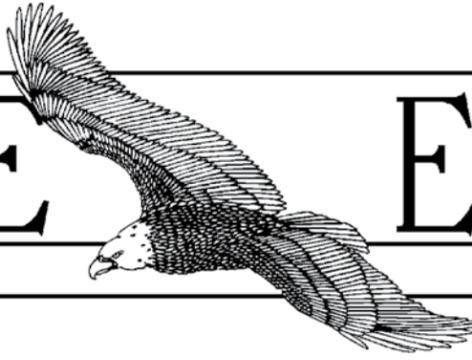


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 30, Number 2

February, 2019 \$2

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Great horned owls in the San Luis Valley pair up in the winter to start their nesting season. Owls can be seen in many of the isolated cottonwood stands throughout the valley. photo by Peter Ismert To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at www.crestoneagle.com

Federal shutdown affected Colo. & San Luis Valley

by Mary Lowers

The latest federal government shut down, beginning on December 22, 2018 and ending on January 25, 2019, was the longest in history. This shutdown dragged on for thirty-five days. Since the enactment of current budget and appropriations systems in 1976, there have been twenty funding gaps, ten of which resulted in shutdowns with federal employees being laid off or furloughed. This funding standoff is around the issue of a border wall between the US and Mexico costing billions of dollars. This wall was

one of President Trump's campaign promises, which have little support in much of the western and southwestern US. The reprieve from the federal shutdown through a continuance agreement will only last until February 15, by which time it is hoped a resolution of the standoff will be underway, or we may face resumption of the federal closures.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis called the ramification of this shut down, "a real life issue with enormous costs to Colorado." Our state has many jobs tied directly or indirectly to the government

in Washington, DC. According to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, there are some 53,200 federal workers in this state. Federal workers in the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture were the employees most affected by the shut down. Here in the San Luis Valley (SLV), people are employed by the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Bureau of Land Management, US Geologic Survey, and the National Park Service,

continued on page 24



"Acequia madre" or mother ditch brings water to the desert in the spring. See our feature story on the importance of these historical acequias on page B-1.

Democratic Legislature, Governor Polis set ambitious agenda for 2019 legislative session

by Lisa Cyriacks

There is no shortage of issues for the legislature to grapple with this year.

Democrats campaigned on improving health care as a central issue of their campaign.

Newly elected Governor Jared Polis in his State of the State address before the legislature on

January 10 created The Office of Saving People Money on Health-care. The office will work to "reduce patient costs for hospital stays and expenses, improve price transparency, lower the price of prescription drugs, and make health insurance more affordable," Polis elaborated. The newly created office is under the oversight of Lt. Governor Di-

anne Primavera, a cancer survivor and patient advocate.

State legislators Representative Dylan Roberts and Senator Kerry Donovan introduced legislation to create a public health insurance option run by the State of Colorado. Both represent mountain communities that face some of the

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The Crestone Eagle

Publisher & Editor: Kizzen N. Laki
Copy Editor: Janet G. Woodman
Advertising: Jennifer Eytcheson
Production: Carrie Caverly
Accounts: Shoshannah Asha
Photo Editor: Diane Bairstow
Tech: Nick Nevares, Mark Talbot
Contributing Writers:

Mary Lowers John Rowe
 Lori Nagel Kim Malville
 Matie Belle Lakish Gussie Faunteroy
 Ed Lyell Earl W. Sutherland
 Keno Menechino Sandia Belgrade
 Lisa Cyriacks Suzanne McGregor
 Peter Anderson Dorje Root
 Larry Calloway David Nicholas
 Stephen Futral Tomas DeMers

All photos by Kizzen Laki, Janet Woodman or Eagle staff unless otherwise noted.

Contributing Photographers:

Lori A. Nagel, Matthew Crowley, Kate Steichen
 Bill Ellzey, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski

Digital Subscription Rate: 12 issues \$15 digital.pdf
 Paper Subscription Rates: 12 issues \$30 Bulk mail.

For 1st class postage \$45.
 Back issues \$4.50 each by mail.

The Crestone Eagle is an independent monthly publication. POB 101, Crestone, CO 81131.
 (719) 256-4956 Email: info@crestoneeagle.com
 www.crestoneeagle.com

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Comments or opinions expressed in The Crestone Eagle are not necessarily those of the publisher, but are solely those of the writer.

Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

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.

Editor's Notes
We need housing

Last year I had an employee who was having to camp out because they couldn't find housing. They had had a winter rental, but had to move out in the spring. I currently have someone who does part-time work who is on the edge of being homeless. Another staff person who, thankfully, was finally able to find a stable situation after having to camp in their car at times—during winter! I have lost good employees because they couldn't find a place to live.

I have older friends moving between house sitting jobs because of the lack of affordable housing. If you did a survey of Crestone/Baca you would find way too many people in precarious housing situations.

Crestone desperately needs small affordable housing. We need apartments, studios and 1-bedrooms with utilities included.

The Town of Crestone moved to address this issue last year by passing an "Accessory Dwelling Unit" (ADU) regulation that allows for people to have a small rental on their property—a cottage, a liveable studio, a part of their home made into an apartment that has its own entrance, bath and kitchen. This greatly benefits those looking for a small place to rent while also benefiting the homeowner by providing extra income. It's a win win.

We need more of these in the Baca and greater region. A "single family" residence may be able to include a small ADU. It's happened in the past. Water use rules need to be confirmed, but the County approves ADU's. Unless someone is building apartment buildings, it's something we *must* have as a community if we want to have seniors able to live here and have employees for our local businesses.

Let's make this happen,
 —Kizzen



Second Sunday Films

To the Editor:

The Golden Globe for hospital-ity goes to Chi Chi and Gordon Chu for hosting a movie night on the big screen at their home. The event was a community builder doubling as a fundraiser for CB Village and Crestone Peak Community Housing. It drew about twenty people. Finger food and conversation started us off before we watched *The Graduate*, a 1967 film that earned Mike Nichols an Oscar for Best Director. Barbara Hoepfner led a discussion afterward in which many first-hand memories of that tumultuous era were shared as well as insights into the film's artistry. CPOCH will continue its Second Sunday movie series at the Chu home. The February film is *Almost Famous*. Roger Ebert called it best movie of the year 2000. It won awards for Best Screenplay and Best Soundtrack. Hope to see you there!

Tom deMers

Not involved with CBR

My name was mentioned in last month's *Crestone Eagle* in an article "Crestone/Baca Resiliency works on a community food action plan."

I wish to clarify for the community that I am not now, nor have I ever been an employee, volunteer, committee group member or board member of this real or imagined CBR organization. My name was placed in the article in association with the Colorado College. I wish it to be known I have no project or program under way or in planning with the college. I have asked repeatedly over the last two years for this CBR group to not associate me with their work. Let's just be friendly neighbors with a similar vision for better community resilience. CBR does what it does. And I do what I do. It's hard to live in Crestone and not truly know *we are all one* but please allow me my illusion of separateness from this CBR organization.

Bob Pedersen

Response

My apologies to Bob Pederson for mentioning his name in our Crestone Baca Resiliency food article. I only wished to give him credit for his ideas. So as there is no confusion, Bob Pederson is not a member of, or associated with, CBR.

Sincerely,
 Ginny Ducale

Support for Sherrod Brown

Dear Editor,
 Authenticity over ideology. Substance over celebrity. Sherrod Brown is my candidate for President in 2020 and I dearly hope he runs.

I don't believe that Elizabeth Warren, Beto O'Rourke, Kamala



Community generosity created an abundance of gifts for the "Giving Tree".

Thanks for your generosity

Dear Crestone Community:

Once again, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity and kindness of our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Giving Tree! We provided Christmas gifts to 94 children and 5 disabled and elderly members of our community. I wish all of you could be in my shoes when parents come to tell me that the Giving Tree provided the only Christmas presents that their children received. I get the hugs, see the tears, but the credit goes to all of you! This community is so generous and the Giving Tree is a wonderful example of the care and concern this community has for those less fortunate. A very special thank you goes to Neighbors Helping Neighbors who made a very generous contribution. Big or small, every contribution was greatly appreciated!

Elaine Johnson

Harris, Cory Booker, Joe Biden or any of the other so-called front runners are electable in this polarized nation. I believe that Senator Brown is potentially one of the best possible and most electable anecdotes to Trumpism and will be urging Democratic leaders in my state to take care not to throw their support behind any highly touted candidate (however admirable and admired) that will more likely help the party once again "snatch defeat from the jaws of (potential) victory" at a time when our country is so severely threatened.

Our local Indivisible group was able to galvanize local political action here due to our clear-eyed commitment as much due to the completely compelling, amoral awfulness of Donald Trump, his cabinet and the supine Republicans. Therefore I will be encour-

aging my friends and neighbors to think and look very carefully before rushing to support anyone before their time, and to avoid choosing "identity politics" over a winning hand. I don't believe that's what most of us want, and certainly don't believe that's what the country needs.

Susannah Ortego

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To my Valentine,

Happy 26th Anniversary.

with love always,
your HoneyBunch

Robert Samuel Martino

April 5, 1935-December 24, 2018
Entrepreneur, Golfer, Philanthropist

Robert Samuel Martino, age 83 of Bala Cynwyd, PA and Boca Raton, FL, died in the early hours of Christmas Eve morning, peacefully. Born April 5, 1935 to the late Clara (nee Fusco) and Samuel Martino of Upper Darby, PA, he was a veteran of the United States Army, graduate of Temple University School of Business and attended Villanova Law School. He owned and operated both the City Line and Burholme Golf Recreational Complexes for over 30 years. Bob's name would also appear in the papers over the years as winner of the Philadelphia Amateur Golf Championship (twice), winner of the coveted Patterson Cup, as qualified to play the Senior PGA Tour, and of the many low score/hole-in-one records on countless Philadelphia courses. To this day, he holds the lowest round ever played at Bala Golf Club.

He is survived by his constant partner and wife of 58 years, Gloria (nee Cellucci), his three sisters, Delores DePasquale, Donna Dye, and Claire Maise, his daughter Dr. Gloria Satriale (Robert), and his sons Robert Samuel Martino and William Francis Martino. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Grandchildren: Gina Satriale, Nicholas Satriale, Francesco Satriale, Rose Satriale, Mario Satriale, Kimberly (nee Martino) (Eric) Whitin, Jonathan Martino, and great grandchildren: Raiden and Talin Whitin and Jacob Martino. Services are private, but a memorial celebration of his life is being planned for a later date. Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to Mission for Educating Children with Autism, 100 E. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335 where a scholarship in his name will be established.

You can't believe how much we will miss you!



Gregg William Neubauer

Gregg W. Neubauer of Crestone, Colorado passed away peacefully, wrapped in the warmth of friends, on January 5, 2019.

Grandpa Gregg—as he was known to his many friends—lived *his* life. His life's calling was to teach anyone who was willing to learn how to be their best self as a person. He did this through hard work, meditation and lots of conversations.

"Opa Gregg" and "Buffalo Man" were more of his friends' fond names for Gregg. He enjoyed rock hounding, leading spiritual retreats, studying natural healing and helping people in need. He enjoyed his off-grid, primitive farm life. Gregg was considered one of the "Gatekeepers" of the San Luis Valley.

Gregg was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth (Kaiser) Neubauer; his father, George W. Neubauer; brother, Glenn W. Neubauer; sister, Gail (Neubauer) Mieden; nephew, Wade Neubauer; ex-wife, Sharon (Neubauer) Hardin.

He leaves behind his ex-wife, Peggy (Neal) (Neubauer) & Ray Ford of Lake Villa, IL; his children: Patricia G. (Neubauer) & Joseph Silva; Sherri A. (Neubauer) & Michael Mielke of Kansasville, WI; Thomas G. Neubauer of Round Lake, IL; and Mya Neubauer.

Services were held January 12, 2019 at the Little Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Chapel, Crestone, CO. Donations may be made to the Little Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Chapel to help continue the support of the community services they provide.

The Great Invocation

From the point of Light within the Mind of God

Let light stream forth into the minds of men.

Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God

Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.

May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known

Let purpose guide the little wills of men -

The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men

Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.

And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.



Eileen Patricia Sisemore

February 15, 1925-
 November 15, 2018

Eileen Sisemore died on November 15, 2018. She was born on February 15, 1925 in Staten Island, New York, the daughter of William Arthur Leaver and Mary Jereldine Davis. Eileen grew up in New Jersey and New York City where her earliest work experience included fashion illustration. In 1944, Eileen traveled to Colorado to visit her sister, Francis, and "meet a cowboy." Francis introduced her to a "nice cowboy fella," Robert (Bob) Sisemore, who grew up in Crestone. A relationship started, but was interrupted when Eileen decided to serve her country in World War II. She joined the U.S. Navy in 1945 and went to San Diego, California for nurse's training. She served until the end of World War II and then returned to Colorado.

Eileen and Bob were married on August 28, 1948 in Denver, Colorado. They spent their 61 years of marriage in Colorado living in the San Luis Valley, Denver, and Boulder before retiring to Crestone. Eileen was active in supporting mental health initiatives and had a keen interest in math and science. She was an avid reader on these topics while sipping a good cup of coffee and snacking on Hersey's Kisses. She enjoyed art and sketching and, in her nineties, became an avid participant on Facebook. In her final years, she worked as an online grief counselor for surviving families and friends of suicide victims.

Eileen is survived by her daughters, Elaine Johnson (Steve McDowell) of Crestone, CO, and Maura Sisemore (Carroll Allison) of Cedaredge, CO; her grandchildren, Paul Bradley, Luke Bradley, Ashley Wald, Matt Johnson, Travis Allison and Seth Allison; and her great grandchildren, Quinlan Bradley, Paxton Bradley, Ethan Wald, Dana Wald, Miriam Wald, Caitlyn Allison, Colby Allison, and Jasmine Allison.

Eileen's passing is a tremendous loss to the Crestone community because she was a "keeper of history." She first came to Crestone in the late 1940s and never forgot anything she was ever told about the old days. She was always happy to share what she knew, enriched the lives of all of us, and will be greatly missed.



Greg Anthony 'Racer' Gosar

July 15, 1937-Jan. 11, 2019

Greg Gosar recently crossed the finish line after completing his remarkable and legendary life.

Before coming to the San Luis Valley, Greg lived and farmed in Tolleson, Ariz. There he fulfilled a dream to road race in open-wheeled Formula cars. He did it with talent and success. He also became a member of the National Guard and was very proud of his military service.

In 1971, he moved to the San Luis Valley and put down deep roots. He established an organic alfalfa and wheat farm long before organic became mainstream. He was one of the first to practice minimum tillage and always honored the health of his patch of earth on this beautiful planet. He developed an impressive herd of Blonde D'Aquitaine cattle and created a flour mill to stone grind his wheat. It was the birth of Mountain Mama Milling, which has been making families healthy for 45 years and still humming along.

Greg decided to follow in his father's footsteps and developed Gosar Sausage. Gosar Sausage continues to provide the finest European style sausage to fine restaurants, festivals, and backyard barbecues.

Greg will always be remembered as a champion for the environment. He and Chris Canaly organized the fight against American Water Development, Inc. They, along with a mighty force of San Luis Valley citizens, drove the water robbers and their dirty money out with their tails between their legs. Greg donated his body to the University of Arizona Medical School. A gathering will be held in the summer to honor this remarkable man.

In his memory, we ask that you all get on board and fight the group that is currently coming after the precious water of the San Luis Valley. Man and woman-up, and tell them, as Greg would say, "Get the hell out!"

The family has requested no flowers or gifts. If you wish, please donate to the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council in his name. www.SLVec.org

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Commentary

Government shutdown shows priorities of new acting Interior Secretary—oil and gas above national parks

Center for Western Priorities

David Bernhardt has used his first week as acting Interior Secretary to direct Interior Department employees remaining during the federal government shutdown to strategically continue agency operations that benefit oil and gas operators while using the shutdown as an excuse not to respond to the public or the press. Bernhardt has also ordered the National Park Service to use entrance fees to pay for park operations while parks remain open during the shutdown, draining a critical source of funding intended for deferred maintenance projects. In response, the Center for Western Priorities issued the following statement from Deputy Director Aaron Weiss:

“From raiding national park entrance fees to speeding along drilling in the Arctic, it didn’t take long for Bernhardt’s priorities to become clear. The shutdown has provided a clear outline of what he hopes to accomplish as acting Interior Secretary: the advancement of oil and gas development on public

lands, without consideration for public input, no matter the cost.

“The Interior Department lacked serious transparency under Ryan Zinke, but during Bernhardt’s first week, it has become a black box.”

Bernhardt’s goals are now evident, as seen in recent Interior actions taken during the shutdown:

Cutting out the public & reducing transparency

Interior has taken down environmental planning websites at the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau of Land Management’s environmental planning site was down but has since been reopened, allowing oil and gas permitting and review to continue. Public comment periods and public protest periods for oil and gas development and resource management plans that follow tight deadlines, including changes to sage-grouse plans, have also been complicated by the shutdown.

The Interior Department stopped accepting requests for publicly available information through

the Freedom of Information Act. Notably, receiving requests does not require staff involvement; only responding to requests and processing information requires a FOIA officer. Emailing FOIA officials directly prompts the same response from the agency. Earlier in the shutdown, Interior also proposed rules to make it easier for officials to reject public requests.

The Interior press office has also decided not to respond to questions from the press, in numerous instances, citing the shutdown.

Catering to the oil & gas industry

Despite the lapse in government funding, the Bureau of Land Management has continued to accept applications for permits to drill on public lands and requests for well inspections—something that did not occur during the 2013 shutdown. An oil and gas industry spokesperson recently said that the industry has “not seen any major effects of the shutdown.”

The BLM is continuing its environmental review of oil and gas leases in the Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge, including holding planning meetings despite agency officials being unable to take questions from the public and informational websites being taken offline during the shutdown.

Attacking our national parks

In a memorandum obtained by The Hill, David Bernhardt directed the Park Service to use money from park entrance fee collection funds to pay for basic park services, a potentially illegal move that drains critical funds intended to be used to enhance visitor experiences. This, of course, comes at a time when parks are not able to collect visitor fees at park entrances. Former National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis told CWP that internally, NPS staff are referring to the current shutdown as a “shitdown.”

For more information, visit westernpriorities.org. To speak with an expert on public lands, contact Aaron Weiss at 720-279-0019 or aaron@westernpriorities.org. Sign up for Look West to get daily public lands and energy news sent to your inbox.

The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.



“It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.”
- Ansel Adams

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Lori Nagel

I'd love to see you at the "Honey Bees" event at the Crestone Artisans Gallery on Saturday, 2/9! I'll be taking & printing Sweetheart Photos, and will have Valentine's photo insert cards for you, too!

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A sea of plastic has accumulated at the Saguache County Landfill. It needs to be hauled off for recycling. Your volunteer help is needed! photo by Christine Canaly

The more the merrier at the Saguache County Landfill recycling clean up! We need your help!

by **Christine Canaly**

We have an opportunity to re-direct recyclables (mostly plastics, estimated at about 60 tons), sitting next to the landfill cell, and hand-toss it into a container that can be transported out of Saguache County to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Denver.

The schedule for recycle removal at Saguache County Landfill is as follows:

Event 1: Saturday, February 16

15 tons total clean up

Event 2: Saturday, March 9

15 tons total clean up

Event 3: Saturday, March 23

15 tons total clean up

Event 4: Saturday, April 20

15 tons total clean up

Cleansups will take place 10am-4pm all Saturdays. We will

arrange car pools.

You will be receiving more specific information once you sign up.

(Thanks to all those who have already volunteered. Please invite others, especially the young, over 18 and restless!)

Please join in on the fun and make a difference by redirecting these disposables out of the landfill so the material can be reused.

Please e-mail: info@slvec.org to sign up for a clean up day, or call: 719-589-1518.

Christine Canaly, Director
SLV Ecosystem Council
PO Box 223, Alamosa, CO 81101

719-589-1518 (wk)

719-256-4758 (hm office)

www.slvec.org

Saguache County Crime Report

by **Mary Lowers**

Winter does not seem to have reduced crime in Saguache County. People are still speeding down now-snowpacked and icy roads, putting the lives of themselves, their passengers and other motorists in danger. A Saguache man, 48, was jailed for habitually driving without a license and speeding. His bail listed at \$1000. A Moffat man, 25, was arrested for driving without a license, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and reckless driving with no bail amount listed.

Don't know for sure but I wonder if the stresses of a difficult winter are a cause of increased assaults? A Center man, 37, went to jail on third degree assault charges with no bail amount listed. A Saguache man, 24, was jailed with a \$20,000 bond for second degree assault. A Crestone man, 33, is being held in jail with a \$50,000 bail set on charges including assault in the first degree, crimes against an at-risk adult and juvenile, violation of bail/bond conditions, and violation of a restraining order. Domestic violence and harassment charges sent a Baca man, 50, to jail with no bail listed.

A Saguache woman, 72, was summoned to appear in court on charges of second degree criminal trespass and harassment. A Gunnison man, 47, was held on \$5000 bail for first degree burglary charges. A Moffat man, 23, went to jail on contempt of court charges with \$2000 bail listed.

Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warrick told me the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) takes full responsibility for the escape of two inmates on Thursday night December 20, from the county jail. David Freeman and Christopher Archuleta escaped from the jail at 11pm through a door that had accidentally been left unlocked. While making it clear the SCSO takes full responsibility for the escape, the Sheriff told me they were short one jailer that night and while most jails have automatic locking doors the county jail does not because it was not designed as a jail. Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Dept of Wildlife, and SCSO all participated in search efforts. Archuleta was recaptured by the Monte Vista Police at midnight. Freeman, a former Baca resident who had been jailed in Saguache since August 2018 on charges of kidnapping and lewd behavior involving a Baca youth, was recaptured by a Saguache County Detention Officer at 7:30am on December 21, 2018. Both men face escape charges which are a fourth degree felony.

The sheriff told me the case of Khristall Risesinger, who disappeared from Crestone under suspicious circumstances in July 2016, is still active with the SCSO and Colorado Bureau of Investigation working it. When Khristall's daughter's father, Elijah Guada, appeared on the Dr. Phil Show, Sheriff Warwick said some tips did come in which law enforcement will peruse. The sheriff did appear on the show via Skype but did not have time to clue Dr. Phil in on how to pronounce Saguache.

Winter conditions cause fatal crash

by **Mary Lowers**

Blake Noonan, 47, from Pueblo was killed January 21 when he lost control of his 2004 Honda sedan while travelling west toward Alamosa on Hwy. 160 over LaVeta Pass. Colorado State Patrol (CSP) was called to the crash scene at 10:30am. The Honda lost control on a right hand curve near mile marker 277.4. The vehicle rotated into the oncoming lane and collided with

the front of a 2019 Peterbuilt tractor trailer travelling east. The car struck the front of the semi truck and came to rest on the westbound shoulder of the highway. The truck came to rest just off the eastbound lane. Blake Noonan was declared dead at the scene. The truck driver was unhurt. CSP thinks excessive speed for the road conditions was a cause of the accident, which is under investigation.

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"The main facts of life are five: birth, food, sleep, love and death" -- E.M. Forster

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, February 13th**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.

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Saguache County News

landscape—our very lives. As it is, the basin and aquifer are already stressed and over-appropriated what with irrigation for farming and 19 years of drought. Groundwater withdrawals have been exceeding the total amount of recharge and the water table has gone down steadily.

by Sandia Belgrade
The year begins

Saguache County public officials were sworn in on January 8 at the courthouse. At the first meeting of the year the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the Commissioners announced the Department and Board appointments for 2019.

The Commissioners did their yearly re-organization of the Board and Ken Anderson was elected as chair.

Health status of the Valley

This was an eye opener. David Daboll, Director of the Public Health Department, presented the published pamphlet of the SLV community health assessment prepared by valley Public Health. This profile of the state of the valley's health is alarming. We could surely benefit when we look at some of the stats:

- Heart attack hospitalizations are 40% higher here than in the rest of the state.
- Diabetes rates in some counties are 3 times the state rate.
- Some sexually transmitted infections are higher than the state rate.
- Water-borne illnesses such as diarrheal diseases caused by microscopic parasites, is 5 times higher than rest of state.
- Adults in the SLV reported driving while drunk at twice the state rate.
- Child maltreatment rates are double the state rate.
- Heroin deaths increased 891%; Opioid deaths increased 154%; and Methamphetamine deaths increased 791%. We are losing a generation.

I've just highlighted a few health issues; there are many. The Public Health partnership consists of the six rural county health agencies in the San Luis Valley who initiated it. Two women in our county area were instrumental. Ginger Stringer developed data for the booklet and Kimberly Bryant developed health tips. To get a copy, it will be available at local health departments or call Kimberly at 719-588-4527.

Our water stays here

Peggy Godfrey, a director who represents Saguache Subdistrict 1 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) shared their unanimous resolution made in January. They oppose any attempt to export water from the Rio Grande basin into another basin. As background for those who may not know, there was another recent attempt to export water out of the San Luis Valley. The name Saguache is derived from the Indian word 'Blue Water.' Yet, in our high desert, precipitation is now only 7-8 inches of water a year. On that meager amount rests our economy and livelihoods, our beautiful

The RGWCD Board of Directors' resolution reflects their commitment to conserve and protect the water resources of the Rio Grande and to protect the economy, culture, and our well-being as well as to guard against the export of water from the Rio Grande basin. They see this as a direct threat to the water and to residents and water users within the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. The RGWCD sees the export of water from the Rio Grande basin to other basins as contrary to the District's goal of assuring the sustainable and continued use of water within the Rio Grande basin. They understand the basin as vital to the continued economic and cultural prosperity of the San Luis Valley and are committed to protect the well-being of the Rio Grande basin.

The active stand of the Board of Directors of the RGWCD is to be applauded.

Office of Emergency Management report

Director of OEM Robert Woelz reported on a mock evacuation exercise and addressed the points needed for improvement. Preparation is key for for critical events which may happen, such as severe weather, workplace violence, active shooters, terrorism, IT and power outages, environmental discharges, critical equipment failures, medical emergencies, or social media attacks. They threaten safety, interrupt supply chains, and disrupt operations. One result of the mock evacuation was that not all were notified. We all need a plan for children, the disabled, and dogs. 10 dogs showed up. The Red Cross doesn't allow animals.

Woelz is well trained, having participated in emergency management training which was detailed and took seven months, and which involved support from the Saguache Board of County Commissioners. Woelz has created a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SaguacheOEM/Saguacheoem. Check it out.



Center Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman.

New faces

Carrie Zimmerman, the new Center School Superintendent, introduced herself to the Commissioners. While she is originally from Arizona, she did her graduate work at Adams State. It appears she is hitting the ground running with an audit, projects, and a budget to work on. Her goal is to establish positive partnerships as well as setting up a district action plan and assuring that health and wellness is part of that—especially regarding obesity. One concern she has is how to keep kids safe, especially those traveling by way of highway 112.

New Code Enforcement Officer

Wendi Maez introduced Sergio Valdez who will be a new Code Enforcement Officer.

Her Land Use Department will supervise him. His first week consisted of training, gaining "street" knowledge, meeting people, explaining conditional use permits. He will document everything and take pictures and measurements to compare details with applications. If not in compliance they will have five days to remedy it. He will produce a map of marijuana grows. Residents must be aware that the code enforcer looks for all kinds of infractions including junk cars. Valdez will be going with Deputy Wayne Clark at first so he'll learn how to handle people and situations. His uniform is on order.



County Administrator Glen Simpson

New County Administrator named

At the January 22 meeting, the BOCC officially tendered an offer to Glen Simpson for the County Administrator position. Simpson, who hails most recently from Texas, now lives in Del Norte. He was trying to take it all in at his first meeting and so a detailed interview will follow when he has his legs under him. In the meantime he got to watch Wendi Maez simultaneously be acting County Administrator, Land Use Coordinator and the Airport Manager.

Sales tax grant money available for projects

Many worthwhile projects benefitting our community have been funded through the Saguache County Sales Tax Grants. Applications are available now and the deadline is 3pm, Friday, February 15, 2019. Projects must be for either:

1. Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or
2. Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation

They often total in the area of \$5,000. Grant applications are available at the County website saguachecounty.net/administration or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

Money available for RAC projects

The Saguache-Upper Rio Grande Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking proposals for projects that would enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land, health and water quality on the Rio Grande and San Isabel National Forests and other nearby lands in Saguache. Our County has \$112,00 available for projects on public lands like the road to the north Crestone campground.

Funding is through the Secure Rural Schools Act, Title II. The website has the application on line even though the Forest Service is closed due to the government shutdown. (www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/specialprojects/racweb).

Will the government shutdown affect our residents? Social Services has prepared by stepping up the food bank and commodity programs.

Solar gaining?

Jason Anderson said that at a Denver legislation session a larger effort to expand solar projects could be in the works. Presently Xcel works in small areas in urban settings, but in our rural area we are spread out and it makes it difference. Saguache is too small to have enough subscribers for a solar garden and Crestone is not in an Xcel district. If the legislation comes to pass, a small community could find other subscribers to join in with like Pueblo. (solar garden—an electric array that is owned by multiple subscribers and connected to the utility grid. The subscribers can purchase a portion of the power produced by the array and receive a credit on their electric bill.)



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Town of CRESTONE News

**by Allyson Ranson,
Crestone Town Clerk
Crestone Board of Trustees meeting January 14, 2019**

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

The Board of Trustees passed the following motions:

- To approve the agenda
- To approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting from December 10, 2018.
- To approve paying the bills.
- To approve the Financial Report as presented by the Treasurer.
- To authorize Mayor Danforth to stay overnight in Westcliffe, Colorado after attending a late meeting on International Dark Skies.
- To direct Treasurer Busby to type up a letter of support from the Board of Trustees for a Saguache County Sales Tax Grant with a submission date of February 15, 2019 and direct the mayor to sign it.
- To put the play structure (pirate ship) up for sale by sealed public bid.
- To adopt Resolution #01-2019 to approve 2019 General Fund Budget as amended with extra funds included.
- To adopt Ordinance #2019-001 to amend the Nuisance Code 2017-002 and include the specific nuisance regarding shading nighttime light sources.
- To adjourn the meeting at 3:10pm.

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, close-outs and new applications
- Sales tax revenue for the month of December 2018, which totaled \$18,138.49
- Marijuana tax revenue assessed by the town totaled \$703.97
- New purchases and equipment included a new lawn mower
- Extra funds from 2018 totaled almost \$54,000 and were added to the amended 2019 budget. The revised budget resolution was included in the Attorney's Report

Mayor Kairina Danforth reported on the following during her report:

- San Luis Valley Tourism Council
- Update on the upcoming International Dark Sky meeting in Westcliffe, Colorado

Clerk Allyson Ransom discussed the following in her report:

- The Town's new website is up and running at www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofcrestone
- Due to accidents and safety concerns, the public works and code enforcement departments request permission to paint the curb red for a "no parking—fire lane" on W. Silver Avenue (opposite the gas station entry) and to post "no park-

ing" and "dogs must be on leash" signs on a light bollard next to the red curb zone.

- Request permission or public works employees to help code enforcement by posting warning tags on vehicles parked illegally on Town property and rights of way with the code enforcement officer in support and overseeing the plan

- Request to put the pirate ship and dock play structure up for sale by sealed bid as per Cirsa's 2018 insurance inspection directing the town to either remove or rebuild the unsafe play equipment.

- Update on code enforcement activities and recent complaints in town, mostly pertaining to loose dogs and people living permanently in campers or RVs

- Update on the weed management grant with the Baca Wildlife Refuge

- Request by a Baca resident to conduct fire spinning events spontaneously in town, which the Board denied for safety concerns while reiterating that all event requests must be submitted formally in writing to the Board for pre-approval

Water System Manager Ann Bunting presented the following in her report:

- Update on the Block 59 water extension project along W. Copper Avenue

- A request to have a map of the water extensions drawn by Davis Engineering

- Alcon Construction's meter installation in the parking area in front of the Elephant Cloud Market would need to be corrected as the meter covers are inaccessible

- Update on the large private corporate interest attempting to pump water from lands north of Crestone to the Front Range; the state is expected to deny the request especially considering the valley's ongoing drought conditions.

During the Attorney's Report, the Trustees discussed the pros and cons of the elected officials' Code of Conduct document. Attorney Farish answered questions and gave legal advice while discussing issues of individual rights versus working together as a Board. He advised the Trustees that any decisions made by majority vote are the final decisions of the Board and must be respected. Individual Board members may make a motion during public meetings to reconsider a previous Board decision to amend them, but an individual Board member should not attempt to undermine the group's decision by privately opposing it to members of the public. However, Farish noted that it was acceptable to answer the public's questions regarding an issue and how it was voted upon and by whom.

Presentations

Kyle DeVardo of Viaero presented his company's request to



Crestonians gather at the Women's March in Alamosa.



Crestone Songbirds present at the Women's March in Alamosa. photo by Barbara Tidd

install a 50'-60' micro tower site in the Crestone Town limits. The tower would provide 4G service, improving service for AT&T cell users and might improve emergency communications in the area. Mr. DeVardo will return with answers to the Trustees' questions and more information by the March meeting.

Planning Commission

As there was no meeting on January 7, 2019 due to a lack of a quorum in attendance, no meeting minutes were reviewed; however, Commission Chair Goergen announced that the Planning Commission scheduled a work session for Monday, January 21, 2019 at 4pm at the Cloud Station to complete edits on the zoning code that should be ready to present to the Board by February.

Announcements

The Town of Crestone's administrative staff has created a new and improved website at www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofcrestone where you will find current information on meetings, contacts, agendas, approved minutes, forms and more.

Future updates to the site will include a photo gallery, events, and the complete municipal code book.

Offered for sale by sealed bid: One pirate ship play structure including ramp and small wooden dock area, which may be seen at 300 W. Silver Avenue (Creekside Park). If interested, drop off your offer in a sealed envelope to Crestone Town Hall at 108 W. Galena Ave. or send to:

Town of Crestone
"Sealed Bid-Play Equipment"
PO Box 64, Crestone, CO
81131

Please write legibly and include 1) The amount you are offer-

ing 2) Your name and contact information 3) Address to where the play structure would be moved.

Bids accepted through February 10, 2019, and the highest bidder will be notified by February 15, 2019. The play structure must be removed within one week of purchase, and the area cleared of nails, screws or other debris caused by removal with no damage to the town park or town property.

The Crestone Planning Commission meetings are now held at 9am on the first Monday of each month. The meeting place is in the same location at 111 S. Alder, which is accessible from the east porch door of the Town Hall building.

In case of health hazards from spills such as gas, oil, and sewer/septic effluent, please call the state's 24-hour spill hotline at 877-518-5608 and inform Town Hall at 256-4313.

Free brush pick-up for town residents takes place at the beginning of each month. Contact Town Hall at 256-4313 to schedule a pickup. 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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POA Board to consider new greenbelt regulations for trail usage

by John Rowe

The regularly scheduled POA Board meeting for January was held on January 17 at 10am at the POA Hall. Four of the five Board directors were present, with Mark Repp being unavailable. Ten audience members were also in attendance. The agenda and minutes from December's meeting were summarily approved and the meeting moved on to Member Forum.

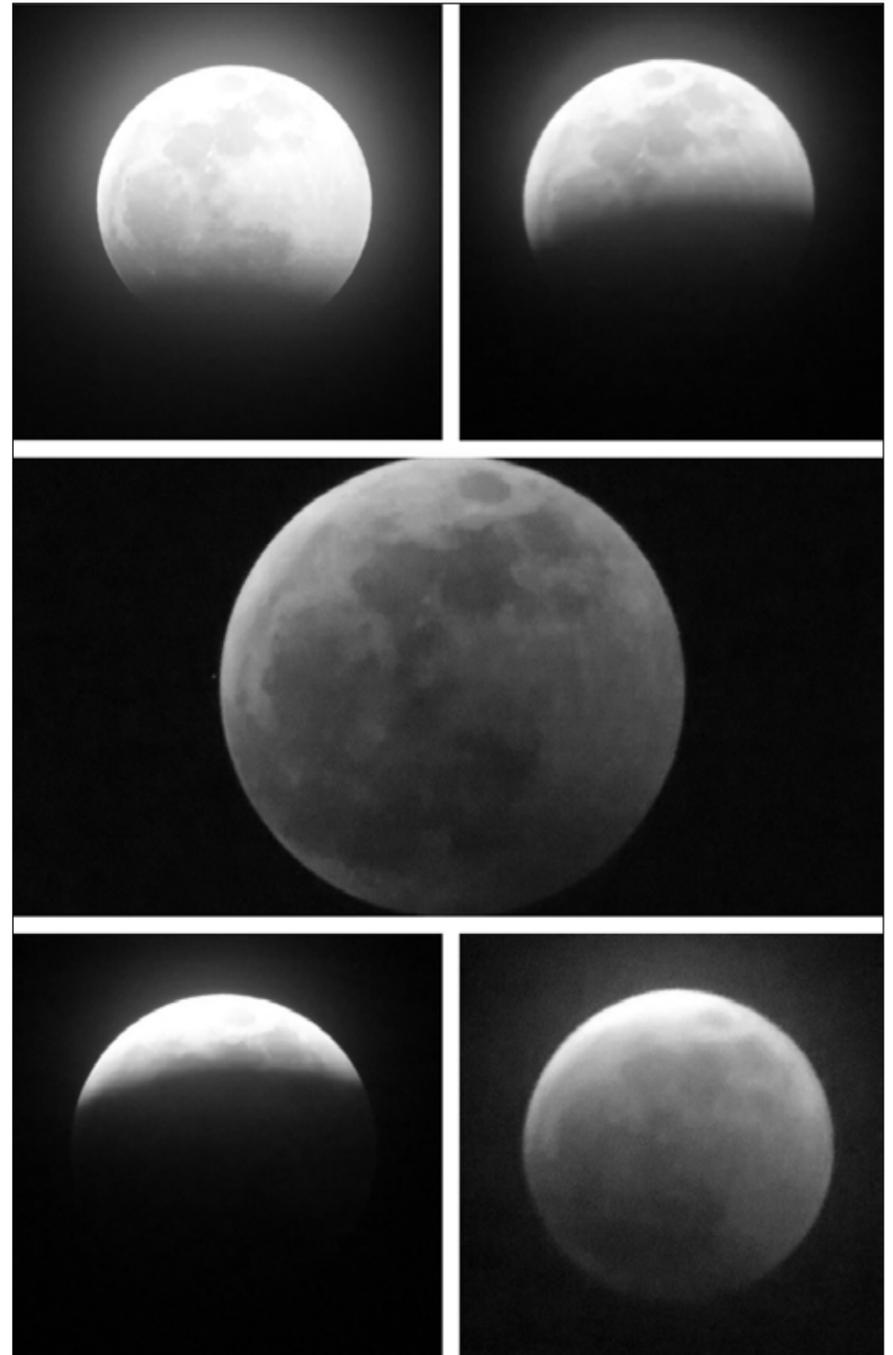
Member Forum opened up with the same fellow who expressed concern about trail use along all Baca creeks last month being back with a detailed letter outlining a plan of action for the Board to consider implementing. What prompted him and a few others to bring this issue up is what has been happening in the last few years along some of the creeks. A new two-mile length of trail has appeared along upper Spanish Creek, presumably built by biking enthusiasts in the area. Many new trails options crisscrossing the original South Crestone Creek trail above Baca Grant Way have also increased dramatically in the last few years. Mostly what he suggested is simple and practical such as signage advising mindfulness for bike riders and perhaps horse riders as well, in sensitive areas that need time to revegetate. Informational reminders to "Stay on established trails and don't shortcut or make new trails where one already exists" is another of his suggestions.

A biking enthusiast who uses the trails extensively suggests a group of walkers and bike riders and horse people to get together and figure out how to move forward. This will likely occur under the guidance and direction of the POA Board as will suggestions taken for signage. All seem to agree that we are growing too rapidly to just let everyone continue to "do their own thing" and some thought

concerning use and conservation of our creek greenbelts is called for. All agree that these areas are far and away the POA's most valuable resource and need looking after. Stay tuned for more on this issue as the Board wants to make sure all interested Baca members have an opportunity to contribute to this important issue. This column will try to stay out in front of any planned meetings about this and all interested are encouraged to contact the POA as well.

This same fellow also adamantly suggested more fire mitigation as he feels we have been lucky not to have had a major fire moving down these creek drainages and elsewhere in the Chalets. For anyone who is not aware of it, there is a tremendous amount of deadfall along all the creeks and is a source of real concern for those who take the possibility of a fire seriously. The Board responded that a comprehensive mitigation plan that includes not only public space but absentee owners as well is prohibitively expensive and well beyond the labor capacity of the fire department anyway. They stated that they will continue to approach mitigation here and there as resources permit, trying to do the most good with what they have. A good example is the efforts going on along South Crestone Creek above the park where there are more houses at risk than other areas of the Baca and considerable thinning is taking place.

Another topic that was opened up for group discussion was the possibility of a new clubhouse and offices closer to where most people live, perhaps around South Crestone Creek Park where it would also be close to the fire station. This is probably a ways up the road but the idea is being considered and there is consensus that the old structure along T Road is just about at the end of its effective life and is really not



Lunar eclipse as seen from Crestone.

photos by Patti Jackson

a good candidate for a major overhaul. There are two lots adjacent to the park which could serve as parking for the new facility or perhaps for the building itself. All ideas are being considered and the Board is open to input from all members.

The Board's focus for the upcoming year was declared, mostly by President Steve Dossenback, but others contributed as well.

The POA's priorities will be making sure that all pertinent employees learn the new Caliber accounting software, and that the new accounting and human resource outsourcing firms are in place and well utilized. A new Assistant Executive Director (assistant to Ayla Hoevers) will be hired soon, and more attention will be paid to OSHA regulations in the workplace.

All the Directors hope to stay focussed on the future in our rapidly growing community—who do we want to be and where do we want to go and how do we want to get there? The Board promises an interesting year and encourage all POA members to attend meetings and be a part of it all.

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Bobby Woelz successfully graduates from Colorado Emergency Management Academy

by David R. Osborn; Field Manager, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, San Luis Valley Region

On Friday, October 12 the Saguache County Office of Emergency Management Director Mr. Bobby Woelz successfully graduated from the 2018 Colorado Emergency Management Academy in Centennial, Colorado. This is a significant accomplishment for Director Woelz as the training and experience received will complement the Saguache County Emergency Management Program and the communities he serves. Over thirty students from around the State of Colorado joined Mr. Woelz in the graduation ceremony.

Mr. Woelz applied and was chosen to participate in the 2018 Colorado Emergency Management (EM) Academy late in December 2017. The course prerequisites and application process were lengthy and required a commitment of support from the Saguache Board of County Commissioners and local leadership that included travel and training time at the Centennial facility. Mr. Woelz dedicated no fewer than two hundred and eighty hours to successfully graduate from the 2018 Emergency Man-

agement Academy. The Academy is a seven-month commitment where students routinely travel once per month for 3 to 4 days of training.

Training at the Colorado EM Academy included Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Colorado approved curriculum; Mass Care and sheltering, Emergency Operation Center Coordination, Wildfire, Flooding, Early Alert and Warning, Evacuation and Re-Entry and Multi-Hazard Mitigation planning and training were provided in addition to a host of additional courses. On the final day of training, and prior to the graduation ceremony, a functional exercise is facilitated on site providing the student with a realistic incident coordination experience.

The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) takes great pride in this annual training opportunity and hope to train all emergency managers as we collectively lean forward with the whole community.

Congratulations Mr. Woelz!

For more information regarding Colorado Emergency Management please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/dhsem>.

Public health hits planning milestone

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership recently completed a regional Community Health Assessment. Based on all the data collected, the six Valley public health directors are now beginning to develop an action plan to improve the health of our communities over the next five years.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our community engagement meetings where public health priorities were developed. A variety of common issues emerged across county lines including behavioral health, substance abuse, access to health and dental care, health education, transportation, and early childhood intervention and support for families. A summary of this data is available at your local public health agencies and throughout the Valley in our "SLV Community Health Assessment 2018" booklet.

Colorado state law requires each public health agency to prepare a Public Health Improvement Plan every five years.

In December, the SLV Public Health Partnership selected priorities to address health access and capacity issues facing our communities:

Priority 1: Health Equity - everyone has an opportunity to be healthier in a fair and inclusive way.

Priority 2: Build Public Health Capacity

These are areas SLV public health agencies will work on in addition to the core services. Core local public health agency services include vital records; communicable disease investigation, control and prevention; environmental health, including food safety; emergency preparedness and response; and health promotion.

Next steps are:

- Select goals and strategies, and build an action plan for the region and each county around these priorities, and
- Prepare a final Public Health Improvement Plan describing our work, the data that led us to our priorities, a capacity assessment and the action plan.

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership is a coalition of the six public health Directors in the Valley—Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral (Silver Thread Public Health District), Rio Grande, and Saguache—working together to build public health capacity to improve health outcomes.



Gordon and Chi Chi Chu hosted a showing of the movie, *The Graduate*, in their home on January 13. The movie night was sponsored by Crestone Peak Community Housing (CPCH) and Crestone Baca (CB) Village, and will continue to happen every 2nd Sunday for the next few months, choosing a different movie each month.

photo by Lori Nagel

Sunday Night at the Movies

If you haven't sold your soul to rock & roll, *Almost Famous* should seal the deal! Award winning film maker Cameron Crowe was only 15 when he deepend his voice to sound much older and hustled an assignment with *Rolling Stone*. This 2000 movie, set in 1973, is loosely based on Crowe's formative years blissfully misspent road-tripping with the likes of Led Zeppelin, Yes and the Allman Brothers.

Sunday Night at the Movies will be shown at Gorden and Chi Chi Chu's on the SE corner of Camino Real and Camino del Rey. Starting time is at 4pm with a pot luck dinner followed by *Almost Famous* at 5pm with a discussion afterwards. Bring your own dinnerware, flatware and cups. Let's keep our carbon footprint light on the earth!

This program is brought to you as a fundraiser through the partnership of Crestone Peak Community Housing and CB Village to raise money for the purchase of land for the senior housing project "Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community".

Questions? Call Barbara Hoepfner, 256-4320 (after 10am). RSVP; seating is limited.

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Get ready for some spoken word:

The Crestone Poetry Festival, Feb 21-24

The 2nd Crestone Poetry Festival is nearly upon us. This year poets from all over Colorado and New Mexico will soon be bringing their talents to town, offering readings, performances, and workshops beginning Thursday evening February 21 and running through Sunday morning February 24.



Jessica Helen Lopez, poet laureate emerita of Albuquerque.

Those wanting a full plate of spoken word can purchase a weekend pass. Daily passes and tickets to individual events will also be available at Crestone Charter School and at other venues throughout the weekend. For more information on poets, pro-

grams, and admission, [go to poem-fest.com](http://go.to.poem-fest.com). In the mean time, here is the bare bones schedule:



Peter Anderson.

Thursday February 21

6:00-6:50 (Crestone Charter School) Local Poets Reading; Let your friends and neighbors delight you with their words

7:00-8:30 (Crestone Charter School) Evening Readings; New Mexico poets John Brandi and Renee Gregorio/Colorado poets Juan Morales and Claudia Putnam: Poetic travels to Cuba, back to Crestone, and into the future.

9:00 to 11:00 (Crestone Brewing Company) Nerea the Fiddler and Friends Celtic Music, good cheer, and the composition of a collective poem.

Friday February 22

1:00 to 3:00 (Crestone Charter School) Poetry Workshops; Bring pen and paper and seek out your muse. Five different workshops to choose from. All ages and abilities welcome

4:00 to 5:30 (Earth Tribe Studio) Happy Hour Open Mic; Hosted by Taos poet Anne MacNaught-

on and other Taos all-stars. Hear some new poems from our neighbors to the south and bring your own poems to share.

7:00 to 8:30 (Crestone Charter School) Evening Readings; William Pitt Root, Pam Uschuk, and Gary Worth Moody bring you Strange Angels, Crazy Love, and the Hazards of Grace.

9:00 to 10:30 or so (Cloud Station) Jazz, Poetry, and Open Mic; Join Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and some of Crestone's finest jazz players for a fun fusion of words and music.

Saturday February 23

9:00 to 10:00 Yoga and Writing; Jump start your creativity with local writer and yoga teacher Val Kilpack

10:00 to 11:30 (Crestone Charter School); Coffee, baked goods, and an open mic

1:00 to 3:00 (Crestone Charter School) Poetry Workshops; Bring



John Brandi and Renee Gregorio from *El Rito, New Mexico* will be sharing from the book of poems they wrote together about their travels in Cuba.



Joe Hutchison, poet laureate of Colorado.

pen and paper for some poetic adventures. Five different workshops to choose from.

4:00 to 5:30 (venue tbd) Happy Hour Open Mic hosted by the River City Nomads; Hear some seasoned performance poets and bring your own words to the microphone.

6:30 to 7:30 (Desert Sage) Poet's Banquet; Join old and new friends for a Bhutanese buffet.

7:30 to 9:30 Poemapalooza: Poet's Dinner Theater; Don't miss this performance extravaganza featuring dynamic voices from all over Colorado and New Mexico. Hosted by paleo-hippy and poetic performer Art Goodtimes.

Sunday February 24

9:00 to 10:00 Breakfast and Bookfair; Come enjoy breakfast burritos, coffee, and buy autographed books from your favorite poets.

10:00 to 12:00 Talking Gourd Circle; A poetry circle for sharing new work and old favorites

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January & February

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- 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. 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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Paula Hudson, to exhibit at the Shumei Shop/MoSPACE Gallery

Opening Sat., Feb. 16, 1 to 5pm

Paula Hudson's work will be on display at the Shumei Shop/MoSPACE Gallery at 116 S. Alder St. in Crestone in the Sangre de Cristo Inn building, from February 7 through April 20. An opening with the artist is schedule for February 16, from 1 to 5pm in the shop. This event is free to the public.

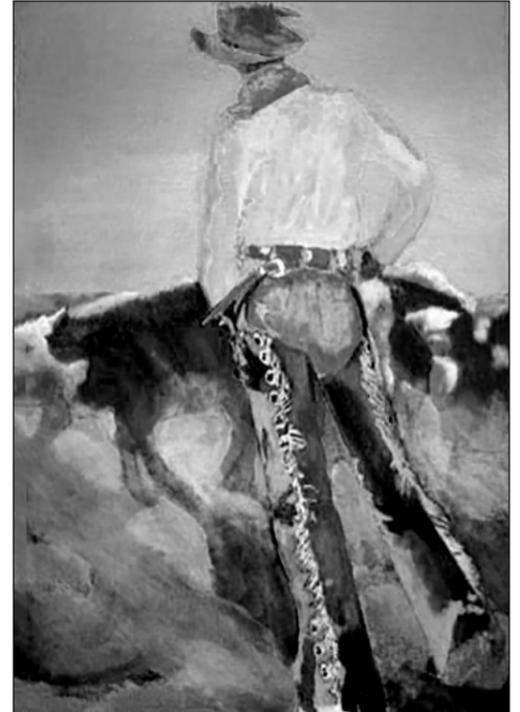
The Living Room, a creative meeting place

For the month of February, The Living Room (across the hall from Present and Creative in the Sangre de Cristo Inn building) will be hosting a live painting event by artist Pam Uhlenkamp to finish out her show at Shumei Shop/MoSPACE. Starting February 6 from 4 to 6:30pm The Living Room will host Pam Uhlenkamp for mandala painting.

On the third Saturday of the month drop in to see another artist demo. Visit Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm for the

Collage Drop In, an ongoing art activity.

Come by MoSPACE to find out more and to register Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 5pm. Jyorei is also available on those days.



Paula Hudson's paintings are on display at the Shumei Shop / MoSPACE Gallery from Feb. 7 to April 20.



Amir's glass sculpture. Amir Hess is the artist of the month.

Artisans Gallery to host Valentine's "Honey Bee Party" Feb. 9

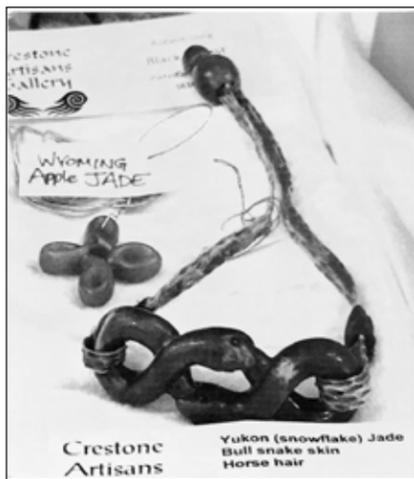
by Paula Hudson

Well, the holidays are over and we are already into the second month of the new year. That means we will be having an event. We want to keep you on your toes. That smoochy holiday, Valentine's Day, is coming up, and we have planned a "Honey Bee Party"! There will be a food theme all about honey. Of course, there will be libations; I wonder if someone will make mead? Please come and find out. The date is February 9 from 4 to 6pm.

ting up a photography booth for anyone wishing to commemorate the sweet day with a photograph. What a lovely idea, especially for couples. Finally, there will be live music. The gallery has never looked better. Come and enjoy all the new art.

The artist of the month is Amir Hess. His work will be featured on—you guessed it—the Big Grey Wall. He creates small multimedia pieces incorporating hand blown glass. They are striking, mysterious and puzzling. I think they hold secrets. Secrets that are unique to each viewer. See what they say to you.

Turns out that our jewelry maker, Jane Adorney, is also a painter. She will be hanging some of her works in February. Look for them when you come in. Noah Baen will be joining us as a consignment member. His paintings are truly full of energy and life. Many of you remember Robin Ross. She will have a painting hung with Noah's work as well. Jande Namba has just joined us and will be hanging her paintings. Lots of new people and lots of new work for your enjoyment.



Bob Long's Jade jewelry.

Bob Long will be offering one of his gorgeous hand-carved pieces of stone jewelry in the free drawing. Lori Nagel will be set-

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Shumei International Institute - PO Box 998, Crestone, CO 81131 - 719-256-5284



Democrats reorganizational meeting Feb. 7

The Saguache County Democrats reorganizational meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd St.

5:40pm to 6pm - Registration
6pm - Call to Order

The following offices will be elected: County Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please attend the meeting and step up to express your interest! We value your input! We want your engagement!

Also, a vacancy committee will be selected that is authorized to fill vacancies in the county central committee and Democrat elected official positions. We may also approve appointed precinct committee people.

Those eligible to vote at the meeting are members of the County Central Committee: officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the County Democratic Party.

The "Call" for the Saguache County meeting was emailed per the Party Rules.

The meeting is open to the public. All are welcome! Please join us!

More information: Lynne 719-754-9163 sheebalt@yahoo.com or Barb 719-221-8434 slvbarb498@gmail.com.

Senior Center Open House

Saguache Senior Citizen Center will be having our 2nd annual Open House on February 14 at 605 Christy Ave, Saguache from 9:00am. to 3:00pm. all seniors 55 or older, all Veterans are welcome, lunch is RSVPS and is served from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Bring your Valentine., See you there.

Valley Community Chorus rehearsals begin February 5

The Valley Community Chorus invites all singers to be a part of the spring 2019 program. The VCC will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem" at the May 5 and May 7 concerts.

Members of the spring VCC will have an opportunity to join a festival choir, X-VOX: Generations Joined in Song Festival 2019, in Colorado Springs, on May 10 and May 11. The Colorado Springs Chamber Orchestra will accompany the 100+ voices festival choir.

The Valley Community Chorus is open to all adults and high school students. No auditions are required. All are welcome. Rehearsals begin at 7pm every Tuesday. The first rehearsal is February 5, in the Adams State University Music Building room 117.

For more information or to register, contact David Schneider, director, at 719-298-8152 or or dwschnei0@yahoo.com.

Losar: Year of the Earth Pig, Tibetan New Year celebration

At Yeshe Khorlo, Buddhist Temple & Retreat Center

Tuesday, February 5, 10am-2pm:

10am-12pm - Riwo Sangcho (Outdoor Smoke Offering)

Noon-2pm - Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck & Oracle Divination), followed by bonfire, singing, dancing, music, archery & revelry

Friday, February 15, 6-8pm
Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck)

Tuesday, February 19, 10-11am

Full Moon Riwo Sangcho (Outdoor Smoke Offering)

Cabin Fever's coming up March 30

The Cabin Fever winter talent show, begun in 1990, will be here for our amusement and edification Saturday, March 30. Sponsored by the Crestone Charter School and Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the evening will commence with an early bird chili dinner served from 4:30 to 6pm. At that juncture the never-a-dull-moment talent show will start.

This eclectic combination of CCS students' talents featuring music and other surprising performances and the offerings from the larger community is not to be missed! During intermission you can buy snacks and drinks to hold you over for the decadent dessert auction. The bidding is exciting as seven to ten wild and wonderful desserts, created by local bakers, are auctioned off to the audience.

The second half of the talent show will finish this family fun evening. If you would like to make a dessert or if you want to showcase your particular talent email Judie Rose at judierose@rainbowbb. Look for flyers around town publicizing Cabin Fever. Come out to end the freezing winter blues.

Nonviolent Communication continues

We continue our NVC practice of discovering deeper connection with our life-serving awareness of feelings and needs.

At the same time we are uncovering hidden, habitual defenses and unconscious reactions that obscure and block our innate, natural basic goodness. It's a process and a language, yes, but giving and receiving compassion is also our natural birthright as human beings.

The Art of Empathy is the heart of Compassionate and Nonviolent Communication (NVC). Paul Shippee has been facilitating and guiding classes and workshops in Crestone for over a decade, and for a few years now at the Buena Vista state prison. The current NVC class is based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg, and is meeting Feb. 5 and 19, 4-6pm, by donation.

The class is open to accept serious students. Call 719-588-5521 for more information.

Thank you for celebrating the *Eagle's* 30th Anniversary!



Jillian Ellzey, Cristina Cabeza Kinney, Adam Kinney and Christine Canaly share some laughs at The Crestone Eagle's 30th Anniversary party on January 12. photo by Lori Nagel



Avid Eagle reader Svetlana visits with Janet Woodman, Bill Sutherland, Kizzen Lakai and Loretta Covert at the Eagle's anniversary party. Kizzen was kinda one-armed, so she sat, smiled and waved to the well-wishers. photo by Lori Nagel.



Janet Woodman, Mark Jacobi, Matie Belle Lakish, and Bill Ellzey pause for a photo in the kitchen at the anniversary party. photo by Lori Nagel

A big thanks to Mary Lowers who, with help from Nick and John, prepared and served the wonderful food. Thanks to friends who contributed food and fun. A special big thanks to the wonderful Eagle staff that make the Eagle happen every month.

Community Calendar—February 2019

Get the details at 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.

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.

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 (preferred) ~or~ e-mail to: 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

February 5

- Care & Share Food Distribution, Alder Meeting Room, 10:00 am - Noon
- Losar: Year of the Earth Pig, Tibetan New Year celebration, Yeshe Khorlo – Buddhist Temple & Retreat Center 10am-2pm
- Nonviolent Communication, by donation, 719-588-5521, 4-6pm
- Valley Community Chorus forming, Adams State Music Bldg Rm 117, 7pm

February 7

- Alamosa Democrats Reorganizational meeting Saguache Rd & Bridge, 305 3rd St, Saguache, 5:30pm

February 9

- San Luis Valley Seed Exchange, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, 719-256-4328
- Honey Bee Party, Crestone Artisans Gallery, 4-6pm

February 10

- San Luis Valley Seed Exchange, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, 719-256-4328
- Shumei February Sampai, 10:30-noon

February 11

- Student Open-Mic, The Cloud Station, 5:30-7pm

February 14

- Valentines Day

February 15 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong), 6-8pm

February 16

- Paula Hudson Art Opening & Display, 1-5pm

February 18

- Presidents' Day

February 19

- Full Moon Riwo Sangcho (Outdoor Smoke Offering), Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong), 10-11am
- Nonviolent Communication, by donation, 719-588-5521, 4-6pm

February 21

- Alpine Achievers fundraiser, 50 Burger, Hwy 50, Salida
- Crestone Poetry Festival, 6-11pm

February 22

- Crestone Poetry Festival, 1-10:30pm

February 23

- Crestone Poetry Festival, 9am-9:30pm

February 24

- Crestone Poetry Festival, 9am-noon

March 5

- Mardi Gras for Senior Care Campus, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, 4pm-9pm

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
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5248
- Tours, gallery & Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284
- Open meditation & prayers in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room till dusk; all welcome to come practice. 256-5539, vajravidya.com
- Tours, Temple & Gift Shop – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org.
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Sunday mass, Nada Hermitage 9-10am, 256-4778
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church, 10am-noon
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall, 7pm-8pm, 256-4250

Monday

- Monday Yoga, Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church, 10-11:15am, www.RadiantFlow.co
- Al-Anon meeting, Little Shepherd Church, 1pm, newcomers welcome

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam, 5-6:45pm by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668
- Tai Chi, Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall, 5-7pm, by donation, 256-4531

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements, Shakti Sharanam, 8:30am – 10:00 am by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668
- Wednesday Night Bible Study, Crestone Baptist Church, 6:00pm-7:30pm, 256-4845
- AA Meeting Lazy KV The Clubhouse, 7-8pm

Thursday

- Tai Chi Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall, 5-7pm, 256-4531
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam, 5pm-6:45pm, by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668

Friday

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

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Fire spinners at the moment of the Full Moon Blood Eclipse at the Crestone Drum Circle.
photo by Eco Lake

Out & About with Lori Sunflower

What does LOVE mean to you?



Jandi Namba

Love means to me, my first cup of coffee in the morning! Seriously, I've spent a lifetime pondering "what is love?" To me, it's a profound feeling of joy, gratitude, peace, acceptance, forgiveness in an expanded heart, connected to all that is in awe of all creation. I'm in deep gratitude for my relationship with my partner, Noah, and for my family in Oregon and Arizona, my son, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Making art, writing, drumming and dancing fills me with love. Experiencing the soul connections with my fellow Crestonians: smiles, bright shining eyes, hundreds of hugs! Sharing all the joys and sorrows keeps me in a state of love.



Jake Marcus

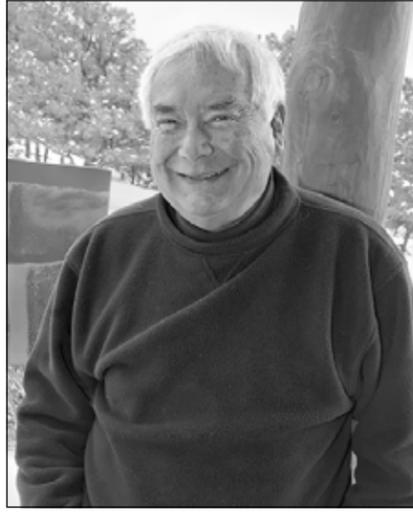
Love is a way to express yourself to someone else in an unselfish way. It's a way to just enjoy one another with someone else. It could also be yourself, but for me, it's with my soul mate. I feel love is the gift we're given and it's something that not everyone gets to express. And it could be the love from a father, a mother or another person. It's just complete unselfishness to someone else is what I think love is. That's the easiest way to put it. And it's an emotional expression. It's not a thought. It's something you just automatically feel, like a mother and her son or like a son and his father, or like a daughter and her father. It's just something

you can't change. Or when you find that right person, you realize if you're away from that person it eats at you a little bit, and being around that person also changes you and makes you a better person. That's what I think love is. And I feel that Valentine's Day is a way to express yourself and enjoy yourself with your partner. It's also a way to set yourself aside from the normal everyday hustle and bustle and just get back to the to the heart.



Donna Heitmann

We met in college. We both went to junior colleges and we connected immediately. We dated for basically two years before we got married. We celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary on January 9th. Something we think is important to keeping a long marriage is that we always encourage and support one another in new ventures. For instance, when Kelvin was thinking about getting his Doctoral, I said "You can do it—go for it!" Likewise, with me getting my Master's degree, he said, "Just go for it—you can do it!" So, that's one thing we think is a secret to our marriage and to our love is supporting and caring for one another, letting the other person do their growing. We found out about six weeks after we met that we celebrated the same birthday also. I'm two hours older than Kelvin. We still celebrate our birthdays and enjoy one another with that, and think it's kind of unique that we found each other and that we both celebrated the same birthday. We also really believe in not having a divided thing. Kelvin and I both do a lot of cooking and we both help out with housework together. It's a collaborated effort and not thinking that cooking or housecleaning is just for women, that we can help support each other in all kinds of ventures, having a more collaborated effort with everything together and rejoicing in each other's strengths and weaknesses and caring for one another and our children, too. We have three children and five grandchildren and one on the way!



Bill Sutherland

My background has lot to do with being interested in philosophy, so I can expound on long things from Plato and David Hume, who felt that love was really, really important. But what it boils down to, aside from what we commonly feel when we love Italian sausage, or we love our dog, or we love our children, it's always directed at some specific thing and it's not a general philosophical view; it's something that's personal and real and it's something you feel. That's what makes it so valuable to be living with someone you love because you get to see, hear, touch, taste and listen to (sometimes too often!) the person that you love, and the immediacy and the immediate touching and sensual response to the object of your love is really important. That's why, to me, it's a bigger thing to love your pet (which we don't happen to have one now), or to love each other as opposed to loving your country or various other things you might love. So, loving has to do with empathy, feeling into the person because you've had this groundwork of connection. It's the idea of not just doing what's good for you or what's good for her but what's good for your common ground. When you look at the rest of the world which seems to be ignoring the sense of the commons anymore, you just wonder how can love exist, but here we are in our sweet little place, talking and loving each other and having that common space here. That's what love means to me right now.



Jesse Wright

I think love is math. And that may sound silly, but it's not always 50/50. A relationship is not only giving and taking. It's more: you put in the effort when your significant other can't. And that may not always be fair but love isn't fair. You're supposed to take care of one another and really be there for them. And that doesn't mean that you have to have something in return. I think that love is caring for somebody be-

yond yourself, really being in tune with what they need more than what they want because you can spoil your significant other all you want, but in the end, it's not what they want, it's what they need. I fell in love with a man who takes care of me with my mental and physical illnesses and in turn, I always take care of him financially and all that jazz. It's not 50/50, but it's 100% love.



David Charles Nelson

The romantic time of the year, I guess. For me, starting in the womb, presumably, I've been bombarded with love songs, poetic images and beautiful melodies, setting me up to mate with someone, feel connected in a special way. Excitement. Also to have my heart broken, love unrequited, singing the blues and cryin' (the other side of it). Best example that I've played a lot, and must have heard thousands of times in my 82 years, and have performed several times in the Cloud Station, me on clarinet with piano man Al, is:

"My funny valentine, sweet comic valentine, you make me smile with my heart. Your looks are laughable, unphotographable, yet you're my favorite work of art. Is your figure less than Greek, is your mouth a little weak, when you open it to speak are you smart? But don't change a hair for me, not if you care for me—stay little valentine, stay. Each day is Valentine's day."

There's commitment there, but you can't change it if you care for me. And the question about intellect . . .? Comic? Oh well. But besides my romantic conditioning, I know to have compassion for all beings, to practice love by loving my cat, and to proclaim, you might say (I quote it so darn often) that the purpose of life itself is to like the world, as much as can be. Like can grow into love. And it could very well be true as the song says, "Love, your magic spell is everywhere!" And as the Beatles made seem true, "Love love love, all you need is love!" Do I have any more to say? My special loves, maybe. Bach. Ocean breezes and mountain zephyrs (a great word), sunlight through eyelids, a far off ridge, singing, my partner Jane . . . myself, most of the time . . .

If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email peacelorelove@gmail.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.

You are invited!

9th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange February 9 & 10

The Seed Exchange is a *free* community event at Joyful Journey Hot Springs that connects seed growers with each other and the public. Vendors are able to display their seeds for trade and/or sale. Seed exchanges contribute to food security and more importantly, through an exchange of knowledge, food sovereignty.

This year, in addition to vegetable, herb and flower seeds, the exchange introduces *hemp!* Seeds, clones, dry flowers and other hemp products are welcome. Please note, this is a hemp-only event and will not include marijuana. Hemp has less than 0.3% THC.

The event is a fundraiser for Saguache County school garden projects. All proceeds from vendor fees, and 100% of donations will benefit those projects.

The event will be held at the Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa & Event Center 28640 CR 58 EE, Moffat, CO.

The event includes:

Speakers sharing their experience on topics including: bokashi & natural farming, gardening in the high desert and greenhouses, the effects of climate change on regional farming, seed crop growing and seed saving techniques, water/drought issues, and aspects of medicinal hemp farming.

Food and drinks for sale and there are \$2 discounts on soaking in Joyful Journey's healing waters

Door prizes:

\$150 cash from the Saguache County Tourism Board

\$300 of plant nutrients and bio-stimulants from Beyond Organica

Otto-II X hemp seedlings to

the first 60 people through the door on Saturday morning from the Beyond Organica Hemp Nursery

WEEKEND SCHEDULE Saturday, February 9, (Food and Garden Focused)

The Traditional, Regional Seed Swap starts at 10am and runs until 4pm.

CBD Crude Oil extraction Demonstrations featuring patented Tamisium Extractor technology

On-Site Biodome Greenhouse tours

10:30-11:30am: Micah Roseberry – Saving Seeds and Growing Food on the Western Slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains

11:45am-12:45pm: Tom McCracken – Water Issues & Banning GMO's in Saguache County

1:45-2:45 pm: Miguel Santistevan – Lessons learned on the front lines of climate change for the acequias in Taos: crop types, germination conditions, and water availability.

3:00-4:00pm: Jerome Ostentowski – Permaculture: Indoor & Outdoor Forest Gardening

Sunday, February 10, (Hemp Focused)

The Traditional, regional seed swap starts at 10am and runs until 2pm

CBD Crude Oil extraction demonstrations featuring patented Tamisium Extractor technology

On Site Biodome Greenhouse tours

10:30-11:30am: Caren Kershner – Reflections from Six Years in the Field - One Woman's Experiences with Industrial Hemp



Ginny Ducale (L) visits with Bryon and Leah Pike from High Ground Gardens at last year's Annual SLV Seed Exchange, which was held at Joyful Journey on 2/11/18.

photo by Lori Nagel

12:15 pm - 1:15: Cab Baber – Rejuvenative Agriculture using EM (effective microorganisms), natural farming & Bokashi, organic hemp farming on the Big Island of Hawaii

1:30-2:00pm: Terry Moran – Seed Specialist from the Colorado Department of Agriculture/Industrial Hemp Program

2:00-3:00pm: Round Table Discussion with Government Officials and Farmers on Challenges of Hemp Farming

If you want to bring hemp to trade or sell, you must become a vendor. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor, please contact Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa at (719) 256-4328.

Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa & Event Center is located

in the beautiful San Luis Valley of Colorado at the intersection of Highways 285 and 17.

For more information, visit Joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com

Ag Talk sponsor: beyondorganica.com

slvseedexchange.com



**FEBRUARY 9th & 10th
Sat. & Sun. ~ 10 am to 4 pm**

- ◆ Regional Seed Swap
- ◆ CBD Crude Oil Extraction Demonstration
- ◆ Round Table Discussion on Challenges of Hemp Farming
- ◆ 7 speakers on Seed Saving, Food and Hemp Farming, GMO and Drought Strategies
- ◆ Door Prizes of the
 - ◆ \$150 from Saguache Tourism
 - ◆ Otto-II X Hemp Starts from Beyond Organica Hemp Nursery
 - ◆ Plant Nutrients from Beyond Organica
- ◆ Tour of On-site Greenhouse
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www.SLVSeedExchange.com

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Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

The mysterious Self

by Dr. Eric Weiss

Last month, I was writing about the mysterious Self that we discover when we able to “go inside.”

I am certainly not, at this moment, having a clear experience of that Self. Perhaps I have glimpsed it in some inspired moment, but it is not my abiding experience. And I am fascinated by it, and can share with you something of what Sri Aurobindo has to say about it.

He says that as we withdraw inside, what we first discover is a witnessing self, that knows itself to be unconditioned, absolute and infinite. In the ego process, this witness self is identified with the cluster of bodily, emotional and thinking processes that is an individual personality. Identified with the personality, it is subject to life, death and the inexorable workings of the world. Awakening from the dream of personality, it awakens

into an experience of luminosity and freedom.

And this awakening is just a beginning. This individual experience of waking up, as it matures, begins to realize that the Self in all other beings is identical to itself, and that all of those Selves are indeed one and same Self. The self recognizes its own universality. Then, that now-universalized Self recognizes its transcendence, and realizes the whole universe is extended within itself, a product of its own creativity.

Imagine containing the entire universe within you. Imagine experiencing yourself as all-pervading, in all spaces and all times. Imagine inhabiting every entity in the universe, and seeing the universe from its perspective. Imagine doing all three of those at once. This is the Knowledge to which we are invited.



Here is the first hermitage at the Ashram. Our goal is to build another one this summer.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

Lots of wonderful snow here up on the hill; we are grateful and everyone is getting stronger with all of the shoveling.

The new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, February 4 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Tuesday, February 19. 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 it is below freezing.

Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies, and any other questions.

The night of Lord Shiva, Maha Shivaratri is in March this year. It will be celebrated the night of Tuesday, March 5 with the new-moon fire ceremony the next day at 10am followed by a feast. We will give more information in the March newsletter.

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 many statues, wooden boxes, incense burners, prayer shawls, prayer bells, hanging oms, bracelets, saris, stickers, malas, singing bowls, perfumes, books, cd's, tablecloths, 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://mahalakshnishop.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at 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.

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February Special

50% off all gently used cloth items. 10% off to all our Eagle readers except sale items. The Ashram and Maha Lakshmi Shop welcomes you daily.

Winter store hours:
9am-4pm

Maha Lakshmi Shop

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Baca Grande POA employee spotlight: Harold Fowler, EMS Captain

by **Fedrica Solano-Clark**

Director of Communications
Baca Grande Property Owners Association

"Sometimes on the way to a dream you get lost and find a better one." Harold Fowler, Captain of the Baca Grande Emergency Services, may not have said this—but he could have.

This month I had the opportunity to sit down with Cpt. Harold Fowler, Firefighter and EMT, to find out what it's like to be a part of the Baca Grande Emergency Services and how that work has translated to being a career that has transformed his life. As a child, Cpt. Fowler hoped to do something with his life that would help people and make an impact on their lives. And he is.

Harold makes sure the ambulance service at the Baca Grande is running on all cylinders. Harold has been a dedicated employee of the Baca Grande for over three years and has gone beyond the call of duty of completing the training to be a certified firefighter and Intermediate EMT. Captain Fowler is working diligently towards his goal of becoming a Nationally Certified Critical Care Paramedic. Captain Fowler is actively pursuing his goals: "Right now at school, I'm taking accelerated Anatomy and Physiology courses at Trinidad State," and he has recently taken on the position of EMS Captain for the Baca Grande.

The impact that a great leader has on those being led cannot be underestimated. It is the Captain who has the most control over the everyday culture, work environment and conditions for his staff, the men and women who respond to medical emergencies in the Baca, and it's an awesome responsibility. The relationship between the Captain and the employees of the Baca Grande EMS plays a critical role in providing exemplary care for the people of the Baca Grande and its greater service area. This relation-

ship is a two-way street, and both the Baca Grande EMS staff and the supervisors are responsible for cultivating a positive working relationship. However, the responsibility for opening the door and being intentional about creating that relationship lies with Harold. It is Captain Fowler's job to lead that relationship—to open the door, set the stage, allow for open communication and guide the way.

It is very common for EMS units in rural parts of the U.S. to have sparsely populated coverage areas that stretch over large distances and challenging terrain. Time and distance traveled for EMS personnel to respond to a call will typically be much greater in rural areas than urbanized areas. This is especially true for EMS providers of the Baca Grande Emergency Services, where our nearest hospital is approximately an hour away. The large coverage areas, travel distances, and increased demand for time spent with the patient can lead to significant impacts on patient outcomes and survival rates. Captain Fowler is dedicated to his job and efficient in his assignments, often taking on additional tasks to provide our members and community with the best possible care.

Cpt. Harold Fowler always greets everyone with a pleasant hello and inviting smile. Whether it is in person or over the phone, Cpt. Fowler always represents the Baca Grande with exemplary professionalism and continually goes the extra mile to help people. Harold takes on the task of community engagement very seriously and is a CPR instructor. He is also an instructor for the "Stop the Bleed Training" course which provides credible information, resources, and training on actions that people can take immediately after a trauma and before first-responders arrive. Captain Fowler also has an outreach program for the youngest members of our community with



Harold Fowler, EMS Captain, Baca Grande POA

the "Teddy Bear Clinic." This provides hands-on opportunities for children to interact with common medical equipment used in the ambulance, and learn first-hand what our First-Responders do.

What do you think is the most satisfying part about your job as an EMT? "Knowing that you have helped a person and that I have performed my job efficiently, professionally and with great care. The patients are relying on you to take care of their well-being while they're under your care."

What does it mean to you to care for your patient? "As a medical professional, every time you take on a patient you become their advocate. When you're transporting them, the patients are relying on you to take care of their well-being. It is up to you to provide the best for your patient."

What are your long-term career goals? "Continue to further my healthcare education and become a Critical Care Paramedic."

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming an EMT, but isn't sure that's the road they want to go down? "I'd say definitely look into it. It's a really rewarding job that takes a lot of dedication; it can take a toll emotionally and physically."

When he first moved to the area, being a firefighter or EMT was not a career path he expected to take, but once he started working for the Baca Emergency Services, the ability to continually learn something different and the unlimited potential for knowledge, sparked something with him. Then Harold found something else he hadn't expected—the connection with the patients. It is that building of relationships with our members and community that sets the Baca Grande EMS apart from city agencies. "When you're an EMT in a metropolitan area, you're not likely to know the person you're caring for. But here, our patients are also our neighbors and friends and you make sure you do whatever you can to get them to the hospital and keep them stable." He goes on to add, "Being a First Responder has become so much more to me than I ever thought it could be. You get so close with residents and their families, and it feels really good when you can help them get home and lead a better life." Proving that some of the best things in life are those you never expected.

Look forward to more articles highlighting our terrific Emergency Service personnel.

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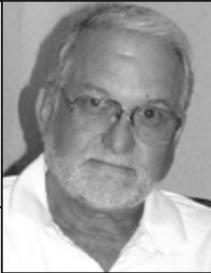
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Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



as received by Earl LeRoy
Come to Me just as you are

What do you want to tell me Lord? Come to Me all of you that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

I love every person just where they are. You do not have to attain to any level to come to Me. I accept everyone in the state or position they are in. The most self-centered, sinful person can approach Me, seeking Me and I will welcome them with open arms.

You see, I do not love you more because you have grown in Me; as a matter of fact, as you grow in Me, I expect you to give more of yourselves to others' growth. The more you grow in Me and My Spirit, the more like Me you become. The more like Me you become, the more you will sacrifice yourself for others because that is what I do. The more you become like Me the less highly you regard yourselves. The more you become like Me, the less you judge others and the more you love others. Your life becomes a reflection of Me and My Glory.

Do not compare yourselves to other people. You are not where they are and they are not where you are. Only compare yourselves to Me and strive to be more like Me. When I said deny yourselves, take up your cross daily (crucify your flesh) and follow Me, I meant complete self-sacrifice and a complete dying to yourself. Very few have reached that level and still remained alive. But, as you deny yourselves and die to yourself, the more I will trust you with.

I Am the One who searches hearts and motives and I know what true humility looks like. Some who come to Me and seek Me do so for the promotion of their own glory. They have received all they are going to get. They get adoration from some people, but it is not long lived and their pride always destroys

them.
I Am seeking those who have pure hearts and pure motives. I Am seeking those who do not care about their ministry or their renown. I Am seeking those who give all to Me so I can give all to them. I Am seeking those who will love unconditionally and never walk in judgment of others or in judgment of where their status is in Me. I Am looking for those who will pull up those in need, and push those above them to Me. I Am seeking those that I can let My Glory flow through.

I Am not here to condemn your choices, but to help you make wise ones. Ask Me—Seek My face and you will never be led to a place of compromise and self-indulgence. Knock and I will open the door. I will give wisdom and understanding. I will sup with you and We will enjoy the best together.

I love you so much,
Jesus



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Clips from the Clerk

Vital records . . . confused?

by *Trish Gilbert,*
Saguache Co. Clerk & Recorder

A few folks were confused by the article on vital records which stated: "Vital records, including birth, death, adoption, marriage and divorce, are confidential per Colorado State Statute (C.R.S. 25-2-117). As a result, Colorado vital records are not public records and therefore not searchable online. Vital records can only be released to those who are eligible."

To clarify (hopefully), copies of the marriage license itself can be released to anyone; however, for a copy of the marriage application, you must fill out a form (available in our office) and have it notarized. It is the marriage application that cannot be released to anyone but an immediate family member by:

- Marriage
- Blood
- Adoption

Marriage licenses currently get recorded, but flagged as "sensitive."

All vital record requests must be accompanied by proof of identification.

Custodians of vital records shall not permit inspection of, or disclose information contained in, vital statistics records, or copy or issue a copy of all or part of any such record unless they are satisfied that the applicant has a direct and tangible interest in such record.

Saguache County Vital Statistics Records are kept in Del Norte at the Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder's Office:

965 6th St. PO Box 160
Del Norte, CO 81132-0160
719-657-3334
Hope this helps.

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Prayer Services Mon & Fri	10:00 am
Food Bank Tuesdays	2-4 pm
<i>Events at Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat:</i>	
Prayer Breakfast every 2nd Saturday	8:00 am

** 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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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 will give them experience performing and preparing to perform. So come on out to see and hear the future! For more information and to reserve a spot, please call 719-256-4533.

Our success is made possible through individual donations, grants from Saguache County, The Anchutz Family Foundation and 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, Manitou Institute and Conservancy, and First Street Flooring and Amicas restaurant in Salida.

Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 17th year. We make a positive educational, cultural and economic impact in Saguache County and the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to presentations representing diverse traditions and cultures. To date we have produced 222 shows in the San Luis Valley using 47 different presenters. We provide a fun fundraising carnival for schools and also help assist and produce community events all across the San Luis Valley.

If you would like more information or would like to contribute to our efforts through sponsorship or donation, please go our website,

crestfest.org and/or give us a call at 719-256-4533. Our address is P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. Thanks for your time, and stay tuned! All donations are tax deductible.

Get on board—Crestone Performances wants you!

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 accomplishments rewarding. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 17th year. For more information please peruse our website, crestfest.org, email us at tomdes-sain@yahoo.com or call us at 719-256-4533. Thank you!

Check out our New Website!
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Crestone Performances inc. YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM **YEP**

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Thank you CCI for our recent grant!

Coming up!
STUDENT OPEN MIC:
February 11th, 5:30-7PM
The Cloud Station

Spring Events Schedule in the making!

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(719) 256-2627

Laundromat: 191 E Galena Ave
Open 7 Days a Week
8 a.m to 5 p.m.



Hooper, 1927



Moffat, 1941

WHO IS BOB???



Crestone, 1944



Husband, 1948



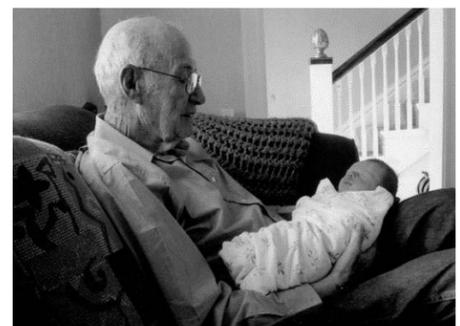
Father, 1955



Grandfather, 2000



Grandfather 2006



Great-grandfather 2009

Bob's Place - a place that Bob would love!
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Colorado State Forest Service now accepting seedling tree orders

The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting orders for conservation seedlings to be delivered this spring. With the holiday season behind us and a few months of winter still ahead, now is the time to start planning your tree planting projects for spring. Placing your order early helps to ensure the species you want will be available.

The CSFS has been providing low-cost conservation seedlings and shrubs as well as planting assistance to the San Luis Valley for over 45 years. This year more than 50 varieties of trees and shrubs and 15 varieties of perennials are available from the CSFS Nursery in Ft. Collins. The purpose of the CSFS seedling tree program is to encourage Colorado farmers, ranchers and landowners to plant seedling trees, shrubs and perennials for conservation purposes such as creating windbreaks, living snow fences, livestock shelter and pollinator habitat.

Sam Scavo, Forester for the CSFS Alamosa Field Office says, "The process for ordering seedlings this year has changed slightly. Orders will no longer be placed through the Alamosa Field Office; instead, customers will place their orders directly with the CSFS Nursery in Fort Collins." Staff from the Alamosa Field Office will still be available to provide consultation on seedling tree selection, windbreak establishment, proper tree planting and order form completion to customers.

Seedling order forms, species information and planting instructions are available at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/buying-seedling-trees>. Orders for conservation seedlings must be placed through the CSFS Nursery at 970-491-8429.

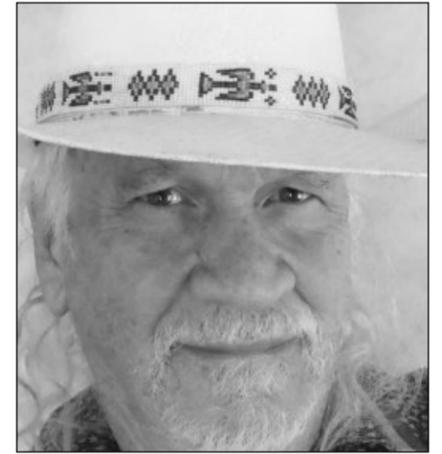
Orders are due by April 2, 2019 and seedlings will be available for pick up on April 19.

The CSFS provides technical forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals. The CSFS Alamosa District serves Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Mineral counties.

Moffat author 2018 New Voices Award Winner

Lee & Low Books is pleased to announce that SD Youngwolf of Moffat, Colorado is the winner of the company's nineteenth annual New Voices Award. His picture book manuscript, *The Echo People*, is the story of two children who go on a special journey with their grandfather and, through their different experiences, learn how we create our own realities through the words and actions we give to the world.

SD Youngwolf is a writer and an award-winning artist who is tribally enrolled in the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. His creativity is inspired by traditional indigenous stories and history, and by the young people he meets during his storytelling performances. He hopes that *The Echo People*



SD Youngwolf

will resonate with readers by giving them a stronger sense of responsibility for the way they lead their lives. Youngwolf will receive a prize of \$2,000 and a publication contract.



Kenneth Wool, M.D.; Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center

New cardiologist joins HRRMC

Kenneth J. Wool, M.D., of Colorado Springs Cardiologists has joined the medical staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center. Dr. Wool will be based in Salida and is providing full-time cardiology services at the Salida hospital.

"Our community is fortunate to have a full-time cardiologist with extensive training and experience who resides in our community," said HRRMC CEO Robert Morasko.

Dr. Wool earned his degree in medicine from the University of

South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Dallas, then served as chief medical resident at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

He continued his training with fellowships in cardiology and nuclear cardiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Dr. Wool is board certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Prior to moving to the Upper Arkansas Valley, Dr. Wool practiced as a cardiologist in Montgomery, Alabama. He also served on the faculty at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Montgomery.

"We've owned a home in Westcliffe for many years and look forward to being in Colorado full time," said Dr. Wool. "We enjoy being outdoors—especially hiking to the high mountain lakes and fly fishing."

Dr. Wool and his wife, Celia, have five grown children who live in the Denver area.

For more information or to make an appointment, call at 719-530-2482.

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HRRMC Allergy Services

Board-certified allergist Diane C. Napoli, MD, is now accepting new patients.



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"My philosophy for patient care is to view and treat my patients like my family. I believe in treating the 'whole' person and feel that communication and compassion are key."



Diane C. Napoli, MD, FAAAAI, FAAP



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KIDZ CORNER



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. For more information about her go to www.mdianebairstow.com

The Jokerster

What did the monster ask his sweetheart?
Will you be my Valen-slime?
What did the squirrel give for Valentine's Day?
Forget-me-nuts.
What did the farmer give his wife for Valentine's Day?
Hogs and kisses.
What did the owl say to his sweetheart?
Owl be yours.
What did the calculator say to the other calculator on Valentine's Day?
Let me count the ways I love you.
What do elephants say to one another on Valentine's Day?
I love you a ton.
What did one snake say to the other snake?
Give me a little hug and a hiss, honey.
What's the best part of Valentine's Day?
The day after when all the chocolate goes on sale.
What did the drum say to the other drum on Valentine's Day?
My heart beats for you.
What do you call a very small Valentine?
A valentiny.
What did the calculator say to the pencil on Valentine's Day?
You can always count on me.
What did the pickle say to the other pickle on Valentine's Day?

Dinosauria

The Age of the Ruling Reptiles

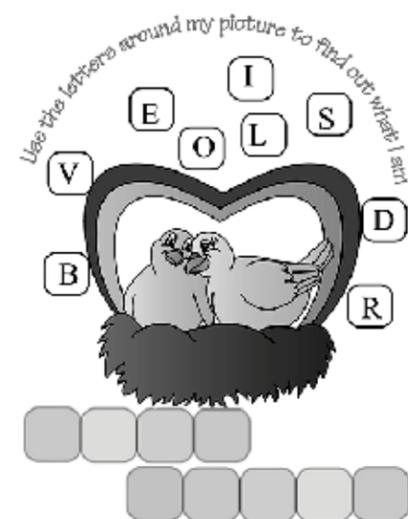


The Age of the Ruling Reptiles, when dinosaurs roamed the earth, ended around 66 million years ago. This time period is

call the Mesozoic era and lasted around 185 million years. It is also known as the age of the conifers, but unlike dinosaurs, we are still surrounded by conifers, aka (also known as) pine trees.

Most dinosaurs ate plants, which were rich and abundant. Some dinosaurs ate turtles, eggs, early mammals and each other. They also scavenged dead animals.

There were many insects during this time, mosquitoes, beetles, moths, spiders and giant



dragonflies. Ectoparasites, giant blood sucking flea like creatures, were the most likely of these to feed on dinosaurs.

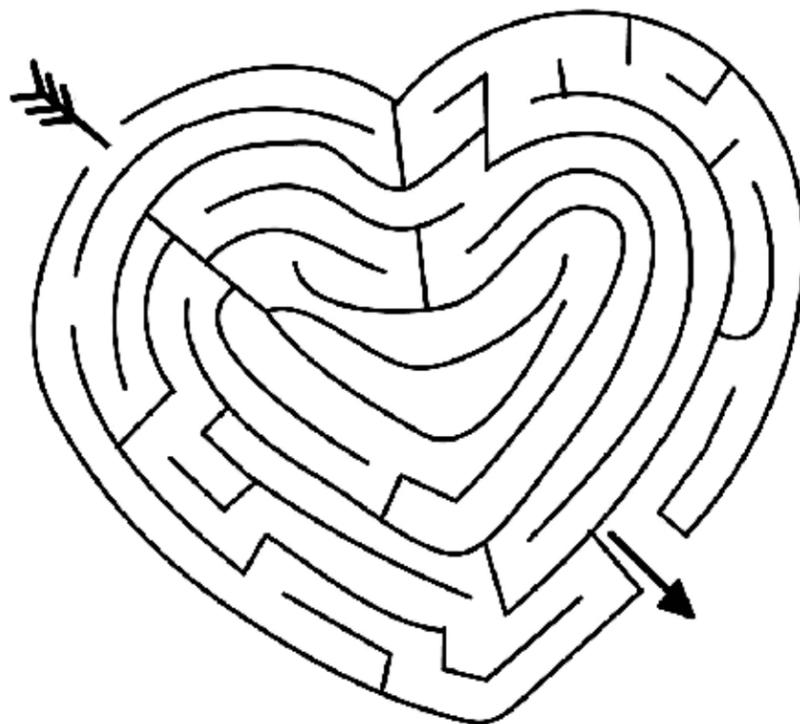
Nobody knows for certain why the dinosaurs became extinct (disappeared from the earth). Perhaps a meteor struck the earth or the climate changed for some reason. A plague could have struck their population or their food source may have changed. Many scientist guess, but no one really knows.

Colorado is one of the best places in the United States to find dinosaur fossils. There are many sites and parks where traces of these giant reptiles can be found. Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison, Triceratops Trail in Golden and Dinosaur Hill in Fruita are a few of the areas we can view evidence of their previous existence here in our state. Might be a fun trip for the summer.



You mean a great dill to me.
What did the light bulb say to the other light bulb on Valentine's Day?
I love you a watt.
What did the girl bumble bee say to the boy bumble bee on Valentine's Day?
I love bee-ing with you, Honey.
How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend?
He gave her a ring.
Why did they put the boy's girlfriend in jail?
Because she stole his heart.
What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?
A bug and a quiche.
What did Robin Hood say to his girlfriend?
Sherwood like to be your valentine.
What do you get when you kiss a dragon on Valentine's Day?
Third degree burns on your lips.
Why did the rooster get a tattoo?
He wanted to impress the chicks!
What happened to the bed bugs who fell in love?
They got married in the spring.
Why did the frog cross the road?
He wanted to show his girlfriend he had guts.

VALENTINE MAZE



Can you Find 5 Differences?



Word Search

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

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Health and wellness begin in the Moffat Consolidated School District #2

The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) released a grant opportunity to provide up to 2-year grants to implement local planning, capacity-building and community collaboration processes, and to support the development of comprehensive health and wellness plans, known as AIM XL, which include:

- Approach health comprehensively (Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child)
- Are developed with students, families, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders
- Are informed by relevant district and community data
- Demonstrate commitment to differentiated strategies based on different needs
- Demonstrate how district offices, funding streams, and any conflicting practices will be aligned through comprehensive planning
- Include priority populations (i.e., ESOL, LBGTQ students) in planning and implementation of proposed efforts

Center for Rural School Health & Education (CRSHE) recruited and coordinated with districts in the San Luis Valley (one of which was Moffat Consolidated School District #2), and southeastern Colorado to submit two collaborative applications to TCHF to fund rural districts to pursue comprehensive health and wellness planning. Great news, we were awarded the grant, along with other schools in the San Luis Valley and southeastern Colorado!

What does this mean to you? The AIM-XL process has begun implementation in our district. We have a 15-member task force with students, staff and community members from CCS and Moffat School sites. We are currently fo-

cusing on the following areas:

- Assess health priorities and the extent to which school health best practices are in place in our schools.
- Identify school health best practices that we can implement over the next 5 years to address our health and wellness priorities.
- Make it happen by action planning

Our taskforce has just completed the first of three meetings. During this meeting, we looked at Healthy Kids Colorado and Smart Source survey data to begin thinking about our health priorities and areas for improvement. Student, parent/guardian, and community voices are so important to this process and plan. A survey has been offered to students on both campuses and will be on each of our school websites. The focus of the surveys will be:

- Bullying
- Drug and alcohol use
- Social media

All information shared by students/community and staff who participate will be anonymous (no names or identifying features/characteristics will be used) The anonymous information that we collect will help the taskforce make decisions about school health and wellness changes in the district.

Please feel free to contact me with any interest or questions you have about the comprehensive health and wellness planning process. I am Virginia Drake, 719-745-0500, ext. 136. We are excited about school health and wellness in Moffat School District #2, and hope that you will join us in this effort to make Moffat School District #2 a healthier and happier place for our children.



The Moffat High School Ladies' basketball team gathers together for a celebratory photo after a recent game.



Moffat Preschool students show off the lettuce greens they harvested for their families from the school greenhouse.

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Alpine Achievers Initiative program shines at Crestone Charter School

by Mason Osgood

Since 2015, the local non-profit group Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) has served in schools throughout the San Luis Valley. This year, Crestone Charter School (CCS) welcomed three new AmeriCorps members: Cassidy Meehan, Nora Petran, and Mason Osgood. These three individuals serve alongside CCS teachers and staff members to provide English, STEM, and math interventions where students need it most. In addition to individualized help with students, AAI provides after-school programming at CCS. Typically running around CCS fulfilling their many roles, these three can most easily be identified by the kelly green shirts they wear everyday as part of their AmeriCorps uniform.

AAI serves in schools as far north as Salida and as far south as Antonito where each AmeriCorps member helps in varying ways in their respective schools. Ryan Johns, a Crestone resident of five years and current AAI program director, says that "AAI offers a service to the community in the form of an after-school program that would not be present otherwise. Our community's children have a safe and supportive place to spend their out of school time. The fact that they also get to spend time with these adults with math and reading help during school time just strengthens those bonds. My daughter loves this program!" After-school programs at CCS incorporate the pillars of CCS: respect, integrity, and creativity. Activi-

ties at after-school range from social-emotional learning to outdoor nature-based programs.

Orca Ross, the current CCS supervisor of AAI and former AAI member (2015-2017), commends the work that is done in school saying, "AAI's contribution at CCS is invaluable, both inside the classroom and in our after-school programs. Every child gets that one extra adult that can give them more of what they need to succeed." Ms. Ross's continued involvement with AAI and CCS represents the strong bonds this program has created in the community. Former AAI members can be found across the valley continuing to help in schools and youth programs.

In addition to individualized interventions and after-school programming that AAI provides at



Much-loved Crestone AmeriCorp members with Charter students

CCS, the members have integrated their own passions into their work. Nora Petran, who moved to Crestone from Iowa, previously worked at a planetarium and decided to help bring back astronomy nights at CCS. Using several donated telescopes that the school has, Ms. Petran and CCS staff Michael Pacheco helped to bring Crestone's amazing night sky into the eyes of students. Mason Osgood, an avid rock climber, gathered CCS high schoolers and drove down to Adams State University every week to help them learn how to climb at the indoor rock climbing gym with the aid of Matt White, a fel-

low AAI member who currently serves at the Adams State Adventure Program. Cassidy Meehan, an advocate for youth opportunities, is running a youth action committee which brings together thirteen youth from Crestone to develop community projects within the town. Ultimately these programs seek to further the experiential education of students at CCS and create strong bonds between students and members in the community.

Alpine Achievers Initiative can be supported at their upcoming fundraiser on Thursday, February 21 at 50 Burger in Salida, CO.



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White Eagle unfit for use, legal case continues

by Lisa Cyriacks

The White Eagle Lodge has been vacant since late 2013. Due to the extensive damage the building sustained after a burst pipes in the building, the building was red-flagged and the owners were told they could no longer reside in or remodel or repair the building and must close for business. It was then condemned.

On May 2, 2017, Alder Lakish approached the County Commissioners about taking over the property either with complete or partial forgiveness of the property taxes owed on the property since 2010.

The Commissioners postponed making any decision about Lakish's multiple plans for the building.

Lakish returned on May 16, 2017, to let the Commissioners know that he had become the new registered agent of the White Eagle

via the Secretary of State's website.

The minutes from that meeting show that Ben Gibbons, the County Attorney had researched the matter and that only the interest portion on the taxes owing could be waived. Once the taxes were paid, then Lakish, as an owner; could request a two-year abatement on the taxes. At this point Lakish entered into an agreement to pay the back taxes with the county treasurer. The agreement was eventually negated due to lack of payment.

In the interim, the Baca Water & Sanitation District conducted an inspection of the property at the request of the three partners in White Eagle Enterprises LLC, the owner of record for the property. Lakish approached the district with a request to waive the past due fees and that service be resumed to the White Eagle Lodge. The water dis-

trict declared the building uninhabitable and denied the request based on Lakish not having legal ownership of the building.

On November 6, 2017, White Eagle Enterprises LLC owners Brian Kramer and Julie O'Halloran issued Alder Lakish a Notice to Vacate the Premises of their property.

The Sheriff's office launched an investigation into the matter of whether or not Lakish fraudulently represented himself as the registered agent to the Secretary of State, the Saguache County Commissioners, the County Treasurer and the US Postal Service.

Criminal charges have been brought against Lakish. On January 22, 2019 the most recent court date, Kramer and O'Halloran appeared before the County Commissioners during a public comment period to forestall any further dis-

cussions between Lakish and the county regarding disposition of the property. The Commissioners cancelled their discussion with Lakish pending a decision in the court. The dispute has been in district court 487 days.

During the meeting between O'Halloran, Kramer and the County Commissioners was a commitment to work on solutions to stop trespass by community members who are entering the property at risk of injury; creating a liability problem for the county and the owners.

Despite the condemnation the County in 2013 refused to abate the taxes upon the request of the three partners of White Eagle Enterprises, LLC despite the identified problems with the building. The amount of current taxes and interest owed is \$98,977.06

Meanwhile, nothing can be done with the building until the legal challenges have been settled.

2019 legislative session

continued from page 1

highest health care costs in the state and the country.

Other related topics that the Governor and Democrats plan to tackle in 2019 include increased clarity on drug prices and hospital procedures as part of addressing rising costs.

"Canada has the same drugs from the same manufacturing plants that we have here in the United States—but often at one-half, one-third, yes, even one-quarter of the cost," Polis said. "Together with the legislature, I look forward to setting up a way for Colorado to safely import prescription drugs from Canada."

Colorado Democrats want to create additional economic protections for residents statewide. One proposal is creating an insurance pool for workers to take up to 12 weeks off to attend to family matters such as childbirth or a serious illness. Other proposals being suggested include a new mandate for retirement programs and creating the flexibility for local governments to raise the minimum wage.

In his address to the legislature, Governor Polis also made it clear that a priority is offering free full-day kindergarten and expanded access to free preschool as a top education priority.

Another priority is "embracing the renewable-energy future" and confronting climate change head-on. The state's oil and gas companies are expecting tighter regulations to be heard from conservationists, es-

pecially increasing local control on where drilling can occur.

In a nod to the general assembly Republicans, Polis called on lawmakers to lower the state's individual and business income tax rates by closing loopholes written into the tax code.

Polis also called for unified solutions, "Whether ideas come from Democrats or Republicans, mere partisanship will never stop us from embracing good ideas or taking bold action for the people of Colorado, who elected us to deliver, not to grandstand."

Five years after Colorado legalized recreational pot use, the state's landmark marijuana regulations are up for renewal. Changes that could occur range from expanded medical marijuana access to allowances for social consumption in public settings. Consistency and quality of the market supply also is high on the list of topics likely to be addressed. In the interest of the public's safety, the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment has been conducting pesticide and mold investigations since 2014 but there is room for improvement.

The 2019 legislative session will be an interesting one. In the November general election, voters defeated several proposed tax increases. Jared Polis easily won his bid to become the nation's first openly gay governor. Democrats took control of both houses of the legislature – the first time since 2014. The Democrats' ambitions face limits imposed by constitutional controls on taxes and spending. Republicans may be in the minority but they intend to have their say.

Shut down

continued from page 1

and all these agencies are part of the Department of the Interior.

In Crestone we are surrounded on three sides by land controlled by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The US Forest Service is in charge of 65% of Colorado's forests. The BLM manages nearly 500,000 acres of public lands within the Rio Grande Basin.

Luckily for the SLV, closures due to the shutdown happened in this snowy winter when there are fewer visitors. The Great Sand Dunes National Park announced the website would not be updated during the federal shutdown, there would be limited emergency and rescue services available, and national park services such as rest room maintenance, trash collection, facility and road maintenance would be unavailable. The park however, remained open as did many parks nationwide but it was unstaffed at the entrance and visitors' center. The snow accumulation kept visitors away because the shutdown meant no snow plows. Nationally some parks that remained open to visitors, although unstaffed, were vandalized during the shutdown. Many citizens came forward to empty trash cans and clean rest rooms at parks during the shutdown. The Sand Dunes reopened on January 27 with all facilities open and roads plowed.

State Forester Mike Lester said there's a concern about the government shutdown putting

twenty-four million acres of national forest at increased risk of wildfire. The shutdown stopped the employees who do fire mitigation work during the winter from doing their critical job. Lester said, "During the winter employees spend time burning mitigation piles which, if not cleared, become fuel for large wildfires." The shutdown put this mitigation work behind a month.

And then there's the trickle-down effects of the federal shutdown. Fewer visitors came to the SLV because park conditions made it difficult to access them safely. Governor Polis expressed concerns about the shutdown's "amplifying effect on federal contractors." Contracts depending on federal funding were on ice due to the shutdown. Laid off and furloughed federal workers were not being paid which meant there was less money from their families being spent at businesses. Food banks and other programs that depend on federal funding could keep operating for a couple of months before they found it difficult to serve their clients.

The federal shutdown affected a quarter of the government. Eight hundred thousand federal workers got IOUs rather than pay checks. Many low-wage federal workers hired under contracts to companies providing services such as food service, housekeeping or janitorial services were excluded from wage reimbursement. While shouldering a great burden, these workers have little recourse but to pray the federal government does not shut down again on February 15 when the continuing resolution which ended the thirty five day shutdown expires.

Federal employees I tried to contact to get their reaction to the shutdown were reluctant to talk on the record. Their bosses are asking them not to speak up about the federal shutdown, fearing reprisals from the federal government such as reduced funding and cancellation of important federal contracts. The seeming disregard on the part of the federal powers for the citizens working for them who are trying to pay the rent and put food on the table is worrisome to many federal workers and citizens alike.





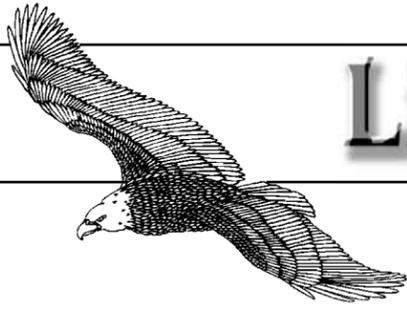
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Living on the Earth

Acequias, ancient irrigation systems

by Mary Lowers

You take away the man
And you take away the ditch
Take away the ditch
And you take away the water
Take away the water
And you take away the man

—Alex Harris &
William deBeys

Acequias are irrigation canals designed to share water for agriculture in a dry land. The acequia system was once prevalent in the west and southwest; acequias are still used in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. There are over a thousand acequias currently in use. Over four hundred years ago the Spanish in the Americas applied their water laws to an irrigation system that had been used by native peoples for centuries prior to European arrival on the scene. The Spanish irrigation ditch system also borrowed from techniques used by the Moors on the Iberian Peninsula, modeled on systems of irrigation brought from Africa. The word acequia



Young farmer showing off carrots.

can be traced back to an Arabic origin. This unique system gives equal shares of water for agriculture to users in both wet and dry years. Many acequia systems have been actively used for hundreds of years.

Acequia associations govern systems of water allocation that are communal. In acequia culture water is looked at not as a commodity to be bought and sold but



Los Chicos Acequia, Velarde, NM.



Varieties of heirloom beans.

as the agent of survival for people. The system fully utilizes whatever water there is in a given season. The NM acequia associations are led by ditch bosses known as mayordomos and were often the first governmental entities in a community. New Mexico state statutes make these acequia associations legal organizations which must include three commissioners and a mayordomo. The Mayordomo is responsible for organizing spring ditch cleaning. This ditch cleaning is a major community event which gives people an opportunity to discuss community issues while the ditch is cleaned, section by section, in preparation for spring planting.

A second important job of the mayordomo is to allocate the distribution of the water. Estevan Arellano in *The Importance of Acequias in Northern NM* says, "The mayordomo has to be a bit of a psychologist." This skill is useful in the process of getting the community to work together around agriculture, irrigation, and who gets water and how much they get. Acequia water is distributed in a fair and balanced method relying on a rotation schedule. The water allocation is based on land use, crop type, and land parcel size. The system allows for a flexibility of need which allows adjustment of water distribution should a field need more water. Acequias are designed to support crops which produce revenue and use water management strategies as an economic tool. The mayordomo is also the protector of the water from possi-

ble use as a sewer, or from water theft; the mayordomo also acts as a mediator in water disputes.

As an economic unit, acequias support crops which produce revenue in the community. Currently the agriculture supported by the water of the acequias includes fruit orchards, white and blue corn crops, bean fields, vineyards, chilis and seed banking. Jose Rivera in his volume on *Acequia Culture* says, "The benefit of the acequia based farming extends well beyond the consumptive needs of the irrigators themselves. Preliminary results from this unique research indicate that acequia based agro pastoral farming increase local biodiversity, extends the riparian zones, and protects the hydraulic integrity of the watershed."

In northern NM and southern CO watersheds in the mountains feed the Rio Grande and smaller drainages such as the Rio Chama and Rio Pecos. There is a point of divergence (POD) where the river or stream water is first taken at a presa or check dam. This dam allows the water level to be maintained which allows water to reach the acequia madre or mother ditch. Rachel Preston Prinz calls the mother ditch, "the source of sustainable community. *El agua es la vida.* (Water is life.)" A series of laterals or smaller ditches are constructed to bring water from the mother ditch to specific fields. A number of gates along these ditches, along with hand-held hoes, help guide the water to individual plants and trees.

Mechanically the acequia system is based on the velocity of water flow and gravity pulling water in the proper direction, toward the parcels of land that need the irrigation. Parcels are oriented to let water flow through the landscape and then the water goes into a ditch known as the desaque channel, which takes the unused water back to the acequia madre, creating a loop for the water to continue flowing downstream. The NM Acequia Association protects water and the traditional acequias. They say their purpose is "to grow healthy food for our families and



Sharing & protecting water in Taos Valley

by Mary Lowers

On December 11, 2018 a group of fifty water protectors marched down Hwy. 64 in Taos. Heading west, the group gathered at the drilling site of a deep exploratory water well to help bring attention to what may be imminent problems in implementation of the decades-old Abeyta Water Rights Settlement. At issue are the known and unknown impacts of this settlement on water use in the Taos Valley.

This all began back in the early 1970s when the federal government decided it was time to determine the water rights of indigenous people living on reservations and pueblos. Taos Pueblo was able to reclaim a huge quantity of water rights. In 1989 Taos Pueblo, The Taos Valley Acequia Association representing traditional irrigation, the Town of Taos, and the El Prado Water and Sanitation District agreed to the so called Abeyta Settlement. This settlement was agreed upon in hopes everyone could count their water flowing.

Taos Pueblo claimed 8,000 acre feet of water. One acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons, which is equal to what two average families use in a year. If the pueblo were to assert its claim for full water rights it would leave downstream users,

continued on page B-9

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by **Kim Malville**
Looking up

Mercury, the fleet-footed god, the fastest moving planet in the solar system pops up in our south-western skies about 30 minutes after sunset on February 15. It climbs in the sky for the next 11 days reaching its greatest elongation from the sun on March 26, when it will be 11° above the western horizon about 30 minutes after sunset. Mercury will be bright and conspicuous in the evening twilight, setting about one and a half hours after sunset. Don't miss it. Catch it when you can. It will disappear next month on March 6.

Mars remains a prominent object throughout the month. It starts the month in the constellation of Pisces and moves eastward through Aires into Taurus. Mars will be close to the Pleiades next month.

Jupiter is a morning planet, rising in the east at 4am in the beginning of the month and then at 2:30am at the end of the month.

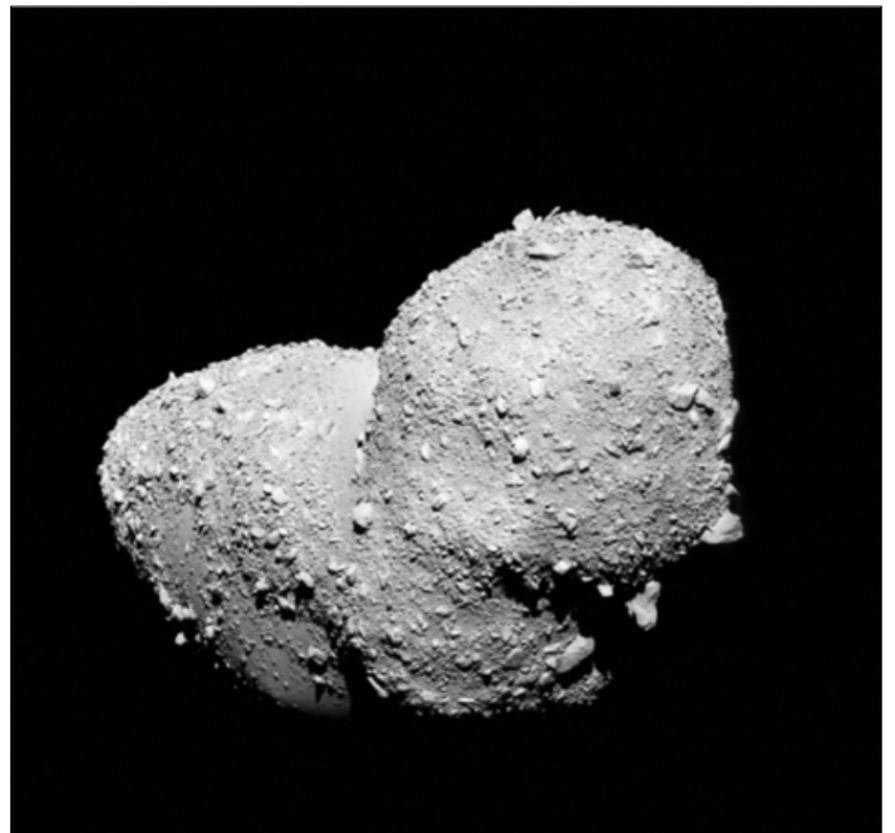
Venus, a brilliant object in

the morning skies, rises at 3:30am at the start of the month. On February 18 there will be a spectacular conjunction with Saturn, with Venus some 80 times brighter than the ringed planet.

Ultima Thule: The latest space spectacular

Last month I described the events that led up to the flyby of New Horizons of this small object 4 billion miles from Earth. Now we have some pictures.

We have been waiting more than three weeks for the latest picture from New Horizons flyby of the Kuiper Belt object on January 1. For that time the space craft was hidden behind the sun. Finally, the picture was downloaded on January 25, displaying a strange object that has been hanging out at the edge of the solar system for 4.5 billion years, touched by only the faintest glimmer of sunlight. This photo was taken 7 minutes before its closest approach. It's been described as a snowman, but its more like a tar baby. Its average reflec-



The Asteroid Itokawa (Japanese Space Agency, JAXA)

tivity is 7%, darker than the moon (which reflects 12% of sunlight), only a little brighter than fresh asphalt (which reflects 4%). It has a slightly red color, which may be due to organic compounds. Ultima Thule is 21 miles long, twice the size of the nucleus of Halley's Comet. If it were to pass in the inner solar system, it could be a spectacular comet.

These two lobes, one roughly three times the size of the other, must have been formed by a very gentle collision, coming together at very slow speeds—less than 1 mile or kilometer an hour. If you collided with another car at those speeds, you probably wouldn't bother to contact your insurance agent.

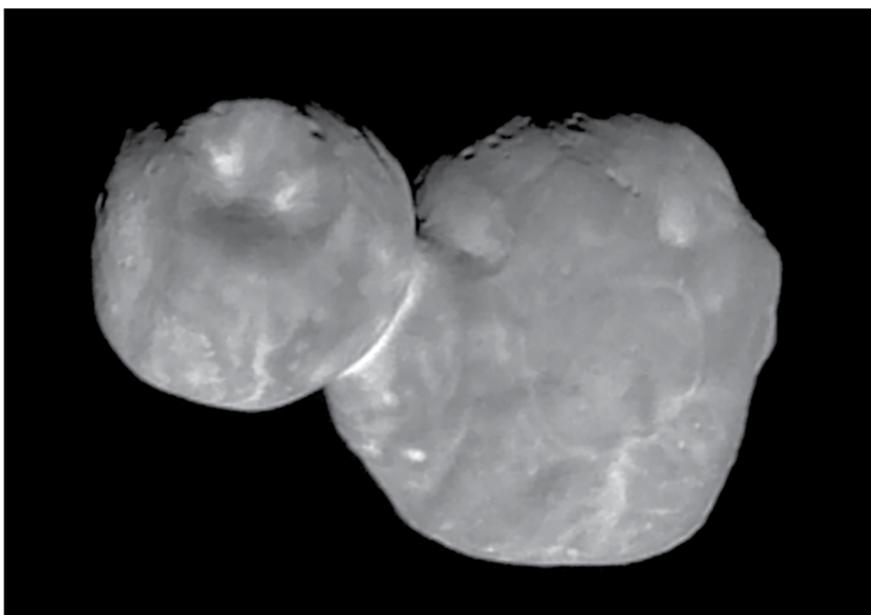
These slow formation speeds help to validate a recently proposed model for the origin of planets and other object in our solar system, which is known as pebble accretion. The gas and dust left over after formation of our sun, came together as small pebbles, which were gradually pulled together by gravity.

The Asteroid Itokawa

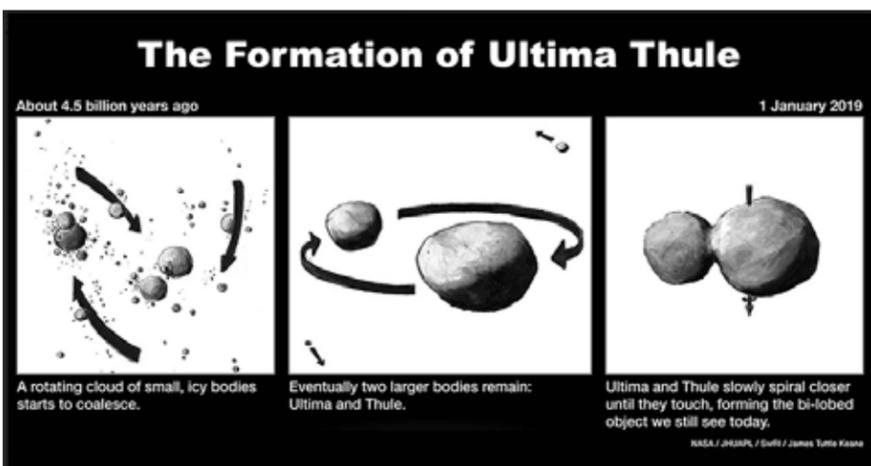
If you want to see what those pebbles look like, consider the asteroid named Itokawa, which the Japanese space agency visited in 2005. It appears to be a loosely-held-together swarm of pebbles. The largest is a pebble 150 feet

across, and many are a few feet across and even smaller. This asteroid demonstrates the difficulty of deflecting an asteroid from a collision with earth. If we were to hit it with a rocket, it would shatter into millions of small particles that would rain down on the earth.

Future, higher-resolution pictures of Ultima Thule may reveal it has a similar nature. Now we see a few large pits; the largest on the smaller lobe (the head of the snowman) is 4 miles across. There are smaller pits at the shadow line, which are 2000 feet across. We don't know if they are impact craters, collapsed pits, or remnants of blow holes. Both lobes also show many intriguing light and dark patterns of unknown origin, which may reveal clues about how this body was assembled during the formation of the solar system. One of the most striking of these is the bright "collar" separating the two lobes, which could be fresh ice ground up by the collision of these two bodies. In fact, it may not be the result of the only collision. Note that the pit on the smaller object almost matches a circular area on the largest one. There may have been an initial bounce, resulting in the eventual joining together of the two bodies. We will know more in another month.



Ultima Thule from a distance of 4200 miles (NASA)



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OWNER/BUILDER CONVERSATIONS

Paul Shippee

by John Rowe

Paul Shippee has spent nearly half a century involved in solar energy and still acts as a solar consultant all around the San Luis Valley. As a young man, Paul read one of the early treatises on solar energy, *Direct Use of the Sun's Energy* by Farrington Daniels and was never the same; his heart and mind were forever captivated by the simple truth that people can have all the energy they need utilizing the sun's indefatigable daily energy supply and need not destroy the planet in the process.

This transformative experience quickly morphed into a career change for Paul from being a civil engineer to being a solar expert, both as a systems designer and an installer. He began a company in 1974, the Colorado Sunworks in Boulder and was active there for twenty-five years as a passionate

let the winter sun beat down on the adobe floor and store warmth there and in the thick earthen walls. The second floor is entirely plastered-over straw bale with many south facing windows as well. The exterior rammed earth walls are 30" thick and the one full interior wall is 18" thick. Rammed earth technology is just that; heavy frames are built and the interior of those frames is filled with a mixture of San Luis Valley fines, clay, about 5% Portland cement, and a little moisture to activate the cement, and pounded down a few inches at a time. This can be by mechanical tampers or by hand tamping as Paul did. Paul allows that hand tamping is slower but did not want to be "at the mercy of machines that can break down and leave a builder half a day from any replacements." The resultant walls are about as "of the earth" in appearance as you can get and are about as dense as adobe. The

years for the earth to produce. And as we human beings have depleted an alarming amount of these fuels in less that 200 years, they are nowhere close to being sustainable. Even homes that use wood heat exclusively are not sustainable if 3-4 cords are burned every year, as the sun produces the wood also, but not at a rate that could sustain that kind of usage by all the people that live in temperate and cold climates. Paul estimates that just gathering a little deadfall off of his land every year "takes the sun less than 30 years to make all I have used in the almost twenty years I have lived here and is therefore very sustainable."

In keeping with the earth-friendly and sustainable theme of his project, Paul stresses that he used all local labor and as much locally harvested and processed building materials as possible. Most of the lumber was locally harvested and milled closeby and the bulk of the wall and floor material were "fines" from Kenny Skoglund's pit just north of town. Many windows were recycled from other local projects as well.

Paul says that he "worked on his house literally every day for four years, usually all day every day." To see his home is to easily see how that could be true. Even my layman's eye tells me that this was a huge undertaking and is still not totally finished. He had a limited amount of money and needed to do most of the work himself, hiring others when there was just too much for one man to take on. Like many other owner builders, Paul needed to scramble for money to complete his project and became creative in the ways he did this. He laughs when he describes one method as follows; "you have heard about predatory lenders, well I became a predatory borrower". He kept borrowing money from credit card companies that offered 0% in-

terest for a limited time and then switched cards before any interest came due. This enabled Paul to borrow money with no collateral and no interest for an extended period of time. And today, like most owner builders I have talked to, has a very nice home in a stunning location with very low utility bills. And it is paid for.



The finished Crestone Solar School and 100% passive/active solar-heated home of Paul Shippee.



Students solve solar design problems at Crestone Solar School.

advocate for passive and active solar systems. In 1978 Paul built his first 100% solar home in Longmont Colorado, which won a HUD award as the best performing solar house in America. Paul was the president of the Colorado Solar Energy Association from 1974 to 1982. Paul was primarily self-taught, as most solar experts were in the early days, and taught classes at CSU, CU, and Naropa. Paul is a natural and enthusiastic teacher and has continued to teach classes here in Crestone also.

Paul found Boulder to be more and more crazy as it grew bigger and bigger and decided about twenty years ago to make the move to Crestone and build a rammed earth house that would be 100% solar heated and serve not only as a cosy home in a beautiful place but as a teaching aid for classes he continued to teach. Check out his website at CrestoneSolarSchool.com for more information.

Paul's home consists of three 600SF cubes, two on the ground floor and one more on the second floor. The south-facing wall on the ground floor is a timber-framed affair that is almost all windows to

rammed walls are not plastered on the exterior and can be left naked on the inside or plastered, if desired, depending on one's preference.

Paul is quick to point out that "my house is 100% heated by a mixture of passive and active solar systems, and that most solar homes are, at best, 70-80% solar heated." Paul's home design allows him to stay warm and comfortable all winter with three wheelbarrows of wood and he needs none at all on most days. Paul has seven solar panels on the roof that keep the home warm all day through hot water radiant floor heating. And the warmth gathered by the windows and stored in the adobe floor and thermal mass walls keep the house warm all night. And this is an 1800SF house, mind you. The only exceptions to this are a few cloudy cold days each year that Paul has to burn a small fire for a few hours as he did on the day that I conducted the interview. Paul explains that fossil fuel energy we use today was produced by ancient sunlight as natural gas, petroleum products, and coal take millions of

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Who We Are

Benny Roman:

Creatively presenting Crestone as it is

by Gussie Fauntleroy

When Benny Roman typed “Crestone Colorado” into YouTube not long ago, the first hits that came up were videos on aliens and other mysteries, including a woman missing under suspicious circumstances. For Benny, it felt like a pretty skewed vision of the community he’d come to love. And it was very different from the on-line representation—touting alternative, off-grid living and diverse spiritual traditions—that drew him here in 2012.

So he started talking with local business owners and residents and producing twice-weekly videos highlighting what the community has to offer in real time, meaning the next few days. He posts these Crestone Now videos each Monday and Friday on the Crestone Now YouTube channel and the Crestone Now Facebook page, from where they get shared on other Facebook groups, including Crestonians, Crestone Chill, and Crestuners. Each video contains a series of brief segments featuring businesses and upcoming local events, including current store specials, up-to-date business hours, and raffles that require watching another segment to learn if you’ve won. “I want people to get that big, full representation of Crestone,” he says. “So you can just watch a couple of them and get a clear idea.”

Entrepreneurial beginnings

Going around and finding out what’s happening and then disseminating that information is not only Benny’s latest job—it was one of his first. The son of a Peruvian couple who immigrated in their 20s to Alexandria, Virginia, Benny and his older brother had paper routes as boys. They were always coming home with stories about the people on their routes, so Benny had the idea of putting those stories together as a neighborhood newspaper. His brother and father got involved, and the free newspaper grew to five photocopied pages, distributed by the brothers.

Eventually the project couldn’t compete with Benny’s all-consuming passion for skateboarding, and it ended. But his father, who came to this country speaking no English and passed on a strong entrepreneurial spirit to his son, was inspired by the experience to later get into script-writing for commercials and films. As for Benny, after working various jobs in Alexandria and getting more into music in the year following high school graduation, the West Coast called. San Clemente, California became his music and skateboarding heaven for the next ten years.

To California and back

During that time Benny rented the top floor of a hotel and subleased all the rooms to bands from around southern California as practice and musical instrument instruction spaces. He bought



The Audience at the 2018 Crestone Energy Fair: Benny Roman, Carl Swett, Aha Alba (on drums, not visible).

photo by Lori Sunflower

recording equipment and established a recording studio. He met Jennifer Daveler, with whom he partnered for 16 years and raised their son, Jedi. When booming real estate prices and gentrification began to radically alter San Clemente, Benny, Jen, and Jedi left, although Benny kept his music studio business there for a few more years.

The couple moved to northern Virginia and bought a house, but after the 2008 recession they found themselves running four businesses—an eco-friendly battery-powered landscaping company, Internet satellite dish sales, a skateboard shop, and Jen ran a consignment boutique—to try and make ends meet. Losing the house turned out to be a blessing, Benny says. They rented a small farmhouse, researched solar, and lived completely off-grid for a year. By then, he says, “We wanted to move someplace where this was normal. People there considered us weird.”

Finding a place to fit in

The chance to leave came in the form of a contract with a company called Goal Zero, which hired the couple to travel and give presentations on solar energy at Costco stores. They converted a van and lived in it full-time for six months with Jedi, two dogs, and two cats while traveling and working up and down the California coast. When they were ready to settle down in 2012, Jen Googled “off-grid properties,” and Crestone came up.

At first Benny didn’t consider this place a good fit—there was no skateboarding, not even sidewalks at the time, and the music scene seemed relatively dead. But Jedi really liked it here. He found Lynn Drake’s pottery studio, met other kids, and quickly began making friends. After a year of home schooling he was ready for a physical school, and was accepted into



Benny and family: Jedi, Charlie (in Benny’s arms), and Amara.



Benny (right) filming Val Killpack for a Crestone Now segment on the upcoming Crestone Poetry Festival.

photo by Cora Wikler

the Crestone Charter School. Benny remembers thinking, “Okay, it looks like something’s happening here.” Other things began falling into place, and the family stayed.

Benny and Jen became involved in a series of ventures, among them: running a smoothie bar for Electrum Amor in the former Laughing Buddha building; in the same building opening and running Crestone, which sold local handmade items, skateboard equipment, musical instruments, electronics, outdoor gear—it became an “everything store,” he says; and later downsizing Crestone to a small space in the Elephant Cloud building.

Music & community connections

Benny and Jen separated in 2013, both remaining in the community. He worked the soundboard for Cloud Station concerts, helped establish a (short-lived) skateboard park in town, mentored at the Charter School, and worked for a time at Cloud Station Café. He was also playing music, and in 2017 he and other local musicians formed The Audience, an experimental rock group that currently plays monthly at the Crestone Brewery, usually the last

Friday of the month. The band is working on original material and hopes to release an album or two this year. Most of the background music on Crestone Now videos has been by The Audience, but Benny welcomes ideas for music by other local artists.

When Benny and Jen first found Crestone online, they were looking for a place to settle and build an off-grid home. What Benny eventually discovered is different, and in some ways better, than what he thought he came here for, he says. Now one of his primary goals is to connect local businesses and people “in a friendly neighbor way, rather than in competition with each other,” he says. “I want to help balance the businesses out, especially in winter. What drives me is being inspired, creative, and effective in the community. That’s what I’m trying to attract with Crestone Now—people who want to come here to do that.”

Benny can be reached through Crestone Now or The Audience on Facebook, or crestone-now@gmail.com.

Gussie welcomes ideas for this ongoing series on Crestone area residents: gussie7@fairpoint.net, gussiefauntleroy.com.

Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

For years, the library has had the good fortune of being able to offer a morning reading and crafts program to the littlest ones in our community, led by the incomparable master storyteller Penny from the Saguache library. It is such a wonderful opportunity for babies and toddlers to social-

ize and interact with others, as well as having fun things to do and healthy snacks to eat. Please bring your little ones to the library on Tuesday mornings at 11am—we guarantee a positive experience and a good time!

February is the month for American presidents as we celebrate Presidents' Day on Monday, February 18. We would like to honor just a few who contributed to the health of our planet by establishing acts and signing bills for this purpose.

Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Soil Conservation Service and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Act.

Theodore Roosevelt created the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 and set aside 150 million acres of timberland as public domain. Richard Nixon signed the bill to establish the Environmental Protection Agency and enacted the Clean Air Act.

Woodrow Wilson oversaw the creation of the National Park Service and Abraham Lincoln created the USDA and put Yosemite Valley and its wondrous Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias in public trust.

Much gratitude is extended to them for these actions that continue to benefit the American people and our

corner of the world.

Ever wonder why boxes of chocolates are the traditional Valentine's Day gift? Science tells us that chocolate boosts the mood-affecting chemicals in our brains including serotonin and phenylethylamine. "As the normal levels of these chemicals are increased, feelings of excitement and energy are heightened and sensations of love and romance are enhanced." Just a hint . . .

Notice: The library will be closed on President's Day, Monday February 18.

Baca Grande Library, 256-4100. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat. 10am-4pm.



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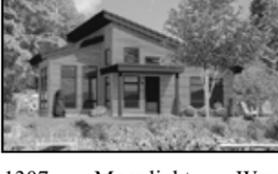
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 <p>269 Springdale Tr \$750,000 4BD 3.5BA. Spacious open floor plan, greenhouse, 2 car garage, horse stall, cottage w/ European wood stove, sauna & soaking tub. Completely off-grid.</p>	 <p>560 Grand Ave, Del Norte \$485,000. Rare opportunity! Live in beautiful Penthouse & run a successful B&B units & 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 & Penthouse. Long term lease in place.</p>	 <p>REDUCED</p> <p>3458C Enchanted Way \$449,000. Owner financing available on this spectacular, income producing, 3BD 2BA property with separate sacred geometry building & studio cottage. Ideal for retreats.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</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 & feel the quality of craftsmanship. Living room has views that that will keep you sitting on the couch with your book & cup of tea.</p>
 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>1401 Badger Rd. \$330,000 Fantastic site, screened porch, contemporary 2BD 2BA home with sunroom. Detached garage/workshop. Home & garage on 3 consolidated lots.</p>	 <p>3537 Camino Del Rey \$279,000 New construction. Contemporary style. Choice of colors, upgrades etc. Stunning mtn. views. On paved rd, close to Temples & Retreat Centers, & the Stupa.</p>	 <p>SOLD</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>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>1315 Moonlight Way. \$265,000 Large 6BD 3BA home on greenbelt & Willow Creek. Remodel in 2014. New ETS heaters. Lovely Japanese soaking tub.</p>	 <p>259 Moonlight Way. \$260,000 Situated high up in Chalet 1, just off paved road. Open airy floor plan & modern kitchen. Choose your colors & many upgrades.</p>	 <p>22606 Co Rd 55, Moffat \$250,000 3 BD, 2BA horse property with 40 fenced acres & a large, partially built cinderblock garage. Ideal location near Crestone & Saguache.</p>
 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</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>1307 Moonlight Way. \$228,000. Choice of colors & options on this contemporary model on a lot near the creek and greenbelt. Upgrades and options available. Call for more details.</p>	 <p>SOLD</p> <p>463 Lime Ave. \$199,000 4BD 2BA 2,200 sq ft home on edge of downtown Crestone. Excellent mountain views, 2 Blocks from school & stores. Lots of space & storage.</p>	 <p>3528 Enchanted \$199,000 2BD 1BA. Call for seller carry terms on this charming 1 level starter, retirement or B&B property with stunning mountain views. Large storage shed, close to paved rd.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</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 & extra bathroom. Screened porch.</p>	 <p>SOLD</p> <p>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.</p>

 <p>SOLD</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>'The Sunshine'</p> <p>365 Camino Del Oro 728 sq ft \$146,600</p>	<p>'The Chimney Rock'</p> <p>169 Verano Court 728 sq ft \$158,600</p>	<p>NEW CONSTRUCTION</p>  <p>'The Humboldt' 792 sq ft \$158,400</p>	 <p>'The Challenger' 815 sq ft \$163,000</p>
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Garden Guru

Subtitle here



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Deer, elk and bears! We love them, as long as they aren't in our gardens or orchards. The charming Bambi that wants to eat out of your hand is not so charming when she and her offspring have just mowed down your planting of sunflowers or taken the top out of your broccoli just before it is ready to harvest. A browsing elk can take two years' growth off of a shrub or small tree in a very short time, and bears are notorious for breaking apart apple trees to get to their favorite domesticated fruit.

Depending on where you live in the area determines, in part, which large animals will be interested in your garden. Deer are abundant in the town of Crestone and in most of the Baca Chalets, while elk are more likely to forage in the more open areas of the Grants and around Casita Park. Bears are more active in the piñon-juniper belt, but last year one foraged in Casita Park, and they are known to travel down the creek greenbelts into the Grants.

Proper fencing seems to be the gardener's best defense against these large foragers. In my experience with deer, I have found that they are easily deterred by fences that are six feet high. Adding flags or plastic ribbons that move in the

wind to the top of the fence improves their visibility to deer. Deer rarely try to push through a fence, so even lightweight wire or plastic can work, particularly around a single bush or tree.

If you do not have a fence, you may be able to grow some plants that deer don't like. Russian Sage is a favorite landscape plant because deer rarely eat it. A web search for deer-resistant plants in Colorado yields a long list. However, deer will sometimes eat things they don't like if they are hungry enough. If the winter is hard, or the snow deep, or the spring dry, or cold, deer will eat what is available.

Repelling scents, such as rotten eggs, may protect some plants. Hot pepper spray may deter deer from tasting your favorite shrub. Commercial deer-repellents often combine these two and add other scents, such as garlic. Recipes are available to make your own. Since our local deer usually go up the mountain when the weather warms, you may only need to spray once or twice before they leave, and again upon their return. Colorado State University Extension has online publications to help. Search extension.colostate.edu for Preventing Deer Damage.

Bears are another story. They are smart and strong, and are seldom deterred by an average fence. In fact, they sometimes break down my fence just to come in and look around. Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently engaged in a six-year study on bears, primarily in the Durango area, to try to better understand the status and habits of black bears. Among the results:

There are not really more bears; there are more humans and fewer bears, but because humans are moving into areas where bears have lived for centuries, the bruins are being crowded out of their foraging areas and bear/human interactions are increasing by about 4% per year, while human population is going up 2%.

Bears are also being impacted by climate changes. The *Denver Post*, in "A 6-year study of Colorado bears is upending assumptions about their encounters with humans" (Bruce Finley, Amy Brothers and R.J. Sangoste, March 15, 2018), described some of these issues. "CPW (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) researchers focused on hibernation. They determined that bears hibernate seven days less for every 1.8° temperature increase at their dens. In addition, for every 10% increase in overlap of foraging terrain with urban development, hibernation decreased by three days." This has put more stress on bears, and especially cubs. Approximately 50% of cubs survive into their second year. Researchers also found that drier conditions, such as Colorado has been experiencing since 2002, mean less food for bears, which



Mama bear keeps watch while cub rests along South Crestone Creek not far from Matie Belle's garden. photo by Ron Dessain

drives them toward human settlements more than normal.

The assumption that bears prefer human food was not verified by the study. Instead, a lack of available wild food due to drought, as well as encroachment of humans on bears' traditional territory, have caused more interactions. "We could see a ratcheting down of the bear population," said CPW biologist Heather Johnson, leader of the research, who used radio collars and monitored movements of 40 bears at a time. "Human development is really expanding," she said. "There's shrinking safe space for these wild bears to be." Johnson said computer plots show conflicts happen because bears wander into cities looking for food when natural foods aren't available during dry years, which with climate change is expected to happen more often."

Black bear females typically weigh 180 to 220 pounds and have territories ranging from 20 to 300 square miles. Bears can smell food from more than a mile away. "Johnson said they have long memories and quickly adapt to obtain food without getting caught." According to CPW, "This large-bodied omnivore can live up to 20 or 30 years depending on harvest (hunting) rates and the availability of a wide variety of naturally available food. Bears primarily eat vegetation such as grasses, forbs, berries, acorns, and seeds. They also eat insects or scavenge on carcasses, but also occasionally prey on newborn calves and fawns, beaver, marmots, deer, elk, or depredate on domestic livestock or agricultural products." They also prey on our orchards, and sometimes on other garden items.

In 2017, when fruit trees did not produce, bears ate my ripe tomatoes. interestingly, their favorites were the same as mine - the large red and yellow slicers.

In a typical year, however, they do not seem very interested in fruit until the apples get ripe. Part of this is biological. Bears do most of their eating, and put on most of their weight, in the last few weeks before hibernation. According to Bear Smart Durango (bearsmart.com), a website dedicated to educating folks about bears, they will "Feed up to 20 hours a day, consume 20,000 calories, and add two to four pounds of fat each day to build up enough fat reserves to get thru the five to six months of foodless hibernation." "20,000 calories is roughly equivalent to eating 30 Burger King Whoppers or 95 Taco Bell soft tacos." No wonder they want my apples!

The consensus of opinion is that the only real protection for orchards with apples is electric fencing. Of course, there are other measures gardeners must take to prevent bear-interest in our properties, including *never* leaving tasty garbage out at night. Bears have very good memories, and an excellent sense of smell. Those residents who have suffered a break-in know not to leave *any* food in your car during summer and fall.

If you decide to install electric fencing, there are several good videos on bearsmart.com, as well as an online guide from CSU Extension. Check out the above *Denver Post* article for some great stories and pictures of bear cubs, and bearsmart.com for more information on Colorado's favorite bruin.

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Clean energy for the San Luis Valley?

Your vote & participation can help decide energy choices

by Wade Lockhart

It's getting to be a worn out statement: The times are a-changing. We are in the midst of climate change. If you would like to be proactive, then this information might help you.

Where do we buy our electricity?

Unless you are off "the grid" in a solar home, or possibly hydro power, you are probably on "the grid". The power transmission lines that you see running almost everywhere are what makes up "the grid," along with the support equipment, transformers, stations and then finally, at the source, the power generation stations. Here in Crestone, if you are on the grid, you buy electric power from SLVREC in Monte Vista, Colorado. This is the home office of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC), of which, whether you know it or not, you are a vested member. The raw electricity itself is produced by Tri-State Generation, which has three coal-fired power plants: two in Colorado, one in New Mexico. These plants are tied into the grid, which is shared by most traditional power generation companies, such as Excel Energy, Guzman, and others. Actually if you look at the grid, the entire US is tied together in an integrated electric power network. The advantages of the grid are long established, back to the days when electricity first came to rural areas.

Tri-State Generation is a non-profit cooperative that is owned by 43 member co-ops, of which our own SLVREC is a member, and technically you are a member. So why am I explaining all of this, and what does it have to do with climate change?

You have a vote

If we want to "save our bacon," we need to be making adjustments to our daily fossil fuel energy use. Many of the steps are obvious. A not-so-obvious step is this: As a co-op member of your electricity company, you have a vote. Every four years there is an election for a Saguache County representative to sit on the SLVREC governing board, consisting of five separate districts, a board member "at large" plus the CEO. There are seven voting members on the board, each representing the needs of their individual constituencies.

Recently it was mandated by the people of Colorado to require 30% of electric power to be generated by renewables. Renewables are wind, solar and hydropower. Tri-State Generation fought this mandate, saying that rural areas could not afford the shift to renewables due to higher costs: having longer distances and fewer customers to cover the upgrades, among other reasons that were all logical. Nevertheless their feet were held to the fire and they are complying, but through some negotiations

SLVREC was able to lower their portion of renewable energy to 20%. Currently Tri-State is buying wind and solar from other producers to meet this requirement and is not investing in its own renewables. This is the economic model they are using, driving the cost of electricity to its member co-ops up. All said, our co-op, SLVREC, is paying almost 50% more for electricity than some urban areas of the Front Range that have jumped on board to clean, cheaper energy. One might say that for us here in the San Luis Valley it is one of the costs of living in such a beautiful, remote place as this, but not entirely. Tri-State is an electricity provider that is locked in the past.

In the past, choices were made almost solely on their economic cost, and to a much lesser degree, the environment. That old, worn-out statement: the times are . . . , again.

In the spring of 2021, (seems

like science fiction), there will be an SLVREC ballot mailed to you. You can choose a candidate to represent our area of the SLV. Be careful not to toss it out as junk mail. It is possible that this time around one (or more!) of our candidates will represent clean energy, i.e. renewables, in contrast to years past, where renewables were not even discussed.

The renewables discussion is very much on the table now. If this seems like a proactive way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, take the opportunity to make a difference. Stay tuned and vote for clean energy.

Also, here in our community we have the Crestone/Baca Resiliency group working to inform the community about important environmental issues, like electricity generation, and to take action. See their web page at: crestonebacaresiliency.net.

Comments and questions can be sent to: Wade Lockhart at lockiew@yahoo.com. Wade is a member of the Crestone/Baca Resiliency Energy Group, and has been a resident of the Crestone Baca area since 2002.

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<p>SOLD</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>1401 Badger Road - \$330,000 2BR/2BA + sunroom 1394sf home in fantastic location, w/amazing views & upstairs screened porch. Newer detached garage/wkshp. Home & garage are on 3 consolidated lots. Modern styled home has lots of natural light. Landscaped yard w/irrigation system. Stucco wall makes it very private.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>1315 Moonlight Way - \$255,000 6BD/3BA 3072sf on greenbelt & Willow Crk. Remodel in 2014. Home sits back on lot with lots of trees for privacy. Newly remodeled bathrooms w/lg soaking tub upstairs. Bamboo floors throughout. Back deck along creek & greenbelt. New side deck. Greenhouse/sunroom on back.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>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.</p>
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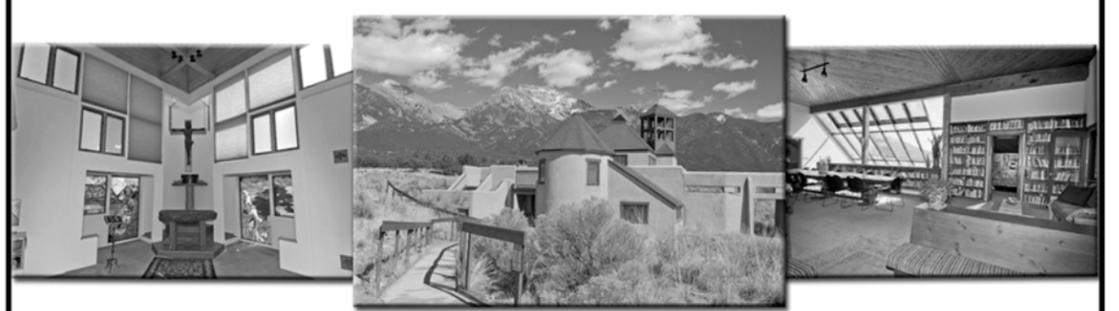
<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>3733 Cordial Way - \$175,000 Unique hexagonal 2BR/1.75BA home w/ finished basement sits on a fabulous 1.36ac treed lot. Lg windows w/views. Woodstove & propane heat. Lg, fenced outdoor spaces & gardens. 384sf detached heated office/studio & storage.</p>	<p>New Listing</p>  <p>464 Camino Real - \$49,000 Finish off this framed, 1600sf 2BD/2BA home w/shed roof + loft on 3+ acres in the Grants. Well & septic not installed. Slab and footers are insulated with 4" foam. Weatherized Zip system sheathing. Simonton ProFinish double-pane windows.</p>	<p>Retreat Center</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Grants</p>  <p>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</p>	<p>Grants</p>  <p>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. Open floor plan w/expansive windows & contemporary finishes. High-efficiency propane on-demand hot water/in-floor heat.</p>	<p>Grants</p>  <p>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.</p>
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<p>Grants</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>1974CR Highland OL - \$648,000 Beautifully designed by Bodhgaiya 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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>437C N. Chaparral Way - \$479,000 Built by Paul Koppapa 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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>
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<p>Chalets</p>  <p>2210 Lone Pine - \$234,000 Well built, cheery 4BD/1.5BA 2-story adj to Spanish Creek greenbelt. 2 living areas, lg storage rm & extra 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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Jump in on an Active Market!</p>
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2018 & 2019 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 Ridgecrest 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
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Acequias

continued from page B-1

communities and honor cultural heritage.”

If you take a day trip down to the Taos Farmers’ Market or to the Alamosa Farmers’ Market you will see the vendors’ stalls overflowing with gorgeous produce grown in NM and southern CO. The acequia waters irrigate fields of unique varieties of beans, chilis, apples and other regional specialties. Caring for the acequias keeps communities green although it may not have rained for months. Acequias honor the earth and community, giving us a sense of place and a place of beauty. Before sustainability was cool, acequias created a sustainable agricultural system when sustainability was necessary. Acequias have always been about



Ditch cleaning.

community. Paula Garcia of Mora, NM speaking of the resurgence of agriculture in Mora County says, “Revitalization of the acequia culture shows people are interested in returning to the land, using the means to grow food our ancestors used.” Acequias remind people of what is really important: honoring the water and feeding each other.



Taos Pueblo with Rio Pueblo in foreground.

Water protectors in Taos Valley

continued from page B-1

including the town of Taos, dry. The Abeyta Settlement was designed to hopefully stop this consequence.

Taos Pueblo’s wetlands below their sacred mountain and lake feed the Rio Lucero and Rio Pueblo rivers which, in turn, feed some of the most ancient acequias in the Taos Valley. In Taos the fusion of the Pueblo, Hispanic and Anglo cultures contribute to some pretty unique living and farming models. The largest inhabited pueblo in the region, Taos Pueblo has been lived in continuously for over a thousand years; and then there are economical earthships and adobe houses making up a community that has always shared water.

Negotiations about water went on from 1989 to 2006 when a draft settlement was approved by the NM State Legislature. In 2010 President Obama gave federal approval to the agreement. The big question that has not been answered is: will the science behind the Abeyta Settlement be able to overcome regional drought to meet future water demands without se-

rious environmental and cultural consequences?

What’s worrying the Taos Water Protectors now is a settlement requirement that can only be met through the pumping of groundwater, which may have a negative effect on stream flows the acequias depend on. The site the group marched to in December 2018 was where a “mitigation” well was to be drilled. Plans are to sink the well into the confined aquifer. These wells are to be used to mitigate water use by adding a new source of water into the system. Whether the water from these deep sources is good is one of the unknowns that plague the Abeyta Settlement and cause Water Protectors concern. They want to see the implementation of the Abeyta Settlement slowed down so possible disaster can be avoided. The test well at the site where protestors gathered when it was sunk pulled up sand. Plans are to move the rig and try to drill the mitigation well in a different location. Whether or not the Abeyta Settlement plans will actually be able to meet the needs of Taos Valley water users is uncertain.

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root
Herbs for the heart



by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

In February our minds turn to matters of the heart. Interestingly, things that benefit the physical heart also seem to benefit the emotional or spiritual heart, the heart center.

Before herbs can help anything, it's necessary to be eating good food. There was a study on cardiovascular disease done by Harvard University in the 1960s that concluded that fat was the major cause of heart disease. This led to low-fat diets being touted as heart healthy, and a plethora of

books written about low or no fat diets. It also led to low fat products being created, such as low-fat artificial versions of higher fat products, that were presumed to be healthy. These products are higher in sugar and in chemicals added to replace the fat and create a palatable product. Recently it was discovered that the sugar industry had paid for the study (not revealed back then) and "encouraged" scientists to shift the focus of the problem from sugar to fats. So if you've been diligently following a low or no fat diet because of this information, it might be time to add a bit of healthy fat to your diet and cut down on the sugar, which is implicated in all kinds of health problems.

There are many herbs that benefit the heart. I wrote about garlic last month which, in addition to ginkgo, motherwort, yarrow, cayenne and linden, is a major cardiac tonic. In this article though, I will focus on hawthorn. Hawthorn is perhaps the best-known heart tonic. This wouldn't be your go-to for a cardiac emergency; hawthorn works slowly and steadily. Give it at least three months to manifest change in your cardiovascular system.



Hawthorn.

Hawthorn (*Crateagus* spp.) is a small tree in the rose family. The white flowers have 5 petals, and the branches have long spikes or "thorns". The flowers, leaves, and later the berries are all used; a combination is best. Hawthorn makes a pleasant-tasting tea, or a tincture could be used; two cups of tea or two servings of tincture per day. Hawthorn is indicated for any cardiovascular problem, and it has no toxicity or side effects. I would recommend it for anyone over 40 on a daily basis.

Hawthorn is known to increase the strength of heart muscle contractions, normalize irregular heartbeat, and dilate the coronary arteries thereby increasing coronary circulation. As a flower es-

sence, "Hawthorn helps open the heart to giving and receiving love, and can help in healing heartache. It encourages self-love and self-acceptance. As with many heart-acting energy remedies, hawthorn helps us to develop courage. The very etymology of the word courage draws our attention to the heart: cor is Latin for heart. And courage is truly an open-hearted state."

To your heart!

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.

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Year of the Pig

by Starr Sites

Jupiter square Neptune

The Jupiter/Neptune square is impacting us in January and February, then again in June through October. It represents a confusing time when our gullibility is tested. Jupiter can be grandiose, glossing over details while pretending to be all-knowing, and Neptune is ephemeral and imprecise, sometimes even underhanded. During this aspect, our powers of discernment are not particularly sharp, so it's easy to be persuaded by false stories and "fake news". There is a feeling that something important is slipping through our fingers, but it's hard to pinpoint the exact reason for our anxiety.

Jupiter in Sagittarius

On the positive side, Jupiter in Sagittarius is expansive with a love of learning and travel. We are being challenged to articulate our deepest truths and ideals while expanding our spiritual practices, activating our creative artistry, integrating our shadow, and generously assisting those in need. Jupiter in Sagittarius in 2019 is calling us to align with *truth* and *integrity* and to stand up for the principles we believe in!

February's other aspects

This month starts out enthusiastically with Mars trine Jupiter in fire signs indicating action, passion and over-reach. But Mars

also squares Pluto for several days, sparking nasty tempers and unnecessary cruelty, while stirring up tears and anger in some people as deeply-buried wounds surface to be examined and healed. Early February is a good time for writers as "messenger" Mercury conjuncts the radiant Sun and sextiles benefic Jupiter. Use this time to expand your mind. Venus trines Uranus as well, encouraging creative self-expression. This aspect is exemplified by unique women like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the freshman Congresswoman who burst onto the Washington scene in January with fresh new ideas and outstanding courage.

Around February 10 aggressive Mars approaches radical Uranus, instigating explosive behaviors and shocking incidents for a week or so. Then gentle Venus sextiles romantic Neptune just in time for Valentine's Day. On the 18th the Sun exits intellectual Aquarius, entering intuitive Pisces while mentally agile Mercury tries to pierce the fog of nebulous Neptune, also in Pisces. Luckily, gentle Venus conjoins responsible Saturn in Capricorn, bringing some much-needed discipline and clarity to communications.

On the 23rd vulnerable Venus conjuncts transformative Pluto, potentially deepening our relationships and helping us penetrate issues with greater understanding. However Venus/Pluto also reveals

#MeToo-style institutionalized abuses by powerful men over women, the weak, and the disadvantaged. Meanwhile, gracious Venus harmonizes with versatile Mercury to smooth out social tensions by the end of the month.

Year of the Pig

The Chinese New Year falls on Feb. 5 this year, which marks the "Year of the Earth Pig". Pig years are considered auspicious, prosperous and lucky. Happiness, wealth, honesty, and good fortune are expected during Pig years.

[NOTE: Although Jupiter too is bringing good fortune to the US as it passes through the first house of the US national chart, stock market investing this year will be tricky due to extreme volatility. Markets may suffer as stern Saturn approaches destructive Pluto in Capricorn in the US money house, signaling potential losses, especially in the latter half of 2019.]

Pig was the last of the animals to present himself to the Jade Emperor, who chose 12 animals to represent the Chinese zodiac. Because pigs are considered "lazy, greedy and fat", negligence, corporate greed, economic inequality, and the global pandemic of obesity may feature in the news this year. Since Pig years end the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle, "change, end-

ings and completion" are also likely themes.

In order to benefit from the luck this Pig year holds, Chinese pundits recommend that you do good deeds, be respectful to elders, act prudently, behave calmly, honor Spirit, visit sacred sites, and attend happy events like weddings so that your ventures may prosper in 2019. Happy Chinese New Year!

Weather in 2019

On the climate front, caution is indicated as "Earth Pig" symbolizes "quickly flowing cold water; fruit will spoil." This suggests floods, hurricanes and freezes could lead to possible food shortages and distribution problems this year. Earth-based seismic disturbances, especially after Uranus enters Taurus in March, could exacerbate matters.

Numerology 2019

By adding the digits (2+0+1+9=12) we get the frequency of the year. 2019 is a "12 year" which reduces to "3". Twelve is the number of the "Hanged Man", a powerful card in Tarot which means reversal in your affairs, your thinking, or your values by year's end. 2019 is also a "3 year" in numerology, which is a fertile and productive omen for cooperation within family and community. And 2019 ends in a "9", the karmic number of completion.

What about Trump?

March appears to be Trump's worst month this year. On the last day of February, his natal Venus/Saturn conjunction (control over women) will be opposed by dramatic Pluto conjuncting the South Node (past actions), so his *karma*, especially with women, is coming due! Chinese astrologers say that Trump will fall from being "on top of the world" in 2018 down to "the flatlands" in 2019.

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ONE HAND CLAPPING

Pocahontas

by Tom deMers

I wrote a long letter to Senator Elizabeth Warren, who has declared to run for president in 2020. Its main point is that climate change should be central to her campaign. Warren has a small percentage of Native American blood and has been mocked as Pocahontas by Trump. The following is an excerpt from the letter in which I refer to Trump as a Knothole, a part of the wood that weakens the whole.

"It seems obvious that your Native American roots are a great asset regardless of your genetic percentage. Indian people know their connection to the web of life that we call Earth and have long championed its health. When the Knothole called you Pocahontas, he gave you a gift. Embrace Pocahontas! Say you are honored. Quote the lyrics of her song 'Colors of the Wind.'

You think you own whatever land you land on

The Earth is just a dead thing you can claim

But I know every rock and tree and creature

Has a life, has a spirit, has a name.

They are racially inclusive.

You think the only people who are people

Are the people who look and think like you

But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger

You'll learn things you never knew, you never knew.

Of course, this is a song from the Disney animated film. It alters and softens the impact of what happened to the woman white people

call Pocahontas. You need to know that story too. Perhaps you already do, how she very likely died of European infectious diseases when she was brought as a trophy wife to England by her white husband. Truth is your weapon, and standing your ground against the slanders of the Knothole and his associates is key. If there is a primary reason for my support, it's that I believe you will articulate and stand by positions that should not be controversial but are considered outside the mainstream. Those positions must be normalized by someone who lives by her steadfast conviction in them and in the truth of facts. Disney is not historical truth and not meant to be. It is truth translated to our historical moment; truth that feeds us in the 21st century. You must not allow yourself to be bullied by the name calling of fools. Strengthen your connection to Indian people. Go to them with humility. Assure them that you do not want to manipulate your genetics for political advantage. Say you regret not affirming this at the time of Standing Rock. Speak with Native American elders. Carry their wisdom as a wind in your sails. I have an Anglo friend, a writer who is well-connected in the American Indian community. He could refer you to some elders in the West who would talk with you. Essentially my suggestion is to take the mud they throw at you and refute it as lies or use it to your advantage. Pocahontas is one such example. There will be others."



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DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

Lately we have been wrapped in clouds. They like to linger here along the western flanks of the mountain. Shadows which we saw reaching further north as sun went south have left for the Arctic, taking with them the contours they usually reveal. As the light goes flat, so do the folds and furrows in what is now a white plain rolling off toward the dunes. If it weren't for the rabbit brush reaching up through the snow, we would have no way to measure our movement through this quilted fog. The high peaks have gone off beyond this gray world to reinvent themselves. We will not be able to ignore their new shine when they return, but for now the colors that usually dazzle us here are muted. In the ice house of an inversion fog, green thinks it might like to become gray for a while. And why not? For a while we will let our eyes rest. And maybe, as we kick and glide, kick and glide, and follow our skis down the old ranch road to Deadman Creek, we too will turn the color of winter like the ermins do, and become invisible against a horizon newly dusted with snow.



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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ **The Kaminsky Method:** (2018) ★★★★★

A terrific portrayal of a brush with fame, a very successful friend and agent, problems with relationships, death of a wife, attachment, prostate problems and age. Stars Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin . . . quite delightful.

2/ **Killer Elite:** (2011) ★★★★★

Great action film with acting coming from Jason Stratham, Robert De Niro and Clive Owen. When his mentor (De Niro) is captured by a disgraced sheik, a killer-for-hire (Stratham) is forced back into action. To enable his mentor's release he has to kill three members of Britain's elite Special Air Service who killed the Sheik's son.

3/ **Knightfall:** (2017) ★★★★★

A look into the final days of the Knights Templar during the 14th century. (violence, action, drama)

4/ **The Sea of Trees:** (2015) ★★★

This is based on a real forest, Aokigahara, the Sea of Trees, in Japan where people go to commit suicide. Somewhat morbid and slightly depressing; however, a friendship between 2 people that meet in the forest affirms their wills to live. Stars Matthew McConaughey, Naomi Watts and Ken Watanabe.

5/ **American Assassin:** (2017) ★★★★★

Stars Dylan O'Brien and Michael Keaton. Mitch lost his parents at 14 and his girlfriend to a terrorist attack just as they were engaged. Wanting revenge he joins CIA as a black ops recruit and is given to tough-as-nails Stan Hurley to train him. They discover a pattern to random attacks leading them on a joint mission.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Forever and a day
5. Organ of balance
8. What Jack Sprat couldn't eat
11. Quinceanera or bat mitzvah
12. Wagon part
13. You can count on these
15. Heart of the matter
16. Perceive by touch
17. Fedora part, pl.
18. *Voter test, now illegal
20. Ireland's other name
21. Written corrections
22. One from Laos
23. Kind of acid
26. *Segregation laws
30. *Stop segregation, e.g.
31. 40 winks
34. Zeus' wife
35. Nadya Suleman's children, e.g.
37. Subject of "Philadelphia" movie
38. Kind of southern pie
39. Chico or Groucho
40. Cured sausage
42. Member of Shoshonean people
43. *Montgomery Bus ____
45. Produced by inbreeding
47. Brown league
48. Kind of ray
50. Flying toy
52. *He challenged nonviolence
55. Juice alternative
56. Craving
57. Evening in Italy
59. Dead to the world
60. Harry Potter's mark
61. Wet nurse
62. Ottoman officer title
63. CafÈ alternative
64. Kind of bean

DOWN

1. *The ____ of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice"
2. Lena Dunham or Allison Williams, 2012-2017
3. Red carpet purse
4. The Brady Bunch children, e.g.
5. Permission for absence from a college
6. Smart ____, pl
7. Be dependent
8. * ____ Housing Act
9. Climber's destination
10. " ____ the season ..."
12. *Mandela presided over its southernmost country
13. Perpendicular to the keel
14. French bun
19. Authoritative proclamation
22. Not to be given to those in authority
23. Manhattan Project invention
24. Chocolate tree
25. "Dear Diary..." note
26. Cup of joe
27. Happen again
28. Do like Demosthenes
29. What moon did
32. Not this
33. Bupkis
36. Oscillator, e.g.
38. '70s Ford model
40. Farm pen
41. Meat grinder, e.g.
44. For all to see
46. Model-builder's wood of choice, pl.
48. * ____ on Washington
49. Blue-Green scum
50. *Nobel Peace Prize winner
51. Light bulb
52. Necessary thing
53. Office dispatch
54. Roentgen's machine
55. Langley, VA org.
58. "Eureka!"

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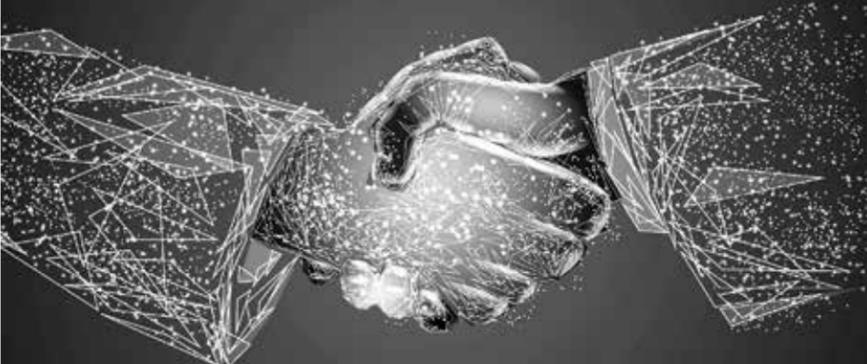
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Classifieds...

*continued from
Page B-14*

Building or Designing a Home?

Building or Designing a Home (also Renovations)? www.SunPeakBuilders.com. Also, listen to my podcast on How2BuildGreen.com Adam Fries 970-426-9446

Veterans' Benefits

County Veteran Service Officer does outreach in Crestone on the 3rd Friday at the Town Hall from 1pm to 3pm. Learn about your benefits.

Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant - Temporary Pool

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District is accepting applications for a temporary Administrative Assistant. This position is a part-time temporary position, scheduled for 20 hours per week and may lead to a permanent position for the right candidate. Administrative Assistants ensure the efficient day-to-day operation of the office, and support the work of management and other staff. Required Experience • Two years of clerical experience required. • Excellent communication,

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problem solving skills, time management, organization, and multi-tasking abilities • Comfortable working on the phone with customers • Ability to listen to customer challenges and issues, provide assistance towards a potential resolution. Salary • Commensurate with education and experience. Submit a completed application and resume to: Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District Attention: Human Resources PO Box 520 Crestone, Co 81131 Application deadline: Open until filled. More information can be found on our web site @ <http://www.bacawater.com/employment.html>

BACA GRANDE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION POSITION VACANCY

Assistant Executive Director. The Assistant Executive Director is a career track position and serves as the Assistant to the Executive Director in accordance with the Association's governing documents, state laws and is responsible for assisting the Executive Director in the effective overall daily operation of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association. The Assistant Executive Director maintains effective meeting organization and job performance to assure attainment of goals and objectives, as developed by the Board of Directors, and to provide maximum effective service to the membership. A successful candidate must have experience

and skill sets in: association administration, program budgeting, oral and written communication mastery, demonstrated fiscal and cost control management, strong leadership with creative and innovative problem solving abilities with staff resources and volunteerism. Background Requirements: Hold a Bachelor's degree in a related field such as: Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance or related field. Hold a current Community Association Management (CAM) License, as well as the Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) Designation or higher and a minimum of one year of direct community association management experience. The Application for Employment is available at the Baca Grande Property Owners Association's office during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, or on our website, www.bacapoa.org under the Employment tab. Please submit your completed application along with your resume on or before March 1, 2019. Applications and resumes can be submitted in person, via email to manager@bacapoa.org, or addressed to the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, P. O. Box 237, Crestone, CO 81131, Attention: Ayla Hoevers, Executive Director. The most qualified applicants will be selected and contacted to schedule an initial interview during the week of March 11- 15, 2019

Misc. Wanted

Loving Donation Wanted
Local elderly gentleman in need of a lazy boy "lift chair" and mechanical hospital bed. If anyone in this great community of ours has one that can be donated please contact Angela 719-429-9225

Yard/Garage/Moving/Estate Sales

Moving Sale Come Take a Look
Sat-Sun Feb 2 & 3, Feb 9 & 10. 12-4. Or by appointment. 1402 E. Badger Road. Please call or email Dale 719-256-4784 or 360-461-7424. dalec@gojade.org. Negotiable prices. 6 piece ratan furniture set. Automan diagonal couch. Pretty 5 1/2 ft couch. Fold out bed couch. 28" counter chairs. 2 tv's. Air tools. Vices. 10 lb sand blaster. Cement mixer. Dry wall screwgun. Variable skill saw. Draw blades. 8 ft crosscut saws. Miscellaneous power tools. Blacksmith tools. Delta mini wood lath. 12" Delta wood lath. Pottery wheel. 10"x10" ceramic/glass kiln. Lapidary diamond saws & miscellaneous. Large rock collection. Maple lumber. Racing bike needs tires. MUCH MORE including FREE items.

Free

Free Manure
Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-6200.



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.

TOWN OF CRESTONE PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE 2019-001

AN ORDINANCE CLARIFYING THE LEGAL STATUS PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE NO. 2004-007 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2003-005 (AN ORDINANCE IDENTIFYING, MAKING ILLEGAL, AND ABATING CERTAIN NUISANCES) IN THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO), AS THE SAME CONCERNING TOWN LIGHTING, LIGHT SHADING AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-001 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2003-005 (AN ORDINANCE IDENTIFYING, MAKING ILLEGAL, AND ABATING CERTAIN NUISANCES IN THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO)

INTRODUCED, read in full, adopted, APPROVED, and SIGNED the 14th day of January, 2019 by
Kairina Danforth, Mayor
ATTESTED by Allyson Ransom, Town Clerk
APPROVED AS TO FORM by Gene Farish, Town Attorney

PUBLISHED on February 1, 2019
By Title Only as per CRS 31-16-105 and Town of Crestone Ordinance #2002-014

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Has the recent "border wall" shutdown affected the federal government's ability to safeguard our air and water quality and otherwise protect our environment and public lands?

—Peter Nicholson, via e-mail

No one is happy about the recent partial shutdown of the federal government in the U.S. as President Trump plays hardball with Congress on allocating funds for his "border wall." While essential government services typically remain open in any government shutdown, it's up to individual agencies and their administrators to decide how much of a presence to maintain during a shutdown and whether or not to furlough some or all staff.

For its part, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) curtailed the vast majority of its work once federal funding dried up on December 28, with only national security and emergency staff staying on. Some 13,000+ EPA employees have been furloughed with more than 100 agency offices across the country now closed until further notice. Until the border wall impasse is broken, the EPA has no staff to continue hazardous waste clean-up work at Superfund sites, inspect power plants to ensure compliance with air quality standards, review toxic substances and pesticides nor respond to Freedom of Information requests.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the environmental protections we otherwise take for granted "grind to a halt" during a shutdown: "Chemical facilities are not inspected. Agricultural technical assistance projects are shut down. The protection of species stops. Research is also disrupted, which can lead to gaps in data or entire lost field seasons (and huge wastes of taxpayer dollars)."



Gibson Peak in the clouds with fresh snow in the Baca. photo by Grace Anderson

As for national parks, about two-thirds remain open but have limited services, so visitors shouldn't expect the same level of sanitation or monitoring that is customary. While there is no one to collect entrance fees, likewise there is no one to pump out toilets, empty trash or intervene in case of interpersonal disputes or wildlife encounters. All National Parks Service (NPS) personnel (except firefighters monitoring active burns or watch areas and essential leadership at headquarters) have been furloughed.

The Department of Interior has authorized individual parks to dip into their entrance and recreation fees to help pay for essential/emergency services during the shutdown, although the use of these funds will likely slow down maintenance projects by months or years as a result.

While this closure of national parks is an annoyance to Americans planning a visit, it's also an economic problem. The non-profit National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) reports that NPS has lost upwards of \$5 million in entrance fee revenue since the shutdown began, while local businesses and concession operators dependent upon servicing park visitors are also losing out on much-needed income.

Despite closures at the EPA, the NPS and other agencies relat-

ed to the environment, the federal push to open up more land and offshore waters to fossil fuel extraction continues unabated. According to *The Guardian*, the Interior Department hasn't slowed down efforts to issue permits for oil drilling on federal land and in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Arctic. "While he's closed the government to the American people, Trump has hung up an 'open for business' sign for corporate polluters," reports Melinda Pierce, legislative director at the non-profit Sierra Club.

CONTACTS: EPA, www.epa.gov; UCS, www.ucsusa.org; NPS, www.nps.gov; NPCA, www.npca.org; Sierra Club, www.sierraclub.org.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

December 21 to January 20
Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 1.04"

Snow: 18.9"

Measurable precipitation fell on 15 days.

Measurable snow fell on 15 days.

A trace of snow fell on 3 days.

No measurable rain, thunderstorms, or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1 (final for 2018): 7.40"

Since Jan 1 (for 2019): 0.67"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1 (final for 2018): 34.1"

Since Jan 1 (for 2019): 9.9"

Snow Season*: 30.3"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 43.7°F on Dec. 21

Low temp: -9.8°F on January 3

Avg. high: 28.5°F

Avg. low: 7.8°F

Number of days with the high temperature above 40°: 3 (all in December)

Number of days with the high temperature at or below 32°: 22

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: All 31

Number of days with the low temperature below 10°: 16

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

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.0 mph

Highest gust: 26 mph on December 24

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

Weather summary:

This time frame saw precipitation above normal while temperatures were below normal.

For 2018 overall, we saw drought conditions for the entire year, along with the second driest year ever on record for the Crestone/Baca since official records were first kept, starting in 1982.

Outlook for February:

February is our driest month of the year, averaging only .52 inches of precipitation along with just 8.8 inches of snow falling. Temperature wise, this is our third coldest month of the year, with the average high and low temperatures being 36° and 9° at the start of the month, and by the month's close, it warms up to 42° and 17°. The warmest temperature recorded in February was 63°, reached in 1986 and also in 2006, with a very cold -26° being the coldest reading, set on February 1, 1985. That is also the coldest reading ever recorded in Crestone, with the first week in February seeing 5 of the 6 coldest days ever recorded in our area (-20° or colder).

The 30 day outlook for February from 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.

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