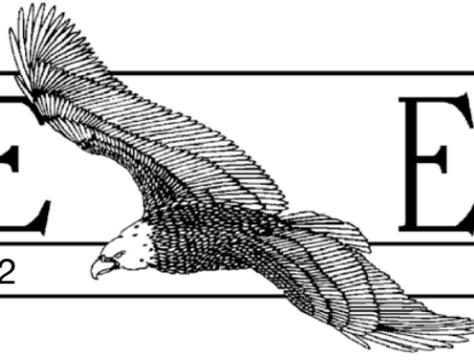


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 30, Number 12

December, 2019 \$2

30 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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North Crestone Creek Trail under fresh dusting of snow. photo by Bill Ellzey, www.billellzey.com. Ellzey will be holding his 20th Annual Studio Tour December 7 & 8. See feature story on page 9. To see this photo in color (gentle, dusk colors) and more, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Town of Moffat reviews Area 420 large expansion

Saguache County tables decision on Impact Report

by Lisa Cyriacks

Residents of Moffat and citizens from surrounding Saguache County had the opportunity to submit comments recently on the proposed Area 420 expansion.

The controversial annexation proposal hinges on a “flagpole” annexation requiring the County to surrender County Road 59. According to the Impact Report filed with the County on November 5,

the Town of Moffat would allow the County to continue to receive Highway User Tax Funds for that road and the ability to maintain the road. The flagpole annexation would also result in 80 acres contiguous to the Town, not within the Town boundary, but would be surrounded by the Town.

At the November 5 public hearing held at Moffat Town Hall, comments received were against

the proposal for a multitude of reasons. The only comments in favor were from the attorney, Karl Kuenhold, representing Area 420.

“Slow down the process” seemed to be the theme. The Town trustees have moved promptly to accept the petition for annexation, even before the Impact Report was ready to be presented to the County and its residents.

One resident questioned the trustees on why the hundreds of

continued on page 21



It's Holiday Season! See our special holiday shopping and event section starting on page 9 and you might just be as happy as Toby meeting Santa!

photo by Lori Nagel

Citizen's group & Town of Crestone reach settlement agreement with electric company over rate hike

The Anne Pace et. al. and Town of Crestone v. San Luis Valley Rural Electric Co-op PUC filings have reached resolution. The biggest relief asked for in the Complaints, which this settlement achieves, is that the demand charge will be reduced more than 7-fold before the arrival of coldest months of winter. This will help most residential use members.

After months of legal process and lengthy discovery examination, all parties agreed to a mediation process hosted by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on October 18. Through this mediation a settlement was reached (The “Agreement”), setting an interim rate and other stipulations as outlined below. The original hearing set for Nov. 19 was vacated. Upon approval

by the the Annie Pace et. al. group, the Crestone Board of Trustees, and their respective attorneys, the filings before the PUC have been withdrawn by both groups, and the details of the Agreement are available to the public.

The agreement

To summarize the salient points of the Agreement, the demand

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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.



CPCH—Super news for our community!

Dear Editor,

I am so excited to share this news. After several years of looking for land within walking distance to the commercial district of Crestone, Crestone Peak Community Housing (CPCH) has finally found land for sale and has land under contract. The Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community project—a little community of people over 55—will begin its planning phase.

The land is located directly east of the Crestone Charter School and has 4.6 acres. CPCH plans to build approximately 20 small, affordable units that are sustainable, beautiful, health-conscious and environmentally responsible. The contract to purchase was signed in late October and CPCH is now starting an application process called a “Planned Unit Development.” For this we rely on the support of our Crestone Town Trustees and the Crestone Planning Commission and of course our whole community.

CPCH is now in active fundraising mode to close the sale. Every donation we receive will be tripled by a private and very generous donor! As a non-profit CPCH has Enterprise Zone Status that will give you a 25% tax credit for all donations over \$100. Once we own the land, we can begin applying for construction grants.

Contact us at CrestonepeakCH@gmail.com or visit our website at www.crestonepeakcommunityhousing.org

Thank you,
 Kirsten Schreiber

A documentary about Crestone End Of Life Project

Dear Crestone,

I'm working on a documentary called, *A Handmade Death*, about people creating a more meaningful alternative to the usual hospital-to-hospice-to-funeral-home-end-of-life experience. It started when a friend's mother died recently at home. Three generations of her family washed and anointed and dressed her body, wove her a wicker coffin, fought with the cemetery board, dug the grave and carried her by hand through her home town. I filmed this for the family and was deeply moved.

Shortly thereafter my mother got too weak to get out of bed. Instead of choosing medical intervention, she decided to hasten her death by stopping eating and drinking. My brother and I took care of her during the ten days it took her to die. We built her coffin. Her granddaughter insisted on closing her eyes after she died. All this I filmed too, and realized in the editing that here is a bigger story to be told. How are others finding ways to make death meaningful

again by being willing to step inside the circle of death?

In my research I learned about Crestone End of Life Project, which is the only community-based, volunteer-driven non-denominational open-air cremation pyre in the US. I knew immediately that what your community has created has to be in *A Handmade Death*. I reached out to CEOLP and the board kindly invited me to visit Crestone and the cremation pyre.

But to tell this story with heart I need not only a subject but also a protagonist. Do you know someone or are you preparing for your own death and when you die intend to be cremated at the pyre? If so, would you allow me to film your process? If so, please contact me at janstur@hotmail.com.

An edit of my mother's death can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/359407878>.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
 Jan Sturmman

Years of CEOLP

Dear Editor:

For the past six years, Informed Final Choices and the Crestone End of Life Project have sponsored a number of events during October. October 2006 is when we held our first open meeting to discuss the viability of establishing an open-air cremation site in Crestone. October 2007 we received legal authorization to operate the open-air site and to serve our community.

Our first Death Café on November 1, 2013, was held in what was then Jillian's Studio. It was attended by more than 45 participants and was part of a larger, community Day of the Dead celebration organized by Allison Wonderland. After the Death Café, everyone walked to the town cemetery for John O'Donnell's green burial at the town cemetery—our community's first green burial.

The tradition of October CEOLP/IFC events has continued and expanded to include film screenings and contemplative arts workshops, CEOLP registration parties, performances by the Crestone Threshold Singers, presentations on LeaveLight—a “holistic approach to advance directives and end-of-life choices,” facilitated by Marcella Friel—and the ever-popular Death Cafés.

We couldn't do any of this without the participation of the fabulous IFC/CEOLP volunteers, the generosity of the Saguache County Commissioners/Sales Tax Grant, and local community members who host these events at their venues. Oh! Almost forgot! And the delicious gluten-free cookies lovingly made for each of our events by the Tieder Family at Our Food Is Art.

Just to give you an idea of the level of involvement for this year's events: Peter Taylor designed and published all of our event posters; Shumei International, Tsering and Ling Dorje of the Desert Sage, the Town of Crestone, Judith Oakland, and Colorado College made their venues available. Peter Macy and the Mt. Blanca Music Conservatory provided an umbrella for event insurance—don't miss their upcoming

holiday concert in December!

Allison Wonderland, Judith Oakland and Noah Baen facilitated the arts workshop; Sharon Corcoran and Gussie Fauntleroy hosted the Death Café; Gregg Conlee operated the AV equipment for the HBO screening, while Shonda Johnson patiently showed us the Colorado College ropes. Kudos to our CEOLP Registrar Denise Peine, notaries Lori Nagel and Rene Evenson, the volunteers who operated our now-defunct copy machine, and all the others who assisted at the Registration Party.

Of course, the most important contributors were you: our wonderful community. We thank you for your support and participation.

Stephanie Gaines

For the IFC/CEOLP Joint Board of Directors

Thanks to PUC process participants

Dear Community,

I would like to acknowledge the individuals who stepped up to the plate—and followed through—in the recent PUC process. (See full article elsewhere in this *Eagle*.)

Barb Tidd, who pointed me in the right direction to initiate the process.

Those who signed on the the original complaint (aka the “Citizens Group”):

Myself and Lili Zohar, Bob Salmi, Allyson Ransom, Kaye Shedlock, Doug Clark, Paul Koppana, Paul Kloppenburg, Paul Shippee, Bill Miller, Vince Palermo, Sydney Argenta, David Lee, Mark Rosen, Bill Aldinger, Signe Ramstrom, Deborah Mickalak, John Rowe, Meryl Ennis, Mark Blustein, Janet Martinez, Wendy Chanden, Deb Crowley, Gregg Conlee, Justin Vanwart, Sheila Poor, Joshua Hillman, and Michael Manthey.

Sarah Keane and Samantha Caravello of Kirsch Kaplan and Rockwell, Brandon Dittman of Kissinger & Fellman, PC, Bill Marcus of MCPM, and Energy Outreach Colorado—our super professionals!

Kairina Danforth, Sam Pace and Trustees, bringing the Town of Crestone on board.

All who contributed financially and otherwise—Namaste.

The interim agreement reached in mediation will benefit most, admittedly not all, residential customers of SLVREC. The intention is to correct the injustices to the small energy users and ultimately, through the upcoming stakeholder process, determine a fair and justified rate for all classes of SLVREC customers, as well as demonstrate the need for Colorado Public Utilities Commission oversight of rural electric co-ops.

In gratitude,
 Annie Pace

Thanks for electric rate adjustment

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to thank all those who gave of their time and professional expertise to defend our community, and all residential members throughout this valley, from SLVREC's (San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop's) sudden and opaque

Editor's Notes Towards the future

I have been editor and publisher of the *Crestone Eagle* for most of my adult life, having founded it 31 years ago. I love what we do here. It has been deeply rewarding to help make our communities be more informed and successful. I have loved telling the story of who we are and what we're up to, plus being the voice of an independent medium often tackling important issues of the day. But now I have been given the opportunity to retire from the *Eagle* and move on to doing other things that I love.

Two years ago a group headed by Frank Judson approached me with the idea of creating a non-profit corporation to buy the *Eagle* rather than see it shut down or be sold to someone who just didn't “get” Crestone.

We are very happy to announce that Crestone Eagle Community Media is now officially a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is able to accept tax deductible donations in order to purchase *The Crestone Eagle* and to create a reserve of funds for operating expenses and financial stability. After the purchase, the *Eagle* will then be community-owned and overseen by a local board of directors. I think this is a great way to move into the future.

The goal of the fund-raising drive is \$150,000. Please see page 4 for more information. It will tell you how to contribute—check in the mail or in person at the *Eagle* office. We will also be setting up a Go Fund Me soon. Lots of info will be posted on the *Eagle* website, www.crestoneeagle.com

The *Eagle* has played a key role in our region. And that includes its advertisers and contributors, who we hope will continue their support as the non-profit *Eagle* takes flight.

This unique community will be grateful for your support, and of course so will I.

With gratitude,
 —Kizzen



Ken Skoglund Sr. and Ken Skoglund Jr. rushed to the scene, aiding in fire suppression and containment which saved several structures in town using their Skoglund Excavating water truck and equipment. photo by Kristin Ecklund



Half of a propane tank exploded into the air landing 800 feet away, fortunately in the only vacant lot in the vicinity. photo by Jennifer Thomas

At the heart of the Moffat fire, gratitude & miracles

by Sarah Van Horn,
Town of Moffat Clerk/
Treasurer

As with any disaster there are always lessons learned, heartache to be had, and tears to be shed. But as we slowly pick up the pieces, regain our bearings, and shuffle through the debris of our materials & grief, we start to see the light. We start to see the miracles, the happenstances, the odd coincidences; the little things and big things that were so unexplainable and beautiful. On October 15, 2019 a fire engulfed an entire city block of the Town of Moffat. At first glance all you could see was billowing smoke, ashes floating through the air, and flames climbing higher and hotter with every minute. It was only after that the real picture became clear. A picture of citizens coming together in every possible way. Whether that be grabbing buckets of water or hoses to save structures, or tools to dig trenches. Neighbors offering their homes to others for belongings or animals. Volunteer firefighters expending all of their energy and effort while consuming flames with water. Citizens comforting each other. Businesses and residents pulling together donations, supplies, and food. The kindness, compassion, and strength of the community would take your breath away.

One individual in particular, Max Middleton, exhibited extraor-

dinary courage. Upon the electricity going out, Max closed the doors of his store and walked outside to see a large plume of smoke coming from town. He rushed to the scene and immediately went from house to house to make sure no one was in the burning buildings, while also trying to get any animals he could out of harm's way. From there he went to the first firetruck on scene to assist in getting the hose prepared and spray the flames. As stated in the Certificate of Appreciation presented to Max Middleton from the Town of Moffat, "Your bravery, courage, and tireless efforts to assist in rescuing citizens and animals, as well as your assistance in immediately responding to putting out the fire aided in prevention of injury to the citizens of the Town of Moffat. Your dedication to the Town of Moffat reflects the highest credit upon yourself."

In the midst of all these incredible human interactions were also moments of wonderment . . . moments that give pause. Some may call them miracles, others unexplainable coincidences. Before the explosion occurred a bus full of 45 students left the Moffat School. Four of those students were dropped off within a half block from where the fire occurred, just minutes before a propane tank exploded into the air. Not one child was hurt. The propane tank that exploded burst in half due to the high pressure

build up. This shot one half of the propane tank into the air, landing approximately 800 feet away in an empty field . . . the only vacant lot in the vicinity. The other half shot toward a resident's home being stopped by the only tree between the explosion and home. If the propane tank had shot in virtually any other direction, this tragedy could have been far worse. The block that burned down is in the heart of town, across from the park and fire station; a very busy location, which included the local business Crystal Stix that was frequented by visitors, friends, and workers on a regular basis. After the fire occurred it was noticed in awe by all that there was not a single human injured in the incident.

When the fire was put out and only debris remained, there became cause for concern that there could be hazardous material on site. Fear of asbestos and other substances became a real possibility, and a heavy burden upon homeowners and the Town to clean up for public health and safety. The Town Clerk and Mayor worked diligently with County & State officials toward a solution on cleanup. The Environmental Protection Agency was contacted to assist in assessing the situation which included the testing of suspected hazardous materials. The EPA contacted the Town Hall with some unexpected news . . . not a single test came back positive for hazardous material. The buildings were built before asbestos was widely used, and the fire had burned hot enough to eliminate other hazardous material. The sigh of relief and weight lifted

from homeowners and Town staff was immense.

So although we as a community are left with the emotional scarring from experiencing such a tragedy, and are faced with the blackened landscape daily, we have come through as a resilient and loving community. We are able to acknowledge the blessings or phenomena that occurred. We are able to say we came together when it most counted. We can say we persevere, we care. We can say "We Are Moffat."



Tina Freel, owner of Grammy's Kitchen, jumped in and immediately offered to feed all of the firefighters and personnel on site several times. Fire fighters were extremely grateful to have a delicious, warm meal after working tirelessly on the fire for hours. photo by Grammy's Kitchen

Letters continued from page 2

rate change. And to congratulate them for the outstandingly positive results of the binding arbitration between SLVREC and its members.

Specifically, thanks to Annie Pace, who galvanized our community into action. Thanks as well to Lili Zohar, Bob Salmi, Bill Miller, Vince Palermo, Kaye Shedlock, Paul Shippee, Sydney Argenta, and Deborah Crowley. Thanks to Mayor Kairina Danforth, Sam Pace, Allyson Ransom, Town Attorney Brandon Dittman, and the Crestone Town Board of Trustees. Thanks for the pro-bono legal aid of Sarah Keane and Samantha Caravello, to Energy Outreach Colorado, and to

expert Bill Markus. Thanks to all those who contributed their time and/or finances. Thanks also to the SLVREC team who courageously agreed to correct the rate structure change and to a collaborative and inclusive process moving forward.

This was an amazingly productive example of our Crestone Baca community coming together to address a threat to our common welfare. May we continue to actively collaborate with SLVREC to better serve our immediate power needs as well as our vision of 100% community solar.

In sincere appreciation,
Kate Steichen, Chair, Crestone Baca Resiliency

Cynthia Nielsen LMT

RadiantFlow Yoga
www.RadiantFlow.co

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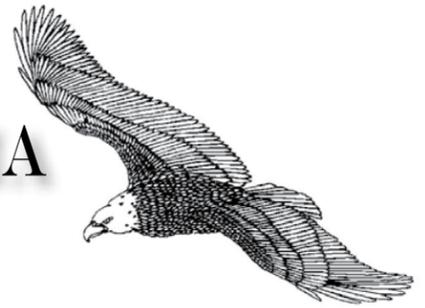
Love
from Connie,
Eric & Suzie
at Nada
Hermitage

Announcing a new path for The Crestone Eagle

It's official!

CRESTONE EAGLE COMMUNITY MEDIA

Reader Supported • Community Reported



Dear Crestonians everywhere in the world:

We, the organizers of a campaign to preserve our newspaper in this challenging time for print journalism, have created a non-profit entity to continue the mission of the Crestone Eagle — reliable news and information for Colorado's upper San Luis Valley.

We ask for your assistance.

Crestone Eagle Community Media has just been declared tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under 501(c)(3) of the revenue code. So your gifts are deductible.

The first challenge of Eagle Media is to buy the *Crestone Eagle* from Kizzen Laki, its founding publisher and beloved editor, as she nears retirement. Next, the directors will recruit a professional editor who will be responsible for seamless continuity of the monthly publication in consultation with Kizzen. And, the non-profit board will encourage creative use of exciting new media. Digital facsimiles of each edition? Deep archives? Podcasts of community forums? Video features?

Yes, the Eagle will soar!

Donors will be recognized in the paper from time to time, and those who contribute \$1,000 or more will receive a Charter Member medallion. But above all, everyone will receive the gratitude of a unique and wonderful community.

To contribute, please contact Dan Frelka, PO Box 28, Crestone, CO 81131, dfrelka@gmail.com, 607-790-0021

With thanks,

Eagle Media board of directors,

Frank Judson chairman, Daniel Frelka treasurer.

(The Eagle Media application to the IRS is available upon request. More information on who we are including our mission statement is available on the Crestone Eagle website www.crestoneeagle.com)

Into the future—what we want to do

The Crestone Eagle's incorporation as a non-profit (Crestone Eagle Community Media or CECM) was recently approved by the US Internal Revenue Service. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, *The Crestone Eagle* can:

Achieve greater financial stability

The Crestone Eagle depends on advertising, subscriptions and newspaper sales for its income. The largest amount of revenue comes from advertising. The region that the *Eagle* serves is affected greatly by the season. Winter sees a time of business slowdown, construction is nearly halted, as is agriculture. Tourism is reduced and limited mostly to visits to various spiritual centers. Businesses tighten their belts to make it through the winter and often reduce their advertising expense. To compensate, *The Crestone Eagle* reduces the size of its paper during the winter and spring, reduces staff hours, does less reporting and is hard-pressed to pay its bills. Yet there is still a community need for news, information and public service promotion. Becoming a non-profit allows grants, donations and sustaining memberships to keep the newspaper viable.

Changing technology has affected how people get their news. Newspapers now need to have a strong website presence to attract and keep readers. *The Crestone Eagle* needs to have a stronger website presence and more immediate reporting. Funding from grants, donations and sustaining memberships will permit this, putting the newspaper on a more secure financial footing. It can then take advantage of modern communication technologies, engaging younger readers.

Sustain and enhance our coverage

The Crestone Eagle is known for its in-depth reporting, especially on important environmental and social concerns in our region. *The Crestone Eagle* also reports on the spiritual centers which make this community so unique. It explores their philosophies and spiritual teachings. In-depth interviews with world-traveled individuals and visiting teachers add great depth to this news/magazine and enrich its readership. These articles are a feature of the *Eagle* that makes it unique and beloved by its readership. All of this reporting is expensive. Sustaining memberships could sponsor the kind of research and reporting which a small town for-profit newspaper can't afford.

Support economic well-being

The Crestone Eagle will continue to support our community and region. Saguache County is one of the poorer counties of Colorado. It is very rural. Job opportunities are few. Many people who move here must bring their income with them. Trying to serve such a large region that is so rural and low-income is difficult for both public and private agencies. Communication from these agencies to the public is always needed. For health and safety, it is essential. This is a job that newspapers do as a public service. Yet, newspapers have their own overhead costs that must be met. There is only so much they can give away. Sustaining memberships and foundation grants can help a non-profit publication like *The Crestone Eagle* provide the community service that has always been a big part of its mission.

Upgrade our community presence

With support from grants, donations, and sustaining memberships, *The Crestone Eagle* can improve its reporting and continue to educate and inform the public. It will continue to upgrade technology and to retain and train its employees; improve its website and social media presence thus being visible, relevant and viable in an age of "instant news"; reach more readers and potential visitors from all around the world, thereby continuing to assist the economics of the region; continue taking years of articles, research, and archival and resource material and uploading this material to the website for easy access.

Find new ways to support our community

CECM could partner with our local schools to provide mentorships in writing, journalism, technology, graphic design and photography. Crestone Charter School and Moffat School students could benefit from hands-on learning. The *Eagle* may be able to connect with regional colleges to offer credits and support.

CECM's website could provide broad content and links to numerous spiritual, health and learning centers. Crestone is known around the world for these centers. The website could serve as a hub to make information and links available.



Peaceful snowfall in front of the Eagle office on the morning of November 22.

photo by Lori Nagel

CECM could expand its support for other community non-profits such as the Baca/Crestone Library, Crestone Performances, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the Community Food Bank, the Living Wisdom Council, the Trails Coalition, youth programs, the Crestone and Saguache museums, the Communities that Care Program, and the Crestone Energy Fair.

CECM could seek grants and outside funding to publish a regional tourist guide for Saguache County.

CECM will allow for donations, grants and sustaining memberships. The hard work of our local board of directors will insure that this community media resource continues to fairly represent and serve the needs of the broader community. Their input and ideas will enrich, guide and support *The Crestone Eagle* as it continues to serve our community in the 21st century.

What we need:

Crestone Eagle Community Media (CECM) is seeking financial support from grants, sustaining memberships, and tax-deductible donations. CECM is currently raising funds in order to purchase *The Crestone Eagle* business. As of November 1, 2019, CECM has committed donations for approximately 25% of the funds to do that. If you would like to pledge or make a donation and help the *Eagle* soar into the 21st century, please contact Dan Frelka, the CECM Secretary Treasurer.

Daniel Frelka

PO Box 28, Crestone, CO 81131, dfrelka@gmail.com, 607-790-0021

With great thanks,

The Crestone Eagle

Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

While studies have shown that marijuana is effective in alleviating the symptoms of diseases like multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and even cancer, it does not alleviate greed. Several news items from the County Commissioners' November meetings point out the difficulty of enacting regulations to rein in greed. Ironically while the County changed its land use code on November 5 to reduce the number of marijuana plants per residence, the Town of Moffat came before the Commissioners on the same day in its quest to annex more land with the stated intent of using it to put in marijuana greenhouses that might possibly stretch out over 270 acres.

Moffat's proposed annexation rouses citizen opposition

The November 5 Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was filled with a courtroom of citizens concerned about Moffat's annexation proposal. During this meeting Mayor Patricia Reigel presented the required impact study for their proposal to annex land west of highway 17. The area called 420 is owned by Whitney Justice of Potch LLC. Justice and Mike Biggio are leading the effort to annex the acreage. Their intent is to put in marijuana greenhouses stretching nearly as far as the eye can see in order to cultivate residential and commercial marijuana. If the annexation impact study is approved, the County and thus its residents would lose control of a very large agricultural area. That is why the issue is being covered in such detail.

Colorado law

When Moffat Mayor Patricia Reigel presented the required impact report, it appeared to lack an essential statutory element required by Colorado law: Contiguity. It is a fundamental element in any annexation. Colorado Code states that one-sixth boundary contiguity must exist between a municipality and the property to be annexed. The area is not surrounded by or solely owned by the annexing municipality, and thus, it is not contiguous to Moffat. But Potch/Moffat are using a "Flagpole" strategy to try and justify contiguity. That imaginary flagpole runs down County Road 59 and would mean the County would give up a road where many residents live. The law also presumes there is a community of interest that exists between the area proposed to be annexed and the annexing municipality. The proposed annexation area surrounds a home and land owned by Shawn Quick, who has lived in the county for 20 years and is now protesting the annexation.

Impact on neighbors & environment

Quick has already felt the negative effects of annexation.

Cars were driving over her land, so she had to put up barbed wire fence around her property. Other neighbors are feeling threatened. Carlos Silva and his son appeared at the hearing to speak out. They live off Road 59 and own property adjacent to the annexation. They want clarity because they

are impacted by the grows, some of which are occurring even before the impact study was presented. The proposal has galvanized many residents who feel a fence will not stop the dust and light and noise pollution. During a public comment period in the second meeting of November, another resident, Bob Tafoya, said Potch/420 was already encroaching on his property which runs along the ditch which has been in his family for several generations. He has discovered a water pipe going through his ditch for which he did not give approval. Tafoya adamantly said, "the water is not theirs." He also said he was threatened by one of 420 folks. He asked if the Code Enforcer is checking on plants already planted. Shawn Quick appeared with her lawyer who said the Planning Commission should be involved. Quick thanked the BOCC for their site visit and read an email from Justice which basically said I'm your new neighbor and without your cooperation I will still go ahead with annexation. Quick felt Justice tried to bribe her by saying she had a high-yielding well which she would offer to her. Quick's concerns are now part of the County record, as she read Justice's letter to the Commissioners while the meeting was being recorded. Robin Durrance spoke to the environmental effects of their industrial-size grows, saying it could set a bad precedent if the County has no control over the large grow area. Sandia Belgrade, the *Eagle* reporter, asked for an EIS or environmental impact study. Lisa Cyriacks asked if there was any plan for disposing of chemicals used to treat the marijuana and was told by POTCH representatives that "nothing considered hazardous" is used on the grows.

Virgil Tafoya, who owns property adjacent to Area 420, tried to explain that the land should remain as it is, county land under the County's jurisdiction. Others spoke about utilities, water, sewerage, electricity, sanitation and safety and all the plastic that will be left from the greenhouses. Many county residents addressed their concerns through numerous phone calls to Commissioners Jason Anderson and Tim Lovato. Commissioner Lovato noted that in previous impact statements the memorandum of understanding had not been followed. There were many promises like a laundromat, car wash, a new Rec Center with laundry and shower facilities, affordable housing. They didn't happen. Neither did a fire hydrant. As of the last November meeting the BOCC had not announced their decision.

Moratorium on medical marijuana variances

The County weighed the impact on the citizens and resources



Shawn Quick and Carlos Silva attend annexation presentation.

and have decided to revisit the County's Land Use Code and enact a moratorium which prohibits the application for, or issuance of, any medical marijuana variance. The moratorium is now in place for six months. They will not accept any medical applications until after December 4. At that time it will be limited to a variance of 24 plants. The County only permits a 12-plant count to be grown on any residential property. It is unlawful for a person to knowingly cultivate, grow or produce more than twelve (12) marijuana plants, either medical or recreational, on a residential property.

Prior to lifting the moratorium County staff will report to the BOCC on the status of grows.

The County had been more lenient

It was previously argued that caregivers need to be able to grow over 90 plants for patients. Others went to the extreme. In KV Estates one person with adjoining parcels asked for conditional use permits totaling 300 plants. With people taking advantage of the system, the County has curtailed and aligned its regulations with other counties. If the present plant count seems too restrictive, consider that Denver, Colorado Springs, Douglas County, Carbonale and Alamosa also limit a residential home grow to 12 plants.

Hemp: the other cannabis

The 2018 Farm Bill changed federal policy regarding industrial hemp, including the removal of hemp from the Controlled Substances Act. The bill also allows states and tribes to submit a plan and apply for primary regulatory authority over the production of hemp. Commissioner Ken Anderson provided a pamphlet from a hemp conference recently held at Adams State University. Hemp is a marijuana look-alike, but its low THC and its awesome commercial applications are being seen as valuable. Given the current state of water in the valley, it's being accepted as a crop that uses much less water than products usually grown here, such as potatoes. Now that the Feds have finally accepted it as an agricultural product, Coloradans are crafting the regulations. More needs to be done regarding the supply chain from seed to market, research and development, cultivation, testing, transportation, pro-

cessing, manufacturing banking, and insurance—thus this conference. The nation's largest hemp processing plant is in Colorado City.

County financial news

Connie Trujillo, the Saguache County Treasurer, spoke on foreclosures and the tax lien sale. Her office held their annual online Tax Lien Sale on Tuesday, November 12 through Thursday, November 14. Originally 820 properties were advertised and 618 went to sale. The Treasurer was successful in selling 359 of those properties. The County collected \$13,215.58 in premium bids which will be transferred into the General Fund. Property owners may start paying redemption amounts on their unpaid property taxes on December 1. Any property that did not sell at the sale is still available for assignment. The list is available on the County website www.saguachecounty.net under the Treasurer's link.

Want to comment on the County budget?

The proposed budget for 2020 has been submitted to the Saguache County Board of Commissioner and has been filed in the office of the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder where it is open for public inspection and comment and inspection. The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public budget meeting in the County Commissioners' Room at the Saguache County Courthouse on December 10, 2019 at 2pm. Any interested elector of Saguache County may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. The final 2020 budget will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to be held in the Commissioners' meeting room at the Saguache County Courthouse on December 10.

Have a Heart

Public Health Director Lynette Grant reported that Heart of Rockies Regional Medical Center (HRRMC), which now has a satellite office working out of the Saguache Health Building, made a request that Public Health come to the clinic once a week and dispense medications. Public Health would have to pay for the medications and travel. That is not feasible monetarily nor logistically, since Public Health is in Center.

POA news: Annual election results & a state of land sales report

by David Lee

The Baca Grande Property Owners' Association held its annual members meeting on the evening of November 15, at the POA Headquarters. The meeting was well-attended by POA tradition, with 33 members present beside the board. Board President Steve Dossenback gave a brief summary of the year's activity. The POA has 10 full-time employees supporting administration, land use, maintenance (especially roads), and EMS (both rescue and fire). It hires an additional 16 part-time employees and relies on the volunteer efforts in committee work of another 21 people. Administratively, the POA has adopted new software to make accounting and human resources run more efficiently, and it has hired an experienced new Executive Director in Kevin Flewell. In the past several years, the board has focused on delinquent membership dues, and has realized extra income of \$354,000 from those collections. This coming year, we will have fewer business meetings and more community meetings, hoping to draw more members to learn about such topics as maintenance of the green belts, public safety, fire prevention, etc.

Land sales report

Vivia Lawson gave an interesting report to the membership on the state of our property, through the statistics on real estate transactions. Her report included all the POA land, including Chalets and Grants, Casita Park, and the Town

of Crestone. Basically, real estate activity, both home and lot sales, has fully recovered from the recession. Property sales here generally lag behind the trends along the Front Range by two years. There was a flood of sales on the accumulation of homes for sale after the recession, and we have caught up with that. In 2017 there were 57 homes and 63 parcels sold, in 2018 47 homes and 105 parcels sold, and this year (so far) 45 home and 53 land sales. The sale prices on homes has increased substantially, but lags behind the Front Range and area towns such as Salida. There are six builders active in the area. They are mainly constructing small homes, particularly attractive to retirees, and there is presently a shortage of 2 to 3-bedroom homes suitable for families. Lot sales have increased, and there is less choice in finding that ideal place for building the dream house. To those along the Front Range, we are being seen less as a spiritual place for retreat and more as a friendly and rural place with affordable housing. More families are arriving with parents working via the internet. Affordable is a relative term however, with present construction costs of \$200-300/square foot and a 1500-square-foot house running \$300K or more. Many different people with different interests are still attracted to living here, despite (or perhaps because of) the isolation.

Election results

The actual meeting, which



This was taken around 10am the morning of November 22. Our first real snow, and the town is pretty desolate except for a couple walkers and one lone vehicle spinning its wheels. photo by Lori Nagel

primarily consisted reporting on the election results, was run by our attorney, David Graf, as in previous years. He mentioned that he does a lot of POA/HOA meetings during the year, and he commented on the strife among memberships that he often encounters. He commended us on the spirit of good will and cooperation that has presided over our activities in recent times. Then he reported on the election results, handed to him during the meeting. The POA has a quorum of 684 votes necessary for elections to be valid (20% of present membership of 3,420 owners) and there is always concern that absent owners will not participate sufficiently to reach that number. However, that was not a problem this year as we received 767 ballots. This year there were two open seats on the Board of Directors, and three candidates. Steve Dossenback (490 votes) and Ed Sbarbaro (499 votes)

were elected to the Board, while Wade Lockhart (452 votes) trailed close behind. Three general issues were voted on and easily passed in this election (required by state law): one is the acceptance of last year's general meeting minutes, the acceptance of the coming year's proposed budget, and permission to carry over any surpluses from the previous year budget into the new year budget.

In its scheduled meeting on Thursday 11/21, the POA Board re-elected present officers for the coming year: president—Steve Dossenback, vice-president—Mark Repp, secretary—Joanna Theriault, treasurer—Sugandha Brooks, and Member at Large—Ed Sbarbaro. One senses a new time for the POA with its recently-hired Executive Director, Kevin Flewell, providing a level of experience and expertise not previously seen, to advise the Board.

Crestone-Baca Planning Commission needs members

The Crestone-Baca Planning Commission (CBPC) is a branch of Saguache County government that helps make decisions about how land is used in our portion of the county. It usually meets once a month to discuss changes in land use, and then makes recommendations to the County Commissioners, who may approve or reject the decision. The Crestone-Baca area has had its own commission since about 1995 because residents felt that our issues and the solutions were unique within the county. The CBPC then created a Sub-Area Master Plan, a document now being reviewed, which guides development in an area from Casita Park east into the mountains. The main Saguache County Planning Commission makes recommendations for the rest of the county.

New members are needed to represent the Baca, the Town of Crestone, and Casita Park and the Ranchettes. The most common decisions made are regarding lot consolidations. However, CBPC also addresses any major change of use, such as a change from agricultural to residential or commercial. These decisions can impact quality of life for local residents and the impacts of projects on neighbors. For more information, contact Wendi Maez, Land Use Administrator, at 719-655-2321, or email landuse@saguachecounty-co.gov.

FRIENDS OF THE BACA GRANDE LIBRARY

Join or renew your membership in this important organization that:

Supports the present library, by improving its comfort & services
Works steadily for the completion of a new library in Crestone

Bring a check for \$ 12 (or cash) and fill out the membership card at the front desk of the Baca Grande Library



(Paid for by David & Carol Lee)

CRESTONE BREWING CO.

SOLSTICE DANCE PARTY with GODLAZER

DANCE the DARKNESS into the LIGHT!

Saturday, December 21st, 2019
9:00-12:00 last call 11:37

187 SILVER AVE, CRESTONE, CO
719.256.6400
CRESTONEBREWINGCO.COM

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS SPARKLE WITH MOMENTS OF LOVE, LAUGHTER AND GOODWILL, AND MAY THE YEAR AHEAD BE FULL OF CONTENTMENT AND JOY.

*From the
Baca Grande
Property Owners Association*



by **Allyson Ransom,**
Crestone Town Clerk
**November 11, 2019 Board
of Trustees meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am, and the Board of Trustees passed the following motions:

- To approve the agenda as presented
- To approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of October 14, 2019
- To approve the minutes of the Special board meeting on October 30, 2019
 - To approve paying the bills
 - To approve the financial report as presented
 - To direct the Clerk to draft and send a letter to Attorney Brandon Dittman, thanking him and his firm for their continued assistance in the SLVREC mediation and hearings and extra help provided without charge
 - To approve of Daniel Johnson and other certified Firewise mitigation team members working on behalf of the Town of Crestone to clear dead, diseased trees on the south, west and northwest borders of the Town of Crestone and to make available any wood for town residents to pick up; Furthermore, to have them work in conjunction with the Baca Grande Fire Department and/or private property owners as needed and to follow through with a final report to the Town board on total hours worked and grant funds used for fire mitigation
 - To approve including \$3,000.00 in the 2020 budget to research and verify if amounts of effluent being sent to the Baca Water and Sanitation District treatment facility are correct
 - To approve a Special Event Permit for SLVGO (San Luis Valley Great Outdoors) to hold a fundraising event for the Safe Routes to School project at the Cloud Station at 220 S. Cottonwood St. on November 23, 2019 and between the hours of 6pm and midnight
 - To adopt Resolution #010-2019—Adopting the 2020 Budget as amended.
 - To adopt Resolution #011-2019—Accepting the Public Utilities Commission's Mediation Terms with San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
 - To adopt Ordinance #2019-005—Amending Sewer Ordinance #2018-006
 - To adjourn the meeting at 3:30pm

Staff reports

Treasurer Busby discussed the following in her report:

- The final bill from Attorney Brandon Dittman was \$3,000.00, which his firm waived
- Sales tax for October 2019 totaled \$24,466.33
- Sales tax for the November 2019 report had just come in and totaled \$29,767.61
- Marijuana tax for October 2019 totaled \$1,341.10. Income for paraphernalia totaled \$402.30.

Marijuana tax for November totaled \$1,121.40

Mayor Danforth reported

- Update on fundraising event for Safe Routes to School
- Proposed \$50,000.00 grant opportunity with a \$25,000.00 match for Dark Sky project
- Report on CDOT's proposed shoulder project to widen State Highway 17 from Mosca to State Hwy. 285 near Villa Grove

Clerk Ransom discussed the following in her report:

- Update on upcoming election
- Firewise Committee meeting notes and request from Daniel Johnson for the board to approve using SC grant funds to protect the Town perimeters by mitigation with a certified team
- Research into the National Flood Insurance Program

Water System Manager Ann Bunting reported

- Review of water sold and the cost of treating the effluent that is sent to the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District (BGWSD)
- Request for \$3,000.00 to research effluent amounts sent to BGWSD
- Update on new water and sewer customers

Treasurer Busby reminded the board that they had previously paid for an independent expert to check and analyze the sewer collections and their report stated that the effluent was normal for the number of users in town. Also, it was mentioned that over 50 customers on wells were hooked up to the town sewer and had a substantial impact on the effluent being sent for treatment to the BGWSD facility.

Presentations to board

Peggy Godfrey, a member on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board, presented information to the trustees on the Closed Basin Water project, explaining its history and reasons why it was no longer viable due to climate change and massive use of high pressure pivot sprinklers. Peggy requested that the board write a letter to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District for terminating the project and encourage local longtime residents to share their firsthand knowledge of changes they have seen with declining water resources. Adam Kinney stated he had 17 hours of interviews with Crestone senior residents who had mentioned changes they have seen with the environment and water resources over many decades.

Saguache County Emergency Coordinator Bobby Woelz reported on procedures for emergency evacuations from the Town of Crestone. The safest and quickest main road out of town is County Road T, and the dirt roads should only be used as a secondary measure. In the event of a fire emergency, first responders will use County Road T to access the town and the power will be cut off. The primary evacuation center for residents of the area is the Moffat

School, which could potentially be used as a temporary shelter.

Kirsten Schreiber informed the board about the progress of the Living Wisdom Village and the rural residential property on E. Lime Ave. that will be purchased to build 20 small housing units for seniors. Kirsten asked the Town to waive fees associated with their application for a Planned Unit Development.

Town resident Mary Lowers approached the board with concerns about the environmental impact of allowing people to develop land close to the creek. She requested that the board impose a temporary moratorium on building along North Crestone Creek until the state flood mapping has been completed. Failure to act now could mean serious liability for the Town in the future.

Marie-Louise Baker, Director of the Crestone Charter School, presented a letter to the board in which she stated that the school's governing council approved moving forward with a land swap. There are still questions as to the real value of the lands to be traded, so it is difficult to assess what would constitute a fair and equitable trade.

Discussion among the trustees included the fact that a lot of time, energy and money went into planning for Tract 1 to be used as land for community services, but they would continue to explore a land swap option. The board verified that it had previously approved of Trustee Kinney leading the exploration committee and requested that he report back to the board once he obtained more concrete information.

Public hearing

At 1:36pm Attorney Farish, acting as the public hearing officer, opened the hearing for the 2020 Budget. After confirming that the entire Board of Trustees was present, and the public postings and other requirements had been met by the Town, Farish read the resolution with totals for the 2020 budget as follows: General Fund \$607,032.00; Water Fund \$92,401.00; Sewer Fund \$105,849.00; Conservation Trust Fund \$1,802.00. Attorney Farish solicited comments from the public, although no one was present in the audience to comment. The public hearing was closed at 1:44pm, and Attorney Farish remanded the matter to the board.

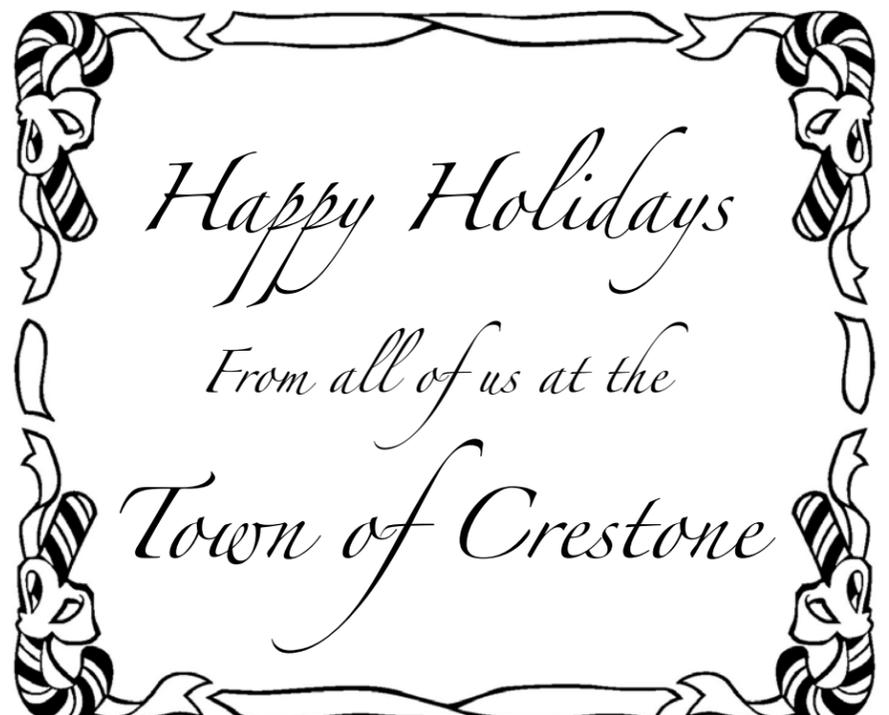
Attorney's report

The board discussed the com-

plaint regarding SLVREC's unjust demand rate charges instituted back in April 2019. A court ordered mediation in October resulted in a positive outcome, and the terms could now be made public, which would benefit all SLVREC users in the valley. The trustees stated that congratulations were in order and offered special thanks to the attorneys and experts who had helped, many working free of charge. A special note of thanks was announced for town resident Annie Pace and other citizens, who had organized and worked diligently during the PUC complaint period. Attorney Farish read the resolution aloud before remanding the matter to the board.

Attorney Farish read a draft resolution requested by the board for a referred measure on the 2020 ballot, that will ask town voters to approve a one half of one percent sales tax increase and that the revenue would be allocated specifically to the Water and Sewer Departments. It was noted that the Town has been subsidizing water and sewer customers. If approved, the tax increase would help maintain the water and sewer departments with the increase being shared among visitors and residents alike as the board wants to avoid raising the mil levy on just property owners. Attorney Farish reminded the trustees that they may promote the ballot question and share with the public prior to the election on their own time and without using any Town resources. Also, they may not encourage or pressure town employees to support and promote any ballot question.

Tony Pechenik of Vail, Colorado spoke at the behest of Heather Triplett, the owner of the unfinished commercial building on W. Golden Ave. Pechenik informed the trustees that a local licensed electrician was recently hired to replace unsafe exterior electric wires. Pechenik confirmed that the following priorities would be addressed: making the electrical wiring safe; securing the door with a padlock; completing the exterior façade; and offering the town free, temporary parking on two lots owned by Heather nearby. The trustees reiterated that an engineer needed to inspect the basement and the exterior must be completed soon. Pechenik will provide the board with monthly updates on the progress of the property.



Woman crashes into Crestone Post Office

by Mary Lowers

According to a report from Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Sargent Pascoe, Paula Hudson, was issued a careless driving citation for running into the post office building on the afternoon of November 11. The report states, "She was turning into the Post Office and tried to park. She went to step on the brake pedal but accidentally stepped on the gas pedal and the car lurched forward, causing her to crash through the door and into the building."

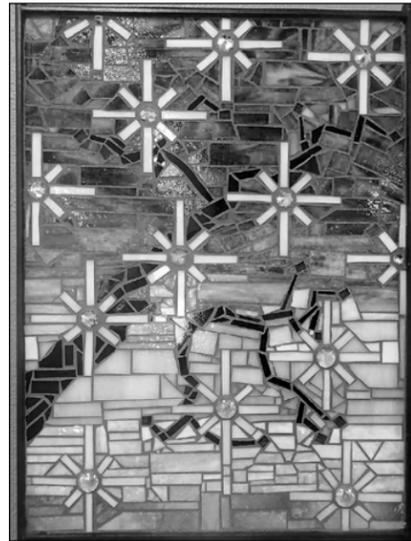
Postmaster in charge Miguel Cendejas was inside the post office working with a coworker on the computer when the crash occurred. He reported that he heard the Subaru Forester come through

the west wall. "He saw the box section get pushed inward and heard the screeching of tires as the vehicle attempted to back out and park." After going outside to make sure no one was hurt he went inside to report the accident.

Sgt. Pascoe commented when he got to the scene, "I saw an extreme amount of damage to the passenger side of the car and I saw where a double glass door to the building had been knocked out of the wall and was now inside the building." The mailboxes on the wall opposite the door were leaning into the mailroom. The US Postal Service informed the Crestone Post Office that they wanted to file charges for damages caused by the accident.



The accident completely destroyed the doors and an entire section of post office boxes. The car came to a stop very close to someone inside, but thankfully no one was injured.
photo by Lori Nagel



Now at the Crestone Artisans Gallery: "Diamond Dust", glass mosaic, approximately 12 x 18 inches, by Nick Drake.



"Summertime Friends", glass and ceramic mosaic, approximately 12 x 18 inches, by Lynn Drake.

The Crestone Artisans Gallery offers gift items & local art

by David Lee

The Gallery started the holiday season this past Friday by hosting a dessert reception during the evening, after the benefit dinner for Pet Partners at Bob's Place.

The Gallery is now absolutely packed with gift items for the holiday season. It sells work by 21 member artisans and additionally by another 31 artisans who sell on commission. Thus, we display the work of over 50 local artists producing pieces of the highest quality, and at a range of prices, to meet everyone's taste and pocketbook.

For the holiday season, the gallery will be open six days a week 11am to 4pm, closed only on Tuesday.

We display the work of selected artists on the back wall of the main gallery at two-month intervals. Our featured artists through the holiday period are Lynn and Nick Drake. They fashion mosaics in simple dark wood frames, using opaque art glass and antique ceramic pieces, to produce work elegant and colorful—and at times whimsical and humorous. They produce work in a range of sizes and prices. It is worth a trip to the gallery just to see their pieces.

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

As the continuing Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) warrant sweep winds on there was a very disturbing death in the jail. Jackson Maes a young man from Denver who spent time in Crestone, was taken into custody in Saguache for failing to appear in court on a drunk driving charge. As we go to press the SCSO has yet to release a statement regarding the death.

A Center man, 38, was jailed on two counts of failure to comply with a warrant. Contempt of court and fugitive from justice charges landed a Center man, 20, with bail of \$1250. A Crestone man, 35, went to jail for failure to appear in court charges with \$350 bail listed. A bail amount of \$2500 dollars would free a Center man, 34, from jail on failure to appear charges. A Nathrop woman, 21, went to jail in Saguache after accumulating three fugitive from justice charges. Her bail was listed at \$2000. A Crestone man, 25, was held in jail on two fugitive from justice charges with \$5000 bail. A thousand dollars would bail a Center woman, 29, out of jail on a failure to appear charge.

Domestic violence related charges were prominent in the bookings from the SCSO last month. A Center man, 55, was jailed for violation of a restraining order with no bail amount listed. Charges of Crimes against adults and juveniles, violation of a restraining order and harassment sent a Center woman, 30, to jail with no bail listed. In what appears to be a family quarrel, a Moffat man, 33, was summoned to appear in court for throwing a rock through the window of a residence. A Moffat woman, 54, will be in court for throwing a rock through a window damaging a house. A second Moffat woman, 59, was summoned to appear in court for firing one round in the air. Crestone woman was attacked and bitten by two dogs while walking to visit a neighbor. The dogs were running off leash and unfenced. It has not yet been decided what legal actions will be pursued.

As the economy slows down for the winter in the San Luis Valley rip offs increase. A Center man, 27, was jailed for criminal attempt after being found in possession of burglary tools. His other charges include second degree burglary and criminal mischief with \$2500 bail. A Moffat man, 59, was summoned to appear in court for theft of items worth \$300. A Moffat woman, 30, was summoned to appear in court to answer to charges of theft with a value of \$300.

Cold weather and the advent of the holidays can make people just downright mean. A Moffat man, 25, went to jail for criminal mischief and menacing with no bail amount listed. First degree assault charges landed a Crestone man, 31, in jail with no bail listed.

The SCSO call log was a bit shorter than usual this past month, Deputies went to fifty six calls in Saguache, eight calls to Crestone, four to Villa Grove, three to Moffat, two calls each to the Baca Grande, Center and KV Estates.

Everyone be careful out there on the ice. Please make sure you have all the things you need for winter travel, like a sleeping bag, water, gas, food, snow tires and common sense. Have a great holiday season.



Crestone Peak Community Housing

Living Wisdom Village

Elders Creating Community

WE'VE GOT LAND!!!!

Now we just need to pay for it. All donations will be tripled by a private donor, meaning your donation will have an **AMAZING** impact (i.e. \$100 = \$400)!



\$100,000 GOAL!

Affordable housing for people 55 and older who are able to live independently.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TURN THIS DREAM INTO REALITY!!!

25% Enterprise Zone tax credits are available for donations of \$100 or more.

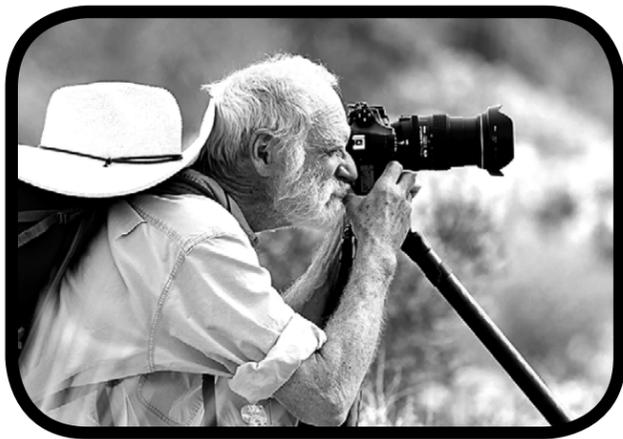
Contact Akia Tanara at 719.256.4037 or akia@fairpoint.net for details.

www.crestonepeakcommunityhousing.org

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

Ellzey Art Show Dec. 7 & 8

Bill Ellzey will host his 20th annual December Art Show of photographs at Bill and Jillian's house on the 7th and 8th from 2 to 6pm. Location is in the Baca Grants, 891 Camino Real (locally known as Two Trees Road). From the entrance of the Baca it's 2.2 miles to Camino Real. Turn right and go another 2.2 miles, house on the right. Everyone's welcome. Please park on the road.



The two-day show has become a much anticipated pre-Christmas season open house. It features Bill's photographs from the Crestone area and San Luis Valley as well as his distant travels leading photography workshop trips state-side and internationally.

As always there's food—excellent snacky things—and mulled wine and non-alcoholic punch prepared by talented foodies Judy Gilbert and Bill Sutherland, beloved neighbors and veteran caterers for all previous 19 years.

About Bill

Bill picked up his first camera in 1965, at age 20, little knowing that photography would become his life-long love and profession. Since then camera work has taken him around the world completing assignments and teaching photographers, professional and amateur, the art and techniques of the medium. His work from India, China, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Alaska, Egypt, Ireland, Bhutan, Zambia, Chilean Patagonia and the American West has been published here and abroad. His images can be found in magazines, books, calendars, newspapers, galleries and private collections. He directed Western Photo

continued on page 13



MBSMC students in concert of carols.

Popular Concert of Carols returns to Crestone

by Bill Sutherland

Artists with the Mt. Blanca Fine Arts Association will present their Ninth Annual Concert of Carols at the Colorado College Auditorium on Friday, December 20, at 1pm. This is the Association's primary event to raise funds to provide student scholarships to the Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory held the last week of June at Adams State University.

The music will be both instrumental and vocal. It will include traditional carols of French, Polish, Czech, Italian, Venezuelan and American-background, including a canción collected from the San Luis Valley, and of course a song for Hanukkah. Instrumental pieces will feature Vaughan Williams' "Greensleeves" (quartet), five Christmas standards for trio, and a duet for percussion and flute. And, Peggy Godfrey, cowboy poet extraordinaire, will give us words of wonder. Peggy told me, "The experiences of over four decades have been composted into poems and stories for most every occasion."

There's a long list of artists, many popular returners from earlier great concerts: Jim Doyle, percussion (Alamosa); Tracey Doyle, flute (Alamosa); Peggy Godfrey, poet/storyteller (Moffat); Randy Macy, piano (Fort Garland); Sarah Off, violin (Greeley); Alexis Haro Quilumba, vocalist (Denver); Victoria Ricci, vocalist (Salida); David Schneider, vocalist (Alamosa); Corliss Taylor-Dunn, vocalist (Fort Garland); and Angela Winter, French horn (Alamosa).

Be sure to park in the spacious lot of the Colorado College (not at the Desert Sage). Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and seniors. See you there, Friday, 12/20, 1pm; 719-256-4808.

20th Annual Art Show

BILL ELLZEY ~ PHOTOGRAPHER

An exhibition and sale of fine photographs

~ refreshments ~

December 7 & 8
2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

at
Casa LZ
(Ellzey's house)
891 Camino Real
2.2 miles out Two Trees Road (Camino Real)



Snow Monkey, Jigokudani, Nagano

© Bill Ellzey



Crestone Baptist Church welcomes everyone for a Music from the Heart Christmas Carol concert. Featuring the Sai Sisters Carolyn Bullion, Karen Chenoweth and Meryl Ennis on Sunday December 15 at 1pm. Christmas carols, music, fun and refreshments.

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

The Maha Lakshmi Shop

The Maha Lakshmi Shop at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram warmly invites you to shop for your loved ones during this season of giving. We have many great gift items such as hand-painted Christmas ornaments, prayer bells, singing bowls, incense, malas, books, CDs, 2020 Divine Mother calendars, artwork, cloth items, statues, jewelry, bindis, magnets, and photography by JD Marston. The shop is open daily in the winter from 9am until 4pm. Our temple is home to the Divine Mother and Shri Babaji. Aarati (chanting) takes place at 7am and 6pm daily. We have Full and New Moon fire ceremonies at 10am. Call 719-256-4108 or go to our website at www.babajiashram.org with questions.



Some of the many holiday gifts at the Maha Lakshmi Shop starting at \$3.



The Crestone Mercantile

Our grocery store is small but we have everything you need for your holidays meals. From prime rib and turkeys to amazing produce—you can find it here! We have local bakery items with wonderful breads and desserts.

The Crestone Mercantile Hardware is fully stocked. From power tools and household items to fantastic toys, we have it all. Gift wrap, ribbon, and decorations are in good supply.

There is no need to spend hours driving to crowded malls where you are one in a million.

Stay home and enjoy the benefits of living in our small community. Shop local and you will be astonished by the choices you have and the competitive pricing. Find your gifts or, if you can't decide, gift certificates are a great option.

Save time, save money, and contribute to our local economy by shopping local.

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!



CRESTONE MERCANTILE

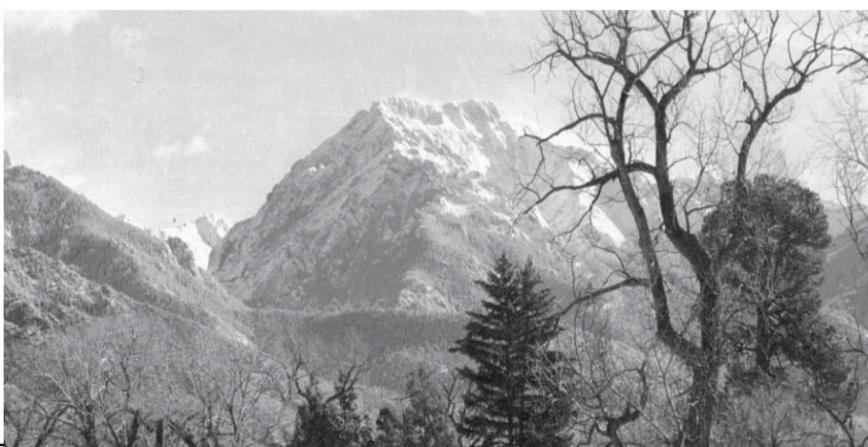
Grocery Store: 191 E Galena Ave
Open 7 Days a Week 8a.m. to 8 p.m.
(719) 256-5887

Hardware Store: 182 E Galena Ave
Open Mon.-Sat. 8a.m to 5p.m.
(719) 256-5885

Bob's Place: 182 E Galena Ave
Open 7 Days a Week 8a.m. to 3p.m.
(719) 256-2627

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

Happy Holidays!!



GIVING TREE

PROVIDING CLOTHING & TOYS TO THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY--YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE THIS A MAGICAL TIME FOR A CHILD!

DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AT THE GROCERY STORE!

New at the Grocery Store:

- ◆ Smoked meats including fish & vegan sausages
 - ◆ Locally baked pies, cookies and breads
 - ◆ Beautiful gifts & special holiday foods
 - ◆ Seasonal items like peppermint creamers, winter roast coffees and cured meats
- Shop Locally and Support our Community!!

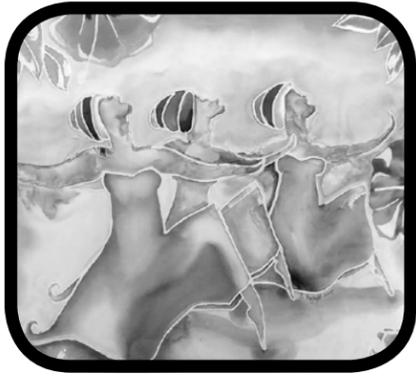
Crestone Mercantile Hardware

The BEST STOCKED Hardware store in the San Luis Valley!

Meet all of your automotive, household, plumbing, paint, electrical, lumber, gardening, office & electrical needs right here in CRESTONE! Come check out our Holiday decorations and wonderful gift items!

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

The Crestone Artisans Gallery



Do remember that the Gallery is overflowing with artistic gifts for young and old alike. We have wonderful handmade creations from cards to sculptures, ranging in price from \$5 on up.

Susan Reycroft is another new member. She uses her skills to create wearable silk art painted with her own formula of colorfast inks. Her silk painting of three dancing women is 36" by 36", large enough for a scarf, shawl, beach wrap or anything your imagination allows.

All the rest of our artists are busy producing greeting cards, jewelry, mug rugs, paintings, wall-hangings, lamps, glass art, metal art, and many other items. Please come and visit.

Katie Getchell

Katie Getchell's practice, evolving since 2001, provides skilled bodywork, movement instruction, classes and workshops. Katie is a CMT, Practitioner of Rolf Structural Integration and Thai Yoga Massage therapist.

Katie's studio offers group and private instruction for all ages and abilities. Whether it's in beginning bellydance, a not-only-yoga mat class, or a natural movement session, the focus is on integrating body-awareness, flexibility and strength through curious exploration. Katie is available to work one-on-one with clients to improve confident, graceful movement. Her most recent passion is building community through parkour-inspired skills.

Deep love of human anatomy, therapeutic touch, expressive dance arts and multiple movement modalities join together in Katie's work.



Firstthought Studios

In moving to Crestone 8 years ago, Stephen Futral, aka "Ish", has been able to be in the position of pursuing his art and writing and sharing some of that with various workshops and writing groups.

He tries to explore the relationship of mind/heart with the creative process, whether that be painting, writing, cooking and simply being. The idea of genuineness and authentic presence, which can't be manufactured, are the pillars of his Firstthought Studios, where he offers workshops in Calligraphy and Encaustics.

He has been in an international art show in Beirut, Lebanon, and is showing in Crestone Artisans Gallery and has shown at Shumei International Institute along with other group shows. His art is in collections throughout the US, Canada and Europe and the Middle East.



Shumei Shop / MoSPACE

There are many unique gift options at the Shumei Shop/MoSPACE gallery in Crestone. Located at 116 S. Alder St., the shop has natural agriculture and organic products with beautiful labels making an exceptional gift. Olive oil, balsamic vinegar, local juniper keychains, skincare products, art and more! Take a few moments for yourself and receive Jyorei while you're there. Jyorei is a hands-off

healing practice that focuses spiritual light to dissolve impurities that cause physical, emotional, and personal dilemmas. "Jyorei" means "purification of the spirit" and is offered by donation. Open Wed.-Sat., noon-4pm.





FIRSTTHOUGHT STUDIOS

NEW 'CHUTZPAH' ORIGINAL CALLIGRAPHY T-SHIRTS

Available in: S, M, L, XL - \$30
Chutzpah: nerve, ballsiness, unabashedness

Contact Ish: 720.366.4488 ishwara65@gmail.com

Wishing our global family a safe and happy Holiday
Shumei International Institute
 Sharing Healing Jyorei, Natural Agriculture,
 art and beauty with the world....



8:00AM and 6:00PM Sampai (prayer services) are always open to the public

Art Symposia, exhibitions, concerts and special events. See the community calendar or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for an up to date schedule

Please visit the Shumei Shop and moSPACE downtown Wed. through Sat. 12 to 4pm in the Sangre de Cristo Inn

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

bodywork movement dance

katiegetchell.com
719 588 9255

thai yoga massage • rolf method of structural integration
group classes • private instruction

Crestone Artisans Gallery



Located in Beautiful Downtown
Crestone
Phone: 719 298-3003

**"The finest artists
owned and operated art
gallery in the State!"**

**Beautiful, Professional Art &
Gifts by some of the Region's
Finest Artists**

Open Tuesday - Sunday 11-4

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

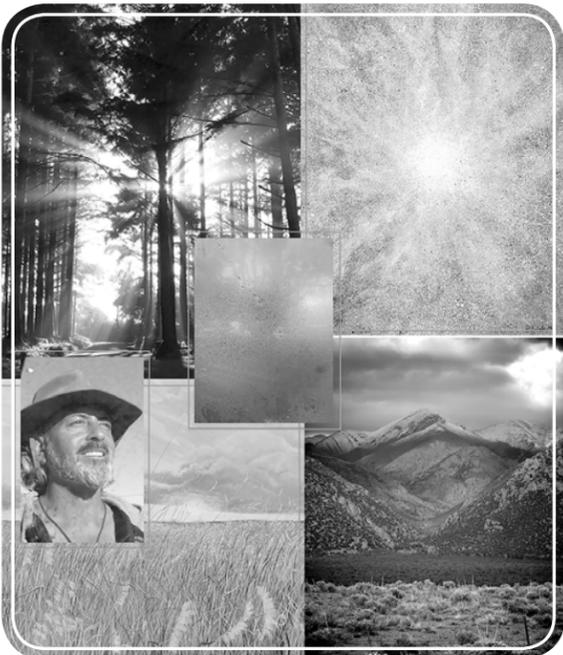
Patrick Moore Fine Art by Appointment

Patrick Moore is starting a new adventure by opening his studio and a wider range of his art to you with personal, up-close showings and conversations through PATRICK MOORE - Fine Art By Appointment. You'll have the opportunity to view his original paintings, photographs, prints and cards in person and have open inspirational discussions about their genesis.

Patrick was recently the featured artist at Shumei International Institute and you can learn more about Patrick and his art, inspirations and artistic philosophies by viewing his extremely well-received symposium presentation at: youtube shumei symposium patrick moore.

Call 719-588-6431 for an appointment and begin the adventure.

Many original works are priced for giving. Located in Crestone.



Natural Heritage Enterprises

Natural Heritage Enterprises is proud to serve your Health and Wellness needs with our Essiac Tea products. We are a Crestone-based company that has been producing and distributing Essiac Tea worldwide for 27 years.

Our tea is mixed and brewed in small batches to ensure quality control. With the finest natural, organic, and wildcrafted herbs, along with our "Structured" Water System, producing a superior Essiac product.

Detoxify! Boost your immune system! Give yourself, or a loved one, the gift of optimal health this holiday season. Let our knowledgeable and caring staff start you up the path to wellness!



The Gift Horse & Eureka Thrift

Happy Holidays from everyone at The Gift Horse, Eureka Thrift Store and Rock'n Horse. The Gift Horse carries beautiful clothing, jewelry, art, scarves and many unique and spiritual items.

Eureka Thrift has been open more than a year now, and it's been amazing! The consignment

has worked out wonderfully. We've collected a wide selection of goods from clothes to shoes to hats to gadgets to homeware to furniture.

Our newest addition is for kids and kids at heart—Rock'n Horse toy store is now open. Just in: kids' art, art art! Art supplies including kid's painting easels, looms, paint, paint your own magnets and much more.

All 3 stores will keep you covered for anyone on your list and are open 7 days a week from 10-5. And as a bonus for the holidays, we are offering free gift wrap on any purchase. Cheers!

DETOX after the Holidays with *ESSIAC TEA!*
Give the *GIFT* of good health.

The Ojibwa Tribe ancient herbal tea remedy made famous by Rene Caisse

Natural Heritage Enterprises PO Box 278 Crestone, CO 81131
719-256-4876 • herbs@remedies.net • www.remedies.net

PATRICK MOORE
FINE ART BY APPOINTMENT
719 588-6431

Original Paintings, Photographs, Prints & Cards
CRESTONE, COLORADO

Need a Smashin' New Outfit or A Unique Gift for Someone Special? Check out both of our new stores at The Crestone Inn!

EUREKA THRIFT
To open a consignment account at Eureka Thrift, call to set up an appointment 719.298.8982

GIFT HORSE

Socks, underwear, shirts, pants, shoes, kids clothing, toys, boots, gloves, scarves, art, gifts, jewelry, toiletries, and so much more.....!

CRESTONE INN

Like us on **facebook** !

<https://www.facebook.com/clothingandgiftsinCrestone/>
171 South Alder St. Crestone, CO 81131 (719) 256-5788
www.crestone-inn.com

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

New Girl on the Block

New Girl on the Block is a full-service salon open Monday-Wednesday 10-4 and Friday and Saturday 10-1 (by appointment only). We are closed Thursday and Sunday. Some evening appointments are available upon request.

We carry vegan hair care products. Just ask. Now is the perfect time for gift certificates. Come in and get your holiday style!



Art Show

continued from page 9

Workshops in Telluride, Colorado for eleven years and continues to teach privately and for distinguished photo programs in North America and overseas. Bill invites you to visit www.billzellzey.com to see the wide range of photographs, courses and trips currently scheduled. His stock photography is represented by National Geographic Image Collection. Bill lives and works from his self-built strawbale home in Crestone.

Show details

It's an open house with great refreshments and sample photographs from across Bill's photographic lifetime displayed by the dozens on big table tops in the living room. Prints of any size and the ever-popular greeting cards, printed in-house, can be ordered from the sample images. Larger photographs are on display in the studio.

How did all this get started?

One evening twenty years ago a small group of friends sat around Harriet Johns's pine table in her railroad car-cum-house. Harriet was an enamel artist of great repute in her heyday who had left behind in California the huge, walk-in-size kilns that fused her rich colored, powdered glass, bold "sand paintings" onto 4 foot square sheets of steel. Scaled down now in Crestone she was making very dear 4x6 & 5x7 inch enamel works in a countertop kiln. At that table was Bill Ellzey, accomplished landscape photographer, who had moved to Crestone four years prior and built a strawbale home. He had started printing photographs which entailed making test prints on 4x6 inch paper before making larger prints.

"It was the small size that we were both doing that gave me the idea of having a joint art show and

call it Miniatures." Wine had become an increasing part of the scene at the table so the idea of a show easily grew legs. Ideas of what it could be and how it could go went zinging around the table. The show was decided to be in early December and kick off the Christmas season. "That made the show just 2 weeks away and neither Harriet nor I really had very much work ready for such immediate, public exposure," Ellzey said. "We gulped, rolled up our sleeves and buckled down to it."

Thus, the Ellzey-Johns Annual December Art Show was spawned. Harriet has since passed on. Her presence is felt continually through many of her enamels around the house.

Ellzey's thoughts

"It's my love of the natural world and its breathtaking beauty that keeps me going back out with my camera. "Forests, fish, wildlife, clean air and fresh water are more and more precious. What are we doing? What can we do? Nothing, mostly, and not much are the answers, it appears. There's more activism for awareness now but it seems unlikely that enough people will realize that we're using up the planet before it's too late.

"Sooner than later, I fear, landscape/nature photographs will be used to show how it used to be. They already do show the rapid disappearance of glaciers, polar ice and forests. It's too late to preserve what I knew and saw when I was young. The photos become historical in a single person's life time.

"Although discouraged, beginning with the 2017 art show I started donating 10% of my photography earnings to natural resources conservation and population growth awareness organizations. I intend to do that for the rest of my life."



9th Annual Saguache Holiday Bazaar

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 7, and join HEART of Saguache/KV and local vendors at the Community Building on 7th St. between Pitkin and Christy for our annual Holiday Bazaar. Hours are from 10am to 3pm. There are 22 tables

this year. Past events featured baked goods, handwork, crafts, baskets, pottery, jewelry and many other delights. Lunch is served by Mountain Valley. Santa will arrive from the North Pole from 11am to 1pm for photo ops.

The silent auction will fund Saguache Sharing Christmas, which provides food boxes for families during the holidays. You don't need to be present to win.

For more information and to reserve your table, please *text* Caroline at 719-850-0051, or leave a message.

4th Street Diner & Bakery



As you walk into the 4th St. Diner and Bakery in historic downtown Saguache, the aroma of freshly baked bread, pies, scones, muffins, and cookies fills the air.

Open seven days a week from 7am-3pm, we offer breakfast all day and an extensive menu of lunch fare, including popular local Blue Range beef burgers; the 4th St. Potato Supreme; and Esther's Omelette, featuring feta cheese, spinach, and

mushrooms. So if you are looking for the comfort of friendly faces, a yummy pie, breakfast, lunch, or a good cup of coffee, the 4th Street Diner and Bakery has you covered!

Pies! Saguache's WiFi!

4th Street

Diner & Bakery

719.655.6411

SAGUACHE HOLIDAY BAZAAR

DECEMBER 7, 10 am - 3 pm

SAGUACHE COMMUNITY BUILDING

Art, pottery, baked goods, jewelry . . .

Everything you want for the holidays!

NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK

FULL SERVICE STYLING SALON

Lynn Ertle
Owner Operator

Happy Holidays!

18850 County Rd 65
Moffat Colorado

719.256.4845
Text for Appointment 719.580.9146

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

Primo Cannabis

Welcome to Primo Cannabis, a wild west weed shop off of Hwy. 285 in Villa Grove, CO.

Our mission is to sell clean, local, and high quality products with more therapeutic benefits. We carry products with CBD/THC, CBN and THC-A. We feel that cannabis is a medicine and can help a lot of people. Our motto is "Don't just get high, get healthy!"

We support businesses that do the right thing environmentally and create a clean healthy product. When you buy from Primo, you are buying the best products, supporting local businesses and getting a great deal!



Primo
CANNABIS
Villa Grove, Colorado

Open Everyday 9-8 34132 Hwy 285
Villa Grove, CO

719-937-7813

From our family to yours we wish you the very best of holidays!

Look for our holiday specials and let us help you make your holidays happy!

Salida Cutlery & Smoke Shop

Salida Cutlery and Smoke Shop is a fun store to find unique gift items for your loved ones. You'll find quality kitchen cutlery from Wusthof, manicure sets, fine pocket knives, survival knives, Swedish axes, and more. Take a look to find wallets, money clips, & Zippo lighters. We carry a large selection of Vape mods and E juices, fine cigars, pipe tobacco, and accessories like humidors and cutters.

Stop by today at 132 W. Hwy. 50 or visit salidacutlery.com to find direct links to our online store, Ebay, and Amazon. We ship.

Salida Cutlery and Smoke Shop wishes you a season filled with joy! Thank you, Twyla Rains.



Chili Heads

Chili Heads Glass & Vape, located on Highway 50 in Salida, has been your kind, heady, low-cost, full service destination for 5 years. Always locally owned and operated, Chili Heads is a favorite stop for friends in Crestone and the San Luis Valley area.

Chili Heads is conveniently located and reliably open Mondays through Saturdays with the very lowest prices and largest selection in glass, smoking supplies and vaping supplies anywhere! Chili Heads also offers the lowest prices on locally sourced pipes, CBDs and lab-tested Kratom.

If you're looking for gift ideas or just want to stop by to say hello, Chili Heads is there for you.

Chili Heads Glass & Vape
Full service Head, Smoke & Vape SHOP

CHILI HEADS GLASS

Top Brands
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www.chiliheads.biz
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719.207.9700

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16pc Gourmet Block Set
Reg. \$299.99, Sale \$199.99

www.salidacutlery.com

SALIDA CUTLERY & SMOKE SHOP
132 W. Hwy 50 - Salida, CO 81201 - 719.539.2884

Holiday Shopping & Events Guide

The Maverick Potter

The Maverick Potter in downtown Salida is a dream come true for studio potter Mark Rittmann. Ever since he moved to Colorado, he aspired to open a pottery shop in a mountain town. Mark's interest in ceramics began with fascination in the process of bringing a formless lump through to becoming a long-lived functional piece of art. After eleven years in business, Mark delights in knowing that his work has brought connection and joy to thousands of people around the world. Located at 119 F Street, the gallery offers an inspiring collection of functional and decorative art and represents over 36 local and regional artists.



Vino Salida— A premier Colorado wine destination

Winemaker Steve Flynn has worked closely with Colorado grape- and honey-producers to forge long-lasting relationships. Steve's drive to craft quality products has led to many different styles of wine, all tasting unique and purely Coloradan. Wines including Vino Rosso di Salida, BeeVino Semi-Sweet Mead and the Rosso Vino Vermouth have been awarded medals at the 2019 Colorado Governor's Cup. Book your tour online and visit us in Poncha Springs for wine tasting, dining and now craft beer and spirits. Visit vinosalida.com to see how Vino Salida Wine Bar & Cellars has become a premier Colorado Wine destination.



The Mixing Bowl

Thank you faithful customers! This is the Mixing Bowl's 12th holiday season,

and we have some new and wonderful additions here at our store in downtown Salida. We are featuring more unique and wonderful products for your home and kitchen. There is a gift for everyone on your list. Just let us help you find it. Then we'll wrap it with all the trimmings because you are a part of the Mixing Bowl family. Please come by and taste some of our specialty foods and chocolates and give us a chance to serve you. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Mixing Bowl staff.

Experience Colorado Wine
VINO SALIDA WINE CELLARS
 Tours, Tasting, Dining
 Open Year Round vinosalida.com 719-539-6299

now serving craft beer & cocktails

GOURMET KITCHENWARE
Where Home Happens
THE MIXING BOWL
 Locally made food & specialty chocolate
 Corner of 2nd & F Streets
 Historic Downtown Salida | **719-539-2655** | salidamixingbowl.com | **Open Daily!**

Holiday Sing-Along
 Sunday, December 22 @ 6:00pm
 at Milagros Coffee House, Alamosa
 Please bring non-perishable donations for the Food Bank

w/ Don Richmond

Sponsored By:
 Milagros COFFEE HOUSE
 LA PUENTE
 AUM

Come see what's inside

The Maverick Potter
 119 F St, Salida CO 719-539-5112
www.maverickpotter.com
 Representing 36+ local and regional artists

HAPS

Yogic cooking workshop at Shakti Sharanam

Annie Pace is offering yet another amazing and nourishing experience on Saturday, Dec. 14, 3-8pm. This will be the last specialty class before the Shala closes for winter break, so don't miss out! Explore the Sattvic-Ayurvedic-Yogic-Food-Body-Mind connections for yourself in good company and peaceful environment. See shaktisharanam.com for details. Pre-registration required, \$40-\$60 sliding scale. 719-256-5668.



Crestone "Giving Tree" is ready for your help!

The Crestone Giving Tree, located at the Crestone Mercantile Grocery during December, is a wonderful reminder of the generous and kind nature of our local residents. We receive the names of children in our community who are in need and use your donations to provide clothing, toys and other necessary items to each child.

You can pick out an ornament from the giving tree, located in the grocery store, that provides the information about a particular child, purchase items for that child and return them to the store by December 14, or simply put money in our collection jar which is used to make purchases for the children. Please call Elaine Johnson (719-256-5587) or Patte Smith (719-256-4712) with questions.

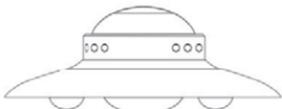
For all the children who will have a happier holiday because of your generosity—thank you!

BIODYNAMIC CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY
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UFO's Bigfoot Hauntings Local Legends Cryptozoology Cattle Mutilations

The Highly Anticipated Podcast Series featuring renowned Researcher and Author Christopher O'Brien begins this December! Don't miss your opportunity to have your organization recognized on this series. Call 719.239.1811 or email Adam@SLVoices.com to inquire about sponsorship. Visit SLVoices.com for updates and join us on Facebook.

SLVoices.com

Buteyko Breathing Course in Crestone
 With Sasha Yakovleva
 Advanced Buteyko Practitioner,
 The Representative of the Buteyko Clinic in Moscow

Re-educate your Breathing



- Make your breathing boost your health instead of destroying it
- Tame breathing difficulties, allergies, fatigue, and other problems
- Learn how to make your breathing enjoyable and support longevity
- Practice breathing healthily at high altitude

- More information: www.breathingcenter.com
- Register: https://tinyurl.com/breathcrestone
- Questions? Email sasha@breathingcenter.com

Private Sessions are available

Free Circus workshops for Crestone & Moffat students

NYC performer LizzyBeth Elkins is a new tutor with the Crestone Circus outreach. Ms. Elkins recently moved to Crestone, bringing with her 20 years of circus experience including tours with Ringling/Disney shows, Aerial Angels Circus and Super Sproutz.

Ms. Elkins will be facilitating workshops at Crestone Charter School on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:15 for 5-18 year olds; and at Moffat School, times to be determined. The Crestone Circus program is part of the Salida Circus outreach foundation. Workshops are free, thanks to a grant from The Colorado Health Foundation. Anyone interested in participating or becoming an assistant/apprentice tutor contact Ms. Elkins at lizzybethelkins@gmail.com.



Performer LizzyBeth Elkins



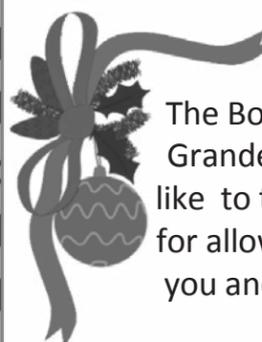
Lots of families giving thanks at this year's annual NHN Thanksgiving Potluck, held at the Crestone Charter School on Sunday, November 24. photo by Lori Nagel

Kai Beetch Design
 ~ Window Blinds & Shades
 ~ Repairs
 Crestone / Baca
 719-256-4498



Judie Rose and Joshua Hillman paused for a picture at this year's NHN Potluck. Judie celebrated her 20th year running this celebration and simultaneously retiring from it. Joshua carves all the turkeys every year. photo by Lori Nagel

SEASONS GREETINGS



The Board of Directors and Staff of the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2019. We wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Office Hours
 The District office will be closed on December 24 & 25 and again December 31, 2019 & January 1, 2020. District personnel will be on-call throughout the holiday season to respond to any emergencies.
 You can reach us, night or day, at (719) 256-4310.

Community Calendar—December 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

28 November

- Thanksgiving

29 November

- Winterfest parade, downtown Crestone 5pm
- Winterfest Bazaar, Crestone 4:30pm
- • Salida Parade of Lights 5pm

30 November

- Crestone Food Bank 10am-noon
- Jingle & Mingle, Artisans Gallery 6-8pm

1 December

- Guided Meditation Chamma Ling Retreat Center 2-3:30pm
- Winterfest Bazaar 9am-2pm
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church 10am-noon
- Sunday Mass at Nada Hermitage 9-10am

2 December

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting Alder Meeting Room 5-7pm
- Commissioner J Anderson in town Mercantile Annex 10am-2pm

4 December

- Wednesday night Bible study Crestone Baptist Church 6-7:30pm
- Art show at Salida hospital HRRMC 5:30-7pm

5 December

- Sufi Dhikr. All welcome! Golden Light Sufi Circle 4-6pm

6 December

- Guru Rinpoche Tsok Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6-8pm

7 December

- Saguache Holiday Bazaar Community Building 10am-3pm
- Ladies' Christmas Tea Party Crestone Baptist Church 1-3pm
- Ellzey annual art show 891 Camino Real 2-6pm

8 December

- Monthly Sampai Shumei International Institute 10:30am-noon
- Ellzey annual art show 891 Camino Real 2-6pm

9 December

- Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Alder Meeting Room 9:30am-5pm

10 December

- Saguache County 2020 Budget meeting Saguache County Commissioners' Room 2pm
- Meeting on Moffat's Area 420 Saguache County Commissioners' Room 11am

11 December

- CEOLP/IFC monthly meeting Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm
- Full Moon Riwo Sangcho Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10-11am
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony followed by a meal Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon

12 December

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. Golden Light Sufi Circle 4-6pm

14 December

- Medicine Buddha Puja Pema Choling Nuns' Community 4:30pm

15 December

- Music from the Heart Christmas Carol Crestone Baptist Church 1-2pm

16 December

- Commissioner J Anderson in town Mercantile Annex 10am-2pm

19 December

- Sufi Dhikr. All welcome! Golden Light Sufi Circle 4-6pm
- Christmas caroling Crestone Charter School 6pm

20 December

- Christmas Concert Colorado College - Baca Campus 1pm

21 December

- Winter Solstice
- Dakini Tsok Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6-8pm
- Sukavati Puja Pema Choling Nuns' Community 4:30pm

23 December

- Crestone Food Bank Crestone Food Bank 10am-noon

24 December

- Christmas eve mass at Nada Hermitage Nada Hermitage 7-8pm

25 December

- Christmas Day
- New-Moon Fire Ceremony followed by a meal Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10-noon

26 December

- New Moon Riwo Sangcho Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10-11am

28 December

- Crestone Food Bank Crestone Food Bank 10am-noon

1 January

- New Years Day
- New Years Day mass at Nada Hermitage Nada Hermitage 11-noon

6 January

- Commissioner J Anderson in town Mercantile Annex 10am-2pm

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.
-James Matthew Barrie

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 9-10am in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room. All are welcome. 256-5539. www.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 masses at Nada Hermitage 9-10am, 256-4778
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church, Christian Service Traditional/Contemporary 10am-noon
- AA meeting (open, discussion), Crestone Town Hall, Alder St. north of Galena Ave, 7pm
- Drop in Meditation at Choying Dzong (Sitting and Walking), 2281 Happy Day OL, 10am - 1pm

Monday

- Al-Anon meeting, Little Shepherd Church, Alder St. north of Galena Ave., 1pm

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam, 5-6:45pm by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668
- NA meeting (open), Little Shepherd Church, Alder St. north of Galena Ave., 7:30pm

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements, Shakti Sharanam, 8:30- 10am by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668
- Food Bank, next to Crestone Mercantile, 10am-noon
- Wednesday night Bible study, Crestone Baptist Church 6-7:30pm

Thursday

- AA meeting (open, Book Study) Crestone Baptist Church, Rd. T west of the kiosk, noon
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam, 5pm-6:45pm, by donation, shaktisharanam.com, 256-5668

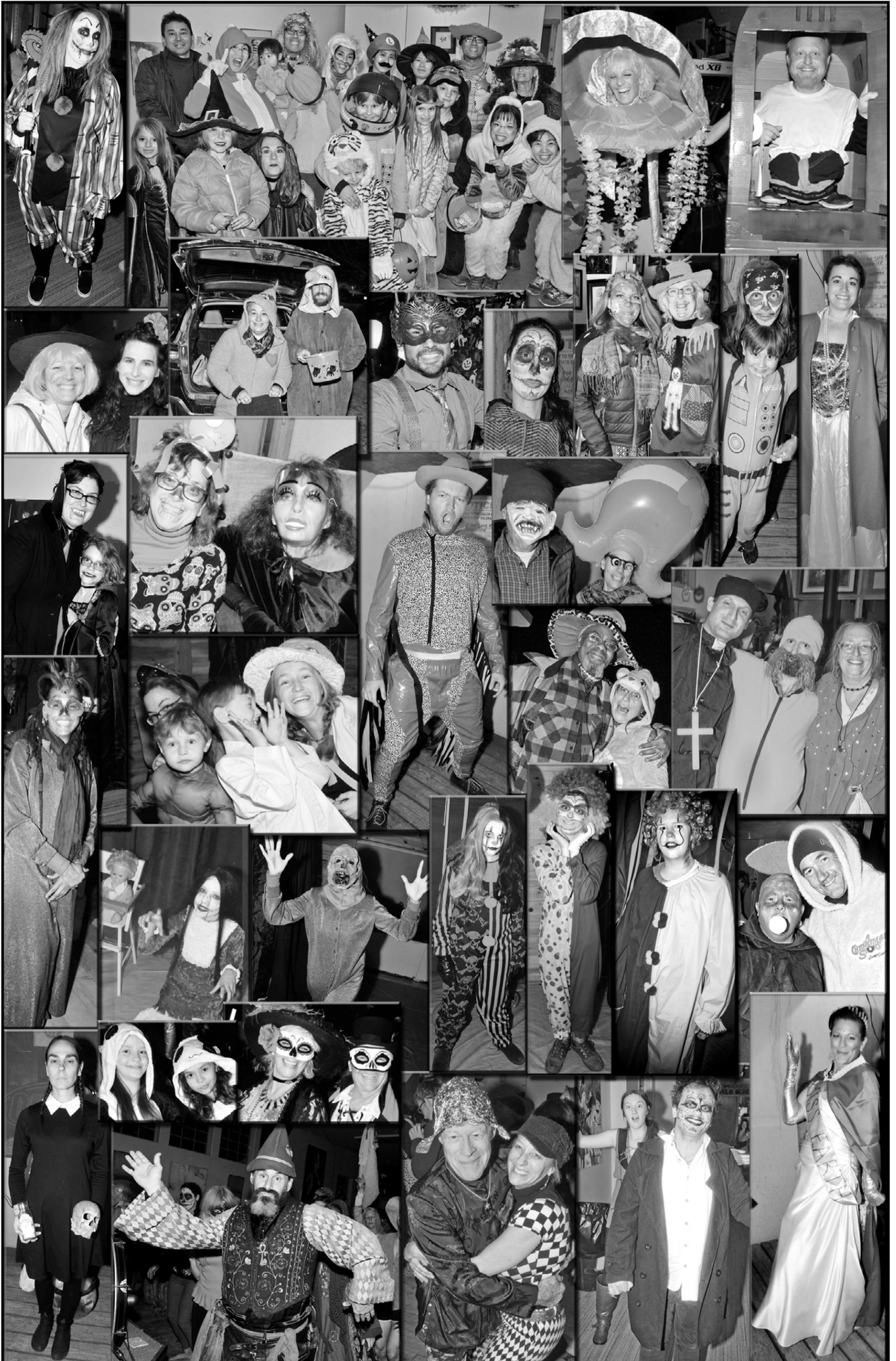
Saturday

- NA meeting (open, Step Study), Little Shepherd Church, Alder St. north of Galena Ave., 9am
- Feel Free Ministries free meal, noon-4pm, Little Shepherd Community Center



Happy Holidays

FROM ALL OF US AT THE CRESTONE EAGLE!



Lots of fantastic costumes and good spirits at this year's Halloween festivities! The Crestone Charter School hosted a haunted house and other fun activities for the kiddos; trunk-or-treating and local businesses loaded our little ones up with sugar; and kids of ALL ages danced the night away to the Jah Kings, who put on a stellar show at the Cloud Station into the wee hours of the evening. photo by Lori Nagel

Out & About with Lori Sunflower

This holiday season, what do you most want and why?




Phoebe Tieder

What I want for Christmas is world peace because I know there's a lot of fighting right now and it's just really hard. And what I also want for Christmas is a computer, because everybody else in my family has one and I have to use my dad's computer to do my homework and it gets really annoying cause usually he has to do stuff on it and it'd just be easier to have my own computer to do my own homework. I want one that can fold where it can be like a computer and a tablet.



Ziggy Eilets

I want to help save the earth with teamtrees.org. It's a website where you can donate money to save the earth by planting trees. Every dollar plants a tree. So you can just go on there and plant a tree with your money. And if you don't have any money to do that, you can still help by telling other people. And the thing that I want is a mini-museum because

it's really cool and it has all these pieces of ancient history and stuff. And Team Trees is so cool because they're trying to plant 20 million trees by January 1, 2020, and I really hope to see that happen.



Naiya Cabeza-Kinney

Mostly for my sister to get to Crestone safely, since she moved all the way to Portland, Oregon, and for her to have a fun time here because that would just be a waste of airplane tickets otherwise. And so she can get back safely, too. And for a computer so I can play Minecraft with my brother because he won't play Minecraft with me unless I play on a computer, so yeah.



Zenna Hess

I want slime and squishies this holiday because it helps with stress and it's satisfying. And I'd also like a onesie. It's not a baby onesie. It's on Amazon and is a one piece, and you can wear it and you

can have it all season long and it's still cool.



Aleceea Wright

What I really want for this holiday is to go to Canada to see my grandparents, because it's really fun over there. And they have three horses in their backyard and it's really fun.



Unnah Bradley

I want a new kitten for Christmas. And why is cause I love pets, and I especially like cats.



Ili Hines

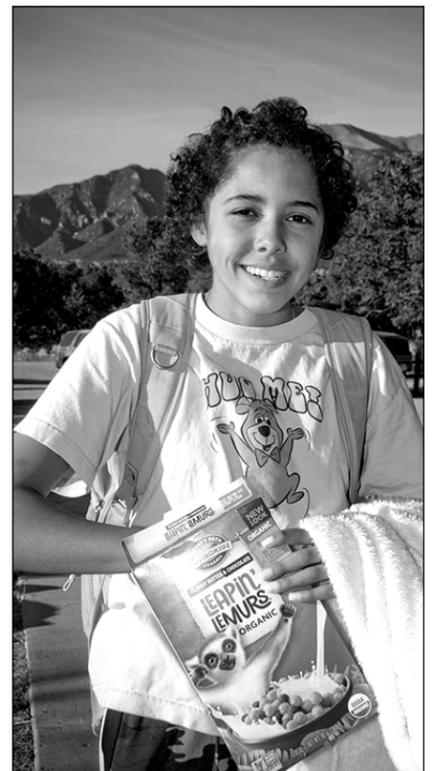
I want a computer because we have a Chromebook in school, but

when I go home to do my homework, I can't use Google docs because I don't have a computer. So it'd be nice to have a computer for Christmas.



Nesta Rocha-Davis

I think I would like to make Christmas dinner because I've been getting really into cooking lately and I think it would be a nice thing to do for everybody and make me feel really accomplished and helpful during the Christmas season. And just time to spend with my family. Peace in the world would be nice, but it doesn't seem like it'd be guaranteed anytime soon. It's up to us.



Sequoia Sirios

What I want most for the holiday is for my mom not to work so much because she works a lot. And she takes care of us a lot. I love you mom!

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

How to rest in peace before you die

by Marcella Friel

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

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

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

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

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

Fear not—help is on the way.

Join me and other community members on Saturday, January 11, at the Crestone Baptist Church fellowship hall for an 8-week course called "LeaveLight: Rest in Peace Before You Die," a journey through holistic end-of-life planning. The course is sponsored by the Crestone End of Life Project's educational outreach arm, Informed Final Choices, and is not affiliated with any religious or spiritual group.

The course itself will take place from 10:30am to 12:30pm each Saturday from Jan. 11 through February 29. Tuition is \$40 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

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

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



Writer's Forum:

My heart's pocket

by Suzi Ryan

Anyone who attended Catholic school in this country in the 50s and 60s may have had mixed feelings about being there. But on one day a year, a few weeks before Christmas, we unequivocally loved it: the 8th of December, feast of the Immaculate Conception and a school holiday! We understood little about the feast other than it had something to do with Mary, Jesus' mother, so our devotion to her ratcheted up exponentially every December 8th! Thank you, Mary!

My family's tradition on that day was to drive downtown with Mom to do our Christmas shopping. On one of those Dec. 8s I remember searching up and down the aisles for a gift for Mom at the five and dime store, the shopping spot for an 8-year-old's allowance budget. Then I spotted it: an open display case filled with shiny gold initial pins. The G pin shined brightest of all as Mom's name was Geraldine. I bought the pin, had it specially gift-wrapped, knowing that I had found the perfect Christmas treasure to give Mom. Years later I discovered she never liked her name.

At the end of that magical shopping day I spotted Mom outside a department store in her knee-length beige winter coat and high heels, waiting for her girls. She was smiling. She too had had a day off, of sorts. I held the tiny treasure box inside my coat pocket imagining Christmas morning when she would unwrap the little box, see the 11-cent gold pin I had found just for her and exclaim, "Oh honey, it's perfect. Thank you!" She would then pin it on her Christmas apron, right over her heart, and smile.

Two days before Christmas, forty-eight years after I had given her the pin, Mom died. A few weeks before her death I brought her a cup of tea. She was sitting in bed holding a laminated card with the names and phone numbers of the women she had played cards with for years, her girlfriends. In her voice, soft and gravelly by then, she told me how grateful she was for the gift of love and friendship that she had been given by each of them.

In December we once again begin our treks into the holiday, holiday season: Advent, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, St. Stephen's Day. At the heart of each feast gratitude seems to reside and is evoked: for the birth of a long-awaited Child; for a Mother surrounded by the sun and watching over us; for the slow turn back into the light and so much more.

But season to season, I forget, when what I long to be is a perennially grateful being down to my bones. I want to breathe gratitude in and out like a memorized prayer. I want to wear a pin in the shape of a G in my heart reminding me to be grateful, to say thank you more often to the people in my life and the graces given, no matter the season be it Christmas, Thanksgiving or the middle of August. And hold that gratitude in my heart's pocket like the gold pin Mom wore over her heart, closing my fingers around it a little more tightly whenever I begin to forget.

LeaveLight
an 8-week course for holistic
end-of-life planning

facilitated by
Marcella Friel
8 Saturdays,
Jan 11 - Feb. 29
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Crestone Baptist Church
70863 County Road T



hosted by Informed Final Choices
Crestone End of Life Project





Crestone End of Life Project
Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment
PO Box 1238, Crestone, CO 81131
www.informedfinalchoices.org • 719.588.7415 or 719.256.4644 • ceolp.info@gmail.com

**"Fear not death for the sooner we die,
the longer we shall be immortal." --Benjamin Franklin**

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, December 11th**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.



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you change perception.
Change perception and
you change the world"**

- Jean Houston

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Moffat expansion

continued from page 1

lots already platted in Moffat and undeveloped are not being considered and developed prior to taking the steps for annexation. The response was short, those lots are not for sale and the owners cannot be forced to sell.

Peggy Godfrey, a neighboring resident and Rio Grande Water Conservation District director, expressed concerns about encroachment on ranch lands—essentially changing the character and flavor of the area historically. The current use for the 320 acres is dry-land agriculture. Potch LLC intends to subdivide Area 420 property for commercial entities, “of non-cannabis-related, and legal cannabis-related commercial entities”. Potch LLC, in the petition, agrees to not allow for any hemp cultivation on the property.

Water and dark skies, of course, are also serious concerns. Under the annexation agreement for the first Area 420, Potch LLC re-drilled Town Well #5 as recently as fall of 2019 and pipelines were put in place to service the properties in the Area 420 subdivision. A private well, properly decreed for an output of 2,500gpm, already exists and Potch LLC will assume responsibility for the costs of extending water, streets, and municipal utilities within the proposed subdivision extension to the north and west of Moffat. One resident present questioned what would happen if that well proved insufficient or was withdrawn by the owner—would the Town then be required to provide water?

It was pointed out the impact of the recent catastrophic fire in the Town of Moffat and how the lack of fire hydrants allowed the fire to spread and take out most of the block. Currently, there is no provision for a fire hydrant system in the existing Area 420.

As one resident pointed out, Moffat is a small community with little to no infrastructure and is being overwhelmed by outside developers. “People with money are the deciding factor.”

Parallels that have been drawn to the mining days of tent cities are not too far off. A quick tour of the existing Area 420 reveals canvas plastic fence liners and not much else. Workers appear to be housed in RVs, sheds, shipping containers, and tents. Nothing is permanent except the fence posts.

The list of concerns goes on and includes: noise from generators that run at night, barking dogs, loss of the views, dust from cleared lots affecting air quality, increased traffic at all hours of the day and night, light pollution, contamination of the water table by waste disposal from essentially industrial greenhouses.

Mayor Patricia Reigel acknowledges that the next steps on the proposed annexation cannot be taken until the Saguache County Commissioners approve the Impact Report. A meeting with the commissioners is scheduled for December 10 at 11am. Copies of the Impact Report are available at the Moffat Town Hall and through Saguache County Land Use. Comments can be submitted in writing at any time prior to the meeting. Negotiations for ongoing maintenance of CR 59 may be part of that discussion.

On November 5, after meeting Mayor Patricia Reigel and Area 420 representatives, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) tabled the request pending a site visit and to allow time to review the document and the report on the impacts the proposal might have on the county. The BoCC could refer the matter to the planning commission, but has not done so. The County could also request additional information prior to accepting the Impact Report.

At the regular Town meeting on December 3, 6:30pm the Moffat Town Trustees will discuss the terms of the annexation agreement with the attorney and representatives of Area 420. Public comments at the meeting are welcome.

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Food bank needs your donations

Thanks to our most generous community, the Crestone Food Bank is serving increasing numbers of residents in need of a little help feeding themselves and their families.

It is no secret that folks working low-wage jobs, or those living on fixed income, often struggle to make ends meet. At the same time, resources are stretched thin among the 15-member Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley, especially during the holiday season and as winter sets in.

Dedicated volunteers are doing their best to meet emergency needs, and your help is needed.

Beginning this month, a donation bin will be located outside the food bank, on the west side of the Crestone Mercantile, and we encourage you to drop off non-perishable food items there at your convenience. You might pick up an extra can of soup, for example, when doing your grocery shopping, or maybe you have surplus items at home that you are able to share.

We are unable to accept open packages, or non-certified eggs, meat or dairy. Other donations are accepted at the food bank, beginning at

9am and during regular hours we are open, from 10am to noon every Wednesday, and from 10am to noon on the last Saturday of the month.

With Christmas falling on a Wednesday this year, we will be open from 10am to noon on Monday, Dec. 23, to meet pre-holiday needs.

Special thanks this month to so many individual residents, to the Elephant Cloud market, Dharma Ocean and the Crestone Mercantile, whose donations have helped keep our shelves stocked. And thanks, as always, to the Saguache County Commissioners for their ongoing support and to Elaine, Steve and Matt for providing our space.

Crestone/Baca residents are eligible to visit the food bank 12 times per year, and delivery is available to shut-ins or those unable to drive. Please call us at 718-539-7740 or email crestonefoodbank@lapuente.net if you or someone you know needs this service. Let us know, as well, if you have donations you need picked up, or if you would like to help in any other way.

Thank you for sharing this holiday season and throughout the year.

The 2019 Saguache County Firewise Team



Are you ready? Call (719) 480-9764 for free hazard assessment.

Happy Holidays from Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa

Wishing you a happy, joyful holiday season!

New Years Eve Celebrate the new year with us! Enjoy the hot springs pools, open until 12:30am.

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Yoga class every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30am. No cost for overnight guests or 6-month & 1-year pass holders. \$5 for walk-ins.

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Ashram Holiday on-line Fundrasier runs from Nov. 29 - Dec. 8. Go to biddingforgood.com/babajashram to see the 140 items available.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

November has been a busy month with the fair weather bringing many visitors. Although we are concerned with the lack of precipitation and praying for moisture, it is also very conducive to building. We are excited to report that the long-term resident hermitage has been framed in, the exterior stucco coats applied, and the inner finish work is going on. We are grateful for everyone's support. Please keep the project in your positive thoughts and prayers.

We are once again holding a Holiday On-Line Auction from Friday, November 29 until Sunday, December 8 to raise funds for stuccoing and painting the older buildings at the Ashram this summer (some are 20 to 30 years old!). There are many wonderful gift items available (some are shown in the photo) and we invite you to join in by going to www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram. Thank you for your support.

The full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, December 11 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 (we will bless 2020 calendars on this day). All fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. We generally have a small fire ceremony before morning aarati at 6:25am when there is not a big fire ceremony scheduled.

We would also like to give you all a heads up and announce that from January 11 until January 23 we will be closing the Ashram to everything except the temple services. This means Maha Lakshmi Shop and the kitchen will be closed during that time. We will celebrate the full-moon January 10, as usual with a fire ceremony at 10am followed by a feast and reopen with the new-moon fire ceremony at

10am on January 24 with the fire ceremony and a feast.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has received a huge order of lovely items perfect for gift giving over the holiday season. We now have hand painted Christmas ornaments, jewelry, statues of all sizes, singing bowls, prayer bells, incense, purses, shawls, and much more. We still have the beautiful 2020 Calendar featuring magnificent photos of the Divine Mother and all of the dates for ceremonies at the Ashram. It is on sale this month for only \$15. You can also purchase it on line at <https://mahalakshishop.wazala.com> under calendar. The shop is full of wonderful items from India and is open every day from 10am until 4pm. We have many lovely, gently worn Punjabi suits and saris at 50% off. We invite you to come in and if you mention this article, we will happily give you a 10% discount on all non-sale items. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has many items on-line at <http://mahalakshishop.wazala.com>.

Please visit our website at www.babajashram.org to find out more about the Ashram. We invite you to visit the Ashram, as we love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Give us a call at 719-256-4108 for more information.

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Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Overcoming self-hatred

by Dr. Eric Weiss
eric@ericweiss.com

In our class last Sunday, we were discussing the problem of self-hatred. I think that most of us are, at least occasionally, plagued by that particular problem.

I have been very much helped, in dealing with my own bouts of self-hatred, by the ideas of the psychoanalyst Karen Horney (see, in particular, her book *Neurosis and Human Growth*).

It is in the nature of ego for us to feel overwhelmed by the world, and at least a bit lost in it. Also, as we are growing up, we are under intense pressure from the adults around us to live up to their expectations. It is natural, then, for us to form what Horney calls an "idealized self-image." This image is a picture of someone who could perfectly fit into the world by living up to our young understanding of the expectations of the people who are important to us. We soothe ourselves by identifying with that self-image. We think that that is

who we should be, and who we "really are."

That identification with the idealized self-image is what gets us into trouble because it is not, in fact, realistic. In fact, we are just another ego, crawling around on the surface of the planet. The tighter our identification with the idealized self-image, the more intensely we hate ourselves for not living up to it.

Horney writes a whole book about this, and I recommend that text. But the take-away for this column is this: the only way to overcome self-hatred is to identify the idealized self-image, and to recognize it for what it is—a child's desperate attempt to deal with harsh reality. Then we can let go of that image, come to accept ourselves for who and what we actually are, and relax into that.

The key to overcoming self-hatred is to give up the false identification with the idealized self-image. It is the only way out of that particular ego trap.

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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

by Trish Gilbert, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder
Presidential primary

Presidential Primaries are ways the political parties select their nominees for president. Given the high level of public interest, "front-loading" means the presidential primary is held early in the year.

The name of the presidential candidates will be on the ballot.

- We are actually voting for delegates to the national conventions.

- Vice president is not on the ballot.

Both major political parties officially nominate their candidate for president at their national conventions. Each of these conventions is made up of delegates selected in accordance with the party's bylaws.

The results of the presidential primaries (and caucuses) bind many of these delegates to vote for a particular candidate. Colorado's delegates will be bound to the winners of each party's primary.

Caucus vs. Primary

- Some states have primaries to elect delegates to the national convention.

- Primaries are direct elections run by the county clerks and the results are used to determine delegates

- Some states have a caucus that elects delegates to the national party convention.

- Caucuses are people from the same party gathering to elect delegates to a convention

- Caucuses can also be people going to the places set up by political parties and voting for

candidates that determine the delegates

Note: Colorado's political parties will still hold caucuses for other statewide and county offices.

Colorado held its last presidential primary in 2000. The election was abandoned because of cost, in favor of party caucuses, which typically draw far fewer eligible voters.

The State estimates it will spend 6.26 million dollars (based on the reimbursements submitted for the 2018 Primary Election).

How do candidates get on the ballot?

- Each candidate must file a petition with 5000 signatures OR pay a \$500 fee in order to appear on the ballot.

- This must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

When will we know the candidates?

- December 9 is the last day for a candidate to submit Statement of Intent and filing fee to the Secretary of State.

- A candidate may also petition onto the ballot and it is due that day. (Circulation can begin on November 4.)

- Candidates can also file as a write-in by December 27. (\$500 filing fee.)

- Candidates can withdraw by December 27.

Our office has already filed an Election Plan with the Secretary of State for the 2020 Presidential Primary on March 3, 2020. This plan was due the day prior to our Coordinated Election on November 5, 2019, . . . to give you some idea of the non-stop processes in elections.



Pet Partners: Six years in the Tibet of the west

by Patrick Moore

This is Pet Partners' sixth year in our village and it's been another very busy year.

This past year we received over a hundred requests for pet food. We turn no requests down. These calls usually arise due to an owner's financial slump or personal unexpected circumstances. We encourage the owners to pay us back when their circumstances permit. Many do, some do not.

We received dozens of calls for pet medical care, some minor and routine and others major. We try not to turn down these requests unless paying for the services would seriously deplete our funds and prevent us from helping many others. In such instances we help the owner find other funding. No pet has gone without necessary medical care.

We received many calls for immediate pet re-homing from owners who either don't want their pets anymore or who can't continue to take care of

their pets because of unavoidably changed circumstances. These are difficult to handle because it means the pet will be separated from its family and because it's very difficult to find new homes on short notice. Temporary foster homes would help us have more time to find appropriate new homes; however, we currently have no reliable foster homes. In many cases we must encourage the owner to keep their pet until we can find a new home.

Another large number of calls we received relate to loose cats and dogs. Mostly these calls come from someone who thinks the animal is lost and wants to bring it to us. Generally when a pet is loose it's because it got out somehow and



Dan Frelka and Orion. Dan is PetPartners' volunteer handling social media, helping with adoptions and lost pets. He adopted Orion a year ago.

the owner is unaware that it's out. We advise callers not to remove the animal from its neighborhood and instead take a photo and post it to Facebook. In most cases the pet goes home or the owner goes looking for it in the neighborhood. In a few cases the owner thinks it's ok to let its pet roam freely. This is never ok and if the animal is seen on more than one occasion it should be posted on Facebook and reported.

We get regular calls regarding barking dogs or about dogs that appear to be malnourished or mistreated. This is understandable, however it should be kept in mind that we are not an enforcement agency and we have no authority to force a pet owner to correct his or her behavior. We recommend a non-confrontational discussion with the owner as a first step, perhaps recommending that they seek help from Pet Partners. If that doesn't work then the situation should be reported to the authorities.

We appreciate all of the support this community generously provides to its animals, both financially and through acts of kindness and concern. Please donate generously and volunteer.

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~ Trish Gilbert, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder
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Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



**as received by Earl LeRoy
Live by My Holy Spirit**

Live holy and choose wisely; the only way is to walk by the Holy Spirit.

When I (Jesus) became man, I walked the earth in the flesh, but I did not live by the flesh. You see, I knew who I was and I knew My Father. Most people don't have any idea who We are. I knew My mission would save mankind from destruction and hell if I succeeded, or mankind would be lost forever.

Adam's sin separated all mankind from Us (God); to restore mankind back to the Us, a sinless man had to be sacrificed for all. The only way to do it was to walk by the Holy Spirit. Because I was born of God's seed and not Adam's seed, I had a great advantage. But when you are born again of God's seed (Me) and accept the price I paid for all sin, you are on equal terms with Me in that regard. Your spirit becomes alive by My Holy Spirit in you.

The world offers instant satisfaction and gratification to the flesh. The world lets you conquer by your own strength, and let you feel exhilarated by the accomplishment. The rewards of the flesh are intoxicating. The self-esteem you receive and the adoration of others inflates your ego and self worth.

This is why I say the greatest among you is the servant of all. A person that does not have a servant's heart, has himself as his master. His pride and ego are what

he relies on for direction and confidence. This is what Lucifer did and 1/3 of the angels followed him.

A child of the Most High God is different because the Holy Spirit in them that leads them. The pride and ego, which compels the ungodly leader, is now replaced with Agape love, peace, joy and all fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God is now made manifest and has an earthen vessel to flow through. The Glory of God has a conduit to reach out to the lost and hurting masses. God is glorified, people are restored to Us; they are healed, delivered, set free from bondages, and joy and salvation now motivate their lives eternally. They have chosen to crucify their flesh like I did, and have died to self . . . their pride and egos. They have decided to live for the Most High and not themselves. They are willing to take the abuse of the world to reach the hurting and the lost and restore them back to Us. Those who choose Me rather than the world do it because they have received and accepted My Love. They have spent the time and effort to come to know Me, the Creator of all. They have decided that the Most High God is their life, their love and their fulfilment. Gratefulness translates to love and a servant's heart. Tell others what you have received of Me and show them the joy of your salvation.

Love Jesus

HRRMC Pharmacy now open

The Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Pharmacy opened to the community Monday, Nov. 4. The pharmacy is located in the front corner by the main entrance of the HRRMC Outpatient Pavilion, 1000 Rush Dr., Salida.

Pharmacy hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30am to 5:30pm.

"In the HRRMC Pharmacy, we are patient-focused and will work closely with providers to ensure exceptional care is always delivered. The pharmacy is here to serve hospital patients, employees and the entire community," said HRRMC Outpatient Pharmacy Manager Jonathan Trenary.

The pharmacy has a large inventory of common prescription drugs, and accepts the majority of commercial and government funded insurances. Customers are advised to call the pharmacy to con-

firm coverage.

Over-the-counter and convenience items, such as common cough and cold medications, common pain relievers and common allergy medications are also available.

The pharmacy can place special orders for prescription drugs and over-the-counter products that are not regularly stocked. All special orders will be available the following business day by 4pm.

Customers can order refills through the HRRMC Pharmacy mobile app, online at hrrmc.com/Patients-Visitors/Pharmacy.aspx or by phone at 719-530-2430.

For questions about the pharmacy's services, including insurance, prescriptions or prescription transfers, call 719-530-2430, or stop by the pharmacy, located in the Outpatient Pavilion.

HRRMC hosts artist reception Dec. 4

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center will host a reception on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 5:30-7pm for the four artists whose work was featured in the hospital's rotating art exhibits this year. The reception is open to the public and will be held in the hospital's atrium lobby, near the main entrance.

Buena Vista artist Jennie Noreen, Buena Vista painter Stuart Codington Andrews, Buena Vista photographer Bill Mehaffey and

Nathrop painter Sue Ann Hum will display samples of their work.

The reception will be catered by RustingRam.

The hospital displays the work of regional artists as part of its mission to create a healing environment for patients and visitors. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from art sales is donated to the HRRMC Foundation. For more information, call Allison Gergley at 719-530-2217.

"Messages from the heart of God" is sponsored by the Free Spirit Christian Church

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Sunday Services	3:00 pm
Prayer Services Thur & Fri	12:30-2:00 pm
Food Bank Tuesdays	2-4 pm
<i>Events at Crestone Baptist Church:</i>	
Bible Study Wed	6:00 pm
Prayer Breakfast every 3rd 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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The wonderful Don Richmond will be leading Christmas carols at the Charter School.

Christmas carol sing-a-long at Charter School Dec. 19

by Tom Dessain

Don Richmond is coming back to Crestone for a fun-filled evening of Christmas caroling at the Crestone Charter School Thursday, December 19. Doors open at 6pm with music starting at 6:15pm. Meat and vegetarian chili will be available along with an assortment of drinks. Caroling books will also be provided. Don has hosted an immensely popular sing-a-long for years at Milagros coffee shop in Alamosa and this will be his 3rd year in Crestone. The event has been a lot of fun. Students are free with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults.

New this year we will be offering door prizes. We have: an American Indian flute handmade locally by Bruce Becker; a beautiful photograph from Bill Ellzey; a \$50 gift certificate from Crestone Mercantile; a gift certificate from OFIA restaurant; two day passes from Valley View Hot Springs; and two day passes from Joyful Journey Hot Springs.

This show is sponsored and produced by Crestone Performances Inc. and all proceeds go towards our Youth Enrichment Program. CPI is a 501(c)3 non-profit community service organization that brings cultural and educational events to San Luis Valley schools

and communities. So far we have produced 234 school shows using 47 different presenters ranging from Taiko Drums to Shakespeare. We also have a student scholarship program and host a student open mic night. We also help produce local community celebrations and events.

Our continued success is made possible through individual donations, our sponsors and grants from Saguache County and Colorado Creative Industries. Our sponsors are *The Crestone Eagle*, Orient Land Trust, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Manitou Institute, the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, San Luis Valley Federal Savings, First Street Flooring, Amicas Pizza and the Heart of the Rockies Medical Center. If you would like more information or would like to contribute to our efforts, please go to our web site, crestfest.org and/or give us a call at 719-256-4533. Our address is PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. All donations are tax deductible.

Come on out and celebrate the holidays with family and friends and one of the valley's favorite musicians at the Crestone Charter School Thursday, December 19 at 6pm. Hallelujah!

Need work? Like kids?

by Tom Dessain

A unique opportunity for the right person is opening up with Crestone Performances Inc. We are looking for a new administrative assistant. We have three youth programs and a community service program. This position is budgeted for \$6000 at present for the year and hourly wage will be based on experience and references. The job averages between five and ten hours a week but is seasonal and variable. The perfect person for the job will have the following skills and qualifications:

- LOVES to and wants to work with youth.
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- Good proofreading skills.
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- Familiar with QuickBooks.
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- Able to work odd hours and long hours for carnivals and events.
- Non-profit experience.

If you are interested, please send a resume to: CPI, PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131 or email to tomdessain@yahoo.com. You can call with questions at 719-256-4533. Check out our web site at crestfest.org. CPI is a 501(c)3 Community service organization now in its 18th year. Our mission is to create a positive cultural, educational, and economic impact in Colorado's Saguache County and the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to quality presentations representing a variety of traditions and cultures.



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Christmas Sing-A-Long

Crestone Charter School ★ Thursday, December 19th ★ Doors Open 6PM

DOOR PRIZES! Suggested Donation: \$5

Bruce Becker Flute
 Bill Ellzey Photography
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 -2 Day Passes from Joyful Journey Hot Springs

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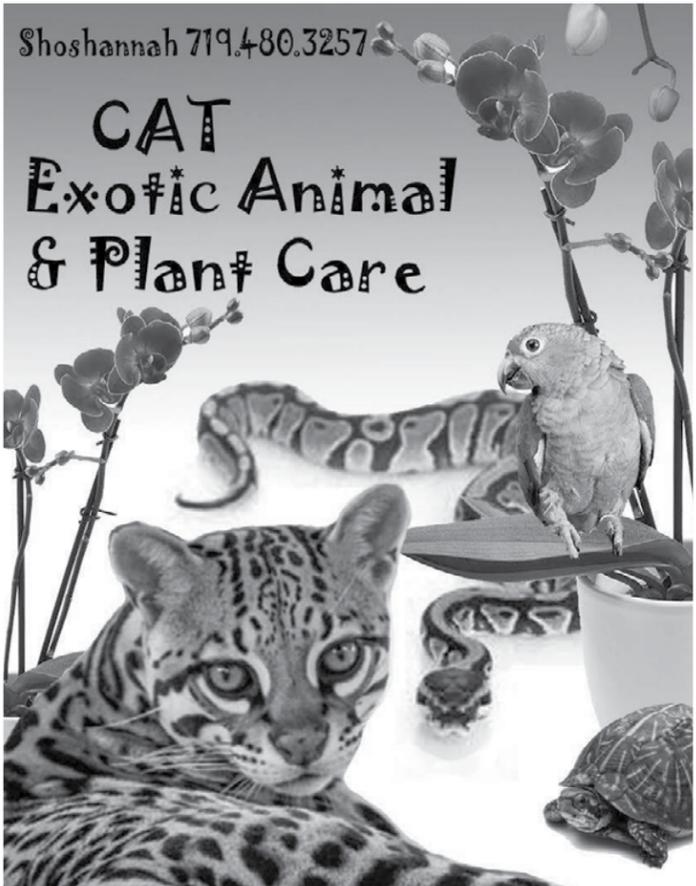
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Moffat School news

Fall is flying by and we are all grateful for the arrival of the Thanksgiving Break!

School will resume on Monday, December 1st and Winter Break will be observed from Friday, December 20 - Tuesday, January 7.

We are very proud of our Middle School boys' basketball team who are currently undefeated and heading into the playoffs. Come support your Cowboys on Tuesday, December 3 as we host a first round playoff game.

Girls' Middle School and Girls' and Boys' High School basketball teams have begun practicing and are poised to have great seasons.



Halloween creations from Mrs. Kellum's elementary art classes.

SLV Regional Science Fair

by Lucy Adams, Director

The Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair Inc., met recently to have an election of officers and set the date for the 71st Regional Science Fair.

Officers for the 2019-2022 year are Dr. David Holm, Monte Vista, President; Susan Storm, Alamosa, Vice President; Jen Jack-Goodwin, Alamosa, Treasurer; and Dr. Larry Sveum, Alamosa, Secretary. Additional members include Jody Oaks, Alamosa; Boo Thomas, Blanca/Ft. Garland; Dr. Frank Novotny, Alamosa; Dr. Sastry Jayanty and Andrew Valdez, Mosca. Makayla Ortiz, an Adams State University student, is the Student Director and Lucy Adams is the Director.

The date for the 71st SLV Regional Science Fair will be March 4-5 and will be held at Plachy Field House, Adams State University. The Colorado State Science Fair will be held April 2-4, 2020 at Colorado State University, (CSEF) Ft. Collins, Colorado. May 10-15, 2020 will find Anaheim, California hosting the International Science and Engineering Fair.

The SLV Regional Fair has a rich and successful history. The first SLV Science Fair was held at Adams State College in 1949. Last year there were a total of 353 registered participants at the Regional Fair. Each school in the San Luis Valley, private schools and home

schoolers, appoint one or more fair coordinators. These coordinators are responsible for supervision of science projects and the administration of the local school fairs. Parents, if your local school is not participating, or if you home school, please contact Ms. Adams at 587-5412 for the necessary paperwork, rules and guidelines for participation in the Regional Science Fair.

Fundraising for the regional fair has begun. Board members and community volunteers are helping with this endeavor. Contributions go toward student awards and expenses that are incurred during competition at the Regional Fair, Colorado Science and Engineering Fair and the International Science and Engineering Fair. A total of 24 junior and senior high students are awarded a trip to CSEF. Two high schools students and two science teachers are awarded an all-expense paid trip to the ISEF. One student observer is also chosen to attend ISEF.

Logo contest

Students are invited to participate in the logo contest that is held each year. Students are encouraged to design a poster that can be used on all the printed material the following year for science fair. For information about the logo contest, students are asked to check with the art instructors at their schools.



Students enjoyed a performance by Urban/Latino pop fusion group 2MX2.



Senior Sheridan Taylor celebrates being accepted to the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs!



AND WARM
WISHES FOR THE
NEW YEAR.

From all of us at
Moffat School District #2

Crestone Charter School news

by Marie-Louise Baker

It takes a village to raise a child. Here in Crestone, we are fortunate that our community is doing exactly that, and for which we are deeply grateful. Hence, we want to share a few outstanding examples of you, with you!

SD Youngwolf came to celebrate Indigenous People's Day with our students in an all-school meeting. He shared traditional songs and stories about gratitude and resilience. We are grateful to honor the people who lived on the land before we moved to Crestone.

This year for the first time, the SLV mobile dental clinic came to the school twice to provide free oral health to our students. During the first visit, students received oral cleaning and were screened for potential tooth issues. During the second visit, the clinicians and the dentist came with their clinic truck. The truck was a fully equipped den-

tal office with two treatment rooms, a reception area, and a restroom. The dentist was excited that many families made use of their services since she believes no child can learn with dental pain and issues.

The Creede Repertory Theater visited the school with their play *Best Foot Forward*. It was a captivating two-person performance that developed a storyline from differences and bullying to the integration of diversity and friendship. The students had a marvelous time. The performance ended on a high note when our students got up and danced with the actors. The actors were thrilled that their last performance in the season ended with such an enthusiastic audience.

Finally, the Haunted House at the school on Halloween was an outstanding example of collaboration, art, and fun. Students, teachers, and parents built a scary haunted house maze in Rainbow Hall. It truly was an art installation with excellent scary student acting. We can proudly say it was the Halloween attraction in the area. With the entrance fees, food sales, and a silent art auction we raised \$1,077 for the school's art program. This Halloween effort is one example of how our great parents help make the school what it is.

Last year parents volunteered almost 2,000 hours! With gratitude, we also want to give back to the community. Our LINK program is adding a 20 hour/year service requirement! Our students have already been practicing community service such as helping set up Neighbour Helping Neighbors events, and running fundraisers for the Crestone Youth Initiative. If you know of any service opportunities for our students, please contact the office at 719-256-4907.

Happy Holidays!



Creed Repertory Performance: Best Foot Forward.

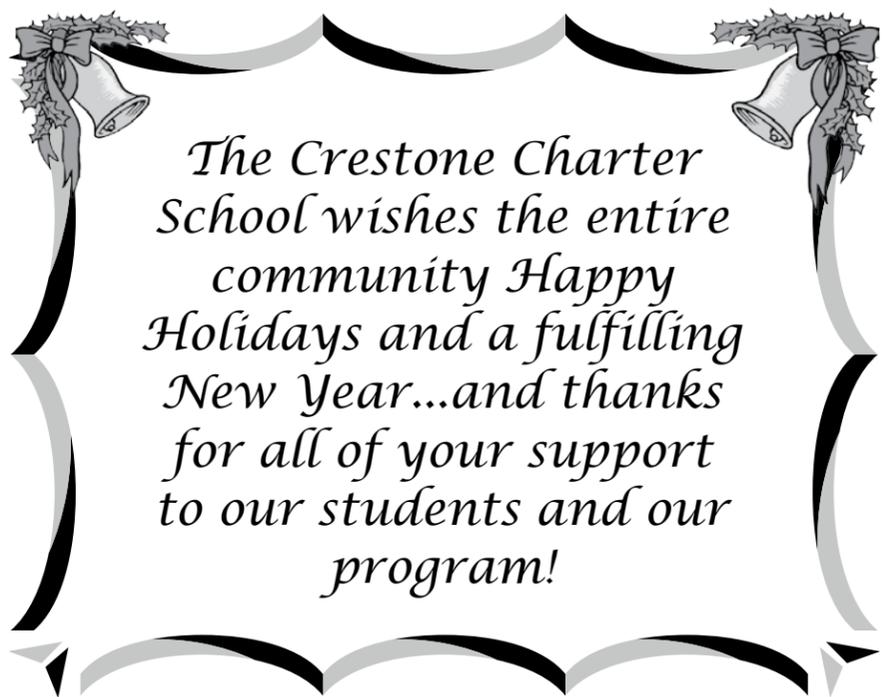


SLV Mobile Dental Team and Clinic.

Addante Chiropractic, PC

Addante Chiropractic / Crestone

Please call 719-539-9493 to schedule your Tuesday appointment



The Crestone Charter School wishes the entire community Happy Holidays and a fulfilling New Year...and thanks for all of your support to our students and our program!

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SLVREC settlement agreement

continued from page 1

charge for residential customers will go down from \$7.59 to \$1.03, and the energy charge will go up to \$.117 per kWh. A dual demand rate for time of day members will add up to \$1.30, but with a higher monthly fee and a lower energy charge of \$.09 per kWh. The interim rate will be effective Dec. 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021, unless a new permanent rate structure is agreed upon earlier, pursuant to the public process outlined in the Agreement.

Anyone can choose between the Schedule A rate or the Schedule A-TOD rate by informing SLVREC of your preference. You will need to notify them by phone, and then sign a new contract. Other provisions of the Agreement set forth that the meter reading charge for those who don't have a SmartMeter will remain at a maximum of \$10/month during the interim period, and thereafter will be based on actual evidence justifying the cost of sending an employee out to read the meter. Also, the Agreement is being dismissed "without prejudice," which means that if the terms are not honored, the Citizens and or Town can re-file with the PUC if needed.

Another important and hard-fought aspect of the Agreement calls for a very inclusive and information-based process to arrive at the new permanent rate. Because of the importance of this matter to many members of SLVREC, this article sets forth most of the terms of the Agreement, and serves as an invitation to participate in the per-

manent rate determination process.

Specific aspects of the Agreement are set forth below:

The rates

SLVREC agrees to put in place an interim rate for each of Schedule A and Schedule A-TOD (collectively, the "Interim Rate"), which shall include only the following rates and charges, plus any currently-applicable taxes:

Schedule A:

Customer Charge: \$35.40 per meter, per month

Demand Charge: \$1.03 per kW, during the highest 15-minute demand increment during the billing month

Energy Charge: \$0.117 per kWh

Schedule A-TOD:

Customer Charge: \$39.40 per meter, per month (single phase)

\$47.15 per meter, per month (three phase)

Distribution Demand Charge: \$0.50 per kW, during the highest 15-minute demand increment during the billing month

Purchased Power Demand Charge: \$0.80 per kW, during the highest 15-minute demand increment during the On Peak period (noon to 10pm, excluding Sundays)

Energy Charge: \$0.09 per kWh

Moving forward

SLVREC has agreed to implement a stakeholder process during the Interim Period in order to receive input from its members regarding SLVREC's rate design and regarding the Replacement Rate (the "Stakeholder Process"). The Stakeholder Process will occur during 2020 and shall consist of meet-

ings involving members including a representative of the Town and at least one representative from the Citizen's Complaint. SLVREC commits to have diversity among the participating members in the Stakeholder Process, including with regard to geography across SLVREC's service territory and with regard to different rate classes. The meetings will concern education regarding issues concerning rates and rate design and the opportunity for members to make rate design proposals.

SLVREC has agreed to provide notice to its members of opportunities for involvement in the Stakeholder Process. In addition, SLVREC agreed to provide an opportunity for any member or other interested stakeholder to provide written comments to inform the Stakeholder Process and to make such comments publicly available.

SLVREC agreed to produce and make publicly available on their website at least one interim report during the Stakeholder Process, and one final report at the conclusion of the Stakeholder Process (collectively, and together with any other reports produced during the Stakeholder Process, the "Reports").

SLVREC also agreed to undertake customer education about the nature and anticipated impacts of the Replacement Rate prior to implementing the Replacement Rate. If the Replacement Rate for Schedule A and Schedule A-TOD includes a demand charge, or any other sort of mandatory charge other than a simple fixed-fee customer charge and volumetric energy charge, SLVREC has undertaken to explain how such a charge functions

and how individual members can prepare for and respond to such a charge in its education efforts.

The Agreement's full term sheet is available on the public notice board outside of Crestone Town Hall, on the Town of Crestone website, www.colorado.gov/townofcrestone, under What's New tab, "Agreement Reached in PUC Mediation", and is attached to the Town of Crestone's Nov. 11 meeting minutes. Visit <http://bit.ly/338n2Jx>.

As a result of the Agreement, most residential members will see their rates go down and will avoid the harsh result of the \$7.59 demand charge in the winter months to come. This demonstrates the importance of participation and perseverance, a lot of hard work, and incredible good fortune. Once a few highly committed citizens stood up for fairness and transparency and held up the torch, we found support from many in the valley and beyond. Thanks to Annie Pace for getting the ball rolling and to Lili Zohar for keeping it rolling in the right direction!

The Citizens Group organizers would like to express heartfelt gratitude to their professional advocates Sarah Keane and Samantha Caravello of Kirsch Kaplan and Rockwell who took on representing the Citizens group, pro-bono (and at the eleventh hour), to Energy Outreach Colorado for providing expert Bill Markus of MCPM, to the Town of Crestone Trustees and Mayor Danforth, their counsel Brandon Dittman, to the Citizens who signed on to this challenge, and all those who offered their financial and energetic support.

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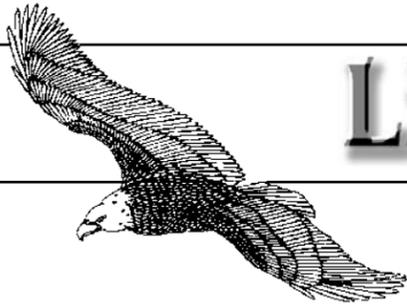
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Living on the Earth

Owner Builder Conversations

Domes by Jeff & Nate

by John Rowe

I was driving up N. Chapparral last month and saw this beautiful white dome structure taking shape with what looked to be pallets of concrete block stacked on the lot. Excitedly, I pulled over to investigate as I had been interested in a relatively new method of home building, do-it-yourself “aircrete” domes. Aircrete has become the popular name for blocks made from portland cement, soap foam, and water. As I walked into the entrance of the large dome, I had the distinct impression that I was walking into a cathedral, this feeling being magnified by the presence of large cathedral-like window openings well placed in the walls. It was truly inspiring space to just stand and bask in. Inside I found owners Nate Deschenes and Jeff Baker working away. We struck up a conversation and agreed on a time for an interview.

Nate and Jeff met over 20 years ago as avid snowboarders in Mammoth Lakes, California and became fast friends. Both have strong entrepreneurial spirits as evidenced by their career paths. Jeff started a successful publication, *Snowboard Magazine*, and

Nate went to work for him as a reporter and feature writer. Both have snowboarded all over the world and Nate, in particular, developed a severe case of wanderlust that lasted for many years, fueled by his ability to work as a journalist for a variety of publications.

Nate became interested in this aircrete dome building several years ago, seeing a video made by an outfit named Dome Gaia. He signed up for a ten-day workshop to learn how to build these domes and caught on quickly. He had previous building experience and immediately began to work on aircrete domes all over the world—in Spain, Costa Rica, Peru, and elsewhere. Nate came home to Mammoth Lakes, got together with his old friend Jeff, and, as these things turn out, Jeff had sold his magazine and was on the lookout for a new career path. He immediately was taken by these domes, “so beautiful, symmetrical, clean and simple in shape and design.” Nate, too, is taken by the simple beauty of domes, and like so many of us, thinks the space is akin “to being in a cathedral—peaceful and fulfilling. It just feels good to be in them.” They (and I) find domes to



Jeff Baker and Nathan Deschenes in front of Crestone Custom Dome Construction (mid-phase).
photo by Jeff Baker



18ft custom dome built in the Canary Islands.

photo by Nathan Deschenes

have a minimalist zen-like quality that is very pleasing. And Jeff, with his background in publishing, is convinced that more and more, “buyers will only buy houses that look good on Instagram.”

They are modern guys, folks. So they struck up a business partnership and named their company Compass Home Design. They liked the idea of moving to Colorado and building their first house together here. After all, land is cheap in Crestone, the building codes are fairly loose, and Crestone is a lot like Mammoth Lakes—small and in a spectacular mountain setting. And they are eager to demonstrate that their dome will be snug in our cold winters with a modest amount of heat generation. Building dome houses is, of course, not a new idea and has been around as long as igloos have. More recent offerings have utilized standard concrete blocks or factory-made stressed-skin panels. Both of these methods have significant drawbacks. Concrete blocks are heavy, poor insulators in cold and temperate climates, difficult to work with, and use lots of cement, a building material that uses much in the way of fossil fuels to produce. The stressed-skin panels are expensive to manufacture and install, and are available in limited styles, taking artful creativity out of the building equation.

Enter aircrete. Aircrete

blocks have made dome building much more practical, economical, feasible in colder climates, and accessible to the amateur builder. Affordable machines are available to make blocks with instructions on constructing do-it-yourself molds and at least one manufacturer, a company in Florida, makes the blocks for sale. The only ingredients necessary to make aircrete blocks are water, Portland cement, and a quality dish soap to make good foam. These blocks use much less cement than ordinary concrete blocks and are therefore much more earth-friendly to use, are light, good insulators, can be easily sawn, hammered or screwed into and sanded down to a desired degree of smoothness. And of course houses made solely out of aircrete, vinyl windows, and stucco will never rot or suffer insect infestation.

Nate says that the 6” thick blocks they are using “have an R-value of 24 and that is plenty, given the geometry of domes. There are no corners to lose heat from and there is a natural circulation of air that keeps the domes comfortable in all sorts of weather. And no fan is necessary to spread heat around when using a wood stove to heat.”

Nate and Jeff bought the lion’s share of the blocks they are using and use their aircrete-making



18ft custom dome built in the Canary Islands.

photo by Nathan Deschenes

continued on page B-10



by Kim Malville

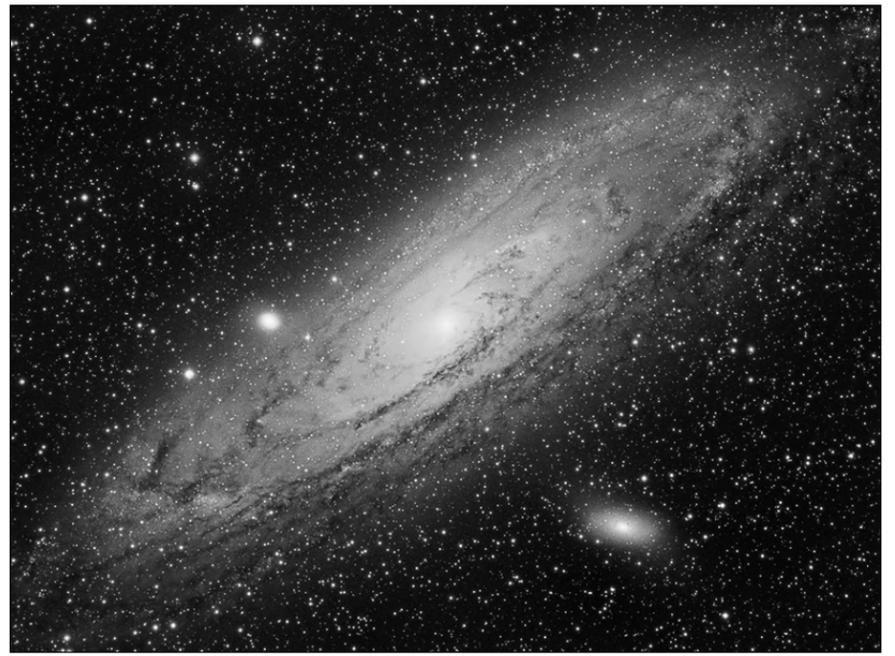
December 1: Soon after sunset look to the west for the line of planets: Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter. Saturn is highest and Jupiter is lowest. During the next two weeks, Jupiter gets lower and lower and finally vanishes around the 15th. Venus is closest to the earth and moves eastward fastest, eventually catching Saturn.

December 10: Look quickly westward after sunset to catch Venus and Saturn, which are less than 2° apart.

December 13-14: Venus has passed Saturn. Tonight and tomorrow there will be the Geminid meteor shower. In 2016 observers reported as many as 147 meteors per hour. The best time will be between

close to the sun, releasing some of the particles. In the case of the Geminids the source of meteor particles is a rock which heats up when approaching the sun. Its surface reaches 1500 degrees F and cracks, leaving dust particles behind it.

December 21: The longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere. Solstice occurs at 9:19 p.m. The sun experiences an annular eclipse, visible in a narrow path running from Saudi Arabia, through the Emirates, Oman southern India, across Malaysia to the Philippines. At this occasion the moon is too far from the earth in its elliptical path and is too small to cover the sun completely.



The great galaxy of Andromeda

Siggi

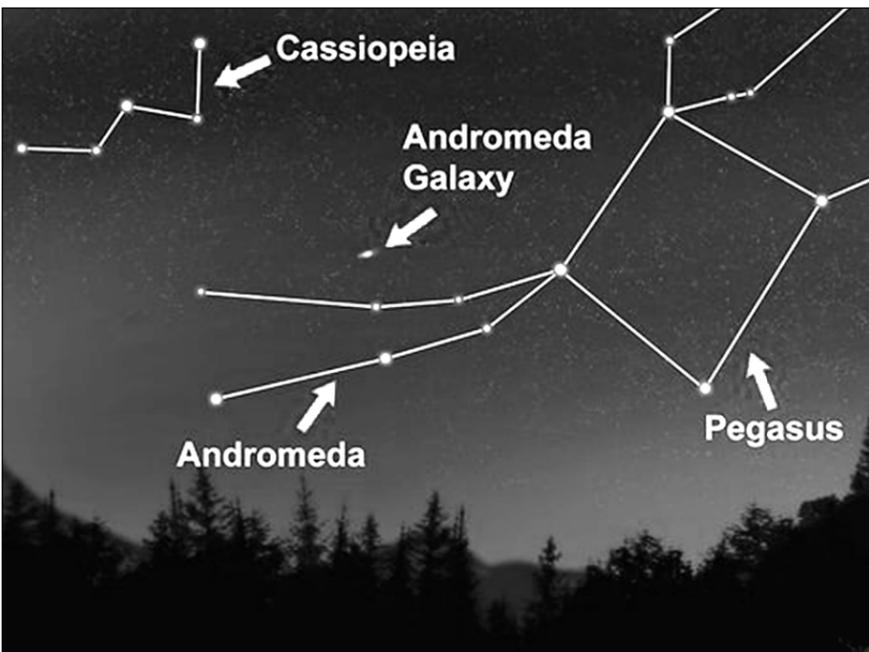
eyes are fellow passengers in our galaxy. The most distant star most people can see without a telescope is in the constellation of Cassiopeia at a distance of 16,308 light-years. The next most distant object is the Andromeda galaxy at distance of 2.5 million light years—a huge leap in distance. The Andromeda galaxy is a spiral galaxy similar to but larger than our Milky Way, containing around a trillion stars, twice as many as in our own. Unlike most of the billions of galaxies in the universe, it is moving toward us at a speed of 68 miles per second. We expect the collision will occur in 4.5 billion years. The fate of the earth and solar system is unknown, but we could be ejected from the combined galaxies as a result. At the center of Andromeda there lies a huge black hole containing as many as 200 million solar masses. I dare say, it will be far, far better to be ejected from the combined galaxies than to fall into the black center.

Andromeda in myth

Andromeda was the princess of Ethiopia, daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia. The queen was a boastful woman, and foolishly bragged that her daughter was more beautiful than Juno, the queen of the gods. In order to avenge the insult to his nymphs, Neptune sent a sea monster, Cetus, to ravage the Ethiopian coast. The horrified king consulted Ammon, the oracle of Jupiter, who said that Neptune could be appeased only by sacrificing Cassiopeia's beautiful virgin daughter, Andromeda, to the monster. Andromeda was duly chained to a rock on the coast. Rocks in the harbor of Tel Aviv are now identified as the place where she was chained. Fortunately for her, the hero Perseus happened to be near,

flying on the winged horse Pegasus (the progeny of the Gorgon Medusa) on his way back from killing Medusa, whose head he is carrying in a leather bag. Hearing her screams, Perseus pulls the bloody head of Medusa with her head of snakes out of his bag, and shows it to Cetus, who immediately turns to stone and sinks to the bottom of the sea. Perseus unchains Andromeda, careful not to expose the head to her, and they immediately fall in love. One hurdle remained, however. Her original suitor drops into their wedding ceremony and, like Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate*, tries to spirit Andromeda away. Medusa comes to the rescue. Perseus pulls her head of his bag and quickly turns the suitor into stone. They had a happy marriage with nine children. If you don't believe this story, check out the 1981 movie, *Clash of the Titans*, where it is all confirmed. Furthermore, in museums of the world, there are paintings of the naked, chained Andromeda by painters such as Titian, Rembrandt, Rubens, Delacroix and Gustave Doré. Enjoy Andromeda in the sky!

Compassion is not weakness and concern for the unfortunate is not socialism.
-Hubert Humphrey



The constellation of Andromeda and the Great Square of Pegasus

wikiHow

midnight and 4am when this year you might see some 20 meteors per hour. This shower seems to be under-appreciated compared to other major showers such as the Perseids in August, probably because it is colder in December than August. Most meteor showers are produced by the debris embedded in the "dirty" ice of the comet. That ice sublimates when the comet comes

Constellation of the Month
Directly overhead at 8pm in early December is the constellation Andromeda and its famous galaxy, lying next to the Great Square of Pegasus. This galaxy is easily visible in our dark skies as a hazy blob and is the only object in the northern skies that is not a member of our own Milky Way Galaxy. All the stars we can see with our naked



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Tensions mount

by Starr Sites
Capricorn focus

During December, 7 astrological points will transit Capricorn. Pluto will remain there until 2024, Jupiter and Saturn until mid-December 2020, and the South Node until May. Among the faster-moving personal planets, Venus entered Capricorn last month and remains there until Winter Solstice on December 21, when the Sun enters Cardinal Capricorn for the longest night of the year. By the end of the month Mercury leaps into Capricorn as well. That's alot of Capricorn energy this month with much of it continuing throughout 2020.

Saturn's qualities

Capricorn is ruled by stern Saturn, which is serious, practical, organized, thrifty, energetically restrictive, long on perspective, enterprising, and hard-working toward achieving its goals. Saturn also specializes in discipline, responsibility, strategic planning and timeliness—focusing on the task at hand with leadership.

Capricorn applies these qualities, along with ambition and often greed, administering and managing systems within the government, big business, corporations, Wall Street, and other hierarchies of control. Within these structures, Capricorn represents the president, the CEO, the board that sets functional parameters, and the upper echelons of wealth and power.

Pluto

The nature of Pluto is like a roto-rooter, clearing away the detritus of our lives. It brings destruction to whatever is no longer working and needs to be removed, irrespective of our attachments to the old ways. Once the old has been eliminated, new and improved systems can be built upon the compost of what was discarded or destroyed.

The archetype of the phoenix bird, rising magnificently from the ashes of destruction, applies to Pluto as well.

Mars & Mercury in Scorpio

Pluto and Scorpio (the sign Pluto rules) have dominion over the underworld, its mineral riches, tectonic movements, political and economic secrets, subversive rebellions, criminal behaviors, the breakdown of society, as well as its subsequent rebuilding. Mars (action) and Mercury (communications) in Scorpio, join Pluto to enact "retribution and slander" when challenged. However, deep writers may get a boost!

Tensions mount

What is approaching astrologically is a huge clash between stalwart Saturn and intense Pluto on January 12, 2020. These two heavyweights come together approximately every 35 years—previously in 1914 (at the start of WWI), in 1947 (as budding technologies emerged after WWII), and in 1982 (the rise of corporations). 2020 begins a new cycle where our debt crisis could lead to the redistribution of wealth, thus re-stabilizing the middle class while putting pressure on the 1% to carry their weight through greater transpar-

ency and prosecutorial accountability. Expect karmic consequences to intensify for us all!

Karmic consequences

Where you are strong in truth, you will likely "pass the test", but where you (or others) are blind, insincere or unaware, negative patterns within you may be targeted for "cosmic correction", but sometimes it takes actual consequences to awaken us to the need for change. This means *if* you remain alert to your own foibles, ideas, beliefs and behaviors, and are both willing and able to correct those aspects of self (or the world) that are no longer working, your life will become more enlightened in expression, and more meaningful in manifestation.

The mighty will fall

As Saturn transits the sign it rules for the remainder of 2020, expect those "at the top" to take center-stage, pilloried for their misdeeds and transgressions, plus their arrogance and excesses. Saturn represents accountability and Pluto extracts consequences for selfish manipulations. Together they bring "opportunity disguised as loss," with the eventual building of a better, more sustainable world, but only *after* the destruction and rectification of misdeeds and the elimination of corruption.

Jupiter in Capricorn

Having recently spent time conjunct the Galactic Center at ~28° Sagittarius, expansive Jupiter moves into constrictive Capricorn on December 3. This may feel

like a souring of our mood as lucky, free-spirited Sagittarius gives way to sober, duty-bound Capricorn. Spending 1 year in each sign, Jupiter traverses the zodiac every 12 years, so 2008 was the last pass, and yes, we can expect another recession to begin in 2020. However, with the Saturn/Pluto conjunction of 2020, this one is likely to be more severe than in '08. More on that next month . . .

Winter Solstice: Dec. 21

The tribalism in DC seems unshakeable as Sun, Jupiter, Saturn, South Node, and Pluto all squeeze together into the 4th house of Family or Tribe in the Solstice chart. There is little likelihood of Republicans splintering from almost unanimous support for Trump, despite facts ably presented in public testimonies by career diplomats of high integrity.

The Solstice Astrocartography Map shows Japan to be under extreme pressure from possible earthquakes or continuing nuclear accidents during the upcoming 4 months. Send prayers to calm the Earth.

Sun-Jupiter uplift

We will experience a lovely aspect on Saturday, Dec. 28 as the Sun and Jupiter co-mingle. Steeped in galactic light, Jupiter broadcasts higher consciousness to those who seek it. Drink deeply of these higher energies and expand your spiritual intentions to take full advantage of this blast of quantum light as we enter a whole new decade!

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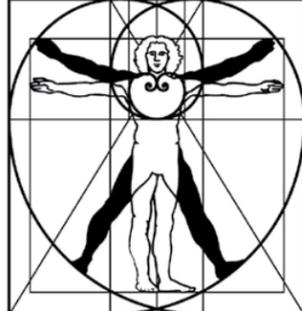
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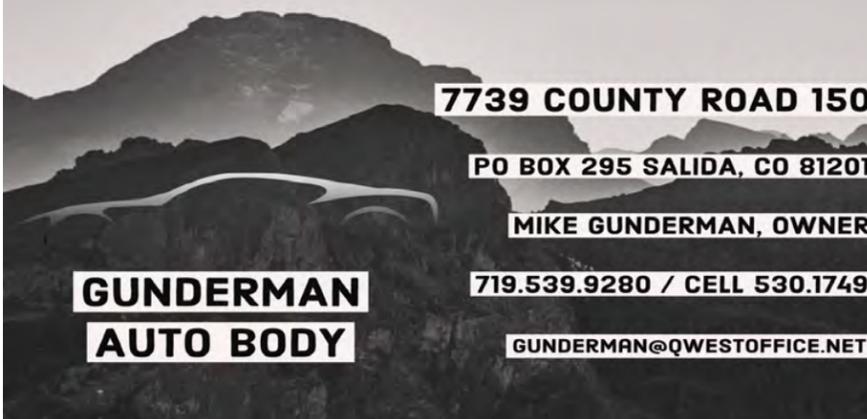
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Who We Are

Goldie Mariola:

Smoothing the sacred passage

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Goldie Mariola couldn't help but notice the fearful reluctance most of her relatives had about being with her grandmother in the final hours of her life. Her grandfather was in denial of the fact that his wife was dying, even though she was under hospice care. Goldie's aunts, who'd been visiting their mother, stayed away as the end neared. But Goldie, 28 at the time, remained at her grandmother's side through the days and hours leading up to her death—and the experience transformed Goldie's life.

"I remember the night she died and the energy in the room—I could just feel so many angels in there with us. I could feel my dad there, my grandmother's son, who died when I was six. It felt so sacred and blessed, the whole room felt like that space between worlds," Goldie says, her eyes moistening. Her experience of grace in a profound time of transition was in such contrast with that of her relatives that she found herself wishing she could help others be present with death in a more peaceful, accepting, and even beautiful way. Some time after that, an answer to her wish appeared.

She was in Boulder, where she rarely goes, when she saw a flyer for training to become something called a death doula. A doula is trained in non-medical ways to provide guidance and support through major life transitions, often around a birth. The flyer explained that a death doula, sometimes called an end-of-life doula, "helps recognize and fulfill the life wishes and goals of a dying person, for the process of feeling more whole and complete." Goldie was astonished: "What? There's such a thing?!" It sounded like exactly what she was looking for. Offered through the Conscious Dying Institute, the intensive training only happens once or twice a year, so Goldie signed up for the first one she could. She graduated as a certified death doula this past spring.

Eager to explore

In some ways all of Goldie's life to this point has prepared her for being open-eyed and unafraid in relation to death. Growing up in a close, extended family in Coal Creek Canyon near Nederland, Colorado, she was an outgoing, sensitive child who loved attention—singing, dancing, and making up plays. With the outdoors as her playground, she built "homes" for fairies and animals, even for ants, although they never moved in. After her father died, Goldie, her younger sister Maggie, and their mother traveled frequently, visiting Mexico, Hawaii, and making road trips around the country. Her high school also incorporated travel as a teaching tool, all of which instilled in her a love of exploration without fear. Everywhere she went, she remembered her grandfather's advice when meeting people: "Al-



Goldie and partner Matt Evers at Trinidad Beach in Humboldt, California.



Goldie with her namesake great-grandmother Goldie. For both of them the name is short for Golden.

ways be the first one to smile." And she absorbed her mother's inclination for seeking out small treasures off the beaten path.

Goldie's life veered off any semblance of a beaten path at age 20 after her grandfather had a heart attack and stroke. Attending Metro State University in Denver, she was interested in sciences and medicine until she witnessed her grandfather's suffering. "There was a moment when I realized Western medicine had failed my grandpa completely," she says. She switched to a complementary and alternative medicine program and then left school before graduating to study intensively with an Ayurveda teacher, completing a 700-hour training. It was the opening into a journey of self-discovery that led her to Reiki, yoga, and yoga teacher training.

It also included an unexpected detour to Guatemala. At 24, she was about to head off for an adventure in southern France, where she planned to find work on a sailboat in the Mediterranean. The night before her flight she was browsing online and came across something about Lake Atitlán in the Guatemalan highlands. She changed her ticket and flew there instead. She ended up staying six months on a permaculture/yoga farm, learning all she could and returning periodically over the next few years.

From ocean to high desert

Then in 2013, Goldie was living in Arcata, on the northern



At the peak of Volcán San Pedro, Lago Atitlán, Guatemala, with friends from the permaculture/yoga farm.



Earthship Academy students and the two-room earthship they built in four weeks in Ushuaia, Argentina, 2013.

California coast, when she learned of the earthship concept of home building and became extremely intrigued. She contacted the earthship community in Taos and was told there was one spot left for the next training—in Argentina. A month later she was in Patagonia putting her hands to earthship construction. Two years later she met Matt Evers in northern California. When they became life partners, she knew she wanted to build and live in an earthship with him.

She also knew she wanted that to happen in Crestone. She had discovered this community after connecting via an earthship Facebook page with Thomas Schultz and Debra Peace Powers, who were building an earthship here. "As soon as I got here I just knew this was my place," she says. Matt grew up in Boston, lived close to the Pacific in California, and loves the ocean, so she was nervous when she brought him to the high desert for the first time. But he was smitten too.

Many gifts

As she speaks, Goldie, now 31, is sitting in the living area of the earthship home she and Matt began building three summers ago with help from work parties

of friends. With the interior left to complete, she eagerly anticipates the sun-filled south portion of their home being filled with plants. She also looks forward to combining her death doula skills with other modalities to extend services as a "sacred passage doula." Among her offerings: end-of-life care, family member support, grief ritual, sacred vigil, Ayurvedic nutrition, herbal and lifestyle support, Reiki, and massage—as well as the gentle, peaceful energy she brings to those with whom she works. As she puts it, "Being with people in a way that allows them to open up, ask questions, and be vulnerable—that feels like a gift."

Finding herself in Crestone is another equally unexpected gift, Goldie says. She and Matt especially appreciate the sense of community with others of like mind in alternative building and lifestyles, as well as the area's natural beauty. Not to mention the existence here of the Crestone End of Life Project and its open-air cremation pyre. "Everything fits," she says, smiling. "It's almost like: Who built this town just for us?"

Contact Goldie at goldenskulldrums@gmail.com

Working hard to protect the environment, the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council has had a busy year

by Christine Canaly,
SLVEC Director

The Rio Grande National Forest & the revision of their fifteen-year Management Plan

The Forest Plan revision process started in 2014 and San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC) has stayed involved throughout the entire revision. Their draft Record of Decision (ROD) on the final Plan came out this past August. SLVEC responded by filing an objection, which was filed on October 1.

We are disappointed; it's actually gotten worse than the "Proposed Draft Alternative B" which came out in 2017. The public was galvanized, submitting over 400 personal letters from locals who supported Alternative D, the conservation alternative. SLVEC was not alone. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) also filed an objection and highlighted many of our concerns including: excluding big game winter range management areas; no seasonal limits on winter (over the snow) travel; no standards, including monitoring, to manage for Species of Conservation Concern; and interestingly, the Rio Grande National Forest didn't even consult with CPW, a co-operating agency, before they came out with their final Plan decision. This Plan is important because it will determine how the Rio Grande Forest will be managed over the next 15 years. It is the first forest in Region 2 to be using the revised 2012 Forest Planning Rule.

There is however, a silver lining.

SLVEC, along with your public input and the Saguache County Commissioners', were able to get the Forest Service to recommend over 47,000 acres in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains for wilderness.

SLVEC is committed, now more than ever, to push to develop strong land management standards to maintain wildlife corridor connectivity and baseline monitoring.

We will also commit to moving the "Sangre" Wilderness recommendations forward and will look to introducing legislation in coming sessions. Your financial support is so important to us. Please consider donating on-line at: www.slvec.org.

Working with Friends of Wolf Creek to find a long-term solution for Wolf Creek Pass

Brief history: In 2008, Judge John Kane ruled that the Rio Grande National Forest Service must conduct another Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consider year-round highway access for the "Village at Wolf Creek" (VWC) developers. In fall 2009, the VWC developers were back with a new, scaled-down version of the Village. This new proposal included 1,711 units to be constructed in eight phases, beginning with 492 units. The developer also requested another 207-acre land exchange next to the current in-holding. This new piece of property, directly adjacent to Highway 160, would remove the main obstacle—highway access—in order to

move the "Village" development forward.

In 2014, The Forest Service, through a Record of Decision (ROD), approved the land exchange supported by the developers. SLVEC, with Friends of Wolf Creek (FWC), responded by filing a lawsuit in June 2015, challenging the ROD, which would allow the land exchange to move forward. That would provide highway access to a private in-holding whose owner plans to construct a development housing a potential of 8,000 people. This high-altitude location receives an average of 428 inches of snow annually, and provides an important wildlife corridor for many species, including the reintroduced Canadian lynx.

On May 19, 2017, The Honorable Senior Federal District Court Judge Matsch (now deceased) issued an Order. The Federal Judge set aside the Forest Service Wolf Creek Land Exchange and directed the Forest Service to address development impacts on the National Forest and lynx, for any future "Village Proposals."

In July 2018, the Forest Service responded with the following press release:

"A new draft Record Of Decision from the Rio Grande National Forest is designed to provide reasonable access to the 288-acre parcel via a new road corridor . . ."

The Forest Service press release goes on to say "This new draft decision provides the access that is legally required for private inholdings. Furthermore, this access option was fully analyzed in 2014, so no new analysis is needed. The draft decision is based on Alternative 3, the so called ANILCA alternative, as analyzed in the final environmental impact statement completed for the Village at Wolf Creek Access Project in 2014. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, a national authority, grants private land owners surrounded by National Forest System lands a right of reasonable access."

The issue for SLVEC and FWC partners has always been the interpretation of "reasonable access and use." We clearly do not see a large scale development as "reasonable use."

SLVEC, with FWC, filed a lawsuit in Federal Court in May 2019, challenging the ANILCA Record of Decision (ROD). This decision is based on an EIS from 2012. So much has changed on Wolf Creek Pass: beetle kill (about 90% of the spruce is gone); the West Fork fire complex altered the landscape (vegetation and wildlife adaptation) along the continental divide; and on the federal level, the recent Waters of the US (WOTUS) executive order, impacting wetlands, just to give a few examples.

Judge Matsch passed away this past spring, and the new ANILCA challenge has been reassigned back to Judge John Kane's court. So, the Wolf Creek issue has run full circle with federal court judges.

SLVEC and partners have continued to Review FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) material (over 100,000 documents) and other research documents to buttress a legal challenge.

SLVEC will continue to educate the public about the significance of the last remaining, largest connective core habitat area left in the southern Rockies, between

in southern Colorado. Eight people participated.

The tour took place on May 30-31, 2019 representing a product of the San Luis Valley Waste Diversion Study to present current operations outside the valley to public officials and to promote education and leadership on recycling. In order to plan for the future, on-site visits were intended



The beautiful Alberta Reservoir in the Rio Grande National Forest. The SLV Ecosystem works hard to protect our natural landscape. photo by Ruth Heide

the south San Juan and Weminuche Wilderness areas, that would be destroyed by this large-scale development. Please consider a SLVEC membership—go to www.slvec.org.

Oppose the current aggressive agenda of opening up large areas of public lands to oil and gas leasing.

The proposed oil and gas leasing near the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve continues to be postponed. The BLM had proposed to lease 11 parcels totaling 18,360 acres (about 2,660 acres and about 15,700 acres of split-estate private surface) in Huerfano County in its September 2018 lease sale, but that has been delayed, due to Navajo Nation consultation.

SLVEC, Conejos Clean Water, Sierra Club and the local group Citizens for Huerfano County worked to engage the Navajo Nation in this lease sale process, pointing out that the Nation hadn't been consulted by BLM, regarding the potential leasing, and it made a difference.

SLVEC, with many others, are aware that Mt. Blanca, near the potential oil and gas leasing sale, is a sacred mountain to the Navajo. The public also stepped up because the BLM received over 2,500 public comment responses regarding their draft Environmental Assessment on this potential lease sale.

Working to implement the 2017 Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling Regional-10-year-Management Plan

County commissioners and members of San Luis Valley's recycling team attended a two-day tour sponsored by SLVEC to see first-hand how recycling gets done

to inform local officials and business leaders about various operational practices currently in use, technical advancements in the recycling industry, market concerns, public cooperation, workforce, and the type of infrastructure and equipment needed to make it happen. Five facilities were visited.

The tour included guided walk-throughs of recycling facilities that served large rural areas. These facilities have invested extensively in the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) systems and infrastructure to provide the final sorting, handling, and baling of materials ready for shipment to end markets.

Attention was also placed on finding local end markets, or "closed loop" systems for materials which eliminate the high cost of transportation, and examples were shown, like converting office paper to cellulose.

After experiencing the complexities of MRF-based recycling and comparing it to the valley, a Commissioner commented "I think we need to continue to focus on residents sorting their own recyclables rather than switch to single-stream. Education is key. We need to encourage people to reduce and reuse."

SLVEC is currently working to build this education component and plans to research some end market possibilities that could be implemented here, especially focusing on the agricultural sector.

Donate please!

Your financial support means a lot to us; you can go to www.slvec.org or send a check through US mail to: San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, PO Box 223, Alamosa, CO 81101.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

Marshmallow (*Althea officinalis*) & the soothing herbs



by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

For those of you who might think I'm referring to those sweet, puffy white things, I'm sorry to disappoint you. The first marshmallows were actually made from the root of the marshmallow plant, and hence the name. I remember making them in my early years as an herbalist—when my kids were young. My youngest was very disappointed when she took some to a camp-out and tried to roast them on the fire. They didn't melt.

Marshmallow root itself is one of the most soothing substances I know. Anyone who has ever made a tea of the powdered root can testify that after a few minutes in a cold infusion, the tea has a slimy consistency and a slightly sweet

taste. Not bad, if you're not offended by the consistency. It can also be made as a hot infusion in a pinch, simply by pouring boiling water on a teaspoonful of the powder and drinking right away. The sliminess of the infusion is what soothes. Whether it is a troubled digestive system, urinary tract infection, or inflamed, irritated lungs, marshmallow soothes so well it's hard to think of living without it. In herbal terms it is a demulcent, a soother of internal tissues, and therefore also an anti-inflammatory. If I'm in need of this on the road, I just put a spoonful of the powdered root or a few spoons full of the cut root in my water bottle, and let it infuse as I drive, sipping it as needed.

A few relatives of marshmal-

low, in the Malvaceae family, that can be used in the same way are scarlet globe mallow and common mallow (local), and also hollyhock and hibiscus. A few other herbs that work similarly to soothe many systems are licorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*), and slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*).

In this holiday season, use marshmallow root for indigestion, soothing colds and flus, and soothing stress and frustration. I hope it becomes one of your go-to herbs as well.

Marshmallow flower essence, according to *The Chemical Free Me*, is "For softening emotions related to anger, agitation and frustration. Provides a calming effect on the emotional body." That's about what I thought it would be. Perhaps we all need marshmallow physically and emotionally in this inflammatory world!



Marshmallow flowers.

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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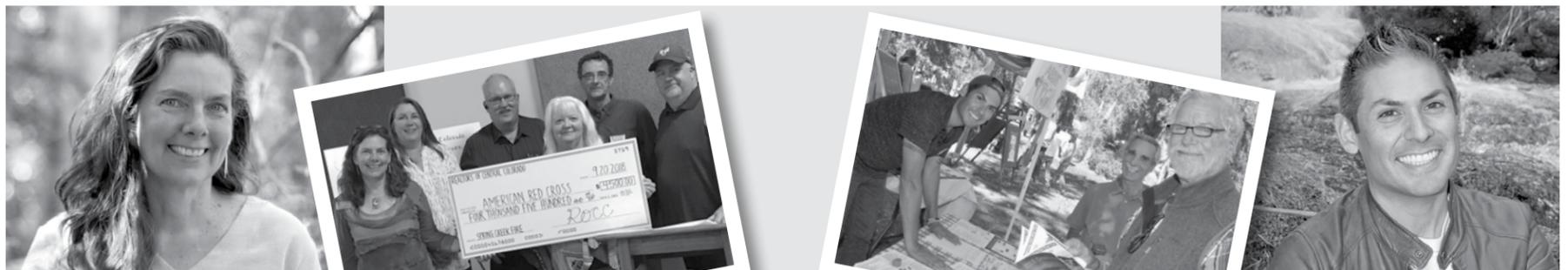
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Franktown man attacked by deer that was suspected to be hand-raised by people

A 56-year-old man was gored by a deer in Franktown, CO and received medical treatment at a hospital Wednesday evening, November 13. Wildlife officers suspect the aggressive deer was hand-raised by people.

The man was released from the hospital Wednesday evening. The deer was dispatched by a Douglas County Sheriff's Office deputy after responding to a 911 call from the homeowners. The deer had displayed aggressive behavior towards the officer.

The man and his wife told Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers they saw what was a "friendly deer" fitted with a fluorescent orange dog collar on the other side of their fence around 4:50pm. The wife reached over the fence and the deer approached touching her finger with its nose, then the buck came through a break in the fence line. It approached the woman and knocked her back, pinning her into the barb-wire fence.

The husband tried to intervene and the deer attacked, knocking him to the ground and dragging him around the yard. He sustained wounds to his lower body from the buck's antlers.

The wife ran inside and called 911. She was able to shoot a pellet gun towards the buck, distracting the deer long enough so the man could get up and get behind a boat in the yard to separate himself from the buck.

Wildlife officers believe this deer, a two-year old buck, was one that was domesticated and set-free in the area recently. Prior to Wednesday, CPW had no previous reports of a collared deer in the area.

"Every indication we see points to this deer being raised by people, one from its collar and two from its behavior," said Wildlife Officer Casey Westbrook. "We suspect somebody was raising it and released it after they couldn't handle it anymore."

"These are some of the dangers that come when you try to domesticate, or even just feed wildlife, which is a major issue we start to see this time of year. These animals learn to expect something from humans and when they don't get it, they become dangerous and encounters like what we saw here can happen. Mix in the fact that deer are now in the breeding season, and this all contributed to something that could have been prevented."

A concerned resident notified CPW Wednesday around 2pm of a picture from a Facebook post that showed a man interacting with this deer the previous Saturday.

Wildlife officers contacted the man in the Facebook post, who said the buck had approached him on Saturday while he was doing yard work at his home in Elizabeth. The



Pictures of the deer show the fluorescent orange dog collar that was fitted to the buck, which had approached a man doing yard work at his home in Elizabeth prior to the attack in Franktown. "If this was reported to CPW earlier instead of being posted on Facebook, we might have been able to prevent this," Westbrook said. "The behavior of any wild animal can be unpredictable, and the behavior of wildlife that get domesticated can be demanding and aggressive."

man stated the deer had attempted to push him around with its antlers and showed the officers several pictures of him fending off the animal.

CPW received another report at approximately 4:45pm on Wednesday of the same deer that had chased a 10-year-old boy near Tomichi Drive and Caribou Drive in Franktown before a man pulled his car in between the child and the deer to prevent an attack. The incident involving the 10-year-old was just down the road from where the man was gored by the deer minutes later.

It is illegal to own or possess wildlife in Colorado. You cannot remove a wild animal from the woods and take it home. As a public resource, wildlife belongs to the state of Colorado, to all citizens.

"Colorado's wild animals should stay wild," Westbrook said.

If anyone has information of people raising or attempting to domesticate wildlife, it should be reported to Colorado Parks and Wildlife by calling 303-291-7227. It can also be done anonymously through Operation Game Thief at 1-877-265-6648 or sending an email to game.thief@state.co.us.

Update on effort to remove phases four & five from the Closed Basin Project; Peggy Godfrey presented

by Emmy Savage

On November 11 and November 13, 2019 Peggy Godfrey, board member of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) board, presented to the Town of Crestone Board of Trustees and the Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuges respectively, a summary of her presentation to the RGWCD board on September 9, 2019 regarding the Closed Basin Project (CBP). She reviewed the history of the Project and then described the rationale behind its inception and the legal parameters within which it was mandated to operate.

The Closed Basin Project was designed to remove "salvage" water from the saturated soils of the northern San Luis Valley and to use that water to meet Colorado's compact obligations to downstream users of the Rio Grande River. However, by the time the Project was implemented in 1988, pivot irrigation systems had begun pumping, and saturated soils and "salvage" water no longer existed. The difference between salvage water on the surface and the recharge water presently being pumped is 100 vertical feet beneath the surface. Peggy argues that the Project is no longer pumping the water it was legally mandated to pump and that it is lowering the proximate water tables and damaging the surrounding environment of the northern San Luis Valley.

On September 9, Peggy requested of the RGWCD board that they shut down the wells in Phases 4 and 5 of the Closed Basin Project. At both the Crestone trustees meeting and the Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuges meeting Peggy requested that boards of each write formal letters to the RGWCD board by that board's next meeting in January, expressing

concern over the 31 years the CBP has been pumping and to request that Phases 4 and 5 of the Project be shut down.

Both the Town of Crestone Board of Trustees and the board of the Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuges agreed to review Peggy's request and to respond with letters to the RGWCD board. In conversation after these meetings, Mayor of Crestone Kairina Danforth remarked that, "I am delighted that we are discussing ways and means of stopping this diversion of our precious water."

Friends' board member and one of the two partners of Wetland Dynamics, LLC Jenny Nehring, requested that Peggy stipulate that in shutting down Phases 4 and 5, there not be an increase in pumping in downstream Phases 1, 2, and 3. Friends' President Tim Armstrong later remarked that the Friends were concerned about the impact the pumping is having on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. He said that the combined effects of climate change and chronic drought conditions since 2002 have the potential to greatly exacerbate the effects of the CBP pumping.

In addition to her request for letters from the two boards, Peggy also requested letters and anecdotes from people who have lived in the upper Northern San Luis Valley all of their lives or at least 30 years. Letters observing changes in the environment since 1988 may be sent to poetpeggy@gmail.com or to emmysavage@yahoo.com. Individual letters expressing concern and observations may also be sent to: Cleave Simpson, at cleave@rgwcd.org or to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, C/O Cleave Simpson, General Manager, RGWCD, 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101.

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Garden Guru

Holiday garden gifts



by Matie Belle Lakish

Holiday gifts for, and from, gardeners can be as creative as the gardens themselves. Whether you are giving a gift to a beginning gardener or choosing something for the experienced gardener who has “everything,” it is the thought that counts. Gardeners specialize in “creating,” and creativity is key to sharing your love during the holiday season.

I think back on some of the gifts I have been given and have received with deep appreciation: a pair of “rose-pruning” gloves from my sister that had long leather cuffs to withstand thorny bushes, a gift certificate for plants at a leading nursery from a gardening friend, a lovely hyacinth bulb in a pot from my neighbor.

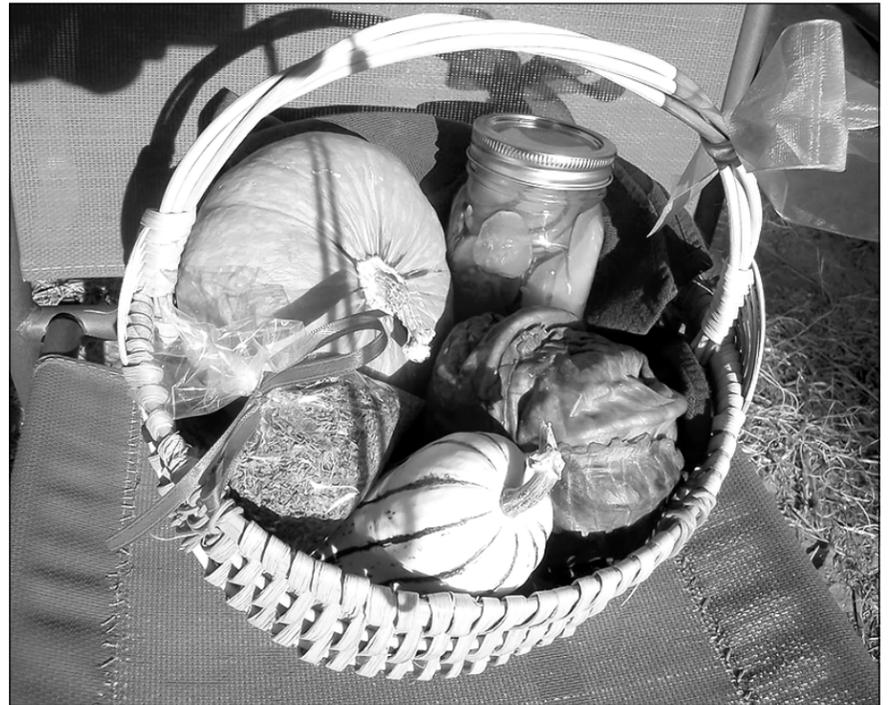
Of course, I always like plants in my house, and poinsettias are traditional for the season. Daffodils and tulip bulbs in pots, as well as other potted flowers that can go in the ground next spring are always appreciated and can brighten up a room with their color and aromas. I have a jade plant in my living room window that has witnessed countless family dramas over its 20 or so years. Its original donor has now died, and I appreciate her every time I water my little tree. It has been decorated by my grandchildren nearly every holiday with handmade birds from Grandpa.

My neighbor is a photographer, and over the years has taken

many photos of flowers and plants in my garden. I have a photo of a sunflower on my wall that is just about life-sized. Whenever I look at it I remember the summer of its growth, and it reminds me of my sister, who has always loved sunflowers. Other photos by my friend preserved the plants and animals that visited my garden in the past, such as the hummingbird moth sucking nectar from my lilac bush. A packet with a few garden cards makes a great gift. Many other artists in our area create in many mediums that are garden-related. How about an outdoor sculpture for a friend’s garden, or a painting of fruit or flowers that will last forever? Garden-inspired music, anyone?

Food items from the garden are always welcome. I have a few jars of crabapple jelly that I hope to share this year. I have received welcome gifts of champas (rose hip) jelly, chokecherry jelly, and serviceberry jam. I often include home-canned fruit, salsas, and relishes in gift baskets. Herbal vinegars and herb-infused oils make a great gift for salad lovers. A package of hand-made kale chips is a unique and healthful gift. I often receive packages of dried apples from my sister in Oregon, who has some century-old apple trees.

We often make baked goods to share during the holidays, but other prepared food items might also be appreciated. Plastic cartons of



Holiday Veggie Basket with purple cabbage, Hopi squash, dill pickles, and dried parsley.

frozen soup can share your garden produce while providing warmth and nutrition to those who don’t cook often. Frozen casseroles can be heated and served later in the winter.

Dried herbs and native plants can be great gifts. A selection of tea herbs, or seasoning herbs, packaged attractively, is a creative and inexpensive gift that can bring joy for months to come. Or perhaps you would like to make sage or juniper bundles for aroma or for ceremony.

Most gardeners have a tool in mind that they have been needing, but have not yet acquired. Maybe they’ve mentioned a certain kind of hoe, or maybe you know they could use a good pruning shear. Even something as practical as a solid rubber wheelbarrow tire, or linseed oil for oiling their tool handles may be welcomed. Did you notice that their garden hose is too short, or has cracks and kinks that are frustrating? Give them a new higher-quality hose, or perhaps a nozzle that works better than what they are currently using. What other tools could they use?

How about a book on a topic they have expressed interest in? High-altitude gardening is always relevant to this area. Maybe they would like more information on hugel culture, growing in straw

bales, various irrigation techniques, or new gardening tools. How about new research on soil microbes, earthworms, or pollinators? Perhaps they are building a new greenhouse and need more information on construction techniques, or planting suitable varieties. Some of my favorite books are the old Rodale books, *How to Grow Fruits and Vegetables by the Organic Method*, and *Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*. These and other classic gardening manuals can sometimes be found in second hand stores. I also have an interest in how food was grown by our ancestors and native peoples in various places. I particularly like to read first-hand accounts by Native Americans living in the southwest, as their information is so relevant to our climate and growing conditions.

Maybe a magazine subscription would be a good choice. I have always enjoyed my editions of *Mother Earth News*. There are other good magazines relevant to our unique growing conditions, and other media forms, such as videos, may also be appreciated.

If you are a gardener, and your recipient is interested in becoming one, he or she may appreciate a “gift certificate” of your time and energy. Time spent together preparing a planting bed next spring can yield two gifts: a place to grow their first plants, and the knowledge of how to do it in the future. Most of us gardeners have had mentors, at one time or another, who helped get us started. The passing on of our knowledge can be one of the most positive gifts we can give to the next generation. Or we may have friends or relatives who can no longer garden for themselves. What better gift than to plant that new rose bush or fruit tree? Perhaps a gift certificate for help weeding, pruning, or mulching.

And finally, how about the garden product itself? Did you ever package up an extra-large cabbage or put a bow on a fine winter squash? What about a Holiday Veggie Basket with just the right sized veggies for your favorite cook?

Wishing you a fruitful and creative holiday.

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Baca Grande Library News



by *Suzanne McGregor*

Please join us on Friday, December 13 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm for our annual Holiday Open House hosted by our Friends of the Library (FOL).

We will have snacks and punch and will gladly show you around the library if you are new to the area or have not been to the library in a while. Our Friends of the Library would love to share information about their function and activities if you are unfamiliar with the group. If you would like to contribute goodies to the party, please let us know—we will have a sign-up sheet at the front desk. Your contributions would be much appreciated.

Since the youngsters have some time off during their winter break, it is a good time to

visit the library. We have books on holiday traditions in other countries and of various religions, including information on the celebrations of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah and activities for the Winter Solstice. There are holiday cookbooks and how-to guides for crafts and handmade gifts. Our new display table in the front room will feature holiday selections to make it easier to find just what you want!

The reading program, Stories for Little Ones, continues on Tuesday mornings from 11am-noon at the library, led by

our favorite storyteller Penny from the Saguache Library. It is such a wonderful opportunity for babies and toddlers to socialize and interact with others, as well as having fun things to do. (Please check with us during the holidays to make sure Penny will be here).

Notice: The library will be closed for the holidays on December 23, 24, and 25 and January 1. May you all have many blessings this holiday season.

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



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<p>269 Springdale Tr. \$675,000 4BD 3.5BA. Spacious open floor plan, greenhouse, 2 car garage, horse stall, cottage with European wood stove, sauna and soaking tub. Completely off-grid with stunning wide open vistas.</p>	<p>187 W. Silver. \$475,000 Prime location in the center of Little Pearl Park in the town of Crestone. Currently Restaurant, Brewery 2 hotel rooms and Penthouse apartment. Long term lease in place.</p>	<p>158 E Silver. \$400,000 Rental income from liquor store and 11 storage units with the sale all full no vacancies and waiting list. Prime downtown Crestone location. Lease in place on liquor store.</p>	<p>3458 Enchanted \$395,000 Owner financing available on this exceptional income producing property. Established B&B & Retreat Business. Total 4 BD 3BA rental capacity. Bright & spacious with lots of windows.</p>	<p>609 Panorama Way \$319,000 3BD 2BA. Enter this home and feel the quality of craftsmanship. Living room has views that will keep you sitting on the couch for hours with your book & cup of tea.</p>	<p>2710 Happy Hollow Way \$298,000 2BD 2BA. Exquisite custom home with too many upgrades to list here - immaculate 2 master suites, upstairs deck you won't be disappointed. Must see!</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 and Retreat and spiritual Centers, and the Stupa.</p>	<p>5879 Blue Spruce Ave. Alamosa. \$265,000 3 BD 2 BA. Country living with close proximity to town. Home sits on 1 acre with paved street access. Home has numerous upgrades in kitchen, bathrooms, floor coverings, & more.</p>	<p>259 Moonlight Way. \$228,000. Situated high up in Chalet 1, just off paved road. Open airy floor plan and modern kitchen. Choose your colors and many upgrades to chose from.</p>	<p>1307 Moonlight Way. \$228,000. Choice of colors and options on this contemporary model on a lot near the creek and greenbelt. Upgrades and options available. Call for more details on this new construction.</p>	<p>1419 Badger Rd. \$219,000 2BD 2BA Great bungalow type home. Master Suite has large walk-in closet, full bath, & spacious bedroom with extra storage. Front mountain & valley views.</p>	<p>2721 Happy Hollow Way \$189,500 2BD 1BA. Great B&B opportunity, or vacation home, this home comes fully furnished, and ready to go. Walking distance to Dharma Ocean and many spiritual retreat centers.</p>
					
<p>3528 Enchanted Way \$187,000 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 road.</p>	<p>000 County Rd 59 \$185,000. 3BD 2BA 2000 manufactured home with additional older mobile built on with great room all done in locally milled wood, horse barn, calving shed, silo, paddocks & pens, 2 ponds!</p>	<p>1194 Hilltop Way \$184,000 1BD 1BA passive solar ranch style home, designed by Tucson Saryon, sits on .56 treed acres 5 min from town on paved road. Built in 2004 by Paul Kopanna.</p>	<p>1537 Antelope Way \$169,000 2BD 2BA Spacious bedrooms and modern bathrooms. Large spacious kitchen with dining area island. With lovely setting backing to the greenbelt with miles of hiking.</p>	<p>1182 Tomahawk Trail \$159,000 3BD 2BA. Beautiful views, and a secluded cul-de-sac. New exterior siding with hand carved window trims and interior trims. Hand carved chandeliers and lighting fixtures.</p>	<p>169 Verano Court \$158,600 2BD 1BA. New construction, vaulted ceilings, low maintenance exterior & tremendous mountain views. This small home feels bigger than actual square footage.</p>
					
<p>2283 Happy Day Overlook \$150,000 1BD 1BA. Amazing views from this high up location. Lovely organic home, made with natural materials, and comes fully furnished, stainless appliances, gas cooking, washer & dryer included. No POA.</p>	<p>365 Camino De Oro \$149,500 2BD 1BA. Affordable living in the growing town of Crestone. HOA of \$394, includes snow plowing to driveway, road maintenance, tennis, golf, parks, library & hiking trails.</p>	<p>17567 County Rd 71 \$125,000 2BD 1BA. Classic mountain cabin built in 1963. The home is on well and septic. 1/2 acre, nicely shaded by towering juniper, spruce and cottonwoods.</p>	<p>139 Rondo Ct. \$115,000 2BD 1BA. Do a little fix up, and have your energy efficient self sufficient home-stand. Solar system runs the home, however, you are hooked into the grid for double protection.</p>	<p>26094 Woodward Ave. Moffat \$96,500 3BD 2BA. This is one of those must see to appreciate properties! So much for the price, park your RV, boat, or other toys here in the oversized garage. On 3.3 acres with spectacular views.</p>	<p>56494 Country Road AA. Moffat \$67,000 2BD 1BA. Great opportunity for sweat equity. Home is bank owned being sold "AS IS". Nice mountain views. Has a barn, and some fencing. Lots of potential, with some clean up, and fix up.</p>

Dome homes

continued from page B-1

machine primarily for custom shapes, such as form-framing windows and doors. They say that “if we value our time at \$25/hour, it works out about the same to buy blocks as to make them ourselves. Plus we are not worn out making all those blocks before we even start building.” The dome has gone up quickly, and they hope to be done with the basic shell before winter hits; even though they have had either two or three guys working, they have been at it for only three months or so. The windows are large and beautiful, there are two smaller auxiliary domes attached and there will be a stylish front entry doubling as a mudroom. A beautiful quality of aircrete is that it is easy to make into a variety of shapes and easy to saw as well. And as Jeff says, “the

lightweight nature of the blocks is not to be undervalued when you spend all day, every day, laying up block.”

Nate has researched the strength of aircrete block as well, and even though they are not as strong as ordinary concrete block, they are plenty strong enough and the structural qualities of domes has every block supporting every other block. A mesh-reinforced stucco coating inside and out also helps tie everything together, making the domes stronger yet. Dome-shaped houses have withstood hurricane winds, earthquakes and even some lava flow from a Dome Gaia workshop structure in Hawaii, although building in the possible path of a volcano is not recommended.

Jeff and Nate are happy with their progress and the way the domes are taking shape and plan on building another one on a lot they have already purchased. They are open to building to suit or building a spec house or two; circumstances will dictate the direction they take. They both love these homes and both want one for themselves as well. They have had a lot of people stop by to look—it is hard not to want to park your car and look around. They plan on continuing and perhaps expanding their home-building business and welcome all inquiries along these lines. Jeff and Nate are also just good guys and will try to answer basic questions about aircrete dome building for those who are interested. Please contact them at compasshomedesign11@gmail.com.

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Trooper tips: Traction laws

by Colorado Master Trooper Gary Cutler

It's that time of year again, so we need to address snow storms and driving in them. This year there has been some confusion with the new traction laws that travelers will be facing, so I'm here to help answer some of those questions.

Most of the focus for the traction law has been about I-70 in the mountains, but this can pertain to any of Colorado's roadways that the state is responsible to maintain.

Let's start from the beginning: commercial vehicles are required to have chains on their vehicles from September 1 through May 31 on I-70 between milepost 133 (Dotsero) and milepost 259 (Morrison).

Now let's look at passenger vehicles. As a driver of a passenger vehicle you will need to be aware when traction law is being implemented. The state will usually put this information on Variable Message Signs (VMS) along the roadways, or on CDOT's web page. When this happens you need to be concerned with Code 15 and 16 which pertain to all passenger vehicles. The traction law will usually be implemented when you see snow starting to accumulate on the roadway. Code 15 is the first level which basically says passenger vehicles need to have at least one-eighth inch of tread on all tires. You will also have to have either snow tires, tires with the mud/snow (M+S) designation, four wheel drive, or all-wheel drive.

When Code 16 is implemented, this is a last ditch attempt to keep the roadway open. Now there will be a larger amount of snow on the roadway which means all vehicles will need to have chains or an alternative traction device (ATD) such as Autosocks. It doesn't matter if have four wheel drive; you need to have chains on your tires.

Earlier I mentioned passenger cars are not required to carry chains or ATDs during the aforementioned time frame, but here's the kicker. If the chain law is enacted after you get into the mountains you will not be able to access the roadway and may have to wait until the chain law is lifted to get to your destination. So if you don't plan on carrying chains or ATDs, make sure you plan prior to making your trip into the mountains.

The traction laws will be enforced and if you have inadequate equipment during the traction law you may be fined more than \$130. If you fail to comply with the mandatory chain law and you end up stuck and blocking the roadway you may be fined more than \$650.

The reason for the chain law is for safety and not to inconvenience other drivers by having vehicles that are ill-equipped for the weather and road conditions end up blocking other travelers.

I hope this has helped answer some of the question my office has been fielding the past few weeks.

As always, safe travels!

10 ways to lower your utility bills this fall & winter

by Rebecca Gramuglia,
Personal Finance Expert at TopCashback.com

Bundle up on warm accessories. The cheapest, easiest and coziest way to stay warm this winter without a spike in your heating bill is to wear warm socks and sweaters while inside. You can also cuddle up in extra blankets while sleeping and lounging! If you feel that your floors are cold, consider purchasing an area rug to insulate the floor.

Install blackout curtains. Keeping your electricity bill low can be tricky, but it is possible with the necessary items at hand. Save up to 25% off home heating and cooling this year by swapping out your regular curtains with blackout energy-efficient curtains that blackout 99% of outside light and up to 40% of unwanted noise. You can purchase blackout curtains and other winter essentials at a discounted price by shopping via third-party rebate sites such as TopCashback to shop your favorite retailers including Target and Walmart to receive money back on qualifying purchases.

Adjust the thermostat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, homeowners can save money when they are sleeping or not home. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. Install a programmable thermostat to make it easier to control the temperature while you're away from home or catching some zzz's.

Perform regular maintenance on your furnace. Winterizing a home is a great way for homeowners to prepare for the cold months. Keep your furnace and vents properly maintained and cleaned to reduce energy consumption.

Take shorter showers. Don't waste your time in the shower. Focus on getting in and out. If you can take cold showers, even better! You will ultimately reduce the expense of heating up water.

Don't let the water run while doing dishes or brushing your teeth. Letting the water run is a waste of time and money. Make it a habit to turn the faucet off while brushing and washing dishes.

Turn down your water heater. There's no point in heating the water if you're not home to use it! About 14-25% of the energy consumed in your home is due to running a water heater. Lower the temperature 10°-20° or turn the knob to "vacation mode" to save energy while you're not home.

Switch to LED lights. 'Tis the season for festive decorations and lights! Use LED holiday lights to reduce the cost of decorating inside and outside of your home. LED bulbs offer the brightest light for the least amount of money and are better perceived by consumers when compared to other energy-saving light bulbs such as halogen and compact fluorescent.

Consider eco-friendly options. Sustainable updates to your investment property not only are good for the environment, but they can also help cut costs on your regular expenses in the long run. Look into eco-friendly landscaping, smart tech options such as smart lighting and thermostats, and replacing old windows and siding.

Unplug to save on your electricity bill. Minimize a major bill at home by unplugging all unused electrical devices. Electronic devices have a tendency to continuously pull small amounts of electricity that can add up quickly. Eliminate that unnecessary usage by unplugging any items or turning off power strips that you're not using.

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SOLD!



1479 W. Badger Road - \$295,000
Straw bale 2BR/2BA/loft + Shop/Studio + Shed. Stunning panoramic views! Eco/natural finishes, solar active/passive & well insulated. Lg open floorplan. Exquisite Chef's kitchen. Spacious BRs. Colored concrete & bamboo flrs.

Under Contract



1 Carmelite Way - \$1,650,000
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.



1316 Whispering Winds Trail - \$414,000
Elegant & Sustainable 1BD/1BA strawbale home, 448sf detached office w/half bath, 320sf greenhouse w/irrigation, 166sf studio, 144sf storage & gorgeous professional landscaping. 2000W of solar PV. Fenced courtyard is a private oasis.



2145 Indian Well Way - \$320,000
This 1331sf modern 2BR/1BA bit in 2016 makes exceptional use of space, design & views. Detached 144sf bonus room. Upgrades include 5-piece bath w/stm shower, soak tub & heated floors. Beautiful kitchen w/copper sink, maple hardwoods.



246C Baca Grant Way - \$308,000
Lg. 3168sf 4BD/3BA/Study on 1.534ac. Recent kitchen updates incl cabinets, granite countertops & flooring. Remodeled mstr bath. Enclosed porch w/hot tub. Downstairs incl living space and a kitchenette. Very flexible floor plan for in-home business, rentals, large family.



535 Thornwood Trail - \$269,000
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.

Under Contract



2063 Sandstone Way - \$239,000
3 bd/2 ba 1332 sq ft home in Chalet I. Bright spacious 1-level floor plan, hardwood flooring, ETS, maple cabinets, vaulted ceilings, master suite, walk-in closet and shower, and new appliances.



1327 Badger - \$196,000
Highly-efficient 2BD/3BA + Office 1280sf 2-story on 1.88ac w/360 degree views, covered wrap-around porch & triple-glazed windows. Passive solar, wood floors, heat recovery system, wood stove & elec. baseboards. Proven rental history.



111 Skyview - \$189,000
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.



29 Sunset Overlook - \$175,000
Charming 2BD/1BA A-frame in Convenient location. Propane heater. Wood cathedral ceiling in LR. Large loft for Master Bedroom. Complete with carport, screened porch, balcony, deck, storage shed and fenced yard.



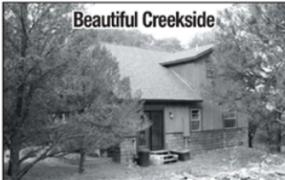
1537 Antelope Way - \$169,000
Neo Modern design 2BR/2BA 936sf home-2X6 framing, I. R. C. rated, R50 insulation in vaulted ceilings, lg kitchen w/ dining island, glass tile backsplash, stainless appliances. Backs to the greenbelt. 10X24 porch w/views.

New Listings



3652 Caprice Way - \$329,000
Gorgeous 3BD/2BA 1,617sf strawbale on 2 pvt ac's near Cottonwood Creek. Eff. passive/active solar construction. Low/no-VOC finishes, earthen plaster walls & low-EMF wiring in BDs. Polished adobe floors. Radiant in-floor heat. Metal roof.

New Listings



3862 Cordial Way - \$262,500
3BD/2BA 1352sf garden oasis on Cottonwood Creek! Fenced canopy of shady trees, lush yard & large garden ideal for those who like being outdoors. Great Room w/ vaulted ceilings and wood stove. Master Suite w/ balcony up. Must see!



107 E. 9th, Moffat - \$245,000
Spacious, 4BD/2BA 2,392sf hm on 1.5ac lot w/lg fenced yard & patio. New windows. Metal roof. Freestanding fireplace & air tight wood burner. Pvt mstr ste upstairs w/ sunken tub. Built-in bar in lg LR. Excellent shared Artesian well. Updated septic.



408 N Chaparral - \$239,000
Custom 1075sf 1BD/1BA dome home on 0.54 ac. Great Room w/ custom Kitchen & island. Oversized windows & lg archway w/ French doors to pvt deck. 3/4 custom BA w/ oversized shower. Elec. baseboard & ETS heat. Eco-friendly construction & materials.



1005 East Badger - \$215,000
Spacious 6BR/3.75BA hm on 1.117ac up high in Chalet 1 across from open space with gorgeous mtn views. 1913sf on main level & 1762sf walk-out bsmt w/kitchens on both levels. Shed, chicken coop, fenced area, front & back driveways.



304 Reynolds Ave, Moffat - \$125,000
This is a clean 3BD/2BA 1993 mobile home on a completely fenced treed lot. Huge 30x40 shop w/20' doors, heat, water and electric. Ready for a mechanic's dream. One block off of Hwy 17 in Moffat.

Grants



746 Camino Del Rey - \$349,000
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!

Grants



55 & 56 Wagon Wheel - \$349,000
Beautiful 2BD/2BA 1800sf ranch on 8.73ac w/600sf detached 2-car garage & 300sf shop/studio. High ceilings, ovrhd beams, lg windows & built-in fireplace w/g mantle. Gorgeous kitchen w/island. Master Ste w/ tub & shower. Radiant in-floor heat.

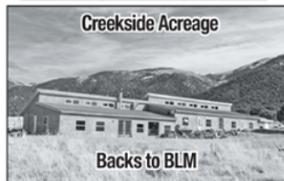


1377 Wagon Wheel Road - \$212,000
Unique 2BD/1BA + 200sf loft artistic earth-bag & concrete home on 3.239 ac. Sun room. Features incl. wood beams, arches & blt-in banco seating. Domed great rm w/skylights, eff. kitchen. Brick & wood block flrs. 2 woodstoves. Beamed ceiling.



1149 Camino Del Rey - \$181,900
Highly efficient like-new construction, 920 sq ft 1BD/1BA with state of the art photo voltaic system & well, newer appliances, in the Grants. Propane water heater. 9000 watt back up generator. Fabulous views of Mtns.

Moffat



26998 County Road 65, Moffat - \$349,000
4BD/3BA 36ac of gorgeous land backing to BLM land on both sides, near creek, & amazing views! Corral & pastures fenced for horses. Off-grid, new solar batteries & updated solar system. Home has 3 living quarters! Great for rentals or extended family.

Chalets



614 Palomino Way - \$659,000
Luxury 4BR/3BA 4040sf 20-sided polygon home w/views. Lg 375sf & 225sf balconies. Chef's kitchen. 5-piece Mstr BA. Carpet, tile & laminate floors, stucco exterior, metal roof. On-demand elec hwh. 6 ETS heaters. Detached 2-car garage, 2 driveways.



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

Chalets



4462 Ridgecrest Way - \$549,000
Residential Retreat Center. Beautiful strawbale construction. Central Complex w/ apt, lodging rooms, kitchen, dining room. Separate 1 bed/1bath home. Office Building/Yurt/Grow Dome. Great property for retreats, B&B, extended family home.



1970 Rockyview Way - \$425,000
Custom 2BD/2BA with loft/office & attached heated garage/workshop on 2+ acres. Artistic Venetian plaster walls, high end cabinetry & woodwork, solar hw in-floor heat, passive cooling pantry. High-end kitchen. Wdstoves, decks, garden & patio.



633C Panorama Way - \$345,000
Exquisite 3BD/2BA 1,982sf custom home w/fenced & landscaped lot. 2 car garage, workshop shed w/electric. Remodeled kitchen, large living, lovely dining w/patio doors. Wall beds in bedrooms. Upstairs large master suite w/ Jacuzzi tub & deck.



4201 Caprice Way - \$344,000
2640sf 2-level contemporary 3BD/4BA on 1.5 creek acres. 382sf upper deck w/ fabulous Mtn/Valley/Creek views. Huge Great Rm w/high ceilings can be used as studio or workplace. 3 Beds with Ensuite Baths upstairs. 425sf garage.



224 Rainbow - \$279,000
This 3BD/2BA w/2 living areas in Chalet I has it all! Bonus apartment w/private entrance. Fabulous mtn & valley views. Remodeled luxurious master bath, hardwood floors, new cabinets and more! Renai heaters, woodstove & passive solar.



2282 Happy Day OL - \$268,000
Unique opportunity to own this 3bd/2ba home with 1 car garage on .86 acre private location outside of POA. Very beautiful finishes & colors. Pine floors, sandstone tiles, woodstove & ETS Garden & fence. Deck and views.

Chalets



2200 Spanish Creek Road - \$259,000
2BD/2BA modern home in Chalet I will have metal roof, shiplap siding, propane powered: hwh, in-floor radiant heat & cooktop. Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, utility/laundry room, wood countertops, soft close kitchen cabinets, natural finishes.



565 Panorama Way - \$249,000
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.



1548 Antelope Way - \$230,000
2BD/2BA 1078sf home in prvt, wooded area near Willow Creek. Energy efficient, 11+in insulated concrete, R-50 walls & R-48 ceilings. In-flr radiant heat powered by on-demand hwh. Propane stove. Spacious Master. Maintenance free stucco exterior.



183 Bellevue Overlook - \$182,000
Classic 2BD/2BA 1192sf home w/lots of extras for the price. 2-car attached garage w/add'l storage, lg fully fenced yard w/ raised garden & great back deck. Home heated w/elec baseboard & 2 wood stoves. New laminate wood flooring throughout.

Land



2307 Echo OL - \$225,000
Lots 2307-2341. Rare opportunity to purchase 22.475ac high in Chalet I, outside of the POA. Institutional designation. Amazing views & privacy. Located in Baca Water district. Tap fee paid. Electric close by.

Jump in on an Active Market!



Colorado was the first state to give women full suffrage

The Year of the Women December 1919

Every month we are following the ratification of the 19th Amendment and considering women's issues then and now. In December of 1919 North Dakota, South Dakota and Colorado voted for ratification. Now the suffragettes had a total of 22 states signed on with 14 left to go.

Colorado was the 22nd state to ratify the 19th Amendment; however, it was the first state to give women full voting rights. On November 7, 1893, Colorado—27 years before national suffrage became law in 1920—the women of our state won an astounding victory.

Women had been enfranchised in the territories of Wyoming in 1869 and Utah in 1870, but this was done by legislative action. The women of those territories only had to convince a small, elite group of men to secure the franchise. In Colorado, they had to convince the majority of the state's men.

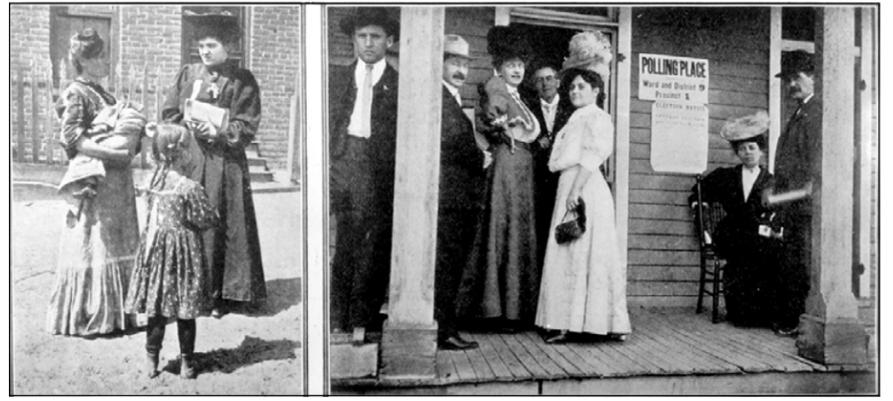
The women fought long and hard to secure the vote. Sixteen years earlier, their first bid at enfranchisement failed. However, on that ballot in 1876, they won two small, but important, victories. They succeeded in getting an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, which allowed women's suffrage to become state law through a simple majority vote on the part of the legislators and the electorate rather than through constitutional amendment which

required a 2/3rds majority. On that same ballot, they also won the right for women to vote in school elections, which they used to their advantage in campaigning for the 1893 election.

In the 16 years between elections, the suffragettes became very politically savvy and creative in their organizing, public relations and advertising strategies. One strategy was to get women to use the voting rights they already had to prove that they did want, and would use, these rights. Just months before the 1893 referendum, they mobilized women to get out and vote in the Denver School Board election, and largely through their efforts, they elected the first woman to that board, T. Hanna.

In part, they accomplished this by grassroots organizing, and by the time of the election they had established 60 chapters in their suffrage association. They also learned the value of creating coalitions with a diverse group of organizations. These included the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Grange (a farmers group), the Farmers' Alliance, and the Knights of Labor. Further, they enlisted white and black clubwomen, male and female journalists, and members of the People's Party to join their cause.

Ellis Meredith, Minnie J. Reynolds, and Caroline Nichols Churchill, journalists in the move-



A momentous day. Colorado women queuing up to vote in their first state election.

ment, conceived the idea of sending postcards to newspaper editors encouraging them to commit to women's suffrage. This proved to be a successful strategy.

But perhaps the alliance that served them the best was with The People's Party, a populist third party created in 1892 by laboring people, miners, farmers, and factory workers who felt the economic structure of the United States was stacked against them in favor of the wealthy. The party didn't last long and was dissolved by 1900; however, it enjoyed a surge of success in the Colorado election of 1892. Davis H. Waite, a populist, was elected Governor along with populist congressmen. They introduced the 1893 suffrage bill in the Colorado legislature and passed an act to submit it to the voter at the general election in 1893. It was passed by a 55% majority.

Interestingly, the suffragettes advanced two different arguments for their cause. They embraced both as compatible and continued to promote both throughout their campaign. One argument was based on equality, that women were the political equals of men and were entitled to the franchise. The other was that women are different from men. That their roles as mothers and housekeepers would allow them to extend their caretaking responsibilities beyond the home and that they would use their vote to reform society. Their national counterparts had embraced these different philosophies as well, but chose one, equality, and let go of the other.

A century later, these persistent, resourceful, creative and wise Colorado women are an inspiration and a role model for us all.

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Writer's Forum:

A generous season

by Tom Preble

Gentle rain is falling. It's evening and all is quiet . . . Too quiet! With every passing moment, our garden, the eager and irrepressible garden is growing. We've warned friends to watch out for squash vines growing faster than they can run! Savvy friends to the ranch know of our squash problem and lock their cars, lest their back seats mysteriously fill with zucchini, neatly stacked like cord wood.

My sweetheart has far too green a thumb, way too much of a good thing. Her pansies and cosmos have hurdled log-end edging and are marching out into the gravel drive. I've teased her that I'm close to classifying these as noxious weeds and getting after them with herbicide and a weed eater! Her pleas for mercy melt my resolve. Meanwhile, johnny jump-ups huddle and plot from under the front deck. Our garden is planted right up to the bedroom windows. Just outside, huge waving elephant ear zucchini leaves and six foot sunflower stalks resemble the flags and standards of a besieging Roman army. Snap dragons crowd the bottom edge of the living room picture window, peeping in at us. Petunias and marigolds run riot in barrels on the front deck.

"I just don't know what to say," my sweetheart offers. "They're mostly volunteers from last year's flowers, coming up on their own."

Apparently the volunteer plant army is being all it can be . . .

Friends, practical friends, engineer friends have tried to warn me off gardening altogether. "With the time and money invested, you're way better off just buying your produce from the store." People do wonder why we'd spend hard-earned money on gardening tools that unfortunately fit our hands, so that we can then engage in backbreaking work and come in at day's end sweaty and with socks black around the ankles. And then my logical, practical engineer friends wonder aloud why, at the very least, why would I be a willing accomplice to my wife's folly? "Waste of time and money!"—I hear it again and again.

But it's a hobby. Last year we pulled in over 200 pounds, wheelbarrow loads of winter squash (and I love the stuff) from our garden. The squash in our root cellar fed us and some friends too, clear into the next May. We buy vegetables only 12 weeks a year. No, not practical perhaps, but how many hobbies pay any dividend at all? My sweetie had laughed and observed that spaghetti squash is \$1.79 a pound at the market. "We're squash millionaires," we hugged and laughed.

Thinking of very practical friends, none of whom garden, I am reminded of an old saying about folks who know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

The simple and biggest reason that I am a willing accomplice in the garden is that it makes her happy.

She bursts in through the door in a huge sun hat, a rose blush to her tanned cheeks and grinning ear to ear. "Have you seen the peas today?"



she asks, and "The corn is as high as an elephant's eye! Come! Come see!" She takes my hand and together we step out into late summer golden evening light to survey our garden and its eager, optimistic and leaping growth . . .

Soon enough, it is autumn. Evenings on the ranch become chilly as darkness falls earlier. Then one night, there's a touch of frost and the squash vine's leaves collapse like damp tissue paper. We let our squash turn a deep golden yellow on the vines as they sugar up, and before nights become too cold we harvest them all. Ultimately even our hardiest plants succumb to the encroaching, inexorable icy breath of winter.

Faster now, the days grow ever shorter and winter is with us in earnest. Caught in punishing icy winds, trees naked and skeletal beat their knobby, sere branches against our west windows. Wind moans around the corners of the house and snow crystals pile up in drifts on the front deck, where once in our memory of longer days we sat taking it all in, drinking tea and breathing fragrant warm evening air.

Dark, cold grey days and a nip at noses and cheeks seems to be all we know or can remember as winter wears on at the ranch. Firewood splits easily with single digit temperatures or colder. I come in at dark from feeding and breaking the ice covering the animals' water. With chapped cheeks and a frigid, dripping nose, I shuck snowy boots and pad over for the wood stove hug, closely encircling but not touching the hot stove pipe. Droplets sizzle as the snow melts off of me and patters onto the iron stove top. Warmed, but still damp I sit for dinner. The wind rises and our stovepipe shudders. In pitch blackness we hear snow hissing against dark window panes.

Smiling proudly, she sets it all before me. Our beloved squash, bursting with homegrown flavor awaits my fork. I smile up at her, smiling down. Before I even touch her delicious baked chicken, I dig my fork into a hot, sweet and buttery mound—of summer.

Tom Preble, longviewranch@gmail.com



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Crossword puzzle solution from page B-17



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DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

Let me fess up. I am a political junky. That means I spend far more time than is reasonable keeping up with the latest political developments, opinions, and all the rest. I tell myself that political conversation, and all the images and metaphors it contains, gives a cultural observer some sense of where we're headed as a country. For a writer who wants to stay in the conversation, that can be useful. But if I'm honest with myself, I also know that part of the attraction for me isn't a whole lot different than rooting for a baseball team over the course of a long season. Who's winning? Who's losing? Where are we in the standings? I feel a surge of adrenaline when my guy is up in the last inning of the game. Two outs. Two strikes. Tie game. And here comes the pitch. My kind of entertainment. That said, the high stakes political dialogue many of us have been following lately is, of course, much more than that. Nothing less than the truth, and our ability to tell and discern it in the public sphere, is on the line. And with it, maybe, our democracy.

That's an important conversation, but it's one that is beyond the scope of this column. Besides, we're hearing plenty about that elsewhere in the media. So rather than dwell on the current situation and my own views thereof, I thought it might be more useful to celebrate one of my favorite American characters, a guy who was able to navigate the political scene of his time with insight and a sense of humor. That would be Will Rogers, the rope-twirling Cherokee cowboy born in the Indian territory of Oklahoma in 1879.

Will identified as a democrat: "I'm not a member of an organized political party," he once said, "I'm a democrat." But that didn't keep him from practicing equal-opportunity ridicule in his political commentaries: "Both parties have their good and bad times," he observed, "only they have them at different times. They are each good when they are out, and each bad when they are in." Or this one: "The more you read and observe about this politics thing, the more you've got to admit that each party is worse than the other." And even though he identified as a Democrat, his party didn't always come out on top in the joke: "There is something about a Republican that you can only stand him just so long; and on the other hand, there is something about a Democrat that you can't stand him quite that long."

Will Rogers died prematurely in a plane crash in 1935, but he left us a wealth of humorous political commentary. So here are a few of my favorite words from the cowboy philosopher whose observations of the political scene back in the 1920s and 30s are still on the mark today.

"America has the best politicians money can buy."

"Politics has got so expensive that it takes lots of money to even get beat with nowadays."

"The Democrats and the Republicans are equally corrupt where money is concerned. It's only in the amount where the Republicans excel."

"The difference between a Republican and a Democrat is the Democrat is a cannibal. They have to live off each other, while the Republicans, why, they live off the Democrats."

"A Republican moves slowly. They are what we call conservatives. A conservative is a man who has plenty of money and doesn't see any reason why he shouldn't always have plenty of money. A Democrat is a fellow who never had any, but doesn't see any reason why he shouldn't have some."

"The 1928 Republican Convention opened with a prayer: If the Lord can see His way clear to bless the Republican Party the way it's been carrying on, then the rest of us ought to get it without even asking."

"Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously, and the politicians as a joke, when it used to be vice versa."

"Congress is so strange; a man gets up to speak and says nothing, nobody listens, and then everybody disagrees."

"Politics is the best show in America. I love animals and I love politicians, and I like to watch both of 'em at play, either back home in their native state, or after they've been captured and sent to a zoo, or to Washington."

Will Rogers was a prairie populist who rooted for the underdog. He was leery of big money and the power that came along with it. So when he was asked to do a commercial for Standard Oil, his response reflected that. It was classic Will Rogers, I thought, so I put it into this poem some years ago:

What Will Rogers Said

So they asked me to talk on the radio about Standard Oil.

What do I know 'bout Standard Oil?

They say talk about their service.

Service? What kinda service?

That's when I remember that Black Angus bull

We had and how the neighbors brought their cow

by to get her serviced. Course my dad thought

I was too young to know 'bout service,

So I had to get up on a bucket and look through

A knothole in the fence over by the corral where

I saw for myself how that bull made his living

And then moved on, and it occurs to me

as I'm reflecting on the matter,

that Standard Oil does it that way too.

May we all bring levity and good cheer into our political conversations.

ONE HAND CLAPPING

11/10/2019

by Tom deMers

That's the day my daughter died. It was a Sunday, the day the Lord rested. Perhaps He wasn't looking in her direction, perhaps listening to the cries of Syrians mourning their dead children. This God was not a He but a She in the form of sorrow. Sorrow has its own orgasm. It's called grief, a thing without words, a thing that cannot be consoled. Grief wrings the tears out of you as if you're a rag, and if you're wise or pretend to be at such a moment, you'll allow yourself to be wrung until you're gasping and reaching blindly through the tears for a towel. It's not pretty, but it's the way we say goodbye when words are hopeless and someone large in our heart is lost to us.

My daughter ran away to join the circus. It was called Burning Man, a life of ecstatic celebration, and she committed herself to it the way she did everything, wholeheartedly. She was always leading with her heart, yet always full of wisdom. She learned to spin fire and was proud of her skill. Even when she was homeless, her fire staff was not far off. She played with fire as well, fire in the form of the alcohol that fueled an endless party. What others could rise and walk away from, crippled her ability to live. She withered in that fire. Her tech-

nicolor dreams, turned black and white, then gray, and now to the ashes from which her lovely flame is gone. I honor her mother, the woman who brought her into this world.

Tears are the words of grief. I can only write these words because grief has stepped away. I've lost the little girl who toddled along holding tight to one of my fingers, that blond head in a car seat, that full voice singing the Star Spangled Banner at summer camp, that grown woman who worried about



Elena DeMers fire spinning.

me driving at night now that I'm older, the one who loves green chile and puts it on pancakes as I suggested. I've lost my daughter, my pal, my teacher of what is truly to be cherished in life. Her happiness was all I wanted. She has it now. Blessed be.



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KIDZ KORNER

by M. Diane Bairstow

The Jokester

What are there a lot of when turkeys play baseball?
Fowl balls.

Where do pencils go for vacation?
Pencil-vania.

What's the best way to talk to a T-Rex?
From a distance.

Why did the boy run around his bed?
He was trying to catch up on his sleep.

What runs but never walks?
A nose.

Which flower talks the most?
Tulips, because they have two lips.

What did the spoon say to the knife?
"You're so sharp!"

What did the circle say to the triangle?
I don't see your point.

Where did the king keep his army?
In his sleeve.

Why did the student eat his homework?
Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake!

When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?
Because when you find it, you stop looking.

Why did the kid cross the playground?
To get to the other slide.

How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying?
You rocket!

What did the limestone say to the geologist?
Don't take me for granite!

What kind of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree!

What is a tornado's favorite game to play?
Twister!

What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?
Finding half a worm.

What do you call a boomerang that won't come back?
A stick.

What do you think of that new diner on the moon?
Food was good, but there really wasn't much atmosphere.

Why did the dinosaur cross the road?
Because the chicken wasn't born yet.

What gets wetter the more it dries?
A towel.

What stays in the corner yet can travel all over the world?
A stamp.

What kind of award did the dentist receive?
A little plaque.

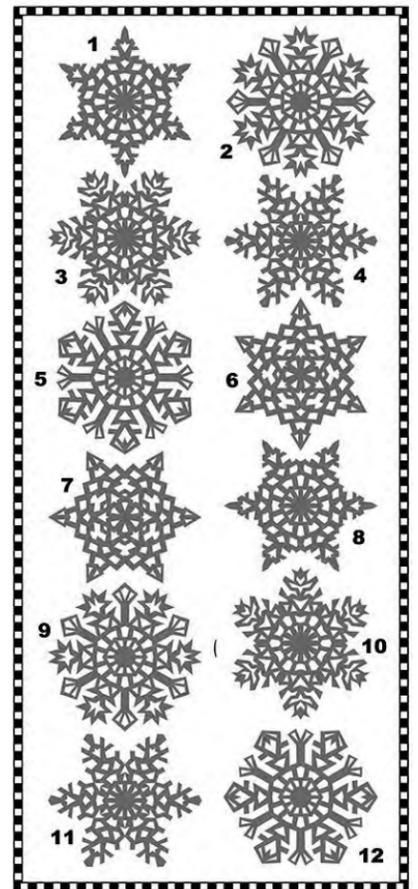
What do you call a funny mountain?
Hill-arious.

What dinosaur had the best vocabulary?
The thesaurus.

What did one DNA strand say to the other DNA strand?
Do these genes make my butt look big?

MATCH THE SNOWFLAKES

Match the pairs of identical snowflakes (keep in mind that they can rotate)



ANSWER:

1-8, 2-2, 3-3, 5-10, 4-4, 11-5, 12-6, 7-7

Find the ten differences between the two pictures.



Help Santa get out of the snowstorm maze.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

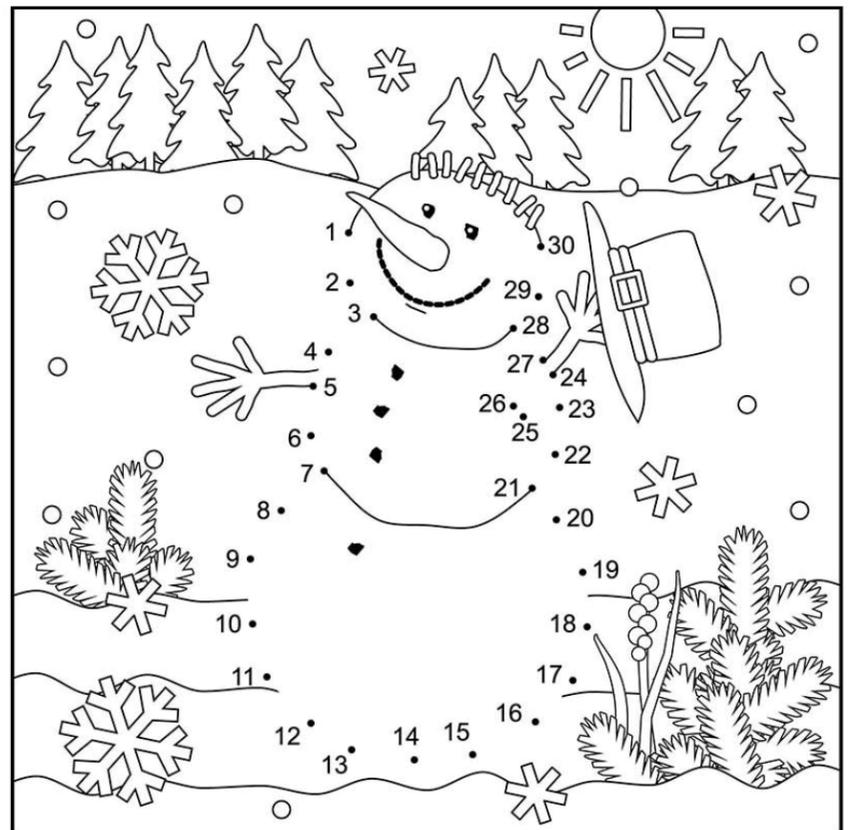
- Frosty the _____
- Observe a special event
- One way that Santa might deliver presents
- Season's wishes
- Children are fond of these as gifts

DOWN

- Time away from school or work
- A word that means happy
- A decoration placed on the top of the tree
- French for Christmas
- We decorate this for Christmas
- White and falls from the sky

word bank: snowman vacation celebrate merry chimney angel noel tree snow toys greetings

Draw a line from dot number 1 to dot number 2, then from dot number 2 to dot number 3, 3 to 4, and so on. Continue to join the dots until you have connected all the numbered dots. Then color the picture!



ANSWERS

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Roswell:

2019 Series, 22 episodes. A twist that centers on the residents of Roswell, New Mexico, where aliens are living amongst humans undercover. (3.3 stars)

2/ The Wolf's Call:

An interesting film about a talented acoustics expert who, as a young submariner, is able to recognize any sound. His talent comes into play as a mistake threatens the life of the entire crew and the whole world with the foreboding of a nuclear apocalypse. French with subtitles. (3.75 stars)

3/ Let the Sunshine In:

Romance, comedy, drama. Isabelle, divorced mother and artist, is looking for true love at last. A stunning performance by the inimitable Juliette Binoche who gives a realistic take of a search for true intimacy. Stars Juliette Binoche with cameos by Gerard Depardieu. (4.25 stars)

4/ Inkheart:

Adventure, fantasy. Mo, Dad, has a special talent of bringing characters to life out of books. One night he brings out three characters from the book *Inkheart*. Ten years later his daughter Meggie discovers the truth and it is up to her to escape the villain's grasp. Interesting with some great sets, entertaining. Stars: Brendan Fraser, Eliza Bennett, Paul Bettany, Helen Mirren (4 stars).

5/ Point Blank:

Action, crime, thriller. When an ER nurse's pregnant wife is kidnapped it forces Paul, the ER nurse, to team up with a badly injured career criminal and murder suspect in order to save his wife and unborn child's life. They are pitted against rival gangs, and a bevy of corrupt cops and the unlikely duo find a way to survive in the fight for their lives. Stars: Anthony Mackie, Frank Grillo (3.8 stars)

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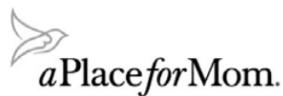
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THEME: 20TH CENTURY INVENTIONS

ACROSS

- Observation point's attraction
- Included for large parties?
- 252 gallons of wine
- Soprano's song, e.g.
- Pakistani tongue
- Word with foster or health
- Lancelot and Mix-a-Lot
- Unstable particle
- Orangutan, biologically speaking
- *Car safety invention
- Caspian Sea, e.g.
- They flock together?
- "___ the ramparts..."
- *RisquÈ garb named for atoll
- *Bakelite was first one made from synthetics
- RNs' org.
- Like a pumpkin on Halloween
- Ä
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" protagonist
- Columbus Day mo.
- Unlock
- Without, in Paris
- Limestone landscape forms
- Broke bread
- *Synthetic for a diabetic
- Putin's currency
- *Willis Carrier's invention conditioned it
- *Aspartame-based sweetener
- Hard tale to believe
- *Scuba diver's gear
- "It's still Rock and Roll" to him
- The Colosseum, e.g.
- Stage part
- Bohemian
- Gold coating
- Fishing rod attachment
- Sticky stuff
- Make a choice
- Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

- Military hospitals
- Fleur-de-lis
- Irish word for Ireland
- Sushi restaurant "burner"
- Set straight
- Objects of worship
- Fourth down option
- *Little Willie or T-34
- Egg on
- Opposite of paleo-
- Perugia region
- Make less refined
- Court bargain
- Touch of color
- Antediluvian
- Low in La Scala, pl.
- Relating to Quechuan people
- Unstable mesons
- Four-legged friends
- ___ Ligation
- All worked up
- Apple leftovers
- Multicolored horse
- *Acronym that revolutionized TV-watching
- But not always
- Like some suspects?
- CrÈme de cassis plus wine
- Like Ferris Bueller
- Monet's water flower
- Out of focus
- Provide with gear
- Cover with a story to tell?
- Beginner
- Charlie Parker's sax
- Golden Fleece ship
- Season to be jolly
- High school club
- *Air___, vehicle restraint
- Freddie Krueger's street

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Public Notices

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TOWN OF CRESTONE NOTICE OF ORDINANCE 2019-005

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-006 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-2 [AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO]) AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 2013-005 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-2 [AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO])

INTRODUCED, read in full, ADOPTED, APPROVED, and SIGNED the 11th of November, 2019 by

Kairina Danforth, Mayor

ATTESTED by Allyson Ransom, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM by Gene Farish, Town Attorney

PUBLISHED by title only as per CRS § 31-16-105 and Crestone Ordinance # 2002-014 on December 1, 2019.

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard of suicide, homicide and genocide, but what is ecocide?

—Leslie P., Carrboro, NC

While the concept of "ecocide" may be new to many of us, the practice of willfully destroying large areas of the natural environment has been around about as long as humans—although we got a lot better at it using the machinery we developed during the industrial revolution. Bioethicist Arthur Galston first started battling the term around in the 1970s to describe intentional widespread ecological destruction, especially as it pertained to ruining inhabited environments so people couldn't live there anymore.

One classic example of ecocide in modern history is American troops' widespread application of the toxic herbicide Agent Orange across Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War in the late 1960s. It was used to clear some 12,000 square miles of tropical rainforest to enable flushing out the "enemy," despite the toll on civilians and the environment. There are also plenty of present-day examples, including: mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia where by miners blast through hundreds of feet of earth to access thin seams of coal; the "fracking" for oil and gas across wide swaths of Canada's Alberta tar sands that has so far destroyed thousands of square miles of boreal forest and peat bogs while releasing hundreds of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; the dumping of crude oil and toxic waste into Ecuador's Amazon by oil companies too focused on profits to do the right thing about waste removal; and deep sea mining whereby the use of heavy machinery to ply veins of precious metals from the seabed is



Deva Serene and her son, Kuma, had a fun little snowball fight during the snowstorm the morning of November 22, as they were just wandering around Crestone enjoying the weather! *photo by Lori Nagel*

ruining marine ecosystems we still know little about.

In recent years Scottish activist Polly Higgins championed the cause of getting the International Criminal Court (ICC), an independent judicial body created by the United Nations in 1998, to recognize ecocide as a "crime against peace" in the eyes of international law. Her work focused on getting the ICC to add ecocide as the fifth prosecutable "core international crime" (along with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression). Sadly, Higgins succumbed to cancer at age 50 in April 2019, but her efforts to institutionalize ecocide as a major international crime lives on with other activists.

"Destroying the planet is currently permitted," says Jojo Mehta of the non-profit Stop Ecocide. "That is how ecosystems are being destroyed every day by dangerous industrial activity, exacerbating the climate emergency and destroying our forests, our soils, our rivers and the lands that we love."

Mehta points out that any of the 122 member states of the ICC can formally suggest adding ecocide as a major international crime. Stop Ecocide is working with small Pacific island nations which are already "feeling the sharp end of climate change" to urge ICC to finally adopt ecocide as another crime it prosecutes.

"Serious harm to the Earth is preventable," urges Mehta. "When government ministers can no longer issue permits for it, when insurers can no longer underwrite it, when investors can no longer back it, when CEOs can be held criminally responsible for it, the harm will stop."

Contacts: Arthur Galston's "An Accidental Plant Biologist," plantphysiol.org/content/128/3/786; International Criminal Court (ICC), icc-cpi.int; Stop Ecocide, stopecoide.earth.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

October 21 to November 20

Total precipitation for period: Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.28"

Snow: 4.3"

Measurable liquid precipitation fell on 4 days.

Measurable snow fell on 3 days

Measurable rain fell on 1 day.

No thunderstorms or hail occurred.

A trace of snow fell on 2 days.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 10.31"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 54.3"

Snow Season*: 4.3"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 60.9°F on October 27

Low temp: 0.4°F on October 31

Avg. high: 50.1°F

Avg. low: 20.5°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 20

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

Number of days with the low temperature below 10°: 2

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 2.0 mph

Highest gust: 45.0 mph on October 24

Main direction: Out of the northeast.

Weather summary

Temperatures were very much above normal while precipitation, including snowfall, was very much below the norm.

Outlook for December

December is our third driest month of the year, with only .60" of precip falling on average—and with normally all of that falling as snow; with 9.2" of snow being the normal average for the month, making December the snowiest month of the year. The snowiest December on record took place in 2014, when 25" fell. Finally, if you are dreaming of a white Christmas, you are in luck as far as living in this neck of the woods, as we see snow on the ground for most Christmas mornings. But with that noted, snow falling on Christmas day is rare. That has only happened here on 11 days since 1982. But thanks to our normal December snowpack, there has been only 8 Xmas days where there was no snow on the ground in the last 37 years.

Temperature-wise, we see the start of the coldest time of the year usually around December 20. Before that time, the average high and low for the first week of December is 37° and 11°, while by the last week of the month readings fall off to where the average high is 32° and an average low is around 7°. The all-time high for the month is 58°, reached 4 times, on December 1, 2 and 4, 1995, and one more time on December 3, 1998. The coldest temp ever recorded was -18°, set twice, first on December 23, 1990 and then again on December 8, 2005.

The 30-day outlook for December is calling for slightly above-normal temperatures along with slightly below-average snowfall.

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