours earlier but it takes light and radio waves those six hours to cross the 4 billion miles separating it from Earth.

**January 3-4:** The maximum of the Quadrantid meteor show takes place this night. The radiant of the meteors will be close to the northern horizon.

**January 6:** Partial solar eclipse in east Asia and far west Alaska.

**January 12:** Close approach (as seen from the earth) of the moon and Mars.

**January 20:** Total lunar eclipse in Crestone. This is the night of a full moon, which rises just as the sun sets. The first hint that the moon is entering the shadow of the earth will be at 8:10pm MST, and the moon will clearly be entering the shadow on 8:34pm MST. The moon will fully enter the shadow of the earth on 9:41pm MST and will remain eclipsed for 63 minutes. This may be the kind of eclipse that has frightened generations for millennia. Look for the blood-red moon as it gets colored by millions of sunsets around the earth.

**January 30:** The moon and Jupiter will be close to each other in the sky.

full story will emerge slowly. Throughout January and the succeeding 19 months, the data will continue to flow to Earth. It has been a long journey for New Horizons, which was launched in January 2006.

This will be a truly extraordinary event on New Year's day. Ultima, which is officially known as 2014 MU69, has been in a deep freeze since the birth of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago. This will be the most distant and most pristine object ever explored by human kind. This tiny rock is some 20 miles across and lies at a distance of 4 billion miles. Observing it from Earth is comparable to viewing a grain of sand from a distance of 250 miles!

New Horizons will fly past Ultima at a distance of 2200 miles, about three times closer than it got to Pluto. During the first two weeks of December, the New Horizons took hundreds of images of Ultima Thule, enabling team scientists to search for evidence of satellites or dust rings that could pose a hazard to the spacecraft. At its speed, an impact with a millimeter-sized ice pellet could end the mission. Nothing threatening was found along its flight path and the final trajectory was established on December 18.

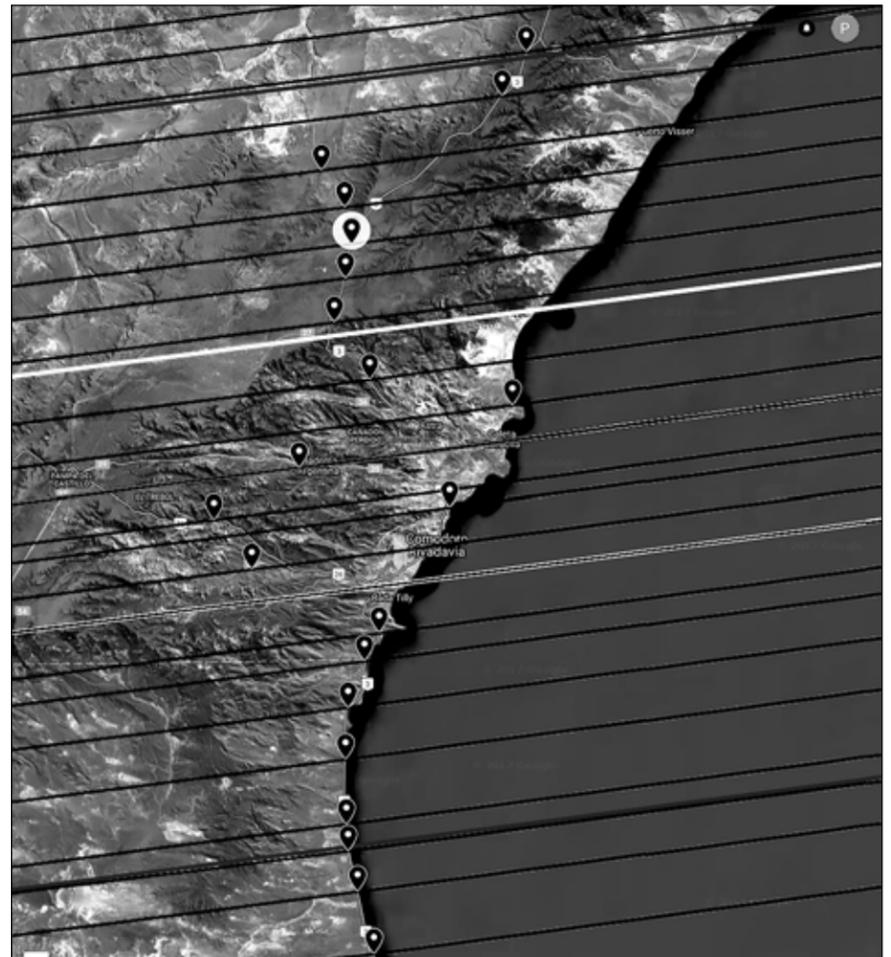
One puzzle that emerged from inspection of those images is that there is no evidence of brightness variation as it rotates. Measurements from Earth show it to be very elongated or consisting of two closely orbiting objects. It should be rotating, yet there is no change in its brightness over time. Team members have come up with several possible explanations. For example, maybe Ultima's pole of rotation just happens to be pointed directly at New Horizons, minimizing the brightness variations seen by the spacecraft.

It's also possible that Ultima is surrounded by a light-blocking cloud of dust like the coma around a comet's nucleus, which only appears when the comet gets close to the sun. But an energy source would be required to generate such a feature, and it's unclear what that source would be. But, this is a worry. Such a cloud of dust would mean the space craft could not detect the actual surface of the object. An even more bizarre scenario is one in which Ultima is surrounded by many tiny, tumbling moons, each rotating at a different rate, which might produce a hazard for the space craft.

Ultima is too small and too distant for the Hubble Space Telescope to measure its size or shape.



Depiction of New Horizons encounter with Ultima (NASA)



Telescope stations along the Argentine Coast (Southwest Institute)



Ultima's imprint on the sky.

### New Horizons reaches Ultima Thule

After its spectacular fly-by of Pluto in July 2015, the New Horizons space craft has been moving at 36,000 miles per hour to the most distant object ever explored in the solar system, now known as Ultima Thule. The space craft will fly past this chunk of rock and ice at 12:33 EST on January 1 and then beam back what it photographed and measured. As I finish writing this column on December 26, New Horizons is some 4 million miles away and closing in on its target by 864,000 miles per day. When you read this column you will know whether or not New Horizons has been successful. In any case, the

The only other means is to measure the size and shape of the shadow it casts on the earth when it passes in front of a star. This is an eclipse of a star, vastly more difficult to detect than the total eclipse of the sun. The technique is to monitor the brightness of the star and look for a drop of brightness.

On 3 June 2017, a team of astronomers tried to detect its shadow from South Africa. None of their telescopes observed the shadow. Either Ultima might be smaller than expected or the telescopes were in the wrong location. The Hubble Space Telescope was called into action, and Ultima's orbit was determined more accurately. The next attempt was successful. On July 17, the team was sent to southern Argentina to set up a picket fence of 24 telescopes with an average spacing

of 2.8 miles. The figure shows the locations of the telescopes strung along the coast near the city of Comodoro Rivadavia, some 1000 miles south of Buenos Aires. Five of those telescopes detected the shadow, mapping out its exact shape. Because a star is a point source, its shadow on the earth is an exact replica of Ultima, which we know now consists of two roughly spherical blobs some 12 and 11 miles across. Finally, the experiment was repeated in August of this year in Senegal adding more information. I'm pleased to say that an undergraduate student, whom I've been advising in our department at the University of Colorado, has had the extraordinary opportunity to be involved on all three of these occultation experiments.

This column sponsored by

**Kim & Nancy Malville**

kimmalville@hotmail.com

# Crestone/Baca Resiliency works on a community food action plan

by Ginny Ducale

The Crestone/Baca Resiliency Food Group, like all the other CBR teams, has been working to create a resilient and supportive food system in Crestone. We have been working together for under 2 years now and it is far from complete. Though many members have come and gone from the group, there is still a core team of dedicated people.

My desire as a food team member is to feel that Crestone is potentially abundant and that if crisis ever does happen upon us (God forbid), we will hit the ground running and work together to grow, save and share the produce that we have and what the San Luis Valley Food Hub can supply us with at reasonable prices, knowing what we need to store and put away.

I have taken some time to write up a Plan of Action for the community to consider and follow as well as we can.

One thing I feel we should have is an Action Plan that will slowly fulfill itself as these days and years pass. I am presenting a possible action plan for the community to consider.

## Action Plan for the Food Team

- Locate gardens and greenhouses in the area to find loopholes.
- Work with property owners

who have or want food gardens, helping, or supplying labor or amendments when necessary, employing stewards in an educational as well as service mode.

- Continue to find land for a community garden whether it be private land or given land. Worked by volunteers who desire to grow in a group environment, do not have land. Surplus goes to community.

- Find land for orchards. Purchase fruit trees to plant in the person's yard who is willing to care for and harvest them, sharing 2/3 of the harvest with community.

- Find land for a greenhouse or two, for teaching and growing for community (and for possible sale of food). Either on private land or shared land.

- Purchase fencing for all gardens.

- Hold a greenhouse-building workshop for the community to build their own greenhouses.

- Collect machinery like rototillers, chippers, cutters, and hand tools through donations and purchases.

- Build soil on a community basis, using compost, manure, straw, alfalfa, etc.; teach layering methods, soil building recipes, for food production, with donations of needed tools and materials.

- Initiate or find worm and mushroom farms.



John and Posey Nelson of the Crestone/Baca Resiliency Food Group on parade on the 4th of July.

- Utilize and train stewards for assisting and learning through the "Skill-share Bank" or at school, etc. Develop a mentoring program.

- Work with Food Bank, Caring and Sharing, and Feel Free Ministry to share food in an emergency.

- Create a community seed bank, with donations from other seed savers.

- Work with food preservers who can share their skills (canning, drying, baking and fermenting).

- Find a kitchen for working with the preservation of food.

- Find storage areas to collect and save all preserved, dried, canned food, like a storage

vault.

- Write a quarterly update article for the *Eagle*.

- Create a school of gardening, possibly through the Colorado College. (Bob Pedersen)

- Grow a grain crop.

- Support CSAs with stewarding and volunteering.

- Work with the San Luis Valley Food Coalition, while converting trucks from gasoline to alternative fuels for emergency pickups throughout the farms of the San Luis Valley

- Find available Grants and funding as well as donations from Local community.

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**Desert Sage Restaurant**  
A Crestone Tradition is on the market for sale! Great history with established clientele and many possibilities! Call for details. \$495,000



**Baca Meadows Townhouse #11**  
2 bedroom, 2 bath, convenient living! Next to restaurant! \$149,000

**NEW LISTING!**



**75 Dragoon. Urban farm!**  
Many sustainable/prepper features. Wonderful Chalet 1 spot. 300 SF office, greenhouses, gardens! \$350,000



**512 E Mica. Comfortable 1 bedroom cabin in private town location. Full solar, well. \$144,000**

**New Lot Listings**

4478C \$ 4476 \$ 4477  
Ridgecrest Way \$28,000

4508 Ridgecrest Way \$9,000

**Vacant Land**

Crestone Lots 14-18,  
Block 29 \$61,250

4106C \$ 4084 Prosperity  
Way, 1.5 acres for \$29,500

4481, 4482 \$ 4503  
Ridgecrest Way,  
\$21,000 for 1.5 acres



**526 Camino del Rey. Beautiful energy efficient off grid two bedroom two bath with sunroom, studio, and two green houses. Located on Cottonwood Creek. \$265,000**



**96 Bueno Court. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, quality new home built by Wade Propst. Must See! \$152,000**



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**20 N Baca Grant Way**

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# Who We Are

## Robin Durrance:

*Still in love with the valley after all these years*

by Gussie Fauntleroy

More times than she cares to remember, Robin Durrance would be at home and hear her mother yell, "Call the fire!" Immediately she knew her mother had once again started a fire to burn underbrush or leaves on the family's rural New York property and then forgotten about it. Even as a young child Robin would grab her toy watering can and tiny rake and run to the site of what were thankfully low flames and smoldering fuels in the damp woods. With her father directing the action, she'd pour water and start raking leaves away from the fire line.

The family always extinguished the fire before the fire truck arrived, but the recurring experience left Robin with a strong respect for fire. A few decades later she found herself once again helping protect property and people from fire, as well as responding to medical emergencies, this time as a member of the Baca and Town of Crestone fire departments. Other activities and

passions from Robin's childhood—building forts, being outdoors, loving animals—have also been echoed in her adult life. She built horse corrals, fences, and her own house, still loves the outdoors, and currently has two horses, two dogs, and two cats.

More than almost anything, Robin loves the San Luis Valley, having lived here 50 years. After growing up wanting to be a homesteader or pioneer, she built a sturdy home in the Baca Grants that feels close to fulfilling that dream. Neat stacks of firewood are lined up under a protective shelter, with a heavy-duty splitter waiting nearby; a wide carport/shop area attached to the house is filled with tools; and the horses' stable and stacked winter feed are steps away.

### Out West

While education brought Robin to the valley—to attend Adams State College in Alamosa—school was not a fun place for her as a child. Shy, artistic, and socially uncomfortable, she did fine in very small classes but otherwise hated school. Her world was outdoors: climbing trees, fishing, riding her bike, ice skating, sledding, exploring the woods. But her parents insisted she attend college. So to experience the West, she chose Adams State.

Almost as soon as she got to Alamosa she bought her first horse, having saved her \$5 weekly allowance until she had the \$100 asking price. She remained at Adams State



At age 5, dreaming of being a cowgirl next to Mamasasco Lake in New York.



Robin didn't enjoy her piano lessons as a kid but later expressed her musical tendencies with guitar and drums.

less than a year, quitting and trying it twice before acknowledging it wasn't a fit. But she was where she wanted to be. In Alamosa she worked in a nursing home for a few years as a nurse's aid and then caring for an individual resident with dementia as a private charge. As part of her pay, Robin lived in the resident's former home with her former housemate—both women were emeritus professors who'd taught at Adam State for 40 years.

### Horses & home

After completing a 12-week horseshoeing course at Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, Robin also began providing farrier services around southern Colorado. She continued that work until the mid-1990s. When she was ready to build her own house she considered Guffey, Colorado and Crestone, both areas where her horses could get mountain conditioning to compete in long distance endurance rides. She already had friends in Crestone, and the town's more liberal population and its location in the San Luis Valley won out.

Although she'd worked with tools and constructed numerous simple structures, to build her house Robin turned to books and talked with professionals. She drew the design and worked up schematics for structural plans, plumbing and electrical, running them by professionals before she did the work. She built the 8-inch-thick exterior walls from "red dirt," tailings from scoria (red volcan-



Robin Durrance.

photo by Gussie Fauntleroy



With a serious chainsaw as equipment officer for the Baca Fire Department.

ic rock) mining near San Antonio Mountain. Recently she's added touches like handsome interior window and doorframe trim from worm-tracked slab wood. She also built or dump-rescued and refurbished virtually all her furniture. "I tell friends, Don't throw that away!" she says, laughing.

### Time for others, time for herself

When she first settled in Crestone in 1992, Robin did odd jobs, building fences and doing adobe and plastering work. Then Pam Gripp, at the time the Baca/Crestone Ambulance Service Administrator, recruited her to become an EMT, which she did for six years. Later she also served on the Baca Fire Department in a variety of roles: firefighter, secretary, equipment manager, trainer, and administrative assistant to the fire chief. In the early 2000s she spent a few years on the Crestone Fire Department as safety officer, assistant fire chief, and then chief. While there

she helped obtain a grant to install fire hydrants in Crestone by providing fire risk analysis data for the town.

After leaving the fire department in 2007, Robin worked at Crestone Spirit Center liquor store (accompanied by her dogs), among other jobs, before retiring. Looking back over the years, she remembers when Alamosa was a small town with two traffic lights and mostly family-owned businesses. At the time of her first visits to Crestone in the early 1970s, "There was a whole lot of nothing here. Now there's a lot of something," she says. Yet it's still possible to live quietly here. And even with a big personality around friends and a ready sense of humor, that's what Robin likes: living as a semi-hermit, semi-homesteader with a solid connection to the land. "I've been in this valley so long and I'm still in wonder of the scenery. I'm so lucky to be here," she says.

In retirement, Robin is gathering a list of things she'd like to spend more time on: home improvement projects, fishing, gardening, riding her horses, and creative ventures including making sculptures from gnarled pieces of cottonwood. She'd also love to learn to sail, and she wants to improve her drumming skills on the drum set she saved from the dump. In the past she has enjoyed drawing—several of her finely rendered drawings of local scenes are on the walls at Town Hall. Whatever her next project may be, there's little doubt it will be creative. "The muse just hits me," she says, smiling. "Now my muse is screaming at me and I'm saying, I'm coming! Soon!"

Gussie welcomes ideas for this ongoing series on Crestone area residents: [gussie7@fairpoint.net](mailto:gussie7@fairpoint.net), [gussiefauntleroy.com](http://gussiefauntleroy.com).

## In Search of Economic Reality

*Whom do you trust, or not trust?*

by Ed Lyell

A way to overview major spending issues and look at long term drivers of cyclical success or failure comes down to whether one trusts government, or wealthy families.

America came out of the 1930's Great Depression trusting that expanded government efforts to create jobs and economic prosperity for the masses would best be done by raising taxes on the wealthy and using that revenue to create what is now called the "New Deal". The Great Depression had been caused by wealthy people over-borrowing to get high profits from quickly rising stock prices. This was caused by wealthy Congress members and Republican Presidents Coolidge and Hoover. It was a self-serving set of laws and regulations that helped the already-wealthy get richer and then the insider wealthy sold at the top of the market leaving all others to lose, many going broke and some committing suicide.

The more recent Great Recession was similarly created by bank deregulation by President Clinton and a Republican Congress, creating derivatives on home mortgages, adding many layers of debt on each individual house. In both cases the insider wealthy knew when

to sell and buy, making money on the rise and the fall. Working class taxpayers were left to bail out the wealthy bankers and investors.

The next crash will be based on student loans which were created to help working class students afford college. We are beginning to see that millions will default, ruining their lives, but also perhaps crashing the total economy. The wealthy who loan the money are making billions on the interest being paid. Since government backs these loans the upcoming economic crash will put the bill on the taxpayers, which no longer include the wealthiest since Trump and the GOP Congress cut taxes again on the wealthy and corporations. The national debt is again going up over a trillion dollars a year, as it was during Bush II.

The key is getting people to trust government. No one should trust big business since it is their duty to maximize profit for their investors, and not to help the majority, even their customers or employees. The decade since the 2008 crash has caused increasing numbers of foreign investors to gain control of multiple corporations and real estate. Hedge funds were created to hide the names of investors or

their country. Thus, health care insurance, hospitals, and many other critical industries have no moral allegiance to Americans (as if morals matter to anyone anymore). The Republican motto seems to be "Cut taxes, raise national debt, put it on the grandchildren's credit card"; so what if the working class has to pay higher taxes in the future? By then we, the wealthy investor class, will be totally exempt from taxes' and living outside of America.

Government is the best way to provide for common goods, roads, parks, schools, focused on helping everyone. President Trump campaigned on and continues to create distrust in government while urging people to trust him and other billionaires. Ninety-five percent of the Trump tax cuts to corporations were used by corporations to buy back their own stock, giving the investors billions of economic gains. Government at all levels is losing tax revenue. They are having to cut services. Republicans in Congress want to cut the big federal Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security programs while giving the war industry additional money. The Defense Department keeps getting billions more and buying more ex-

pensive weapons from the oligopolistic war industry. Meanwhile the injured and retired military keep having their lives get worse as the Veterans Affairs Dept. gets cut along with other domestic (peaceful) common goods.

The optimistic part of me does see some recent events potentially starting to fix things. The large voter turnout in the midterm elections has brought partially back a more progressive Congress who are pledged to start fixing these problems. More people are now awakened to the need for them to get involved, learn about the issues, and vote. The working class needs to step up to the power positions in government and business. Laws need to be changed, including causing workers to have a position on boards of directors along with getting elected at all levels.

It was the chaos of the 1960s that caused me get involved. My parents were poorly educated waiter and waitress. They trusted their unions and used voting cards to hold up against the old big voting machines. Even if some could not read, they could match the union recommendations to the ballot and pull the lever. Now the wealthy have all but eliminated unions from America.

America's future depends upon the young people. It is not clear to me which individuals or groups will be trusted by this awakening large voting group.

Ed Lyell, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics, Adams State University; ehlyell@adams.edu, facebook dredlyell

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# Garden Guru

## Those four-footeds: Rodents



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Readers may have noticed my focus on wildlife in the last two articles. This month I want to highlight those four-legged visitors that gardeners usually consider less benevolent visitors to our gardens. Let's start with the small ones—mice.

Because mice are low on the mammal food chain, they reproduce amazingly fast. A female mouse is sexually mature at 6 to 8 weeks, and each female can have 6 to 8 litters a year, with litters averaging 6 to 8 babies. Mice are likely to live and nest outdoors during the summer, and are not usually serious threats to gardeners' crops, but they move into houses, greenhouses and sheds during the winter where they will eat young plants. They can wreak havoc on seed supplies and gardening equipment such as gloves. They also carry Hantavirus, a sometimes-fatal disease which has shown up in the valley in recent years. Outdoors, they will sometimes girdle small fruit trees by eating the bark all

around the tree.

I find traps the best solution for mice. If you choose a live trap, please do not release the mice anywhere close to other structures. Some live traps, such as glue traps, leave mice maimed, so I prefer the quick death of a snap trap. Peanut butter is a good bait.

Voles, sometimes called field mice, are a related species of rodent with a shorter tail and ears, but in other ways quite similar to mice. They are more likely to live outdoors and cause problems for perennials and fruit trees in winter, and eat young plants in spring and summer. They will often dig shallow burrows and runways that are just under the grass or other plant debris, and will tunnel under snow in winter and sometimes girdle young trees and eat young tree roots. They do not make mounds.

If you see mounds of fresh earth in the vicinity of your garden, the invader is likely a Northern Pocket Gopher. Those dirt mounds are part of an extensive underground colony. I had an inva-

sion of these creatures in my young orchard. They seemed particularly fond of my apricot tree roots, and the trees wilted and appeared stressed. I dug around and uncovered an extensive tunnel system leading under my garden fence, with new connecting hills of dirt about 10 feet away.

While an internet search reveals that poisons are largely ineffective, I would never consider poison anyway. Even if gophers ate it, which apparently they don't, the other creatures who ate the gophers would die as well. Poisons are almost universally a bad choice, in my opinion. Among traps, the Victor Easy Set seems to be the preferred model.

I found an underground sonic device to be effective in my situation. Called a Sonic Mole Chaser, it emits an intermittent buzzing sound underground that is reported to drive gophers crazy so that they leave the area. In my case it worked. I purchased it through Jung's Seed Catalog (jungseed.com) and the box identified it as a product of P3 International. If you stand close to it you can hear the sound it makes, but it was not bothersome in my orchard. There are several types of sonic mole chasers on the market, with varying reviews.

While I haven't tried it yet, Jung's catalog offers another type of Mole Chaser. It has windmill-like blades, and is attached to a long metal pole buried in the ground. The action of wind spinning the blades sends a vibration that drives rodents away. I have wondered if decorative wind-spinners would be as effective. If you have one, give it a try.

Rock Squirrels are a species that moved up from the south in the early 2000s. These large gray squirrels have meager tails, and prefer holes in the ground to trees. Rock Squirrels will mow down your young lettuces, broccolis, and other spring greens. I once had a nest of them under the foundation of a house, and they made their way into the walls and attic. My dog was diligent about rooting them



Botta's pocket gopher

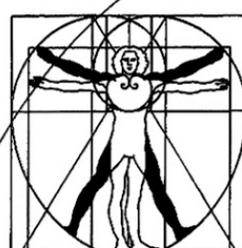
out, but it took her several months.

Fences, of course, are useless against squirrels. Try spraying young plants with a solution made by blending garlic, cayenne pepper and some soap flakes (not detergent) in water. Floating row cover may protect young plants when they are most vulnerable. Anchor it down around the edges with rocks or boards.

Rabbits, like squirrels, love young greens, but they'll also eat more mature ones. Good fencing is the best preventative. You may need to add one-inch poultry netting around the bottom to keep out rabbits, or try the above spray on young plants. Rabbits will also girdle young trees, especially in winter when there is snow on the ground. Flexible plastic tree guards that encircle the trunk will help protect young trees.

Dogs and cats can be a deterrent. Most cats, however, won't go after rabbits, and Rock Squirrels may be too much for them. The breed of your dog can influence his interest in protecting your space. My dog has some beagle, which makes her ideal for chasing rabbits. Shepherds may be more likely to herd you than to chase a squirrel. Most of us don't pick our pets to protect our gardens, though, so we just have to love them as they are.

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January 2019 Listings



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<b>Private Oasis</b>	<b>Energy Efficient</b>	<b>11 Baca Meadows - \$149,000</b>	<b>Amazing Views!</b>	<b>Amazing Views!</b>	<b>Amazing Views!</b>

**4511 Ridgcrest Way - \$339,000**  
Stylish SW 2-story straw bale home built by Paul Koppa on 2.51 ac adj to greenbelt & Sand Dunes National Park. A very flexible 2380sf floor plan w/views throughout incl 3BD/1.75BA, office/den, & 2nd-story screened balcony. Incl 5 lots total.

**526 Camino Del Rey - \$265,000**  
Beautiful, energy efficient, 100% off grid 2BD/2BA 1-story home on 5.5ac & Cottonwood Creek in the Grants. Attractive finishes throughout & lg cook's kitchen w/ granite countertops, bar w/seating, pantry, & laun/utl rm. Sunroom off BR w/views in 3 directions.

**11 Baca Meadows - \$149,000**  
2BR/2BA townhouse close to town, originally built in 1981 w/quality interior fixtures & finishes: decorative exposed wood beams & built-in sofa in LR, 2 full BA's offer privacy to ea. BR, quality windows & sliding glass doors open to 2 balconies w/mtn views & a patio.

**4376 E Twin View OL - \$264,900**  
Beautiful 2BD 1.75BA 1359sf home on 1.015 acre backs to greenbelt w/ Cottonwood creek. Custom contemporary design built by Steve Elliott. Magnificent views. Screen porch & balcony. Very private & quiet location up high.

**751 Rendezvous Way - \$225,000**  
Opportunity to purchase early and personalize your finishes! New construction, 3BD/2BA 1-story, open floor plan by Terrapin & Co. Great mtn views. Floor plan, elevations and Description of Materials online. Private lot, w/easy access to town.

**351 Huerta Ct. - \$66,500**  
2BD/2BA log sided home in Casita Park. Open floor plan with covered deck, porch & chain link dog run. Wood stove & large windows facing the mountains.

New Listings			Retreat Center		Grants
<b>Beautiful &amp; Modern</b>	<b>High Chalet 1 Views</b>	<b>3/2 + Garage!</b>	<b>Nada Retreat Center</b>		<b>Private Oasis</b>
<b>Must see!</b>					<b>REDUCED from \$285,000</b>

**1535C Spanish Creek Road - \$369,000**  
Exquisite 1596sf 3BD/2BA built in 2016 by Crestone Mtn Builders w/ amazing views on 5.43 ac in the Grants, on-grid & wired for solar. Open floor plan w/expansive windows & contemporary finishes. High-efficiency propane on-demand hot water/in-floor heat

**565 Panorama Way - \$289,000**  
Charming 2BD/2BA w/loft 1415sf home in high Chalet 1 w/amazing views. Wraparound balconies, custom built ins, natural rock & flagstone landscaping, shed, grow dome. ETS, wood & baseboard heat. Wood stove w/ custom stone hearth & wall.

**107 Pinewood OL - \$259,000**  
Spacious 3BD/2BA, lg 2 car garage, built in 2006. Private cul-de-sac. Lg covered front porch, fenced back yard w/deck & awning, built-in storage in garage & home, & professionally landscaped garden. Energy efficient w/ETS, propane, wood & electric.

**1 Carmelite Way - \$1,800,000**  
Nada Carmelite Hermitage is a retreat center situated on ~100 acres at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mtns. Incl. Chapel; Community Bldg; 14 move-in ready Hermitages; 3 bay grg w/ greenhouse; Maint. Center, studio & apartment.

**746 Camino Del Rey - \$377,000**  
Custom contemporary off-grid 2BR/1.75BA 1961sf hm w/550sf cottage/studio on 7.5ac near SW edge of Baca. Open & spacious w/exquisite views. Custom features including curved quartzite counters, wood dining ceiling, a work of art!

**535 Thornwood Trail - \$279,000**  
Lovely 2.72ac compound in Grants w/ Cottonwood Creek running through it. 3BD/2BA 1668sf SW style stucco home w/ spacious living/dining. Expansive views of Sand Dunes & Mt. Blanca. French doors throughout. Detached, large studio.

Chalets					
<b>Million Dollar Views</b>	<b>Panoramic Views</b>	<b>Private Paradise</b>	<b>Private on the Creek</b>	<b>Detached Studio &amp; Creek</b>	<b>Large Space &amp; Greenbelt</b>
<b>REDUCED - Was \$675,000</b>		<b>4 Bed // 2 Bath</b>	<b>WAS \$429,000</b>		<b>REDUCED - Was \$239,000</b>

**1974CR Highland OL - \$648,000**  
Beautifully designed by Bodhgaia Architecture and built by Teahen Construction, this one of kind 2005sf 2bd/2ba w/study maximizes the 2.651 acre site w/exquisite views and contemporary architecture. Priced under cost to build.

**3681CR Enchanted Way - \$497,000**  
One of a kind custom built 2700sf cordwood 2-story 4bd/office/2bath/2 living areas w/greenhouse and storage on 1.354 acres. Master and great room upstairs w/ amazing views. Solar/electric hot water heating, passive solar, trombe wall.

**437C N. Chaparral Way - \$479,000**  
Built by Paul Koppa 2020sf 4 bd/2 ba strawbale home + detached oversized 2-car garage w/potential apt is designed non toxic materials and energy efficiency. On 2.09 Acres bordering greenbelt of Crestone Creek w/ Sauna & outdoor oven.

**3959C Cheerful Court - \$424,000**  
Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incl Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.

**537 Thornwood Trail - \$248,000**  
Efficient, sustainable, 2BD/1BA 990sf strawbale home. Plaster walls, adobe flrs, wdstove, infloor radiant heat, PV & passive solar, propane htr. Generator. 33' growdome & 8x12 gmhs. 440sf separate bldg w/guest rm, studio, wkshp. Private, 8.78ac on creek.

**2210 Lone Pine - \$234,000**  
Well built, cheery 4BD/1.5BA 2-story adj to Spanish Creek greenbelt. 2 living areas, lg storage rm & xtra bonus rm. 2 wdstoves w/ elec basebd bkup. Extra lot avail. @ 2208. Fresh paint & stain. Private setting at end of cul-de-sac. Deer fence, chicken coop.

Chalets					
<b>High-up in Chalet 2!</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Spacious 2,616sf</b>	<b>Close to town!</b>	<b>Detached Studio</b>	<b>Affordable &amp; Private</b>
<b>REDUCED! - Was \$215,000</b>				<b>REDUCED! - Was \$179,000</b>	

**2819 Big Piney Overlook - \$209,000**  
Lovely 2BD/1BA 975sf home on 2.137 forested acres w/gorgeous mtn & valley views. T&G ceiling, wood beams, wood stove, electric baseboard heat. Spacious bath, 2 sets of French doors to outside. Quiet location.

**1880 Sentinel Point - \$205,000**  
Pueblo style 2BR/1BA w/fabulous views located on 1.02 acres at end of cul de sac. In-floor hot water radiant heat & wood fireplace. Lg deck overlooking the valley w/ lots of privacy. 1-car garage.

**111 Skyview - \$199,000**  
Great potential in this spacious 2,616sf 5 bedrm/2ba two story home off paved road with easy access to town. Separate entrances and two staircases allows great separation of space. Has rental history.

**11 Baca Grant Way - \$179,000**  
Delightful 3BD/1.75BA 1452 sf hexagon home w/large wrap-around deck built in 1973. Close to town on paved road, backs to Greenbelt. Open floor plan w/wood laminate flooring, wood ceilings, and a large fireplace in LR along /propane stove.

**3733 Cordial Way - \$175,000**  
Unique hexagonal 2BR/1.75BA home w/ finished basement sits on a fabulous 1.36ac treed lot. Lg windows w/views. Woodstove & propane heat. Lg, fenced outdoor spaces & gardens. 384sf detached heated office/studio & storage.

**3520 Forest Trail - \$165,000**  
3BR/1BA 1344sf ranch-style home on pvt wooded lot. Updated kitchen cabinets & brand-new appliances! Lg woodstove in LR, forced air throughout. Many windows. Double vanity in full bath. Laminate flooring. Fresh paint, new tile & fun rustic wood trim.

## 2018 HOME SALES (\* denotes listed & sold)

780CR Palomino Way	\$585,000	SOLD*
120 W. Silver Ave.	\$399,000	SOLD*
4519C Grayline Ct.	\$389,000	SOLD*
3665 Enchanted Terrace	\$375,000	SOLD*
499C Willow Trail	\$350,000	SOLD*
4511C Ridgcrest Way	\$339,000	SOLD*
274 N. Willow St.	\$299,000	SOLD
56 Wagon Wheel	\$299,000	SOLD*
999C Badger Road	\$289,000	SOLD*
22 Alpine OL	\$279,000	SOLD
147 Moonlight Way	\$279,000	SOLD*
542 Cottonwood	\$275,000	SOLD
1381 Saddle Rock Trail	\$269,000	SOLD*
359 Chaparral Way	\$269,000	SOLD
526 Camino Del Rey	\$265,000	SOLD
776 Table Rock Trl.	\$265,000	SOLD
1596 Willow Creek Way	\$262,000	SOLD*
1201CR Wagon Wheel Road	\$259,000	SOLD*
1738C Willow Creek Way	\$259,000	SOLD
207C Foothill OL	\$255,000	SOLD*
21820 County Rd. 48X	\$249,000	SOLD
3760 Jubilant Way	\$239,000	SOLD*
323 Holiday Way	\$235,000	SOLD
297C Palomino Way	\$215,000	SOLD*
287 Palomino Way	\$209,000	SOLD*
3762 Carefree Way	\$198,000	SOLD*
1659 Willow Creek Way	\$195,000	SOLD
1194 Hilltop	\$179,000	SOLD*
257 Baca Grant Way	\$179,000	SOLD
415C Moonlight Way	\$159,000	SOLD
11 Baca Meadows	\$149,000	SOLD
157 Moonlight Way	\$69,000	SOLD
4376 E Twin View OL	\$264,900	UNDER CONTRACT
751 Rendezvous Way	\$225,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
351 Huerta Ct.	\$66,500	UNDER CONTRACT

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by Dorje Root

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Garlic (Allium sativum)**

We have so many amazing anti-microbial herbs here in the Baca. However, there is a potential problem with over-harvesting herbs like osha, usnea and others in this dry climate.

Garlic is one of the most amazing medicinal herbs available. It's not only amazing, it's not endangered, it's in no danger of being over-harvested, and it can be grown by anyone in a garden of any size, or bought in any supermarket in a pinch.

I'm sure most people have heard that garlic is a great herb for colds and flus, but its benefits go far beyond those situations. Garlic is a potent anti-microbial, useful for bacterial, viral, and fungal infections, rivaling leading antibiotics. It's been used in respiratory infections, urinary tract infections and more (including ear infections in the form of ear oil). It's also anti-parasitic, being helpful for intestinal parasites and worms. It would be something worth exploring for treating Lyme disease, which is becoming an epidemic in this country, according to some.

The most potent constituent for infections is also one that is easily broken down. The best way to use garlic for infections is raw, and consumed immediately after crushing or chopping as the active component converts quickly after being exposed to air. Try chopping it finely and spreading on toast with butter. Or, my current favorite, blend chopped garlic with the juice of a lemon, an orange, and a little olive oil (it's part of a liver flush formu-



la that I've come to love). A clove of garlic can also be cut in half and taped on the soles of the feet. See how long it takes for the taste to be in your mouth!

In addition to being a potent anti-microbial, garlic is also a valuable herb for cardiovascular issues. It is a hypotensive, and so lowers blood pressure. It also lowers cholesterol levels and improves the health of the whole cardiovascular system.

Garlic is a hot herb energetically, so caution is needed in certain circumstances. It can burn the skin when applied directly, and it's possible to consume too much. Start slowly and check in to make sure your system is handling it. More is not always better! And of course there is the problem with losing friends! Here's to our health!

*Dorje Root, RH (AHG) is an herbalist and natural healer, also working with Plant Spirit Medicine, Intuitive Energy Healing and 'The Journey' cellular healing. For an appointment call 719-937-7786 or visit www.rootsofhealing.com.*

# Baca Grande Library News



**by Suzanne McGregor**

First of all, we would like to thank all the individuals who contributed to our Holiday Open House last month, hosted by our very dedicated Friends of the Library (FOL). It is always a good way to end the month and start the New Year by taking a break to visit with our friends. We had lots of good food, laughter, and 120 guests! Blessings and best wishes to everyone that 2019 is full of joy, serenity and peace, both within and without. We hope that one of your New Year's resolutions would be to visit your library often, as we have some great selections and resources for all ages. Come check us out!

We just finished another great year that included signing up 100 new members. We

have had children's reading programs, a computer clinic, parties, and fundraisers. And for all of our best moments, the very best are spent with our patrons and members of our community who support the library in so many countless ways.

Do you have ideas or suggestions about YOUR library? Please come in and fill out a short survey so you can add your input to policies and procedures of the Baca Grande Library. What would you change? What would you add or take away? What would make it better? Let us know! You can also fill out the survey online at [nscld.colibraries.org](http://nscld.colibraries.org). We encourage you to share your thoughts so that we can get a better sense of where to head in the future.

Please note our new expanded hours: The library will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Happy New Year from Suzanne, Barry and Sandia  
Baca Grande Library,  
256-4100. Hours: Mon.-Fri.  
10:00am-5pm; Sat. 10am-4pm.

**We wish you a safe and happy New Year!**



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# Winter trails & Colorado cabins

continued from page B-1

wolfcreekbackcountry.com. This yurt, a large, round, insulated, tent-like structure, sleeps 6 and is accessed by a 6-mile, 1000-vertical-foot ski or snowshoe route. The other two are the Lime Creek Yurt and the Fisher Mountain Hut, located near Creede; both are managed by [www.Creede-MountainHuts.com](http://www.Creede-MountainHuts.com). The yurt has 4 beds plus a floor pad and rents for \$100 exclusive. The hut sleeps 9 and rents for \$125. The approach to either the hut or the yurt is about 5 miles and 1500 feet elevation gain; the distance between the two is 5 miles, creating a great multi-night loop opportunity.

Whether an afternoon in the backyard, exploring tracks on a trail above Crestone, or

visiting one of the huts or yurts around the state, the winter landscape is truly a wonderland when experienced tactilely. Go for a walk, borrow some snowshoes, learn to ski, or just bundle up and sit out on a frozen log!



Above: Fine dining in a cozy yurt.

Left: A ptarmigan's trust of its camouflage is indefatigable, allowing a traveler to get quite close.

CABINS AROUND COLORADO Name / Area / Town	Contact info	Trail length / elev. gain	Type / Beds / Cost : Per Person (pp) or Exclusive (ex), Weekday (wd), weekend (we)	Other
10 <sup>th</sup> Mtn Division, 29 Huts Summit County, and Leadville, Vail, Aspen, and Crested Butte	<a href="http://www.huts.org">www.huts.org</a> 970-925-5775	varies	Huts, 3-20, 25-43pp or 69-280 ex	350 miles of connecting trails
Leadville Backcountry Yurts Leadville Area	<a href="http://www.leadvillebackcountry.com">www.leadvillebackcountry.com</a> 719-486-0126	5.5mi, 1200'	Yurts, 5, 87 wd ex, 105 we ex	2 yurts located near each other
Hinsdale Haute Route 4 yurts in San Juan Mtns, Lake City	<a href="http://www.hinsdalehauteroute.org">www.hinsdalehauteroute.org</a> 970-944-2269	1.25-6 mi, 200-2500'	Yurts, 6-8, 100 ex with multi night discounts	Many hut to hut options
Red Mtn Pass Cabins, 3 huts, Ouray / Silverton	<a href="http://www.skihuts.com">www.skihuts.com</a> 970-257-0787	Drive up (100- 300' from road)	Huts, 8-12, 190-240 varius	2 night weekend minimum
San Juan Hut system, 5 huts Mt. Sneffels Wldrnss, Telluride - Ouray	<a href="http://sanjuanhuts.com/">http://sanjuanhuts.com/</a> 970-626-3033	3-9 mi, 1200-2500'	Huts, 8, \$30 pp	Many hut to hut possibilities
James Peak Yurt, Blackhawk, SW of Nederland	<a href="http://www.jamespeakyurt.com">www.jamespeakyurt.com</a>	2 miles, ~300'	Yurt, 6, 125 we ex, 65 wd ex	
Hidden Treasure yurts, Eagle County (west of Vail)	<a href="http://www.backcountry-colorado-yurt.com">www.backcountry-colorado-yurt.com</a> 800-444-2813	6.2, 3200'	Yurts, 8, 175 ex	2 yurts located near each other
Never Summer Nordic, 9 huts 2 hrs W of Ft Collins, Gould	<a href="http://www.neversummernordic.com">www.neversummernordic.com</a> 970-723-4070	Drive up- 2mi, 0-900'	Huts and yurts, 5-9, 100 we ex, 120 wd ex	Many hut to hut possibilities
High Lonesome Hut, near Winter Park / Granby	<a href="http://www.lonesome-hut.com">www.lonesome-hut.com</a> 970-726-4099	2.5 mi , 600'	Hut, 12, 300 ex or 35 pp Adult, 15 pp under 19,	2 night weekend minimum
Statewide Avalanche and Weather info	<a href="http://avalanche.state.co.us">http://avalanche.state.co.us</a>			

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## Crestone Realty welcomes broker associate Niamh Kelly-Weston

Crestone Realty Ltd. is happy to announce that Niamh Kelly-Weston has successfully passed her Colorado Real Estate Broker, National and State exams and will be a licensed Associate Broker with the company from January 2019.

Originally from Ireland, where Kelly received an honours Bachelor Degree in Social Science, she gained many years experience in Conveyancing at a busy legal practice in Cork, Ireland. Through work and volunteer efforts, Kelly is widely-travelled, and having lived in Spanish speaking countries such as Argentina, Venezuela and Spain, is fluent in Spanish and has experience across a number of sectors, including human resources, hospitality & sales.

Kelly first came to Crestone

in the early 2000s, while visiting her mother for the holidays and has visited every year since, for 3 months at a time. She met her husband, Joel Weston at the Crestone Winterfest in 2016 and made the permanent move from Barcelona, Spain to Crestone. "I grew up in the Irish countryside, surrounded by nature and animals and so Crestone feels like a home away from home for me. I traded the ocean for the spectacular Sangre de Cristo mountains, and have family close by, so I couldn't be happier with my new home."

"I am so excited to be embarking on this new career in real estate in the San Luis Valley and am looking forward to connecting with new people and helping them to navigate the often tricky process of buying and selling property."



Niamh Kelly-Weston joins the Crestone Realty team.



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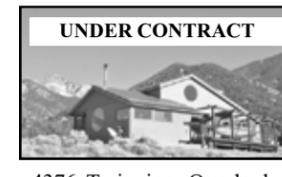


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Top 1000 2013 Trends Journal Se Habla Español

					
<p>269 Springdale Tr \$750,000 4BD 3.5BA. Spacious open floor plan, greenhouse, 2 car garage, horse stall, cottage w/ European wood stove, sauna &amp; soaking tub. Completely off-grid.</p>	<p>560 Grand Ave, Del Norte \$485,000. Rare opportunity! Live in beautiful Penthouse &amp; run a successful B&amp;B units &amp; rentals. Downstairs Antique Store could be multi use.</p>	<p>187 W. Silver. \$475,000 Prime location in the center of Little Pearl Park. Currently Restaurant, Brewery 2 hotel rooms &amp; Penthouse. Long term lease in place.</p>	<p>3458C Enchanted Way \$475,000. Owner financing available on this spectacular, income producing, 3BD 2BA property with separate sacred geometry building &amp; studio cottage. Ideal for retreats.</p>	<p>668 Crocus Rd. \$375,000 SELLER CARRY. 41 pristine acres with Creek running through it. Home &amp; studio building total 3550 sq ft. Property is entirely off grid.</p>	<p>1474 Badger Rd. \$349,000 3BD 2BA premier custom built Lee Mitchell home. Exterior Cempo walls, R32 insulation, barrel tile roof very energy efficient, open floor plan</p>
					
<p>609 Panorama Way \$330,000 3BD 2BA. Enter this home &amp; feel the quality of craftsmanship. Living room has views that that will keep you sitting on the couch with your book &amp; cup of tea.</p>	<p>1401 Badger Rd. \$330,000 Fantastic site, screened porch, contemporary 2BD 2BA home with sunroom. Detached garage/workshop. Home &amp; garage on 3 con-</p>	<p>894 Camino Real \$280,000 2BD 2BA Great horse property. 35 acres of nicely grassed rolling land &amp; tremendous views. Library, Sunroom &amp; Guest house.</p>	<p>4376 Twinview Overlook \$269,900. 2BD 2BA contemporary newer home with amazing high up location, lots of windows, 2 porches and balcony.</p>	<p>1315 Moonlight Way. \$265,000 Large 6BD 3BA home on greenbelt &amp; Willow Creek. Remodel in 2014. New ETS heaters. Lovely Japanese soaking tub.</p>	<p>22606 Co Rd 55, Moffat \$250,000 3 BD, 2BA horse property with 40 fenced acres &amp; a large, partially built cinderblock garage. Ideal location near Crestone &amp; Saguache.</p>
					
<p>610 Panorama Way \$249,000 This contemporary home will impress you for the price range. Many upgrades available from this flexible builder to make this your dream home.</p>	<p>463 Lime Ave. \$199,900 4BD 2BA 2,200 sq ft home on edge of downtown Crestone. Excellent mountain views, 2 Blocks from school &amp; stores. Lots of space &amp; storage.</p>	<p>3528 Enchanted \$199,000 2BD 1BA. Call for seller carry terms on this charming 1 level starter, retirement or B&amp;B property with stunning mountain views. Large storage shed, close to paved rd.</p>	<p>33 Sunset OL \$199,000 Charming 5BD 3.75 BA home with additional room off Master suite. Attached 2 car garage w/storage &amp; extra bathroom. Screened porch.</p>	<p>351 Huerta Ct \$66,500 2BD 2BA log sided home in Casita Park. Open floor plan with covered deck, porch &amp; chain link dog run. Wood stove &amp; large windows facing the mountains.</p>	<p>309 Pecos Ct. \$29,500. Great investment opportunity. Close to town, this secluded property comes with 4 lots. Sold as is. Ideal handyman project.</p>

<p><b>NEW CONSTRUCTION!</b></p> <p>Pre-Construction Bonus for January</p> <p><b>Free wall mounted electric fireplace</b></p>	 <p>The Sunshine 728 sq ft <b>\$146,600</b></p>	 <p>The Humboldt 792 sq ft <b>\$158,400</b></p>	 <p>The Challenger 815 sq ft <b>\$163,000</b></p>	 <p>The Carson 736 sq ft <b>\$175,000</b></p>	 <p>PROUD SUPPORTER OF OUR MILITARY</p> <p>THE VETERANS ADVOCACY &amp; BENEFITS ASSOCIATION</p> <p>ACCREDITED MEMBER 2018.</p>
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# DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson  
 Trip Advisor  
 Snowflake Museum, Monarch Crest, Colorado  
 Date of Review: 12-15-2068  
 Reviewer: Fern the Flatlander

We had heard about the Snowflake Museum from friends in Kansas City and decided to make a pilgrimage for the holidays. The kids of course had never seen snow, though they had heard the occasional story. Our parents, after all, were the last generation to witness it first hand in Kansas. But there are several spots along the Continental Divide where a skiff of snow may appear from time to time, though it is very rare any more. It's been ten years or so since the last sighting up on Monarch Crest, according to Professor Fairdiwel, the curator of the museum.

The wind coming down off the mountain was harsh and erratic and made for a bumpy approach in our FFD (Family Flying Device) but we were able to hover down to a landing pad that was conveniently located only a few feet from the museum entrance. God forbid we would have to get the kids to walk any farther than that. Their generation is so sedentary, but who can blame them? There is no need to go anywhere anymore with all the virtual services provided in almost every home these days.

Anyhow, the Snowflake Museum was worth a little inconvenience. We followed a path of LED lights into the dark heart of this hexagonal building, which was shaped like a snowflake. There, a motion sensor must have initiated the snow displays—hundreds of snow crystals as might be seen through a microscope projected onto the geodesic panels of the ceiling. The kids were bored because it wasn't a three-dimensional display, but the rest of us were enthralled. It was as if we had walked into a strange new galaxy whose sky was lit up with these incredible crystalline forms: six-winged lattices, columnar prisms, crossed needles, fernlike dendrites, 12-branched stars. The background music, a minimalist electronic score of some kind, was a little plain, if not melancholy, but we thought it set an appropriate tone for the exhibit.

We were delighted to meet Professor Fairdiwell who invited us back into the lab where he produces and photographs his own snow crystals. Unless one is able to travel to the Arctic or Antarctic, he explained, it is almost impossible to witness natural snow anymore. Ever since the Dieblo Springs Corporation secured all the water rights on this side of the Divide, it is illegal to remove snow from its natural resting place. Dr. Fairdiwell says he gets around that by harvesting the snow that lands on the wings of his hovercraft which he flies into the rare storm cloud that appears on the Great Divide. If the snow hasn't hit the ground yet, he reasons, it's in the public domain. But those storm clouds don't appear much anymore. The last sample he collected was back in 2058.

He was able to show us a bowl of real Colorado snow, which he had salvaged from that storm and kept in his deep freeze. He let the snow thaw a little and then gave some to the kids who made snowballs. They were so animated. It was as if they had come out of a trance. Aunt Biff recalled making a snowman in the wild once when she was a little girl traveling through Alaska.

One of the highlights of our trip to the museum was looking at some of Dr. Fairdiwell's home made ice crystals. We were all glad we had bundled up for our trip to the mountains since his lab was colder than it was outside. Anyhow, he showed us two seemingly identical ice crystals he had produced there. Even though they appear identical to your eyes, he said, there are likely variations in their molecular structure.

"So it's true," I asked him, "that no two snowflakes are alike?"

"Depends what you mean by alike," the professor said. "At one time, I might have said that the possible number of snow crystal shapes was akin to the estimated number of atoms in the known universe. Not any more. Here in the lab, I can control the environment to come up with shapes like this." He seemed pleased with the "twins" he had created, but also a little wistful. "Wild snow," he said, "was a lot more interesting."

We could all see his point. Nevertheless, we all felt closer to the real thing after a visit to his Snowflake Museum.

# ONE HAND CLAPPING

## Robert & Rumi

by Tom deMers

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, and I don't have a single word to drop in Kizzen's hat. Facing kizzaster, I reach for my favorite winter poet, the one who wrote, *Whose woods these are I think I know/his house is in the village though/He will not see me stopping here/to watch his woods fill up with snow.*

Robert the Frost, even his name is chilly. I hold him up beside Rumi, a poet who devised a form of whirling meditation, a man who asked us to meet him in a field out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing . . . when the soul lies down in that grass/the world is too full to talk about/Ideas, language, even the phrase each other/doesn't make any sense. (translation: Coleman Barks)

How is it possible to appreciate these two, Robert and Rumi? Perhaps to say that rhyme was Robert's way of whirling. He whirled splendidly. Poetry without rhyme, Robert said, is like playing tennis without a net. Language makes no sense, says Rumi, yet language is Robert's exquisite craft. How do we hold these two in the same breath? We hold them with the hand of paradox: Rumi speaking through the physical world of a non-dual consciousness, Robert immersed in a world of things, reaching for the numinous and non-dual.

Isn't that the human challenge? To live in the world but not of it? To chop wood and carry water even as we know the physical world is a manifestation of a more encom-

passing reality that sustains the universe of things? Robert's poetry delights in that universe. He uses a human image to capture the flexibility of a tree when he writes in "Birches," *You may see their trunks arching in the woods . . . trailing their leaves on the ground/Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair/Before them over their heads to dry in the sun.* Toward the end of the poem Robert reaches for the sky, *I'd like to get away from earth awhile/And then come back to it and begin over . . . I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree . . . toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more . . . That would be good both going and coming back./One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.*

As Robert uses the physical as a springboard to heaven, Rumi struggles to shed the physical. *Don't look for me in a human shape/I am inside your looking/No room for form with love this strong.* In Rumi's non-dual state love is not earthly but a state of being, a drunkenness expressed in the metaphor of wine as spirit. *There is a tradition that the wine/of nonexistence makes us God-drunk . . . There is a kind of poet who makes us want the red wine and the white/The two poets may even have the same name.*

Robert and Rumi, their differences are bound together by truth and by the dualism endemic to our human lives. Writes Rumi:

*Not until faithfulness turns to betrayal*

*and betrayal into trust  
can any human being become part of the truth.*

Wishing us all greater consciousness in the New Year!

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# Starr Sightings Astrology

by Starr Sites

## The predictions issue Planetary motion

Good News! All planets will be direct, or moving forward, in January and February once Uranus changes direction on Jan. 6. This marks the best time of the year to begin new projects and initiate plans, which should also move forward smoothly now, assuming they are grounded in solid fundamentals.

## Eclipse season

There will be a partial solar eclipse on Jan. 5, visible over the eastern Pacific only. It has a lucky yet "fated" quality to it while enhancing communications and writing. Its theme is "aspiring to ideals of social transformation" just as Democrats, suddenly in control of the House, compel accountability over so many issues that have occurred during the Republicans' control of government.

On January 20-21, there will be a lunar super-blood-moon eclipse over Washington, DC just after midnight (~10:16pm is totality on the 20th in Colorado) as the Sun enters Aquarius, the sign "of the people". Expect the Administration to make some bad decisions mid-month with serious consequences for Midwesterners. Gender wars may ease and relationships could improve as flirtatious Venus conjuncts lucky Jupiter while trining misogynist Mars during the second half of January. *Note:* At this time following one's instinctive desires without consideration of others, or for nefarious purposes, will ensnare people in trouble, while aggressive Mars and radical Uranus are together in impulsive Aries for a potentially tumultuous ~45 days.

## Predictions for 2019

The multi-dimensional shift begun in 2012 is causing some temporal distortions, activating frequency aberrations and peripheral vision anomalies. The visible color spectrum is being expanded as well. We are in a period of "perpetual adjustment" requiring extreme flexibility amid growing chaos. As humanity evolves into greater multi-dimensionality, emotional stability may slip precipitously. Many will lose hope and sink deeper into depression, addiction, or suicidal despair. It will be important this year to release *fear*, which has been growing nationally since 2016.

Unresolved energies will surface, both individually and collectively, as humankind cleanses old karmic issues, seeking balance and recalibration. Practices of meditation, contemplation and alternative healing will grow exponentially, as life continues to intensify. The desire to escape into extreme sports, survival training, space exploration, and new types of entertainment, like virtual reality and out-of-body experiences, will proliferate in response. Mass extinction of species and further planetary destruction will be aggravated as unmitigated climate change leads to drastic loss of life and property, while accelerating mass migrations. Social media will progressively lose confidence among users as more trickery and deception are exposed. And the suppressed sexual malfeasance of the Catholic Church will continue its decline as well.

## Politics

The southern border may see more closures. Extreme partisanship will continue for several more years, and many will ask, "Who

is in control of the government"? Meanwhile, it will be hard to stay positive in the face of so much injustice, climate denial, mendacity, and national loss of influence on the global stage, where power is shifting within many nations. Kim Jung-Un of North Korea may be deposed by the end of 2019.

*Beware* a new global leader who may arise with "all the answers" to subjugate the unwary. He has secret plans for world domination, so be discerning about who you choose to support!

## The economy

We are in the early stages of economic transformation which, although painful, is necessary. The conjunction of task-master Saturn with trauma-inducing Pluto in January 2020 along with the double-whammy of Pluto's conjunction with US natal Pluto in 2022, both occurring in the US house of finance, raises red flags for USA in the decade ahead. As Trump's trade policies trigger economic instability, the global economy displays far more fragility than expected. Quite likely a financial catastrophe lies ahead!

## Oil & gas

Fracking is causing blockage of Earth's meridians—with dire consequences. While gasoline is becoming obsolete, which is good for the planet, greedy petroleum profiteers persist in their efforts to abort inevitable change. But ultimately, our survival will come through *green energies!*

## Health

February is expected to be

extremely cold and a serious viral pandemic without cure may appear this winter, so stock up on face masks and herbal remedies. Luckily, healthcare progress will continue.

## First contact?

Some seers are expecting space visitors to make public contact in 2019, undeniable proof that we are not alone in the galaxy. This will involve ordinary people, quite possibly Russians. These ETs are friendly and bring technologies to help us clean up our planet. Also a Time Traveler from our future may appear in our timeline. *Wow!*

## The good news

Women are moving into positions of power. Generosity is rising. Companies like Monsanto and Big Pharma firms are facing more crippling lawsuits. And there is a new energy coming, after "the undoing". So focus on positivity and energize higher frequencies of your vision during this year of continuing spiritual progress. The Golden Age may be here by 2038! Happy New Year!

*Starr Sightings*  
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## Mountain Mamas Tell Tall Tales

Chalk Creek Stories  
Roadkill with friends

by Kizzen Laki

When Big John the game warden pulled up to the cabin with a fresh roadkill deer in the back of his government pick-up asking, "Do you want it?" I wasn't sure how to answer that question. While I was looking dubious, my best friend and cowgirl camp neighbor leaned over the tailgate and excitedly said "sure!" She and big John discussed how fresh the doe was. It was a very cold winter morning, the deer was just hit near the entrance to Chalk Creek Canyon at their favorite deer crossing spot. Big John, hating to see so much meat go to waste, came up the road to our camp of cabins. He was pleased by Michelle's reaction to his gift. He didn't notice mine.

It was the 1970s and my family and I were living in a cluster of old cabins. They had been abandoned until a bunch of assorted young folk moved in and fixed them up enough to live in. In those days during the winter it was pretty much the end of the road. If you decided to winter in Alpine or Saint Elmo you had to ski in.

Big John Howlett was the game warden in Chaffee County. A big guy, potbellied, gruff in a good old boy sort of way—help you out of a ditch or lock you up. He patrolled the backcountry and mountain roads checking licenses and stalking poachers and checking on the mountain sheep up the canyon. It was a lonely job at times. We first made his actual acquaintance during the "Case of the Missing Geese", but I'm sure we were on his radar long before then. We had had a neighbor who bought a bunch of domestic geese and turned them loose on the beaver ponds. They started to disappear, and the hippies and ne'er-do-wells next door (us) were suspected of nefarious action and

maybe eating them. Big John came out to investigate and told our neighbors (buncha damned fools) that it was the coyotes and bobcats that were filling their bellies. During the investigation I offered Big John homemade pie and coffee and we became friends.

He'd stop by now and then on his rounds, saying howdy, keeping an eye on things. He liked that we were living the rough cabin life. Didn't care much for people who built fancy homes in the canyon and then complained about the smell of cows put on a summer pasture (more damned fools). He smoked unfiltered cigarettes one after the other and talked with a gravelly smoker's voice. He usually needed a shave. He would have been the perfect Hollywood version of the grizzled mountain game warden in a big muddy truck—with a gun rack in the back window of course.

So, he shows up with this deer like a prize. Times were always lean for us in the winter and that was a lot of meat. Michelle acted like she had just gotten a Christmas present. Michelle was an original southwest Colorado gal. The sort whose first word was "horse". Loved all the animals—goats, chickens, stray dogs, and she'd be the one to tame a feral anything. Along with my burro, we pastured a few of her horses there in the bottomland of Chalk Creek. One was a spunky mare she rode, the other was a gentle slog-along gelding that didn't like to gallop—my choice for a ride—and a Welsh pony that was supposed to be a "kid's horse" that was so mean nobody could ride him. He'd run you up against a fence if he hadn't bucked you off already. His name was "Napoleon" and Michelle had gotten him for near free.

Michelle had grown up on a



Jeffrey, Kizzen with daughter Nakia, KayDee dog, Michelle with her dog Nicki and her horse at the pasture in Chalk Creek Canyon.

homestead where you butchered your own food. Raise them, love them, eat them. I didn't know the first thing about butchering anything (well, I could cut up a store bought whole chicken and clean fish). So she took over the job. Skinned, gutted and hung the deer.

I was game to help butcher, wanting to learn how (being in the back-to-the-earth phase of my life), plus I was an actively working EMT and interested in all things bone and muscle. I also had the best kitchen, complete with "running" water (we had rigged up a rooftop water holding tank that we'd fill twice a week with a garden hose run from the well house, the water gravity-fed into the kitchen sink). I also had a nice big kitchen table that was soon covered with a gutted deer. We waded into the job, cutting off legs, trimming off haunches, sawing off ribs.

And I got greener and greener. Soon I had to step outside. Then I had to stay outside—or at least out of the kitchen. I left the butchering to Michelle and our husbands. She teased me about getting green: "You're an EMT, you see bones, blood and muscle all the time. Wimp." I had to explain, yes, I never got nauseous on seeing something like an open fracture. The difference was that I wasn't planning to EAT it! Let me know when

it's all wrapped into tidy packages.

I learned to cook venison. Venison stew, venison sausage, venison burgers. The trick is to mix lots of bacon with it. Lots. And garlic. Lots. And pawn it off on your friends.

Big John came by and got served a big bowl of stew with some to take home. He was pleased. I'd passed some kind of test. He asked if we wanted to have another deer the next time he got called out on fresh roadkill. I'm saying "no thanks" while Michelle is saying "yes, please". It wasn't long after that that I turned vegetarian. I don't think Big John ever suspected my husband of poaching after that. But he still kept an eye on us—maybe for coffee and pie—or maybe because of the "venison" gleam in some of the campsters eyes—or maybe it was because of rumors that drifted around the canyon. Seems I do kinda remember another story I was supposed to forget about another winter roadkill. Strange injury that—when the car hit, it only made a little round hole. I swear, Big John, it wasn't me.

*In the 1970s Kizzen and her family lived in a cluster of old cabins with other assorted young folk. They chopped wood and hauled water. This is a story from those days.*

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# THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

## —MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

**1/ Manglehorn:** (2014) ★★★★★

A slightly dry and slow moving film about a small town locksmith who was left heart-broken by the woman he loved and lost many years ago. He tries to start his life over again with the help of a new friend. Sad, hopeful, starring Al Pacino and Holly Hunter. (3+ stars)

**2/ In the Shadow of Iris:** (2016) ★★★★★

This thriller has some reminiscent qualities of Hitchcock, yet a little harder to follow. Iris, a young wife of a wealthy banker, disappears in Paris while her husband is paying a bill at a fancy restaurant. He later receives a call from the kidnapper demanding a large ransom, police get involved and the husband tries to follow the instructions to a T, but nothing seems to go as planned. What really happened to Iris? French film with some sexy parts. (3.75 stars)

**3/ I'll Follow You Down:** (2013) ★★★★★

An interesting sci-fi movie dealing with time-travel and relativity. Her genius husband disappears from a routine business trip without a trace and over the next 12 years he remains missing, while their son comes of age and is asked to join MIT. His abilities allows him to unlock the mystery of quantum physics and the mystery of time. Starring: Rufus Sewell, Haley Joel Osment, Victor Garber and Gillian Anderson.

**4/ The Golden Compass:** (2007) ★★★★★

Adventure, family, fantasy. For a young girl her life was not ordinary as she lived among scholars and was allowed to meander unsupervised amidst the streets of Oxford on mad quests for adventure. Her greatest adventure will begin the day she heard hushed talk of an extraordinary microscopic particle, a magical dust, discovered in the vast Arctic expanse. It was rumored to have profound properties that could unite whole universes. But of course, there were those who feared it and wanted it destroyed. As she was thrown into the heart of a terrible struggle she was not aware that she alone was destined to win or lose this greater than mortal battle. Stars: Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards, et al.

**5/ Still Alice:** (2014) ★★★★★

This is a realistic and emotional perspective that reveals a woman living with Alzheimer's disease. It shows the struggle, anger, confusion, isolation and pain of having such a disease. Julianne Moore gives an Oscar winning performance as a linguistics professor happily married to Alec Baldwin with three grown children. She starts to forget words and then more as her doctor diagnoses her with early onset Alzheimer's Disease. Stars: Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin, Kate Bosworth, Kristen Stewart, et al.

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### THEME: WINTER FUN

### DOWN

#### ACROSS

- Most populous continent
- Mayan language
- \*Bumpy winter transport
- Spiritual leader
- Ledger entry
- In a cold manner
- Deodorant's target
- African chieftain
- Asiatic wild dog
- \*Used in fun winter fights
- Overnight lodgings
- \*Whoville's \_\_\_ beast
- Tropical constrictor
- E.B. White's Little
- What siren does
- Not a thing
- Bear the expenses of
- Between larva and adult
- In a fitting way
- Neighbor of Ger.
- Up and about
- Unadulterated
- Excessive protection
- Middle-earth creature
- No balance due
- \*Winter Gathering spot
- Resident uncle?
- Diarist Anne
- \*Christmas pudding raisin
- \*Done with #8 Across
- "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker
- \*"The stump of a \_\_\_ he held tight in his teeth..."
- Pout
- Machu Picchu mountains
- Snaky swimmers
- Wild swine
- Words from Wordsworth
- Kind of humor
- Southern stew staple

- Gone by
- Wash froth
- Fe
- Light display
- Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
- Like a crooked kilt?
- Lime-rich soil
- \*Hot chocolate add-on
- One with biggest share
- Olden-day elbow-related measurement, pl.
- Do after tie
- Formal discussion
- "Bite the bullet," e.g.
- Verbose
- Beyoncé, a.k.a. Queen \_\_\_
- Finger move
- \*Angler's accessory
- U in UV
- Uber alternative
- Your own teacher
- Sudden stream
- Box office failure
- \*Hot Buttered \_\_\_
- St. Louis monument
- Time for relaxation, pl.
- Change, as in U.S. Constitution
- "\_\_\_'s the word"
- Grey's fifty
- Female sirs
- Hands on hips
- Marketing give-away
- Email option
- \*Hockey turf
- Ore deposit
- Expel
- E-reader brand
- \_\_\_ gum on a list of ingredients
- Zedong of China
- Major time period

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# EARTH TALK

**Questions & Answers About Our Environment**

Dear EarthTalk: It seems to me the single biggest potential “environmental” problem we could face—even bigger than global warming or a nuclear war—is a comet or asteroid striking the Earth. Do we currently track these space rocks and if so, how? And do we have any hope of deflecting them if they are headed right for us?

—James McClintock, Austin, TX

Environmental advocates don't normally consider interstellar rocks to be their discipline, per se, but it is true that such an event could cause considerable environmental damage and even threaten the very existence of life on Earth. Indeed, when a 10-kilometer-wide asteroid struck the Earth some 66 million years ago, it wiped out three-quarters of the planet's plant and animal species (including the dinosaurs) and caused damage to the environment that lasted centuries.

Humans weren't around to witness the effects of that cataclysm, of course, but we do know that a large impact today could trigger massive firestorms, mudflows, earthquakes and tsunamis as well as acid rain, ozone depletion and rapid greenhouse warming—not to mention an “impact winter” whereby pulverized rock dust and other debris would blanket the skies and block the transmission of sunlight, effectively stopping photosynthesis around the globe. A big enough strike could effectively wipe out life on Earth.

NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) is charged with providing timely and accurate communications on these threatening space rocks—including issuing warnings about potential impacts—and leading the coordination of federal response planning. Currently PDCO uses a combination of existing satel-



Astronomers can find and track many of the asteroids and comets that could threaten Earth, but deflecting one is a different story. Credit: NASA.

lite and telescope technologies to track comets and asteroids but is currently developing a new space-based infrared telescope dubbed “NEOCam” (short for Near-Earth Object Camera) specifically for the purpose of surveying the solar system for large space rocks (larger than 140 meters across). But the project is far from a front-burner concern for NASA right now, and proponents are hoping Congress will earmark funds specifically to complete its development in the short term.

Meanwhile, the California-based B612 Foundation is focusing on detection of smaller asteroids. “The real gap is the 100 times as many asteroids smaller than 140 meters but still large enough to destroy things on the ground,” reports Ed Lu, the co-founder of B612. His team is currently working on a network of five to 10 telescope-equipped satellites to track these smaller space rocks and provide early warning services.

But just because we're able to detect and track asteroids doesn't mean we can deflect them. According to expert witness testimony at a 2013 Congressional hearing on the topic, NASA would need five years' lead time—and a commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars—to be able to intercept an asteroid.

Despite this warning, we've made no progress in the intervening years. A June 2018 report from the Cabinet-level National Science

and Technology Council warns that America remains unprepared for an asteroid impact event and urges the federal government to fund efforts to get ready for what astronomers say is inevitable at some point in the future. That said, unlike other environmental problems besetting us, there isn't anything individuals can do to protect the planet from asteroid or comet strikes—except to urge their representatives in Congress to support legislation that funds programs and technologies designed to detect and deflect those incoming civilization busters.

**CONTACTS:** “Environmental Damage from Asteroid and Comet Impacts,” **HYPERLINK** “<https://www.google.com/url?q=http://users.tpg.com.au/users/tps-seti/climatehtm&sa=D&ust=1544586346729000>” users.tpg.com.au/users/tps-seti/climate.htm; PDCO,

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## Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

**November 21 to December 20**  
**Total precipitation for period:**

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.35”

Snow: 6.7”

Measurable precipitation fell on 7 days.

Measurable snow fell on 7 days.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

No measurable rain, thunderstorms, or hail occurred.

**Total precipitation year to date:**

Since Jan 1: 7.22”

**Total snow to date:**

Since Jan 1: 22.3”

Snow Season\*: 11.4”

\*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

**Temperatures for the period:**

High temp: 47.7°F on Nov. 21

Low temp: 2.3°F on December 4

Avg. high: 37.8°F

Avg. low: 12.8°F

Number of days with the high temperature above 40°: 12

Number of days with the high temperature at or below 32°: 4

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: All 30

Number of days with the low temperature below 10°: 8

**Winds for the period:**

Avg. speed: 1.5 mph

Highest gust: 34 mph on November 24

Main direction: Out of the east at night, out of the west during the day.

**Weather summary:**

Temperatures were very much above average throughout the entire period, while the drought continued on, with snowfall below normal. There were no new weather records to report during the timeframe.

As of December 21, this year is looking to be the second driest ever on record for the Crestone/Baca.

**Outlook for January:**

January is our coldest month of the year. A reading of -20° on January 17, 2008 was the coldest it has ever gotten in the month, while 59° is the warmest it has ever been, that was reached on January 29, 1986. Normally for January, highs in the first week average 31°, with the average low around 5°. By the month's end it warms up just a bit to average highs and lows of 35° and 10°.

Precip-wise, this is a very dry month, with only 0.57” of precip expected on average, making it our second driest month of the year. We can expect 9.7” of snow on average for the month. Record snowfall for January is 23.4”, which fell in 2005. It has never rained in January in the Crestone/Baca since weather records have been kept.

The 30-day weather outlook for our area for January that is put out by the NWS is calling for above-average temperatures, along with average snowfall.

*Note: For current Crestone weather conditions visit Keno's web site: [www.keno.org/vws](http://www.keno.org/vws).*

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