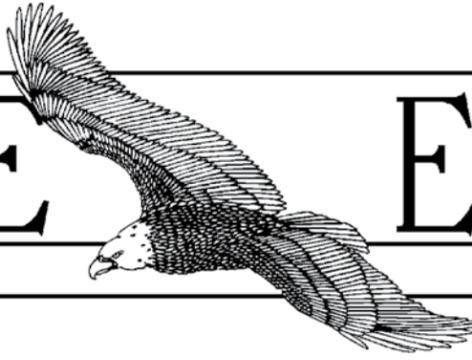


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 1

January, 2017 \$1

28 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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Frosty the snowman cheers up Crestone this winter smiling under a ponderosa full of colored lights. Magical.

photo by Donna Gohr

To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

State issues \$2.35 million in marijuana research grants

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has awarded \$2.35 million in grant funding for seven research studies to address potential public health and safety impacts of marijuana use.

Research areas will include an assessment of driving impairment in occasional versus heavy marijuana users, the duration of marijuana in breast milk and the types of marijuana products associated with emergency department visits. Other studies will examine

the effects of dabbing, marijuana use among older Coloradans, analysis of data comparing recreational marijuana use before and after legalization among college-aged students, and the short-term cardiovascular effects of marijuana use.

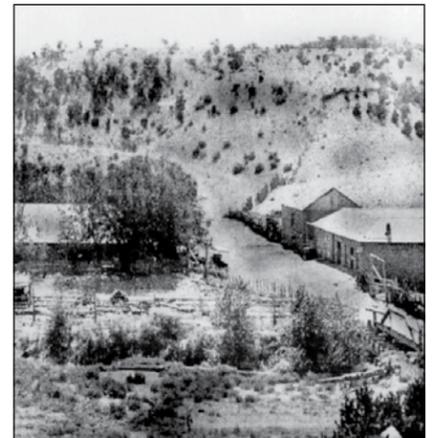
The state already has funded \$9 million in medical marijuana research, and earlier this year, the General Assembly authorized the additional funding to study potential public health and safety impacts of legalized retail marijuana.

The approved projects are in-

tended to continue to fill gaps in marijuana research, which historically was limited because recreational marijuana use was illegal. After voters approved legalized marijuana in 2012, the Retail Marijuana Public Health Advisory Committee was formed to monitor changes in drug use patterns, as well as the public health impacts of marijuana use.

"This research will be invaluable in Colorado and across the country," said Dr. Larry Wolk, department

continued on page 24



Along the Huerfano River

Historic feature and book review on page B-1. Photo is of the Badito settlement.

One person, one vote . . . except when electing POTUS

Electoral College makes the final decision

by Lisa Cyriacks

The 2016 election was hugely partisan and highly unusual. The "real" presidential vote by the Electoral College on December 19, when presidential electors meet in the 50 state capitols and Washington, DC, was no exception.

On November 8, the majority of Americans did not vote for either of the two major party candidates—the two least liked presidential candidates in recent US

history, say some reports. Neither candidate won by an absolute majority of more than 50%.

Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by almost 2.9 million votes. Republican Donald Trump will be the president who lost the popular vote by the widest margin in history. While there have been four previous occasions when a presidential candidate lost the Electoral College vote while winning the popular vote, Clinton's

margin of victory is notably large.

Clinton's win of the popular vote, but not the electoral vote, uncertainty about Donald Trump, and the possibility of foreign influence in the November 8 election, generated unusual interest in what is otherwise a political footnote.

Trump won the electoral vote because he prevailed in certain swing states. Supporters of the Electoral College say that the founders created it because they wanted to ensure that the election

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The Crestone Eagle

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Digital Subscription Rate: 12 issues \$15 digital.pdf
 Paper Subscription Rates: 12 issues \$20 Bulk mail.

For 1st class postage \$32. Foreign \$75.

Back issues \$3.50 each by mail.

The Crestone Eagle is an independent monthly publication. POB 101, Crestone, CO 81131.

Telephone (719) 256-4956

Email: info@crestoneeagle.com

www.crestoneeagle.com

No junk mail or solicitations please!

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

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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.



Thanks to Chris Botz

Dear Editor,

I would like to send a well-deserved shout-out to Chris Botz who has been an active volunteer and public servant in our community for the last decade. Chris has been involved in both our fire departments, most recently retiring from his job as Chief of the Baca F.D. For many years Chris also served us an EMT and ambulance driver here and saved more than a few lives in the process. In order to thrive, any rural community needs dedicated workers, volunteers, and just plain good citizens. Thanks for showing up, Chris,

Sincerely,
 Peter Anderson

Our library: Current & future

This past year, the two libraries of the Northern Saguache County Library District served over 37,737 visitors, offering free public computer access; free Wi-Fi; free interlibrary loan services; DVD, book, audiobook cassette, audiobook CD, and large-print book checkouts; meeting space; LCD projector and screen checkouts; and copy, fax, scan, and print services. Additionally, we offered over 200 children's programs in 2015 for ages birth-3rd grade. We checked out 26,105 items, had 5,983 computer users, and welcomed around 200 new patrons. Every metric we measure went up this year, and have gone up each of the past 5 years since the library district was formed. Our services are needed now more than ever before, and our need for a new library in Crestone is great.

Though the Crestone-Baca Grande New Library project stalled a bit in the past two years, we're re-starting the community conversation. In the past 2 months, we've held 2 community input meetings and have been inspired by the passion and enthusiasm of the attendees. In direct response to the feedback from the community, the

NSCLD Board of Trustees recently rescinded a motion from 2015 to move ahead with one library design. Instead, the NSCLD will focus on procuring the site first, then will begin a process of design. We are planning some exciting events in the very near future, which will be publicized through a variety of media, including our website (<http://nscld.colibraries.org>) and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/northern-saguachecountylibrarydistrict](https://www.facebook.com/northern-saguachecountylibrarydistrict)).

Our most pressing need right now is procuring the site selected by the community. Our time is running short: can you help us? Our website has a "Donate" button that accepts Paypal and Credit Card payments. Please indicate that your donation is for the new Crestone-Baca Grande Library Project. All donations to the Northern Saguache County Library District is tax-deductible under section 179(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code if made for a public purpose.

We are excited to work toward the future—to align our library services with community goals, to work towards the long-term sustainability of our library . . . in short, to become vital to every person in our community. Our numbers show that more people are seeing the importance of our libraries each year. Won't you join us on this journey?

Saguache County Library District, Crestone/Baca Library

Are you a creative? We need your help

Dear Editor,

Our creative arts district is applying for certification by the State of Colorado, and we need your help in demonstrating the breadth and depth of our creative community. Certification from the State will help make the quality of life better for creatives here in Crestone and, in the process, help our entire community. More specifically, designation from the State will open the door to grants and other forms of support for creative and artistic endeavors here.

Creatives and artists can help the district make the case to Colorado Creative Industries that we are indeed a creative and artistic community by filling out a simple form at Crestone Town Hall. It only takes a couple of minutes and it will help us in our application. So if you're a creative, stand up, be counted, and help your home

town. The term "creative," as defined very broadly by the State of Colorado, includes musicians, web designers, painters, landscapers, woodworkers, sculptors, culinary artists, writers, graphic designers, anything, in fact, being carried out creatively. It is our belief that we are a highly creative community. Help us show the State that it is so.

Thanks,

Crestone Creative Arts District Steering Committee

Kairina Danforth, Mayor, Crestone

McGregor Gaines

Elaine Johnson

Stephen Futral (Ish)

David Nelson

Ginny Ducale

Richard Collier

Deb Bouvier

Peter Anderson

County Roads practically impassable

Dear Editor,

I just drove home on Cty. Rd. T, which has gone unplowed all day today, Christmas. Does the public's safety take a day off on holidays? I called the Sheriff's office to let them know, and James, the dispatcher, informed me that Road and Bridge took the day off. I am sorry but that is the job they are hired to perform. Does the fire dept. take the day off? Police, apparently not because they answered the phone.

We got 4 inches of snow over here and the wind was drifting it, making travel treacherous. At least one vehicle was in the ditch. People drive every day and we have the expectation that primary roads will be open and made as safe as possible. This is a violation of the trust we place in our public officials and someone should pay dearly so that in the future a taxpayer does not have to pay with their life. Dereliction of duty is nearly a crime in this case. Some County employees just seem to think they are totally immune from responsibility. There needs to be accountability in this case.

Sincerely,

Thomas McCracken, taxpayer



Editor's Notes

New Year's wish list

As we start the year of 2017 I've compiled a wish list for Crestone and our greater region based upon conversations with my fellow half-frozen northern San Luis Valley neighbors.

First of all we wish that our country does not self-destruct, that our mountains, parks and forests will not get sold off to the oil industry and that if the federal government can't be of actual help to us, then they just forget that we're here.

We also wish for a heated swimming pool in Crestone. Covered, warm, with bath and showers. Big enough to swim in. Let me emphasize heated. Maybe with solar hot water.

We could also use an ice skating pond—other than the roads. I'd like to have a pool hall. Billiards, maybe also a shuffle board and darts. It would be fun to spend an afternoon knocking some balls around.

Let's include a movie theater on our list. I've always been jealous of Saguache's old Ute theater. Maybe we could move it.

Add dog park to the needs. Lots of room out by the POA Hall. Create a fenced place for dogs to run and socialize without being eaten by coyotes or chasing deer. A friendly way to meet the neighbor dogs.

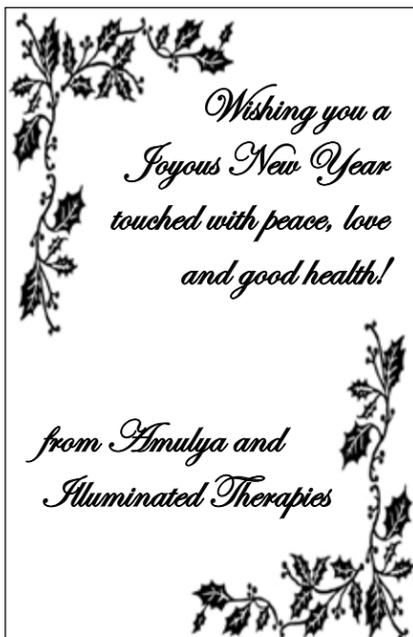
We especially need affordable housing (hard to pay \$800 a month when you don't make \$800 a month) and some decent paying jobs would be nice. Cleaning the swimming pool, taking tickets at the theater and hustling pool just won't pay the rent.

We can all wish for more tourists to come, spend lots of money, shop at the Saturday Market, enjoy the mountains and then go home.

On my wish list is a buyer for the Eagle so I can retire to my cabin in the woods and write letters to the editor about stuff.

Big on my list is wishing you all a healthy, happy, sane and prosperous new year. With warm thoughts from the deep freeze,

—Kizzen





Shane Ray Anderson
Aug. 21, 1968-2015

Shane Ray Anderson was born August 21, 1968 in Tulsa, OK. Shane's parents are: Mother, Janie Thomas of Moffat, CO. Father, Ray Anderson and step-mother, Felica Anderson of Wetumka, OK. Sister, Amy Walton of Texarkana, TX. Niece, Tia Walton of Texarkana, TX. He is survived by two aunts, two uncles, many cousins and friends in Oklahoma and Colorado.

Shane graduated from Wetumka High School in 1987. He moved to Tulsa, OK and attended Spartan School of Aeronautics, completed the required courses and training to receive his pilot's license. Shane was an excellent

pilot and I have many beautiful memories of our trips together. Shane served his country in the USMC during Desert Storm from 1991 to 1995. We moved to the SLV in 1999. While living here he worked for several hay farmers hauling hay to several dairies in New Mexico. His final job in the valley was with Saguache County Road & Bridge. He moved back to Oklahoma in 2013 to spend the remainder of his life with his family there. Shane was reported missing in Wetumka, OK on April 6, 2015 and his body wasn't discovered until Nov. 21, 2015. We have been waiting for the positive identification of his remains and received the report Nov. 30, 2016.

Shane loved life and lived it to the fullest every day! I am grateful for the privilege of being his mother and treasure every moment and memory we shared, he was my best friend! A memorial service was held in Broken Arrow, OK and we had a beautiful celebration of his life. We as family would enjoy cards/letters of your memories/times shared with Shane. They may be mailed to: Janie Thomas, PO Box 480, Moffat, CO 81143.

Thank you, Janie Thomas

Gonzales heading for trial in Rust homicide

by Mary Lowers

At the end of November 2016 Charles Moises Gonzales, 46, was bound over for trial on four counts including first degree murder, first degree burglary, tampering with evidence, and possession of a weapon by a previous offender in connection with the death of Michael Damien Rust who disappeared from his home in northern Saguache County in March 2009.

Investigation of tips led Saguache County Sheriff Deputies and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to remains they believed to be those of Rust on property owned by Gonzales' family in January 2016. In April 2016 the remains were positively identified through DNA as those of Rust.

Warrants for Gonzales' arrest for this crime caught up with him at the Colorado Department of Corrections facility in Cañon City where he was incarcerated on unrelated charges. Gonzales has a long criminal resume for offenses including assault, sexual assault, burglary, theft, vehicle theft, and criminal trespass. Judge Adele An-

derson called the evidence connecting Gonzales with the Rust murder authentic. Since Rust's death blow was a shot in the back of his head, the judge did not think much of Gonzales' claim that he shot Rust in self defense.

Tips from members of the Gonzales family, including Charles Moises Gonzales' son, his father and his common law wife confided to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office and CBI were instrumental in bringing this suspected murderer to justice. The SCSO cannot talk about this case until it has been adjudicated but have promised the *Eagle* an interview after the trial.

Rust's family who has never let the case of their loved one's disappearance and suspected murder go cold, had the happiest holiday in a long time with Mike Rust's crime solved and its most likely perpetrator incarcerated and on the way to trial. Michael Damien Rust's life will be remembered in Colorado by his family, many friends and mountain bikers whose sport he pioneered.

Fatal crash kills bicyclist

by Mary Lowers

On the evening of December 14 the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) responded to a vehicle/bicycle accident on CO Hwy. 160 west of Alamosa. Investigation at the scene show that the bicycle ridden by Tony Chavez, 38, of Alamosa was travelling east along the south edge of the highway. Chavez attempted to cross CO Hwy 160 to enter a private road. The bicycle passed in front of a 2005 Dodge Caravan driven by Carlos Duran, 44, of Monte Vista. The left front of the van collided with the bicycle. Chavez and the bicycle came to rest on the highway where he was pronounced dead at the scene by Alamosa County Coroner Robert Alejo. Alcohol and speed are not considered to be factors in this accident, which is under investigation.

Saguache County Crime report

By Mary Lowers

In an apparent county-wide sweep of those attempting to hide out from the law there were a number of arrests. A homeless man, 46, from the Crestone area was held in Saguache County Jail on charges including resisting arrest, fugitive from justice, second degree assault and obstruction of a police officer. The man was apprehended with some difficulty after complaints about him from people in the Rito Alto area where he was attempting to hide out. His bail was set at \$51,000. A Center man, 49, was jailed as a fugitive from justice with a failure to appear charge. His bail was set at \$2700. An Apache Junction, AZ man, 41, was taken into custody in Villa Grove on fugitive from justice charges. His bail was set at \$200, cash only. A Villa Grove man, 42, was jailed on fugitive from justice charges with his bail at \$1000.

A homeless Moffat man, 29, who was charged with failure to comply with a warrant, was held in jail on \$250 bail. Charges that include second degree kidnapping, robbery, third degree assault, and criminal mischief landed a Center woman, 24, in jail with a bond of \$25,000 set. A Center man, 26, sat in jail with \$25,000 bail on charges including burglary, theft, and harassment. Failure to appear charges landed a Center man, 40, in jail with no bail listed. A Saguache woman, 53, was taken to jail on failure to appear charges with \$5000 bail listed. A Monte Vista man, 30, was jailed in Saguache on a warrant from Rio Grande County. His bail was set at \$290.

The winter holiday season, as is usually the case, included a few Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs (DUI) arrests. A Baca man was stopped by deputies and charged with DUI, driving with excessive alcohol content, driving with an open container, defective vehicle, no insurance and a seat belt violation. He was jailed with his bail set at \$500. A Center man, 32, was jailed with \$10,000 bail for DUI, driving with excessive alcohol content and habitually driving with a revoked license. A Center man, 41, was jailed with a \$750 cash only bond for DUI, driving while ability was impaired, and driving while license is under restraint. A Saguache man, 56, was jailed with no bail listed on DUI charges.

On the domestic violence front, a Nathrop man, 26, was arrested in Center and jailed in Saguache on charges including: domestic violence, harassment, and criminal mischief with no bail listed. A Center man, 19, was jailed with no bail listed for charges of stalking and harassment.

Deputy Wayne Clark informed me that the investigation into the disappearance of Khristall Riesinger, a young mother who went missing in the fall from Crestone, is still ongoing and open. "We have been investigating a new lead recently in this case." Deputy Clark told me. He also said helicopters heard over town in early December were training, not on search and rescue missions.

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office wishes all a happy and safe new year. Deputy Clark reminded me that we all need to be ready for winter driving. He said, "If you go out make sure your phone's charged, you have gas, warm clothing, food and water with you. As always, we will be out there if you need us. The phone number for the Sheriff's office is 719-655-2525. Stay warm and be safe."

In the 'dumb & dumber' category:

Social media leads to street racers' arrests

by Mary Lowers

At least nine San Luis Valley residents are facing 173 charges including Illegal Speed Contests, Illegal Speed Exhibition, Reckless Driving and Reckless Endangerment according to a Colorado State Patrol (CSP) Press Release. Numerous complaints from concerned citizens started a ten-month investigation which yielded evidence of illegal and dangerous activity through public posts on social media. In this way suspects pro-

vided the CSP with video evidence of themselves racing side by side on SLV county roads at speeds in excess of 100 mph. One video shows suspects filming their speedometer showing speeds of 165 mph.

In the last year five hundred fifty-seven people have lost their lives on Colorado roads as a result of accidents, many caused by excessive speed. CSP expects to file more charges in the case in the coming months.

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by Town of Crestone Staff
 The Crestone Board of Trustees would like to hear from you! Starting January 2, a member of the Board will be at Town Hall, Mondays, from 1pm until 3pm. If you have questions, suggestions or just want to find out what Town business is happening, drop in and visit with a Trustee. On the second Monday of each month, you can find all the trustees at the Regular Board of Trustees meeting from 1:30-6pm.

It is that time again; we are ringing in the New Year. We have many things to be thankful for and

many more to look forward to. In the year 2017, we all hope for good fortune, prosperity and peace.

A black-eyed pea

There are many ways to celebrate the holiday. Some folks make resolutions when beginning a new year to bring a positive outcome. Others eat certain foods in hopes of a prosperous year. In the southern states of the U.S., the tradition of eating black eyed peas and greens is as deep as the Deep South. According to legend, black eyed peas were not considered to be fit for human consumption. Union soldiers came across these legumes and refused to eat them. The Confederate armies, finding the crops, were grateful for the food; hence the black eye pea is eaten today as a symbol of fortune. Greens, cabbage or collards are a late season crop, and also happen to be the color of money.

Black eyed peas are eaten for good luck and greens for prosperity. This is why some eat black eyed peas and greens to bring in the new year! Cook them the way you prefer and enjoy this tradition for yourselves!

We would like to wish you and yours a Happy New Year! May good fortune, success and well-being be with you in 2017!



Bags of much-needed gifts went to over 75 children. Many children had asked for warm winter clothes, hats and mittens (and some toys of course!). Many thanks to all the people who gave to make this possible. And special thanks to Elaine Johnson and Steve McDowell who do most all of the work to make this possible!

Crestone 'giving tree' lights up the holiday for local children!

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. The mercantile received the names of seventy-five (yes! 75) children who were in need this holiday. Because of special donations, we were even able to provide for several elderly and disabled people in the community!

The crestone giving tree sincerely appreciates several extremely generous donations, in particular, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Sean Cavagnaro (Denco Jewelry). Most of all, thanks to each and every one who made contributions and those who took the names of children from the tree. You made this a wonderful holiday for so many. For all of the children who had a happier Christmas because of your generosity—Thank you!



Giving tree elves Lili Zohar and Tevye Belous along with Jackie Sprock helped get the packages sorted and ready for distribution.

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HAPPY 2017 CRESTONE!

Crestone Brewing Co. Weekly Events

Sundays - Movie Night, 8 PM
 Mondays - All night Happy Hour
 Tuesdays - Open Mic night
 Wednesdays - Wine and Cheese with \$2 off glasses, half off bottles, specialty cheeses
 Thursdays - New beer release night
 Fridays - Live music every Friday night
 Saturdays - 1/2 off kids meals

Doughnuts and bloodies on the weekends!

January

Sunday 1/1 - Happy New Year! Buy one house beer, bloody mary, or mimosa and get a second for 17¢

Friday 1/13 - Luna Verde, 9 PM

NEW HOURS:
 Tuesday - Friday 12:00 pm - 12:00 am
 Saturday - Sunday 11:00 am - 12:00 am
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Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

Wishing all Saguache County inhabitants a happy, prosperous new year.

The County 2017 budget

According to Lyn Lambert, County Co-Administrator, the total budget for the County for 2017 including General Fund, Road and Bridge and Social Services, is \$13,516,557. This total was finalized after numerous department head meetings and a public hearing. A breakdown is available on the County website. At the end of the year, most departments were showing positive financials. Evan Samora, Housing Director, said his budget will take a hit because of required State regulations for testing and cleanup but still meets budget limits. Social Services and Public Health budgets are in good shape though they often lag because of grants or delayed payments.

Sheriff's budget

Sheriff Dan Warwick got an updated budget report before expending \$40,000 for a new vehicle. He's been driving an old ready-to-break-down vehicle. As of December the Sheriff is at 93% of his budget; the jail is at 92% of budget. With this cushion it was okayed for him to get the new car on this year's budget. He'll shift lights from older vehicles to meet his budget and will use a sales tax grant to get a radio.

Jail conditions

At the present time Warwick has 19 people housed in the Saguache County Jail, including one work release, one being housed for Alamosa. No inmates are sleeping on the floor now, though that has happened. He has had to house inmates in other jails because of space conditions and to avoid conflict. While the situation for the jail is not yet in absolute crisis mode, the County could face a law suit. As an example, Pickens County was sued last year because of jail overcrowding. A justice center might be a reach for this small county, but updating the conditions of the second oldest jail in the state could cost less than a lawsuit. The present jail can't be expanded. Some have asked why there was so little publicity for the recent tax measure. It's a situation that prompted several people to ask

why the Commissioners didn't take a more active role. According to Ben Gibbons, County Attorney, Commissioners can't speak publicly or stomp for voter issues. After the tax issue failed, the Commissioners seemed to put the issue back in Warwick's lap. Yet, Commissioner Ken Anderson might be the one to step forward and work in active support for the cause. When Warwick said he was looking at blueprints and cost figures from a Kansas jail (that jail was also sued because inmates couldn't get exercise), Ken was encouraging and said let's get something going.

Airport feasibility study

David Couch of Red Scarf Enterprises will complete an assessment of Leech Airport. The study will determine the feasibility of the kinds of economic development that can be brought in, such as hotels. Accompanying him was Constantine Diehl. Since Diehl is President and CEO of UAS Colorado which is interested in testing drones at the airport, Attorney Gibbons wanted assurance there was no conflict of interest. Couch said he himself is not affiliated with UAS and was bringing in Diehl only as a consultant. Since then Diehl has removed himself from the project. Commissioner Ken Anderson said we need this assessment and urged them to move forward.

Updated marijuana regulations and complications

Wendi Maez, Land Use Administrator, reported that the County has adopted final marijuana regulations that will become effective January 1. The revised regs run nine pages in length and reprinting them *in toto* not only takes up many pages, but it doesn't help the reader focus on the most relevant issues. Maez succinctly stated that most important is that recreational growers are now required to file for a variance for any plant count over 12 plants on a property and the variance involves a \$50 administrative fee plus \$5 per plant over 12. A compliance tag will be issued for each plant over 12. Medical caregivers must file for a variance for any plant count over 36 plants, and the variance involves a \$50 administrative fee plus \$5 per plant over 36. A compliance tag will be issued for each plant over 36. Land Use has made the regs available online at the County website <http://bit.ly/2h703qu>.

Commissioner Jason Anderson noted the regulations are an attempt to address the abuse of Amendment 64 through regulating plant counts on residential property and verification of legal medical cultivation. He reported in an email that the County regs represent an ongoing concern around the issue of land-use violations and environmental degradation brought on by commercial cultivation outside the requirements of Amendment 64. The regs were created with the desire to protect both medical rights and Colorado Amendment 64. The federal government allowed Amendment 64 under the conditions that legal marijuana not be accessed by minors and not be taken outside the state's borders. County codes are an attempt to address these issues. He thanked the community members

who volunteered their time in crafting these regulations.

Blowback from the excise tax

Kyle Grote reported that there are unintended consequences from the newly approved excise tax of 5%. In fact it is 15% and the County is going to add another 5%. Grote said that has repercussions for a small business operation such as his. With the State-imposed fees, his business is taxed 30% in all. Grote wants to do business in a good way and he needs to pay his employees. He just wants things correctly stated.

Edibles still elusive

Marijuana-infused—or edible—products remains a significant area in which regulations keep changing but may always be insufficient. With the intent to reduce accidental ingestion, particularly by children, the State Attorney General has mandated new packaging, set limits on size and dosage of 10 mg of THC each and only 100 mg per package. Anyone growing a few plants can derive edibles from them. Yet most people don't know how to determine that amount. Attorney Gibbons noted a concern: are we going to be guarantors of edibles?

Successful online tax lien sale

The Saguache County Treasurer's office conducted a successful online tax lien sale November 7-9 last year. Originally 489 properties were advertised and 352 were taken to the sale. The rest were paid by owners prior to this date. In the past, only about 50% of properties taken to tax lien sale have been sold to outside bidders with the remainder being "held" by the County which hopefully has the owner come in and pay. In many instances the County must hold these properties for at least 4 years and then will apply for the deed and hope to resell to another buyer. By doing the online sale, the Treasurer was able to sell 93.47% to outside bidders. All but 23 properties were sold. In the past, premium bids (excess bid amounts) have run approximately \$1100. This year the County was able to bring in \$4,121.

Bill McClure addressed the Board with a variety of complaints concerning the online tax lien sale. Basically he objected to the sale being held online despite the fact that counties all over the country including those in Colorado are finding this method allows counties to receive their budgeted revenue without having to wait for delinquent taxes to be collected. First, he said the publication was incorrect. He objected to the \$8 service fee charged to the online bidder and requested that a new sale be held in the building. McClure told the Board that elected officials should be available at all times. In fact, he went to Treasurer Trujillo's home and was upset that the Treasurer had told him to stay off her personal property at all times or she would have to call the police for trespassing. McClure admitted to becoming very verbal with her. Jason Anderson informed Mr. McClure that he needed to conduct his business in the office.

Emergency preparedness

David Daboll, Director of Public Health, and Janet Beiriger, Administrative Assistant, may encourage Jim Felmlee of Emergency



County jail cells need improvements.

Management to do the tabletop exercise that Felmlee has been talking about for several months. A tabletop exercise is one which simulates an emergency situation. There was a test of statewide systems last month. Conducting one in Saguache will allow County employees to review and discuss the actions they would take in the event of an actual emergency such as an epidemic or a life threatening fire. It will test the emergency plan in an informal, low-stress environment and serve as the basis for effective response to any hazard. Such a simulation familiarizes participants with plans, policies, agreements and procedures, and actions. The exercise will allow a command system to be set up involving all departments and including the County Attorney and Commissioners.

Communities that care

Iris Garcia, the Prevention Coordinator for Public Health, presented information on the Communities That Care program (CTC). This program is a community-change process for reducing youth violence, alcohol & tobacco use and delinquency, through effective coalitions. First she has had to get schools on board. Mountain Valley School has its own community board as does Crestone and Mofat. Center is still organizing with its changing population. She noted that the CTC grants don't address the different communities and cultures. Each community has its own risk factors. Garcia will be training all of them and is responsible for getting them the needed materials. She is working on a 5-year plan of implementation; in the fifth year she'll gauge improvement. One stumbling block is that grants and funding pay for her physical presence but are not adequate to cover needed time-consuming organizing.

Subdivision exemption SLVREC

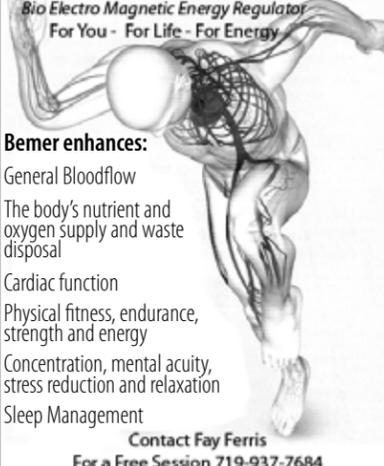
Loren Howard, C.E.O of San Luis Valley Rural Electric (SLVREC) requested a conditional use permit to purchase 25 acres from Richard Ramstetter in order to redo a utility easement. New power lines will be underground. They will use single access solar trackers. There will be no regular water usage.

Shorts

Dallas Anderson, wife of Ken Anderson, was appointed to Alamosa Senior Advisory Board. Ken, who is a representative to that board, will abstain from any funding vote to avoid conflict of interest.

Jason Anderson was elected to the Executive Board of Colorado Counties as the Southern District Representative.

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POA commissions expert study on Baca Grande community & organizational structure

by John Rowe

This is the first POA news article since November and will encompass November's and December's POA Board Meetings as well as a synopsis of a comprehensive 33-page study of our community by the POA's management company, Westwind Management.

November

November's POA Board meeting took place at the golf course pro shop on November 17 at 6pm. All five board members were present as well as eight audience members, with newly elected President Steve Dossenback presiding. An hour-long executive session preceded the open portion of the meeting and covered the passage of staff raises for 2017 and a decision to send four properties to the attorney for non-payment of dues.

Member Forum consisted of a comment from long-term Baca resident Steve Elliott, who pled with the Board to make every effort to increase volunteer fire department readiness in the face of thinning ranks of volunteer fire fighters, and show support by giving the department more money, particularly for key personnel salaries. Despite this being a younger person's job, sixty-six year old Steve is himself a volunteer on the fire department. There was also a question on the release of the Westwind study of the Baca and its functions. There is now a brief summary of this on the website and a complete 33-page hardcopy is available at the POA office.

The result of a special budget meeting to determine how much of a dues increase would be forthcoming for 2017 held earlier in the month was an increase to \$339/year. The major reasons for this were increases in expenses, which go up every year, and continued deterioration of POA buildings and vehicles. More increases seem sure to follow in upcoming years but the board chose a relatively small increase for this year to ease the burden on modest-income folks.

The board approved payment of \$68,927.56 for renovations of the POA Hall which should be ready to reoccupy in January. A new road grader will probably be necessary in 2017, with a purchase price of around \$250,000. Shawn Hollmer, head of the maintenance department, has been keeping some equipment together with spit and bailing wire but that can only go so far. Major expenditures will be forthcoming to keep our roads in good shape.

Tad Crawford was unanimously elected as the new Baca Fire Chief and will be starting January 1. Outgoing Chief, Chris Botz, will be exploring some new horizons. By all accounts Chris gave himself, heart and soul, to rebuilding and maintaining the current fire department, often working overtime for free. Be sure to offer Chris the best of luck if you see him around town. He will be missed and our community will be a little poorer without him.

December

December's POA Board Meeting took place at Colorado College at 6pm on December 15. All five board members were present as were ten audience members with President Steve Dossenback presiding. The executive session took almost an hour and a half and primarily concerned the possibility of more wages for the fire department.

Fire Dept. needs members!

A plea for more fire department money was forthcoming, once again, in Member Forum, with the statement by a volunteer that some wages will need to be paid to younger volunteers with families or there won't be any more younger volunteers. There are already fewer than in years past as millennials across America simply don't volunteer for things like volunteer fire departments anymore.

Saguache County Commissioners want to meet with the POA Board soon because of the high number (almost at record levels) of delinquent lots and the blight that accompanies them. Look for news of this meeting in the next month or two.

Another candidate for the EAC (Environmental and Architectural Committee), Bob Arnold, was unanimously approved, bringing the total membership to five, considered a sufficient amount to do a proper job. Bob has a long history of selling construction materials and is a pretty fair handyman himself. He should be a good addition to the EAC.

Analysis for the Baca's future

A thorough organizational analysis and recommendations for the Baca's future by Westwind, the POA's management company, was commissioned by the 2016 POA Board and is now here and ready for viewing. See the POA website for a summary, and full 33-page hard copies are available at the POA Hall for \$5.25. Please call before coming out and getting one to



The brilliant Sangres showing off a cover of fresh snow.

photo by Kate Steichen

ensure that some are ready.

Westwind agreed with many here that POA history has been fraught with petty infighting, wildly inconsistent enforcement of POA covenants, and changes in policy that are overly long, complicated and hard to understand. In short, they think the POA has been barely functional and badly needs an overhaul.

Westwind's opinion of key changes needed include a much better website where all the wonderful things we have here are detailed and displayed. They have managed properties for 30 years and have never seen any community as unique and diverse in so many ways as this one. Many people living here would probably not like to attract more people, but Westwind thinks that for the POA to perform its stated primary function of enhancing property values, both individual and community, that much better marketing of our community is essential. And, of course, this would result in an influx of badly needed cash for current businesses and provide much needed jobs.

Another major change would be to elevate the POA Manager's job to a CEO (Chief Executive Officer) position. This person would be the sole driver of Board decisions, oversee all departments, and be in charge of all implementation of POA policy. This would mean the Board has to deal with only one person for everything and would be freed up from day-to-day minutia and truly concentrate on creating a better community for all of us, all this to be in accord with membership constituency wishes.

An addition of a Community Outreach Person to the staff would also be a key component of a Westwind plan. This would likely be a full-time highly skilled position charged with the responsibility of overseeing the website, writing and sending out a regular newsletter of POA happenings, holding meetings to find out what residents here would really like to see the Baca be like, talking to lots of folks individually and creating genuine interest and enthusiasm among residents in building community. They would research and come up with ideas like a town softball league, a community choir (Jillian Klarl had over forty people interested in this a few years ago) or a Big Brother/Sister program. We have a lot of

kids with only one parent and perhaps many would be interested in some help. This reporter has offered to take young boys fishing if Mom would be amenable and there could be real interest in the community fostering this sort of thing. There has been interest in visiting and reading to housebound seniors (of which we have more than a few) by adults and schoolkids alike. The mind reels with the possibilities. Westwind strongly feels that a hard working and skilled individual is needed to drive this effort.

Westwind would also like to see Board members receive guidance, direction, and education to do their jobs more effectively. Currently there is none of this even though being on the Board requires a breathtaking number of skills most of us are barely even aware of. How to present a united front, truly find out and represent the will of a majority of all residents, and begin to create a vision, both near-term and long-term, of what the Baca should strive to be are a few of the recommended suggestions for future POA boards.

The study seems dry and overly detailed upon occasion but contains some exciting and very doable suggestions and is definitely worthy of community attention.

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The roads have been very slippery with all the new snow! This fender-bender happened on the corner of Golden & Cottonwood the afternoon of the big storm December 22, which brought us almost 7" of snow. photo by Lori Nagel

Action for turbulent times: Building a resilient community now

by *Kate Steichen*

Turbulent times call for enhanced community resilience. A core group of Baca/Crestonians recently came together out of concern for our entire community, given the ever-approaching Earth changes (or ever-widening challenges facing us). We found ourselves wondering what would happen to our beautiful community when/if the grid goes down. How will we get water? Will there be enough food for everyone? How will we cook our food and stay warm in the winter? How will we protect ourselves? How will we take care of our elderly? Our children? How will we heal ourselves? In short, how might we become a truly resilient community, no matter what threatens our lives and livelihoods?

Wanting to include as much of our community as possible in envisioning and implementing the future we most desire, we are in the planning process of creating a Search Conference that will accommodate 100+ people. We are defining the stakeholder subsets that best represent the entire community, e.g., artists, off-gridders, gardeners, healers, alternative builders, businesses, spiritual centers, tenure, age, skills, and wish to include a representative sampling of each subset. We want to work with those of you who live here, have passion for community resilience, and who will stay involved in the action planning phase. Also, we want those who will commit to at-

tending the entire conference, from Friday evening through Sunday, March 24-26, 2017.

A search conference is a highly participatory event in which a large group of people meet over 20 hours to collectively create a plan that its members will implement. People generally work in groups of 6 - 8 on tasks which are then reported out to the entire group. Common ground is sought throughout to reach a community consensus.

The three stages of the Search include scanning the environment, from worldwide to local, to identify the context within which this community is operating. We will take into account the trends and forces impinging on our community. Stage 2 involves analyzing the past, present, and future of our community, and considering what is working and what is not. Finally, we will create a desired future and action planning, designing the kind of resilient future for our community and doing a reality check against the environmental context. Action groups commit to continue working until the desired future is realized, and after the conference, will incorporate other community members who weren't at the Search.

If you would like to participate in this Search, please contact Peter Gyallay-Pap for more information after Jan. 13: peter@greenworldventures.net or 719-937-7757.

"Building community is to the collective as spiritual practice is to the individual." - Grace Lee Boggs



POA NEWS

Combining Baca fire & ambulance?

by *Ayla HoEVERS*,
POA Manager

The Board of Directors would like to inform the community of the possibility of combining the Baca Grande Property Owners Association Fire and EMS services to help resolve current issues within the departments.

The biggest issues for our Fire and EMS departments include recruitment, retention, and the simple fact that it is quite challenging for a firefighter or EMT to make a living out of emergency services. The Board has decided to explore the option of combining services that could resolve these issues surrounding the Fire and EMS service of the Baca Grande POA, and also improve the services for our members and community.

By combining services, this would increase experience, opportunity, and wages for Fire and EMS providers; create training and advancement opportunities; create training and experiential opportunities for the youth and members of the community and surrounding areas; create accountable positions with specific job descriptions; create a unified response when an emergency occurs, without gaps in knowledge or training; increase response times; add experienced providers while retaining the valuable responders that we currently have; streamline operations, eliminate scheduling concerns and recruitment and retention issues; create new streams of revenue and opportunities from many angles;

create a sustainable model for future Fire and EMS in the Baca and allow for self-sufficient operations while generating revenue and alleviating budget concerns.

Ultimately, the goal is to support our Fire and EMS personnel while providing the best service to our members and community. This topic is currently being explored by the Board of Directors and will be on the upcoming meeting agenda for January 19.

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Grisha Krivchenia brings classical piano to Shumei Sunday January 29 at 2pm.

Grisha Krivchenia brings classical piano to Shumei January 29

Sunday January 29 at 2pm join us at Shumei in Crestone for a matinee show of classical music with Grisha Krivchenia. Grisha Krivchenia is a composer and pianist based in Santa Fe and the Seattle area. He enjoys a busy recital schedule throughout the American west, and professional ensembles worldwide have performed his work. Recent premieres took place in Los Angeles, St. Petersburg, and Bucharest. Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor, where he taught for seven years.

Grisha takes a special interest in using art to amplify voices

that would ordinarily go unheard. He writes songs and choral music with hospice patients and disabled veterans. In April 2016, he premiered *Refuge*, a song cycle based on interviews with Syrians living in exile, with the Iranian-American soprano Tara Khozein.

Grisha attended Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Zakarian and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. His chamber music is published by Abundant Silence.

Call 256-5284 or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for further information. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Perla Kopeloff to be featured artist for January & February at Shumei

Perla Kopeloff's work will be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone in January and February. A symposium with Perla will be held on Sunday January 15 starting at 3pm. A reception will follow.

Perla was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina where she received a Masters in Architecture from the University of Buenos Aires. Perla moved to the United States in 1980. Combining her unique background and creative talents she established herself as a tapestry weaver, completing commissions with residential and corporate entities.

The lure of greater artistic freedoms in the American west brought Perla to Taos and finally to Colorado's San Luis Valley where she is a resident since 1992.

Her new series "Camisas: body and soul" brings together fragments of cultures and attempts to integrate them into everyday ceremonial garments to wear or to hang.

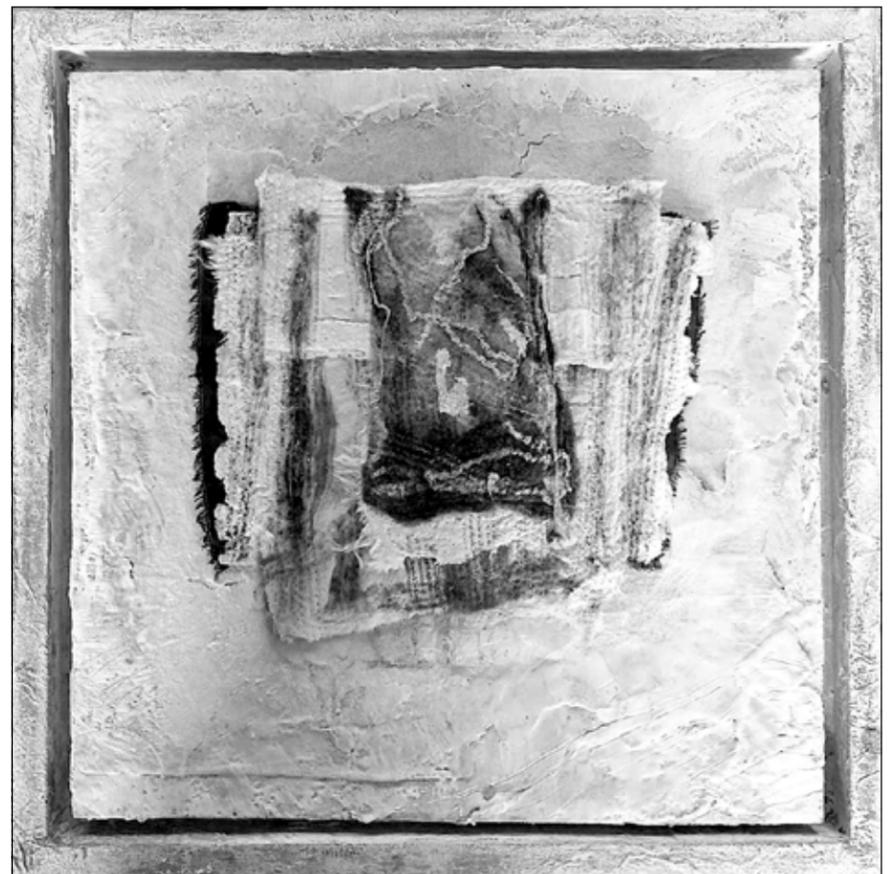
"Camisas for the soul" are built with layers of warm-colored handmade papers, fabrics and found

objects covered with encaustic media reflecting the everyday complexity found in women's life. They are medicinal shirts that cure most everyday illnesses such as headaches, lack of money, fear to start a new project, etc.

"Camisas for the body" are felted garments providing women with shawls celebrating the fusion of Indian saris and merino wool wrapped around the body.

For the body or for the soul these garments are about vestments that cover our naked self. You can see her new series of wearable art at the Santa Fe Weaving Gallery in Santa Fe or at Artemisia in Taos, NM. She can be reached at her studio by appointment at fiberspace@hotmail.com.

Come meet Perla and learn more about her art on Sunday January 15, 3 to 5pm. This event is free to the public. Please visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 256-5284 for more information. The Shumei gallery is open every day 9am to 5pm.



Perla Kopeloff brings her fiber arts to Shumei for the months of January and February.

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Crestone Artisans Gallery: New Year brings new artwork

by *Desi Faraci*

It's a new year at the Crestone Artisans Gallery. First, all the artists at the gallery would like to thank all those art patrons who have supported us through the year. We had a successful holiday season and hope to continue this pace in the future.

If your New Years resolution is to support more local art, swing by the gallery and see all the great new works. We have many impressive new sculptures exhibited. Robert Long has displayed a large abstract sculpture called "From One". This is carved meticulously out of alabaster. Posey Nelson has also added some great new free standing sculptures. Lynn Drake has exhibited an intriguing ceramic large jar entitled "The Ocean Inside". If you peak inside (of course with assistance from the resident artist), the inside bowl repre-



Tall abstract by Bob Long.

sents the blue ocean. All these new pieces are a must see if you stroll in one winter afternoon.

New artist Kay Litz has displayed unique wall hangings. These wall sculptures are depicted with a collage of ceramic, chains, wire, paper and more. She takes cues from her natural surroundings and from found objects to inspire her art. Many works exhibited are called the food chain body of work. Kay especially likes working with oxidized metals (rust and other patinas). Come by to see her unique selection of creations.

If you have not stopped by the gallery in a while, be sure to come by to see all the great local artists. We have a vast selection of fine art, photography, jewelry, sculptures, woodworking, local books, music, gift bags and greeting cards.

Remember



Giant round bowl by Lynn Drake.

our winter hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 to 4. Winter is the season for locals, and we encourage our thriving community not only to support the local arts but to drop by and get to know the artist in residence. There are many wonderful new artist faces you may not have met yet, as well as familiar artists you have grown to admire. We have a lot of great surprises to come in 2017.

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At a presentation given by Edie Lee on Dec. 11, she showed the Keshe Technology Energy Magrav Power Unit and ran multiple electrical appliances simultaneously from it, while discussing how the units lower energy costs and eliminate EMFs from the close environment. The system functions for a healthy environmental atmosphere. The group meets next on January 14 at the Town Hall at 7 pm.
photo by Lori Nagel



New managers take over the Crestone food bank. Denise Peine, center, who managed the food bank for several years, hands it off to Keno left, and Patti Jackson right. Many thanks to all of them for their community service!
photo by Peter Taylor

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New managers at Crestone Food Bank

Keno and Patti Jackson will co-manage the Crestone Food Bank, taking over from Denise Peine January 1. Serving over 150 adults, children and seniors monthly, the food bank plays an important role in our community. The managers' responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling volunteers, fund raising, grant writing, data reporting and financial management. This is a non-paid, *volunteer* position which requires a lot of time and effort and Keno and Patti are up to the task!

As a reminder, the food bank is held from 1-3 pm on Wednesdays

in Crestone Town Hall at the corner of Galena and Alder. The exception being the week that commodities, a food distribution from Saguache Social Services, takes place.

All in need of basic food supplies are welcome. You may call Keno on 256-4422 or Patti on 719-992-1920 with questions or to volunteer to help. Volunteers are always needed to unload and help distribute the food on distribution days.

If you wish to donate food, please drop it off at the food bank on Wednesdays from 1-3 pm only. Thank you!

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HAPS

Beyond resolutions: Fulfill your heart's desire in 2017

Why don't New Years resolutions work? Because they don't address the subconscious doubts that poison the blossoming of your desire. Join certified iRest Yoga Nidra instructor Jyoti Stuart and Marcella Friel (Certified EFT Practitioner) on Sunday, January 15, 1-5pm as we help you discover your sankalpa (heartfelt desire) and release the vikalpa (self-doubt) that blocks its manifestation. Through yoga, self-inquiry, journaling, and neurological re-patterning practices including EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques) and iRest Yoga Nidra, you will welcome the new year with confidence and joy. A potluck supper will follow after the event ends at 5pm. If you plan to stay, please bring a potluck dish to share. Space is limited. Register now to reserve your seat! Contact Jyoti @ 310-924-9223. Exchange \$50.



Monet Meisman, Lilith Safford and Rosie Catinella work on their crafts at Winterfest December 3 & 4. photo by Lori Nagel

Martinez honored as All-Valley athlete

Congratulations to the All-Valley Football Teams.

We would especially like to congratulate local Moffat student Andrew "Drew" Martinez. He plays for the Mountain Valley Indians and received All-Valley 2nd Team Defense. Twenty-two recipients were honored at a banquet December 7 in Alamosa. These exceptional young athletes include 6-, 8-, and 11-man teams ranging from A to AA schools. Good job, Drew. Keep us proud.

Sufi Way of the Beloved

Beginning on January 19 at 2pm, and continuing for 8 gatherings, the Rumi Study Circle will listen to and dialogue over Andrew Harvey's "Sufi Way of the Beloved" class. Join us! 719-588-8602.



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Aoiife Kelly & Chad Tate's daughter, Saoirse, has a little talk with Santa during his visit to WinterFest this year on December 4. photo by Lori Nagel



Steve Fillenberg and Jane Adorney proudly display their handmade crafts and goodies at this year's WinterFest celebration December 3 and 4. photo by Lori Nagel



The kids had a blast with our local fairy, Diane Bairstow, and her puppets at Winterfest on December 3. photo by Lori Nagel

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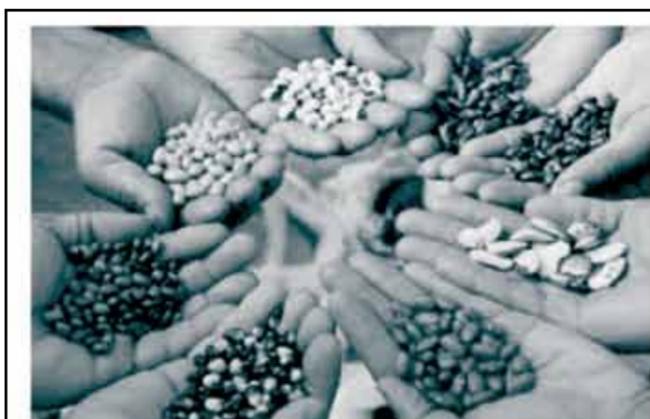


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Community Calendar—January 2017

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

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.

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

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

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.

Monthly Events

Saturday, December 31

- Annual Christmas Bird Count – Great Sand Dunes Visitors Ctr. 9am <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbc/public> 719-378-6363

Sunday, January 1

- Sunday Eucharist – Little Shepherd in the Hills 2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3

- Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Crestone Town Hall 6-8pm 719-256-4313

Wednesday, January 4

- Artivist Cooperative, 1--4pm 719-480-7167

Friday, January 6

- Let's Get Moving! Short, sweet, strong & sweaty yoga, 10-11am 310-924-9223

Saturday, January 7

- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Sunday, January 8

- Sour Dough Bread-Making Class – Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall trade 970-222-8505
- Sunday Epiphany mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9-10am 719-256-4778
- Monthly Sampai, Shumei Sanctuary 10:30am-noon free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284
- Qur'an Class & Potluck – 2:00 pm-5:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- River of Restoration: Restorative Yoga & Self Care, Crestone 3:30-6pm \$25 310-924-9223

Monday, January 9

- County Commissioner hours in Crestone – Downtown 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Quilting Class 10am free/trade 719-937-7663
- Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Crestone Town Hall 1:30-6pm 719-256-4313

Tuesday, January 10

- Qigong for Energy Balance & Longevity, 9:30-10:30am \$10/class; 6/\$55, 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007
- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra Class Crestone 9-10:30am \$15 drop in, 6 for \$75 310-924-9223

Wednesday, January 11

- CEOLP/Informed Final Choices open meeting – Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm Informedfinalchoices.org 719-588-7415

Thursday, January 12

- Qigong for Women's Health & Sexual Vitality – 9:30-10:30am \$10/class, 6/\$55, 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- Riwo Sangchö: Buddhist smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Free Monthly Kinship Caregiver Clinic, Alamosa Colorado Legal Services 4-6:30pm Free <http://bit.ly/2eRyn9E> 719-589-4993

Saturday, January 14

- Crestone Cold Plasma Group meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 15

- Beyond Resolutions: Fulfill Your Heart's Desire in 2017, Crestone 1-5pm \$50 310-924-9223
- Perla Kopeloff & Art Symposium, Shumei International Institute 3-5pm free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Tuesday, January 17

- Qigong for Energy Balance & Longevity, 9:30-10:30am \$10/class; 6/\$55; 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007

Wednesday, January 18

- Free, Monthly Legal Clinic at Saguache Library – Saguache Public Library 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Thursday, January 19

- Qigong for Women's Health & Sexual Vitality – 9:30-10:30am \$10/class, 6/\$55, 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome! – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting – 6:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Sunday, January 22

- Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana Communal Feast) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Thursday, January 26

- Qigong for Energy Balance & Longevity, 9:30-10:30am \$10/class; 6/\$55; 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007
- Sufi Dhikr. All Welcome! – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- Free Monthly Legal Clinic at Saguache Library 5-7pm Free <https://coloradolegalservices.org> 719-655-2551

Friday, January 27

- New Moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- Riwo Sangchö: Buddhist smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Relax Deeply: Winter Candlelight Yoga & Meditation, 5-6:30pm \$15 310-924-9223

Sunday, January 29

- Grisha Krivchenia & classical piano, Shumei International Institute 2-4pm \$10 Suggested Donation www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Tuesday, January 31

- Qigong for Energy Balance & Longevity, 9:30-10:30am \$10/class; 6/\$55; 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007

Thursday, February 2

- Qigong for Women's Health & Sexual Vitality – 9:30-10:30am \$10/class, 6/\$55, 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007

Monday, February 6

- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7

- Qigong for Energy Balance & Longevity, 9:30-10:30am \$10/class; 6/\$55; 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007

Thursday, February 9

- Qigong for Women's Health & Sexual Vitality – 9:30-10:30am \$10/class, 6/\$55, 12/\$100 www.pranahelps.com 719-345-6007
- Free Monthly Kinship Caregiver Clinic, Alamosa Colorado Legal Services 4-6:30pm Free <http://bit.ly/2eRyn9E> 719-589-4993

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

Sunday

- Sunday Mass, Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Drop-in Meditation at Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.slvaa.org
- Haiku & Flash Fiction class Knowledge Exchange free/trade www.winterross.blogspot.com 505-423-3098

Monday

- Yoga Basics @ BeBop BeBop Studio noon-1:15pm \$45 719-298-0360
- Meet the Board Mondays Crestone Town Hall 1-3pm 719-256-4313
- Anam Thubten Recorded Dharma Talks & Meditations 5-6:30pm small donation appreciated

Tuesday

- Yoga and iRest Yoga Nidra Crestone 9:00 am-10:30 am \$15 single, 6 for \$75 310-924-9223
- Yoga with Cynthia, Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall 10:00 am-11:15 am 719-298-0360
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668

- Yoga w/Cynthia, Joyful Journey 5-6:15pm www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com 719-298-0360
- Narcotics Anonymous, marijuana users welcome Baca Library back door 7:30-8:30pm 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Crestone Food Bank, Town Hall 1-3pm 256-4644

Thursday

- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra Class Crestone 9-10:30am \$15 drop in, 6 for \$75 310-924-9223
- Wi-Fi discussion group Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 10:00 am
- Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting Crestone Baptist Church noon-1pm <http://www.slvaa.org>
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668

Saturday

- Dorje Trola Practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719-480-5403
- Crestone Dream & Create, Andrea Long's House 11am-3pm Free + cost for supplies <http://bit.ly/2hT4yGw> 719-937-1331

Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.

-Voltaire

Out & About with Lori Sunflower

What is your 2017 goal to help better Crestone?



Winter Ross

My Learning Exchange endeavor basically comes from Colorado Creative Industries. I was chosen to attend the Change Leader Institute, and I had to come up with a project to become certified as a Change Leader. So, my project is Learning Exchange, which is a skill share. We also have 2 other Change Leaders in the community. One is Tom Dessain, of Crestone Performances, Inc., and the other is Mayor Kairina Danforth, who has been really working tirelessly to get Crestone certified as a Creative District. So, my idea, and I like this metaphor, is that the Knowledge Exchange is going to be one more little snowflake that gets added to what becomes an avalanche once we get certified by the State. Which brings us to economics, because we know that being certified by the State will help a lot. With the Knowledge Exchange, while I understand that we're trying to build the economy here, I'd still like to promote a gift economy, like I've experienced at Burning Man and Standing Rock, where you nurture each other, rather than have that kind of prey-predator type of system that we have with capitalism.



Jason Anderson, County Commissioner

Probably my biggest personal goal in regards to the betterment of Crestone is—I'm just getting this

really strong feeling that we have to work towards taking care of ourselves; that we get better at being self-sufficient, which means we keep looking towards more of our own food, like what Nick Chambers and others are doing. For a long time, I'd say, "We need solar businesses." Now, I think more towards, "We need solar for our communities," like we need Crestone electricity for Crestone people. I just have this real pull to keep moving towards a community that really does a good job of taking care of itself and really meets its own basic needs. As far as the County goes, my first goal deals with the second road from Crestone into the Baca. We made a trade with the Wildlife Refuge and now own that road and plan to fix it up so that people have a second way to get in and out. My second goal is working on another way to travel between the Baca and Crestone that doesn't involve one person, one car—more alternative transportation. The bike trail we're trying to get in, things like that. It just feels like there's a lot of uncertainty right now. We don't know what's going to happen with our public lands, our energy, the freedoms that we have in the state of Colorado. That uncertainty is why I think we need to just really take care of each other.



John Loll

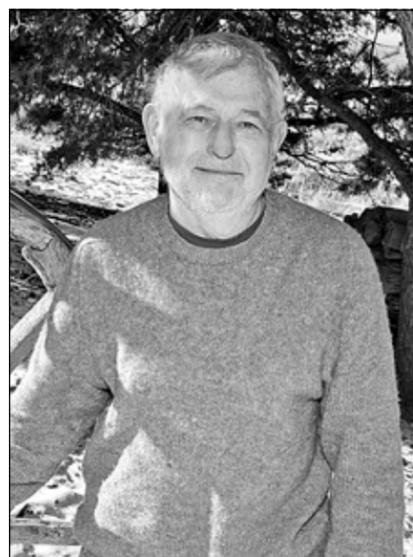
My personal goal for the coming year is to go beyond my own limitations of wanting to be insular and somewhat of a hermit type and reach across those barriers, so that I can join with others in facing the challenges that we're going to have in Crestone and the Baca. And that extends to a whole lot of different areas—environmental, political, etc. What we're going to be facing coming out of Washington is going to be a difficult prospect for us all. So if we can increase our own resiliency in our community, and if we can work together to develop local solutions and alternatives that are not dependent on outside goods or services being brought into the community, then the community itself will, I think, prosper. There'll be more opportunities for people within the community to help each other and we may even be able to

grow a local, viable economy that would work for everybody in our community. And also, most importantly, lessen our environmental footprint—not only carbon, but also the footprint of our living here and living here as lightly as we can, on the land.



Malathy Drew

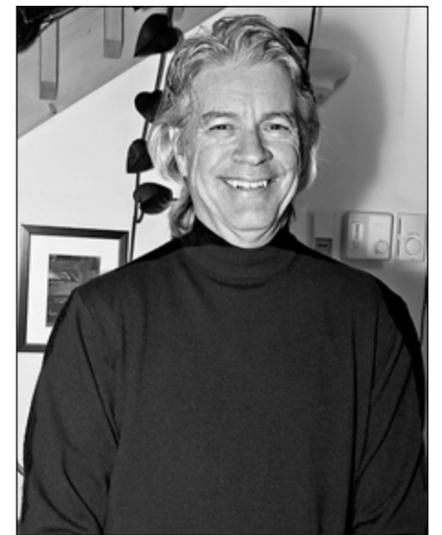
I just don't know that there's a lot I can do for Crestone, except take a look at myself. In every moment that I have the courage to really look within at my own duality and the energy I'm putting into the world, the more I open to my heart and am able to show up in community and in the world. My past life would've said, "Save the world!" but I'm learning that's not the answer at all. All I can really do is look within, and from that I'm able to really show up in a different way in community. Part of what's happening in Crestone is that so many egos have gotten in the way of us really coming together. Right now is looking pretty scary, and I'm so grateful to be in a community that stands a chance. No matter what happens on the outside of us, we have some of the most intelligent, amazing people in the world in this itty-bitty little town. And I don't think there's anything we can't weather if we come together and work together, but that has to start from within. I know it's a silly analogy, but the way I see it is that we're all pieces of a puzzle, especially in a place like Crestone, where there are so many strong puzzle pieces. If we could just let all that other stuff go, really work on ourselves, look at how we're showing up, what energy we're putting into the world, into our community . . . Crestone's unstoppable.



Thom Ontko, Chair, Friends of the Baca Grande Library

First of all, Lori, I want to thank you for writing this column

every month. Your interviews help make our community a better place to live, by sharing and learning about each other. Now for your question. Personally, I know I can't change the world, nor would I want to, but maybe I can help make our community a nicer place to be. For the past 5 or 6 years I've been working toward building a new library within the town of Crestone, which would be a state-of-the-art facility, easily accessible for everyone. Libraries are not a "thing of the past." They're the future—true learning centers. I plan to keep working to help make this a reality, and collectively it will happen. After all, the community library is the "heart of a community." The new library in the location that's chosen will really help bring the town of Crestone and the Baca Grande together. When people go in to pick up their mail or groceries, they'll go past it, and it would allow people to really see each other instead of just running errands and going back to their hermitages. It is something that, I feel, is really needed for our community, and it's going to benefit all, especially the children.



Lonnie Nichols

Well, we've had some relative success with SLVREC (San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative) concerning the new electric smart meters, and now our little group is focusing on the wi-fi in the Charter School and the dangers to the children. One of our goals is to educate the school, the staff. We've taken data and we've taken down areas in the school that have intense wi-fi. So our goal is to educate and then hopefully filter some of the wi-fi that's radiating to the children, especially the younger ones, who are more affected because of the nature of their physiology. The bigger goal next year for me personally is to be more educated in other environmental issues, and hopefully we can get away from electric meters altogether and move more towards solar, wind and renewable energy. I'd like to say thanks to the community who stood behind us when we challenged SLVREC on the smart meter issue and the dangerous radio frequencies. And I hope moving forward, as issues come up, we can engage all the various factions and address them as they arise, as we have in the past.

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

Crestone End of Life Project: An opportunity for heart-filled, meaningful volunteering

by Gussie Fauntleroy

If you have attended an open-air cremation facilitated by the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP), you know what a deeply valuable service this non-profit organization provides for the Crestone area community. If you've heard others reflect on their experience of honoring and remembering someone within the sacred circle of the cremation site, you also understand what this form of saying farewell means to loved ones and the community. If you are hearing about it for the first time now, by mid-January CEOLP and its sister organization, Informed Final Choices (IFC), will have launched a new, beautifully produced website, informedfinalchoices.org. The site covers both groups and can introduce you to the rare treasure we are blessed with here. What you'll find is that CEOLP and IFC are a reflection of the best qualities of the greater Crestone community: diverse, respectful, supportive, compassionate, environmentally conscious, mindful, accepting, and active.

Through the vision of its passionate and dedicated founders and volunteers, in the past 10-plus years CEOLP has become recognized and respected not only in Crestone, but globally. As this awareness increases, individuals and groups in other parts of the United States and elsewhere have begun expressing interest in the possibility of establishing similar organizations in their own communities. At the same time, interest worldwide is rapidly growing around such vital issues as end-of-life choices. To help fill this need for information, IFC serves as an educational/outreach organization, developing and offering workshops, sending representatives to conferences, hosting Death Cafés, and offering tours of the cremation site to share our experience with others.

Small contributions of time are big

As our local population expands and more residents register for CEOLP's services, the organization's growth represents an expression of trust that we will be here to serve them and their loved ones when the time comes. To this end, CEOLP and IFC are extending an open invitation to community members to consider how you might be able to add your own particular inclinations, skills, and energy—even in small amounts of time—to the overall smooth functioning of this beloved service. Volunteer oppor-

tunities are available both behind the scenes and in more visible roles related to home funerals, open-air cremations, and burials.

For every aspect of service, ample training is provided, experienced volunteers encourage you to shadow them in their duties, and comprehensive, detailed implementation and operation manuals are available. One thing you might not expect if you're not familiar with CEOLP—you'll be involved with fellow volunteers who are full of heart and warmth, but also a sense of humor and joy. The service of caring for those who have died and those left behind can be life changing, but it is not morbid work.

Many ways to volunteer

Among the outward tasks with which you can become involved are parking, hosting, cremation site maintenance, pyre, family liaison, and care of the body. Most of these are needed only in the three days prior to, and during, a cremation. Equally essential are ongoing behind-the-scenes functions that keep CEOLP and IFC going. Both organizations are currently in need of volunteers with bookkeeping skills to take on the treasurer's role on each of the two boards. The roles generally require just a few hours a month, according to current CEOLP treasurer Noah Baen. Noah and IFC treasurer Susan Fey are committed to training and assisting those who step in to fill their shoes. If this interests you, contact Noah at 256-4182 or 917-392-6962; Susan can be reached at 719-496-0977.

CEOLP registrar Lorraine Cazier would like one or two volunteers to serve as assistant/backup registrar. Lorraine will train interested people in the job of collecting and storing documents for Crestone area residents who register with CEOLP, a responsibility that does not entail a significant time commitment. Contact Lorraine at 937-7802 for details. Also, an important disclaimer recently was added to CEOLP's registration documents and must be read and agreed to before registration forms can be completed. Please see the accompanying sidebar for details.

Stephanie Gaines, 73, founder and chair of CEOLP and IFC, is planning to dial back her direct daily involvement in administering the organizations. Her role may be divided into a three-member administrative council in order to distribute duties and create a manageable time commitment for



Paul Kloppenberg (left) and Adam Kinney built a bamboo fence at the Crestone End of Life Project's community open-air cremation site in 2008.

each member. In addition, these three will delegate small areas of work—for example, answering the phone and referring inquiries to the appropriate person—to others who can only volunteer in a limited capacity but who want to be part of CEOLP/IFC's important work. Also needed is someone to serve as website content manager. Anyone curious about whether your time availability and skills might fit any of the organizations' administrative needs can contact Anrahyah Arstad at 429-9593, Paul Kloppenberg at 256-4677, or Kelley Michelle at 719-431-1339. Filling these administrative roles is crucial to the sustainability of both organizations.

Monthly meeting welcomes you

The public is also invited to attend CEOLP's monthly open meetings, where you can connect with volunteers in person and get a sense of the organization's spirit and workings. Although you are not required to attend meetings in order to participate with CEOLP, you are always welcome. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at The Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall in Crestone. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11. Please visit informedfinalchoices.org

A special day of training for volunteers is set for Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 am to 3pm at the Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church in downtown Crestone. From 10am to noon will be a general introductory training, with hands-on training from 1 to 3pm. For more information call 588-7415 or 719-431-1339 or email ceolp.info@gmail.com.

Crestone End of Life Project Disclaimer: Please read

The Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP) is not a conventional funeral or crematory provider. CEOLP operates as a volunteer run, non-profit organization that supports and assists in implementing family-directed home funerals. Because of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies requirements, CEOLP does not:

1. Transport the body of the deceased.
2. Provide refrigeration for the body of the deceased.
3. Provide a location in which the body of the deceased can remain in repose.

CEOLP offers support to the family in fulfilling the requirements of a "home funeral." If the family is uncomfortable with having the deceased at their home in repose for up to 72 hours before cremation or burial, or with transporting the body to the cremation or burial site, then the family or authorized representative of the deceased must make arrangements with a conventional funeral service provider and assume all costs incurred in doing so.

All CEOLP registrants will be required to read and agree to this disclaimer before completing registration documents. All currently-registered area residents should cut out this disclaimer and keep it with their CEOLP registration papers. Contact CEOLP registrar Lorraine Cazier at 937-7802 with any questions.

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**LIFE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT TO BE WONDERFUL!
May this New Year be a perfectly wonderful one for all!**

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

Reframing hospice in a death-phobic culture

by Aliyah Alexander

Many years ago, a close friend who was a hospice social worker asked me to cover her hospice clients while she was out of town. I told her, "I don't do death." She then taught me something that was way beyond my 40 years. "Hospice is not about death, it is about life." Because I had been experiencing subtle neurological symptoms for years and I feared a degenerative, life-threatening illness building in my body, this concept peaked my curiosity as it assaulted my logic. How could dying be about living? Almost like a Zen koan that evokes enlightenment by showing the inadequacy of the logical mind, I had the next two decades to contemplate this paradox, because two weeks ago I became a client of Hospice del Valle in Alamosa.

When I was considering en-

tering hospice, I received desperate messages from friends around the country who had heard I was actively dying. After all, I must be actively dying if I was in hospice. This is one of the major misconceptions hospice workers encounter. Families usually consider hospice only in the last days or weeks of a person's chronic or terminal illness, which, in my opinion, does a disservice to the patient and greatly limits the level of care available through the organization. The main purpose of hospice is to provide palliation to chronically, terminally, or seriously ill patients (not expected to live more than six months), which includes attending to their medical, psychological, and spiritual well-being and those of their families.

Living in a culture that is death-phobic, no one wants to men-

tion the H word to a person who still has some life in them. What if hospice involved helping to reduce the suffering of persons deemed terminally ill, but still living for many months? The illness I have been living with is a slow, degenerative illness that has only affected me from the neck down. The effects have been devastating, but from the neck up I have been able to maintain a quality of life that is different, but regenerative in nature. Having been a psychotherapist for thirty years, my work has become more selective but much deeper, given my spiritual growth directly caused by what I consider my "spiritual curriculum."

I had considered hospice for the last year, but since I was not actively dying, I did not consider it seriously. My most experienced caregiver, who had worked ten years in a hospice, told me that about 10% of her hospice clients lived an average of two years. Working through the necessary emotional stages, I engaged the closest hospice serving Crestone. To my surprise and tremendous relief, I have received care on every level I could imagine—physical, mental, psychological, and spiritual. They are an interdisciplinary team: MD, RN, CNAs, chaplain, and Family Support liaison. Whereas in home health, improvement needed to be noted, with hospice I could let go and receive care on all levels. This is supporting my dreamtime, depth of meditation, and, I believe,

allowing me to begin a conscious death with open communication to my Guides on the other side. Intuitively, I have been able to let go and began my journey through the Bardos.

I imagine that choosing to work in hospice naturally screens out individuals who are not comfortable "doing death." My experience with each professional is that their level of skill, compassion, and care have surpassed my high expectations. I now know what my friend was saying; hospice has been about improving my quality of life, even though I can die within days. I can also live months and perhaps a year or so. That was never a possibility before I engaged hospice. I am a natural strategizer or I would never have been able to live alone while quadriplegic, but their expertise has taken this to a new level.

I will likely see 2017, but perhaps I might see 2018! With the help of my care team and now hospice, I can continue to lead my psychotherapy group on Skype, share my growing wisdom gained from living in stillness, and perhaps I'll live to write another book!





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Thank you for your continuing support!

Who We Are

Elianna Krakauer:

Free spirit grounded in helping others

by **Gussie Fauntleroy**

When she was just a little girl, Elianna Krakauer proudly told her parents that when she got bigger she was going to “save pollution.” Her wording may have been a bit awkward, but behind it lay a close and comforting connection with nature that began in her family’s yard in Bannockburn, Illinois and has continued throughout her life. As a shy, quiet child, the magical world within the curtain of backyard willows and near the lilac bush were favorite places, and cats and horses were among her dearest companions.

Elianna grew up with two brothers—all three adopted—in a household that in many ways belonged to an earlier era. Her adopted father was an attorney who left his Chicago office like clockwork to be home for dinner and breakfast with his family every day. “I loved my father more than anything. He was the kindest, most compassionate and giving person,” Elianna says. Her adopted mother was elegant, worked as a hairdresser for Elizabeth Arden, owned a boutique, was a professional interior decorator, designed and sewed her own clothes, and was a strict disciplinarian.

Learning to welcome and serve

Her mother’s greatest gift, in Elianna’s eyes, was teaching her to create a pleasing environment in which people feel welcomed and taken care of. For her mother this meant decorating, cleaning, cooking, and serving guests when she entertained. For Elianna, the same inclination over the years has manifested in organizing festivals and gatherings, and today translates into volunteer activities, most recently decorating for Crestone Winterfest and creating table centerpieces for the community Thanksgiving dinner.

When Elianna was 13 the family moved from Illinois to La Jolla, CA. Music, central in her life since her first piano lessons at age 5, continued with clarinet in junior high. After high school she attended the University of Puget Sound for two years and then transferred to Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, where she learned about healthy food and lifestyles and majored in humanistic psychology with a minor in Native American studies and undertook her first formal exploration of massage therapy. Following graduation she discovered Harbin Hot Springs,



Elianna Krakauer.

photo by Lori Nagel



Elianna at about age 20.

northeast of San Francisco. It was a key experience, allowing her for the first time to be part of a free-flowing community of like-minded people.

Finding her “tribe”

That feeling of shared values was reinforced during Elianna’s first Rainbow Gathering in 1984, where she was introduced to the sweat lodge. At that point she knew she was ready to “get out of the system and do my own thing,” she says. In the San Francisco area she worked with the Whole Life Expo and did odd jobs, including running a fruit stand. For a few years in the early 1980s she followed the teachings of the American guru known at the time as Da Free John. Later her spiritual/devotional expression would include kirtan, Dances of Universal Peace, and Sufism.

After the Rainbow Gathering, hitchhiking hippies led Elianna on an extended road trip around the country. Back in the Bay Area, she



Elianna has performed and recorded on didgeridoo with a number of musicians. Here she’s recording at Music for Little People studio in Garberville, California in 1995.



Elianna and Brandon photographed in 2009. They moved to Crestone in 2005.

was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident. While she’d been gifted with hands-on intuitive healing ability since childhood, her injuries and ongoing physical pain eventually led to massage school in Crestone—and moving here. “I learned a lot about my body, from the inside, not from books,” she says.

Motherhood & music

In 1987 Elianna helped organize a Harmonic Convergence gathering at Harbin and in the process met Richard, the man who would become the father of her son. They were married in a Medicine Wheel ceremony led by Grandpa Roberts, a 94-year-old Cherokee medicine man. For the next several years Elianna and Richard lived nomadically, in a van, a tipi, and eventually a school bus, where Brandon was born in Pennsylvania in 1989.

When Richard went his own way, Elianna and Brandon settled in an intentional community in Tucson and remained primarily there from 1993 to 2000. Brandon—a sweet, inquisitive, intelligent child—thived in the community, and Elianna met and worked with agave didgeridoo maker Allan Shockley. As one of the earliest American women to take up the instrument, she began jamming and performing with some of the best-known didgeridoo players in the world at the time. Among the recordings on which she played were CDs by Native musician Joanne Shenandoah, Circle of Women, and Sai Maa.

After attending the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in 2000—where she ended up backstage making chai for Jackson Browne,

Bonnie Raitt, and the crew—Elianna moved to the mountains near Denver and worked with festival producer Planet Bluegrass. In 2004 she visited Crestone for the first time to attend the Crestone Music Festival and immediately offered to assist however she could. “I’m a do-er,” she says, smiling. “I can’t just watch. I need to help.” The following year she moved here to study massage therapy at the Crestone Healing Arts Center, becoming a licensed massage therapist.

“It takes a village”

Community involvement is an essential element in Elianna’s life. Over the years she has helped out at the Crestone Charter School and with numerous local organizations including Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Crestone End of Life Project, Crestone Healing Arts Guild, and the Crestone Energy Fair. At the same time, for the past 10 years much of her energy has gone into taking care of Brandon, who in his late teens began exhibiting symptoms variously diagnosed as autism, dissociative disorder, and other forms of mental/emotional challenges.

Elianna’s dream is to establish and help run a mental health residential treatment community where art, music, animals, gardening, contributing to daily life, and various kinds of healing modalities could make a difference in the lives of people like her son. Existing programs of this kind are financially out of her reach, and available insurance does not cover what she considers appropriate treatment. In the meantime, she finds spiritual sustenance and strength through prayer, compassion, forgiveness, breath, music, and helping others. Brandon’s ever-changing requirements compel her to be aware and available with love for him on a moment-by-moment basis, a form of ongoing spiritual practice in itself, she says. “My son is my greatest teacher. People talk about taking one day at a time—For me it’s one breath at a time.”

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

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center: The Grand Reversal

by Rod Hemsell

“As individual egos we dwell in the ignorance and judge everything by a broken, partial and personal standard of knowledge; we experience everything according to the capacity of a limited consciousness and force and are therefore unable to give a divine response or set the true value upon any part of cosmic experience.

“But by entering into the cosmic consciousness we begin to participate in that all-vision and see everything in the values of the Infinite and the One. Limitation itself, ignorance itself change their meaning for us. Ignorance changes into a particularising action of divine knowledge; strength and weakness and incapacity change into a free putting forth and holding back various measures of divine Force; joy and grief, pleasure and pain change into a mastering and a suffering of divine delight; struggle, losing its discords, becomes a balancing of forces and values in the divine harmony.”

This is one of many teachings of Sri Aurobindo in *The Synthesis of Yoga*, which is again mirrored in *Savitri*, as are all of the precepts of Integral Yoga, but in a more vivid and compelling language.

“A vision lightened on the viewless heights;/ A wisdom illumined from the voiceless depths;/ A deeper

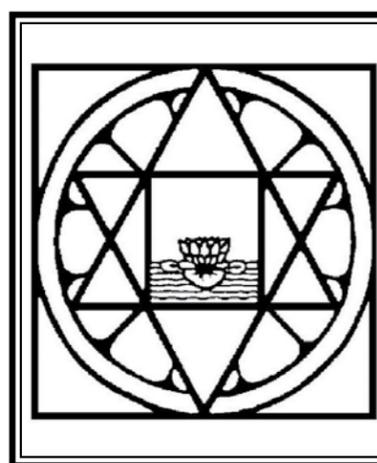
interpretation greatedened Truth;/ A grand reversal of the Night and Day;/ All the world’s values changed heightening life’s aim;/ A wiser word, a larger thought came in/ Than what the slow labour of human mind can bring;/ A secret sense awoke that could perceive/ A Presence and a Greatness everywhere” (p. 41).

And the way that this happens is the same forever, as Patanjali put it in the Yoga Sutras millennia ago, chitta vritti nirodaha, restraining the mind from its running to and fro. Perhaps the best metaphor for this is found in the reversal of the descent of the sun in relation to the earth at this time of year. We are the farthest from the light, tilted into darkness, asleep (tamas), but the reversal brings us back momentarily into balance (sattwa), then tilts us into the fire (rajas), pulled and pushed by the “three modes of nature”, until through stilling the mind we ascend into the stratosphere of consciousness and attain another perspective, eventually rising out of the gravitational pull of the earth altogether. The perennial transitions that the earth makes in relation to the sun are mirrored in the daily rhythms of body, mind, and spirit, until that poise of liberation is attained, known here as cosmic consciousness, in which things and movements appear in a subtler light than the light of the sun obscured by our narrow horizons. The new year, like the new day, is always an opportunity for us to wake up to the spiritual dimension and experience a grand reversal and a re-valuation of the narrow bounds in which the little earthly mind is conditioned to move. As Patanjali said, this is Yoga.

For information about the activities of the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center, please call 719-256-4917.



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Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

November continued to be a busy month at the Ashram. The unusually warm weather the first half of the month was certainly conducive to allowing for many visitors. Meanwhile, the Ashram Board of Directors has been working on some policies to facilitate harmony at and with the Ashram. We have most recently completed an Ashram Grievance/Reconciliation Policy. The purpose of this policy is to let people know how we would like you to deal with any confusion, misunderstanding, or concern you may have with the Ashram. It reads as follows:

The Haidakhandi Universal Ashram is committed to Babaji’s teachings to live in Truth, Simplicity and Love. Toward this goal we have processes for resolving grievances and issues, and finding reconciliation to support harmonious relationships with and at the Ashram.

If anyone feels hurt, confused, in conflict or questions a policy, person or decision of the Ashram and needs help resolving their issue, please do the following:

1. To respect the process and privacy of all involved, please hold the matter in confidence.
2. Contact by email (at GRT@babajiashram.org) or letter (at GRT c/o HUA, P.O. Box 9, Crestone, CO 81131) the Ashram Grievance/Reconciliation Team (GRT) describing your concern.
3. The GRT will respond to the correspondence in a timely manner and meet with the party or parties involved and seek to resolve the issue.
4. If the issue cannot be resolved by the GRT, the services of a third party mediator will be brought in until reconciliation is found.

The members of the GRT are Vesper Gers, Linda Joseph, Mark Rosen, Alycia Chambers, and Ramloti. Please call the Ashram if you have any questions about this at 719-256-4108.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Tuesday, December 13 and our new-moon fire ceremony

is on Wednesday, December 28. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small indoor fire ceremony after morning aarti. We do not have one on the days we have a large one. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiashram.org for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full and ready to serve you for all of your gift shopping and if you mention this article, we will happily give you 10% off as our gift to you. We have lots of fun, little presents like deity magnets, paperweights, pendants, bangles, bindis, and a huge array of incense and diffuser oils. We recently received shipments of new singing bowls, hanging crystals, silk saris, cotton pants, silk scarves, deity candles, prayer flags, malas, oils, yantras, soaps, bells, purses, bracelets, om curtains, murtis, a few Divine Mother 2017 calendars, beautiful greeting cards, fine prints by Rita Berault, and many other great gift items, so stop by or give us a call about these.

We are offering 50% off all of our gently used saris, Punjabi suits, and blouses. We just received a huge new batch of them. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and look around—it is sort of like going to India! We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalaksh Mishop.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org where you will find a calendar of upcoming events, many stories by devotees, writings about Shri Babaji and the Divine Mother, and the Ashram schedule. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji’s and Mother’s home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.



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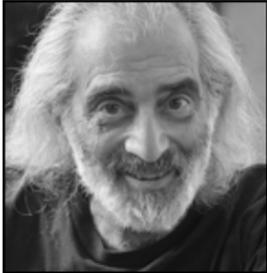
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Aging as an art by Ammi Kohn

My daimon

by Ammi Kohn

Do we create the story of our lives when we are young and then live it we get older?

I have a picture of myself in kindergarten reading *Mexican Gallop*, a novel about the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s with an American engineer who gives up his conventional life in the United States, travels to Mexico, lives in a train with revolutionaries, traveling and fighting with his Mexican lover to build a new society. When I was ten I was completely entranced by *The Flying Yorkshireman*, a fantasy about a flying man who ends his life living with an eccentric woman who builds houses out of bottles and corks. When I was thirteen I fell in love with a short story about a Jewish man who falls madly in love and marries a non-Jew in opposition to his cultural background and the fierce opposition of his family.

All of these fantasies, in one way or another, I lived out in my life. So I ask, do we write our fate, do we unknowingly create the direction of our lives when we are young? Are our life choices a pattern we recognize only late in our lives, when we have the experience, perspective, and wisdom to understand ourselves and how we have lived?

What delicious wisdom, what

comfort, to know my life was not a random series of choices, that what seemed a series of crooked paths for so many years, toward the end of my days was understood as clearly purposeful.

My daimon, recognized & satisfied

I believe we each have a daimon, a spirit, a vital force unique to ourself, which, if recognized and acknowledged, consciously or not, propels us to a life fulfilled. How does it come to us? For me, love broke through the barriers to begin the process of embracing my daimon.

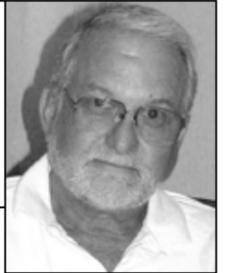
I believe that if we cannot recognize our daimon, or refuse to acknowledge it because of society's repressions, or our upbringing, or a trauma in early life, or bad luck in our relationships, or any number of reasons, we live a life of frustration, anger, unhappiness, empty of good soul.

When I was not living my story, I heard a voice in the night when no one was there. In the midst of intense emotion, I spoke completely without forethought, with a cry like a punch in the stomach, words which did not make sense until later. Later I heard in my head, not thoughts but words clear as a bell, describing the future . . . and the voice seemed to come from the ether, from elsewhere, and not from my rational intelligence.

When your daimon speaks, listen to it!

Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



Compiled by Aviella Shomayr
Take a deep breath. Now let it out . . . and relax.

It's time to start a new year, put the past behind you and begin to seize the full potential of your destiny.

Shake off the anxieties of the past tumultuous year of election activities, reports of horrendous wars around the world, and deadly earthquakes and natural disasters. Let go of the disappointments and perceived failures of your past, and set your sights on making this your best year ever!

Now is a good time to reassess your life. Ask yourself, "Are you on track to achieve your goals? Do you want to live a more significant life? Is there joy in your life?"

This year will bring you new challenges and opportunities that have the potential of creating life-changing experiences. Opportunities for spiritual awakening and growth are numerous throughout our small community. I would like to invite you to a spiritual refuge in which you can regain your personal peace, grow in spiritual truth and knowledge, and achieve full spiritual enlightenment.

Welcome to the Free Spirit Christian Church in Moffat, a Holy Spirit-filled Bible teaching church that is dedicated to teaching the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, Yeshua the Messiah. Pastor Earl LeRoy presents weekly Bible teaching, enhanced with direct revelations from God's Holy

Spirit, revelations that will speak to your soul. This month we will begin sharing highlights from these revelations and Earl's sermons for you to enjoy.

I am all you need

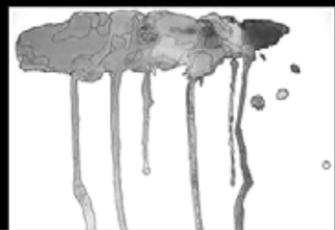
"You are in Me (Jesus the Christ), and in Me is all the power, wisdom, and everything you need to overcome any challenge. My Holy Spirit dwells in you and is the biggest power generation station in the Universe. No matter how much power you need at any time, the Holy Spirit's limitless generation capacity is sufficient to provide for all of your needs."

"The Holy Spirit is the power that is always with you (when you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior). He enables you to accomplish God's most perfect will in, with and through your life as you rest in His provision. You see, your faith is the fuel of My power. Your faith in Me (Jesus) provides the conduit for My power to flow through you."

"As you seek My face, My most perfect will, and surrender yourself to My Holiness and Righteousness, your pure faith, even if it is only the size of a mustard seed, can move mountains, because holiness and righteousness removes all doubt and unbelief. Come unto Me and I will give you rest." This message was received and written by Pastor LeRoy.

Everyone is welcome to come join us and make a joyful noise unto the Lord Jesus the Christ!

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WizKid Quiz

70 to 80% of household dust is made up of what?

- a. Animal hair and dander
- b. Dirt blown in from outside.
- c. Dead skin cells
- d. Decaying fabric and furniture.

Poppy & Pierre

The New Year's Resolution

Poppy & Pierre sat in front of the fireplace. It was New Year's Eve and the year was 1916. The two bunnies had permission to stay up late to see the fireworks. They were very excited.

"What is your New Year's resolution?" Poppy asked Pierre, her older brother.

"This year," Pierre said, "I shall be very generous and share my toys."

"Yay!" Poppy exclaimed and ran to the playroom.

She returned with Pierre's favorite teddy bear, and she hugged and kissed and sang to him.

Pierre felt left out, and finally said, "Maybe I will make a different resolution."

"Why?" Poppy asked.

"Because I want to play with Teddy." Pierre answered.

"Well, you can play with my dollies." Poppy offered.

"Non, I do not like dollies." Pierre pouted a little.

Poppy started to hand him his teddy bear, but she wanted to play with Teddy too. Then she had an idea!

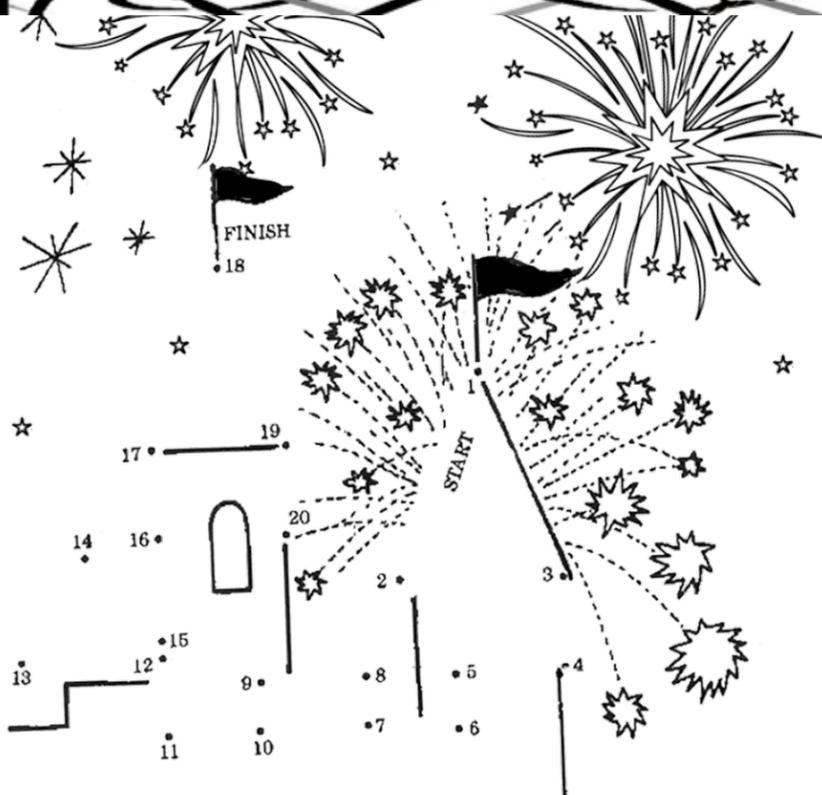
She got up from her seat and went to Pierre's chair.

"Please move over so I can sit beside you." She asked politely.

"Why?" Pierre asked.

"Because if I sit beside you, we can both play with Teddy, and we can make up a song together."

Pierre agreed, and the two bunnies had such fun playing with Teddy together that Pierre decided that being generous was his best idea ever.



Connect the Dots



**Why didn't zombie go to school?
Because he felt rotten!**

The Jokester

School Jokes

What did the paper say to the pencil?
Write on!

What vegetables do librarians like?
Quiet peas!

How do bees get to school?
By the school buzz!

Why did the kid study in the airplane?
He wanted a higher education!

What do you get when you throw a million books into the ocean?
A title wave!

Which hand is it better to write with?
Neither, you should use a pen!

How do you get straight A's?
Use a ruler!

What do you call a pirate that skips class?
Captain Hooky!

Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet?
Because they spend years at C!

What grades did the pirate get in school?
High C's

What building has the most stories?
The library!

What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?
Bookworms!



ANSWERS
a, b, and d, make up the other 20 to 30 %
c. dead skin cells.

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Ugly sweater contest



And the winner is . . .
Moffat School staff participated in an "Ugly Sweater Day." Moffat Secondary students voted on who had the ugliest sweater. The competition was between Megan Granzella (MS/HS Science), Virginia Drake (District Secretary), Charity Gallegos (Business Manager), Jaycie Jones (4th/5th Grade Teacher), and Lyndal Smith (Secondary Social Studies). It was a very close call between all contests but in the end the students chose Miss Virginia as their "Ugly Sweater Winner." She received an ice scraper and salt water taffy for her prize! Great job everyone!



Moffat seniors enjoying another day at school!

A Christmas Carol - Moffat style

On December 15 Moffat PK-12 Grades had their Winter Concert. PK-5th grades sang various songs such as "One little elf, two little elves, three little elves," as well as songs like "Ebenezer," "Scrooge," "Brand New Man," and

"Taking You Home for the Holidays" written by Mr. Dale Smith. The Elementary students also presented "A Christmas Carol Moffat Style" alongside the Moffat High School Drama Class. Also students had their shop projects on display during the Winter Concert for all to see. Everyone did a wonderful job! Congratulations students and staff!



The 4th & 5th grade classes created ginger bread houses.

Moffat School holiday thanks

Some very lucky children will have a special holiday this year thanks to some very generous people. We would like to thank and acknowledge Crestone Mercantile, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the greater Crestone/Moffat community and Moffat School Key Club for their charity and tireless efforts to make this happen. Our children's smiles are worth a thousand words.



2nd & 3rd grade students created dioramas that went along with their history lessons.



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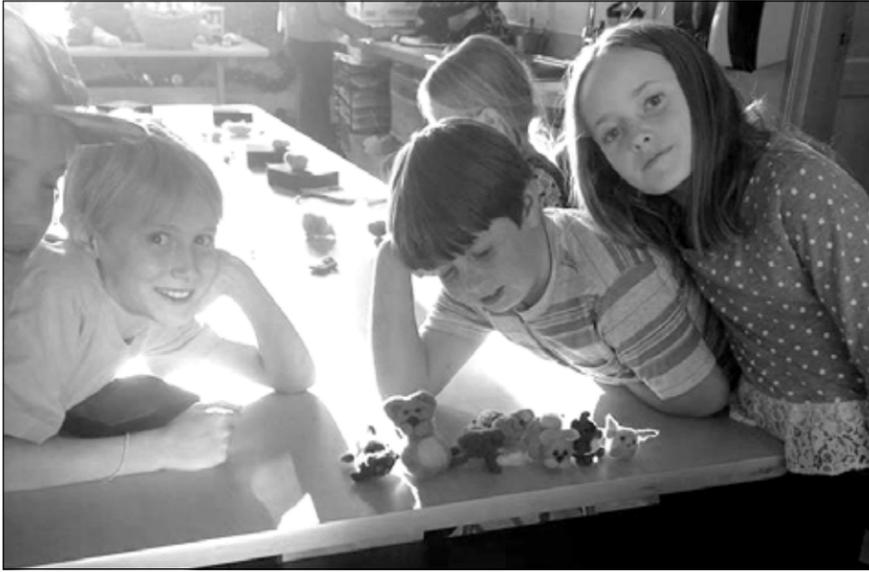
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Art Club students display their menagerie of needle felt animals. photo by Kristy Knight



Sixth grade student Rasalas Gers creates a fall leaf watercolor study. photo by Kristy Knight



CCS art teacher Kristy Knight demonstrates painting techniques to children in the K-1 Early Elementary class. photo by Daya Scheide

Art classes at the Crestone Charter School enriches learning

The Crestone Charter School would like to wish a very happy new year filled with learning, love, and creativity to all of our friends and families in Crestone and beyond!

The Crestone Charter School has always been proud of its vibrant and integrated approach to art education. This year, students in kindergarten through eighth grade are taking arts and crafts to new heights, under the guidance of art teacher Kristy Knight.

As Kristy explains, “our goal at CCS to develop individuals who are creative thinkers. The condition of the world today shows us that our children will be called upon to revise, change, and remake our world into a new pattern of existence. Problems in human relations, poverty, growing populations, violence, international understandings and technological change show us the importance of creativity in education.”

If we truly want to teach the “whole child,” then Kristy shows us why art education is one of our most powerful tools: “Drawing, painting, and constructing gives children the opportunity to bring together diverse elements of their environment to form a meaningful whole. Through this process the child gives us a piece of themselves: how they

feel, see, and think. Art education has the potential to develop the whole child, a flexible creative human being.

Early elementary students are learning about the basic elements of shape and color. For their “Shape People” project, they began by using wooden blocks to print the bodies of their friends, and then added details to make charming portraits.

Children in the primary class are using the ancient art of textile weaving to deepen their literacy skills and their knowledge of Greek mythology. After studying the story of Arachne and Athena, students wrote their own stories. Then the “story weavers” translated their tales into textiles, using different colors to represent each part of the story.

According to seventh grade student Lilith Safford, “our art classes are awesome because Kristy doesn’t just teach how to do the art; she also teaches us the lessons and history behind the art that we’re exploring. For example, we learned about the life and art of Albrecht Dürer, who made these incredible, creative prints of animals he’d never seen before. So we got really inspired to make our own fun animal prints from cut linoleum.”



Eighth grade student Max VanHorn creates a cut linoleum print. photo by Kristy Knight

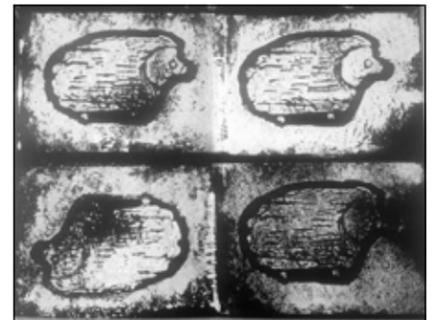


Primary students wrote their own stories and represented each part of the story with a different color of yarn. photo by Daya Scheide

Lilith goes on to explain some of the subtleties behind her class’s recent projects: “We’re really focused on the element of texture right now. In our printmaking, we use texture to try to create the illusion of fur or skin. We’re also learning how to blend colors and really think about the overall composition on the page.”

For students who wished to take their creativity even further, Kristy offered an extracurricular art club featuring ceramics, needle felt sculpture, collaborative mural painting, and more.

If you haven’t visited the Crestone Charter School lately, you might want to come by to get a glimpse of our amazing student creativity. Our walls are absolutely



A whimsical linoleum animal print by Kaelen Hollyer, 6th grade. photo by Kristy Knight

bursting with color, shape, and texture! Additionally, Kristy has created an artsonia.com account for each student, where parents can purchase student art prints, posters, mugs, shirts, calendars, and other artistic gifts.

Happy new year, everyone!

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The Washington Beat

He won & he's still whining

by David Nicholas

Spare us this amateur politician who can't get over that millions didn't vote for this anally retentive 70-year-old. No matter how hard he wants to word it on Twitter or other social media more people (65,818,318 v. 62,958,211 at last count) didn't vote for him and this fact is sticking in his craw. Mid-December still saw him campaigning in the so-called "Thank You" victory tour. Worse, he complains that people refuse to rollover and swear obedience to an autocrat.

Political amateurs have to realize that uniting the nation requires words and deeds that invite conciliation and Mr. Trump isn't doing that. While it would be smarter in this transition period to hold the occasional press conference rather than shooting policy from the hip, he hasn't. Rather, he keeps bashing his victory over the heads of voters who backed the loser, when keeping his mouth shut would be the wiser course, but that isn't Mr. Trump. He is morose and grumpy when he isn't before adoring crowds, which should be seen as a warning. Shooting from the hip doesn't make for good policy, either foreign or domestic.

Mr. Trump is still having kittens over the email issue. I happened to be following President Obama's last press conference for the year on Friday, December 16 on Twitter when Mr. Trump's Twitter handle started pumping out verbiage about the President's comments on Putin's Russia hacking into both the DNC and Hillary's campaign's emails.

For some reason Mr. Trump isn't satisfied that the emails had anything to do with his winning the election. He branded the claims as "ridiculous" and simply stated that Democrats and the Clinton campaign were sore losers. That he continues to obsess over this and the fact that the majority of voters didn't vote for him is very weird. But Democrats believe it, and in the NBC/ORC poll released on December 16, 86% of Democrats are concerned that the daily email dumps affected the outcome of the election. Hindsight generally makes one wiser.

Worse, he intends to rub salt in the wounds. Mr. Trump is busy building a cabinet that looks like a wealthy military junta. His picks for cabinet are billionaires, millionaires, generals and Texas oilmen. Talk about bulls in a china shop. None of these "whiz kids" have been subservient to another alpha male for wisdom and guidance and by the looks of it they are not going to start now. I keep thinking back to Barry Goldwater's pick for Vice President, Air Force General Curtis Le May who proffered the idea that if he won and had his way America would be run like a SAC. From January 20 that's where America could be headed with low-flying Strategic Air Command stealth bombers coming out of the sunrise at dawn, making the perfect wake-up call.

Then we have four years of his "growing pains" on a learning curve that gets steeper exponentially from day one, which is January 20. Mr. Trump thinks he can spend his time

brokering political deals from the Oval Office. Unfortunately the presidency is 90% political instinct/practical intelligence and if you are lucky, 10% of your time is spent brokering deals or compromising. Also, and unfortunately for us, we get to share in this grand experiment as he will chatter incessantly about his greatness and never let us forget it.

You could say that since November 8, the President-elect has been trying to set the narrative about how great he is and who he has been holding court with in Trump Tower, but the show gets undercut by his 3am tweeting, which generally is pretty telling about a man who's wide awake in the wee hours of the morning. It seems he needs public adulation at all hours. Dare I say that he's an insomniac? This can be a problem when a fat man doesn't get enough sleep; it can also have adverse effects on health and impair judgment.

This new President is also making mistakes. Taking the congratulatory phone call from the President of Taiwan set off foreign policy wonks in the State Department as the forty-year-old "one-China" policy was shot to hell or put on a rocky foundation. The People's Republic of China took affront. This is a serious problem when one of the two major creditors of the United States gets pissed off. This delicate relationship can get calamitously adversarial very quickly.

This was disturbing enough to get the Obama Administration on the phones to Beijing to reassure the Chinese leadership that the US relationship was still solid and remains in place. Except, is it?

The Chinese invented water torture—not water boarding—that is, where drops of water slow-drip the third-eye center on the forehead of the victim sometimes for hours and days on end. That eventually brings on madness. In economic terms it relates to turning over 30-day and 90-day US paper—bonds and treasury notes—worth several trillions of US dollars like clockwork. If their position moves from clockwork to staggering uncertainty, the US dollar starts getting hit; Mr. Trump may have to go begging to Beijing. Those dead of night Trump Force One arrivals at Beijing Airport being met on the tarmac by the third in line to the foreign minister can look quite ugly in front of the US networks' press pool.

However, this winter could be a great time to brush up on your Russian, so you too can say "Dobroye utro tovarishch Reks" (Good Morning Comrade Rex) to incoming Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former head of ExxonMobil and close buds with Russian president Vladimir V. Putin. More on this pick below.

So was the election rigged?

On December 15, FBI Director James Comey finally agreed with the Director of National Intelligence



and the CIA that the hacking of the emails came from Russia, the very country the President-Elect encouraged to do just that months before the election.

No question the emails of the Democratic National Committee and of Hillary's campaign's servers were hacked by the Russians. All the security agencies—the FBI, the CIA and the Director of National Intelligence—all the government intelligence agencies agree that this was the case. However, none say that the count on election night was hacked.

On December 16, when NBC's MeetThePress's moderator Chuck Todd asked whether not getting Mrs. Clinton to campaign in Wisconsin was a mistake, the hesitation by Mr. Podesta was very telling. Not campaigning in Wisconsin put the emails in play and the daily dump by Wikileaks became Chinese water torture for her campaign.

Now, if you want to burn someone in effigy for the email blast in October, my vote would be for Julian Assange, whose anger at Hillary Clinton and the Obama Administration, forcing him to hole up in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London these last four years, has been unrelenting. The irony is Mr. Assange (who thinks Mr. Trump will get Sweden to drop his sexual assault charges) could well be in for disappointment. If Mr. Trump were to "pardon" or signal to Mr. Assange that he would forgive his conduct, it would signal that Mr. Trump condoned Mr. Assange's actions in the email scandal. He isn't going to do that, at least not for the foreseeable future.

That said, was the vote rigged? Not in my view. A lot of reputations of local officials ride on correct election figures on election night. So unless you have access to the Diebolt voting machines and scanners, which are not connected to the internet, you would have to have a small army of technicians rigging them weeks and days before the election in places where tampering could be carried out unobserved, and that is pretty hard to do. I remain to be surprised if this happened but I don't think so.

The Electoral College vote December 19

Remember when the last Electoral College vote brought protesters into the halls of many statehouses where the count took place? Not in my lifetime until now. This happened on Monday, December 19 and from now on this could be the promise of things to come. However, getting electors to buck their states and cast their votes against Presidents-Elect, and getting them to change their vote for the loser is a pretty tall order. This was always a long shot and it was not to be. Mr. Trump won the count.

Previously, Trump boasted that this result was a "historic" electoral landslide. But his 305 to 232 win over Clinton ranks just 46th out of 58 Electoral College results.

Ultimately, Ohio Governor John Kasich earned one vote from an elector in Texas. So did former Representative Ron Paul (R-Tex.). In Washington state, three electors cast votes for former Secretary of State Colin Powell, while another voted for Faith Spotted Eagle, a member of the Sioux Native American tribe from South Dakota who

opposes the Dakota Access Pipeline. Vice-President-Elect Mike Pence earned the requisite electoral votes to serve as vice president, but in Washington state, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA.) also earned some votes.

The casting of votes took place at noon across the US, according to time zone. So the casting of votes didn't finish until Hawaii voted some six hours after the first votes were cast on the east coast. What the protests did do was shine a light on an important constitutional process that rarely gets any exposure.

Now the counting of votes takes place in a joint sitting of Congress on Friday, January 6, so if there are any objections over the vote they can be made in writing and be considered. It's never happened but there can be a first time.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

This Trump pick came as the media was foaming at the mouth. The early favorites, former New York City Mayor Giuliani and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, were bouncing in and out of Trump Tower. There were armed camps within Trump Tower vying for one over the other. It was only when Campaign Director Kellyanne Conway tweeted in public that Mr. Romney was not her favorite that the warfare was reduced by widening the search. Rex Tillerson became a favorite after some foreign policy heavyweights—such as former SecDef Robert Gates—said he might be a good choice.

This is not the first time a corporate head has been selected as Secretary of State. President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Schultz came from Bechtel, the giant conglomerate that constructs and engineers nuclear reactors.

It will be interesting to see how Mr. Tillerson goes through the vetting process at the hands of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and if his cozy relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin poses problems for his confirmation. Probably not, but as the Secretary of State is the President's right hand in foreign policy, so a wrong word could make this process very contentious.

On notice: Air Force One

Four billion dollars is too much money for the new Air Force One, according to the in-coming President, who thinks he can do better with the Trump Jet. Trump Force One as the jet is now referred would need to be outfitted with extensive communication systems and in-flight refueling for those long distance round-the-world hauls. When Mr. Trump announced his opinion on Twitter, Boeing stock dropped \$2 a share. We will see.

On notice: The Joint Strike Fighter F-35

The F-35 fighter-bomber, a long-range swing-wing aircraft that can fly undetected with stealth technology, drawn up by Lockheed-Martin, has been slow to iron out the kinks, resulting in huge cost overruns. The plane has never delivered on what was initially promised, being all things to all defense needs. Countries who have sunk their entire defense budgets into this sucker are fretting that when Mr. Trump tweeted that it was too much money, the price of Lockheed-Martin stock dropped \$4 a share.

The plane is a cherished pig in the Pentagon trough, so it will be harder to get rid of this junk than trying to close Guantanamo prison. We will watch with baited breath.

The Trump cabinet picks

January 20 marks the end of an era when ordinary decent lesser mortals came to the job of President of the United States. When Donald J. Trump takes the oath of office, the office of president and his administration become the realm of arrogant, narrow-minded billionaires married to a potential military junta. The new President has an authoritarian streak, despite poor efforts to be seen to be inclusive. Basically America and the rest of the world now embark on a journey of the unknown. With his short attention span and the strong-willed people the President-elect has selected to surround himself, one can see that this can get crazy very quickly.

The new administration should give us pause for concern. Much media mumbling has been made in reference to President Lincoln's cabinet "team of rivals," blah, blah, blah and so on and so forth, but back then in 1860 he was facing a war between the states and he was smart enough to be able to play each one against the other.

Fast forward to 2017. We are not facing a likely war (except for the two we are sort-of are in already), but given amateurism and that some around Mr. Trump may have an addiction to conflict—a trait I am very familiar with—a major war could happen because of stupid mistakes. So there is a need to step carefully, exercising caution. Some of his generals desire to apply their military "acumen" to Cuba, Iran and China (some having outspoken views on these countries), as well as likely meddling further in Syria and Iraq. The weight of suspicion by some 62 million voters, however, may put a brake on such ambitions.

The one thing that is clear to me that leading Democrats in Congress have to stop playing nice with the incoming administration and fight them for all they are worth, but the signs are that most Demo-

cratic Senators will want to rollover and have their tummies rubbed. This does not auger well.

So here is who gets what in the Trump Cabinet

a) Requiring Senate Confirmation

Secretary of the Treasury, Steven Mnuchin; Secretary of State, Mr. Rex W. Tillerson; Secretary of Defense, General James N. Mattis; Attorney General, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-TN); Secretary of Homeland Security, General John F. Kelly; Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Ryan Zinke; Secretary of Energy, Governor Rick Perry (R-TX); Secretary of Labor, Mr. Andrew F. Puzder; Secretary of Small Business, Ms. Linda McMahon; Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt; Secretary for Transportation Ms. Elaine L. Chao; Secretary for Health and Human Services, Mr. Tom Price; Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; United Nations Representative, Governor Nikki R. Haley (R-NC); Secretary for Housing and Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson; C.I.A. Director, Representative Mike Pompeo (R-KS).

Still to be selected are the Director of National Intelligence, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the US Trade Representative.

b) These are low-lives who snuck in and do not require Senate confirmation:

White House Counsel, Mr. Donald F. McGahn II; National Security Adviser General Michael T. Flynn; Chief of Staff, Reince Priebus; Chief Strategist, Mr. Stephen K. Bannon.

Decent things: The Standing Rock protest

It had been going for months: Native Americans and supporters had gathered at the Standing Rock Reservation to halt the laying of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which was cutting across the sacred lands on the reservation.

On Sunday, December 4, as thousands of military veterans formed a human barrier, shielding the protesters, who call themselves "water protectors," from the National Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that the Dakota Access Pipeline would be denied an easement across treaty-protected Indian lands, pending further analysis and an Environmental Impact Statement. This decision not only gives the Standing Rock Sioux an enormous legal victory, it is a seismic shift in the sovereign-to-sovereign relations between the federal government and the Indian Nations of the United States.

At the point where the pipeline crosses onto the reservation it comes from pipeline laid underneath the Missouri River, and the fear is that the pipeline breaks in harsh below-zero temperatures, it would contaminate a water supply the Sioux nation depends upon, and make repairs impossible before the thaw in spring.

So while there is joy in this New Year over the victory, January 20 looms large as a time when the incoming Trump Administration may overturn the current situation. It is known that neither incoming Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, nor Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt have little inclination toward environ-

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Jerusalem Countdown:

★★★

When nuclear weapons are smuggled into America, the impossible task of finding them before detonated falls upon an FBI agent. As the clock closes in on the situation, the only people able to help are a washed-up arms dealer, a converted Israeli Mossad agent and a follow-the-rules CIA Deputy Director. Stars: Lee Majors, Stacy Keach, Randy Travis, et al.

2/ The Last Kung Fu Monk:

★★★

A car accident orphans his nephew and he comes to America to help raise him and also opens a Martial Arts School. But he gets caught up in a dangerous kung fu underworld involving the Russian Mafia. Li Peng Zhang.

3/ The Dancer Upstairs:

★★★★

An involved, taut, detective and romance story along with a revolution taking place in an unnamed Latin American country. There is a self-styled, delusional, Marxist-influenced guerilla, who incites the downtrodden to join his brutal revolution against the corrupt fascist government and is elusive. Detective Rejas, played by Javier Bardem, attempt to find this mysterious man, known as President Ezequiel, played by Abel Folk. Meanwhile there is an attraction to Yolanda, played by Laura Morante, his daughter's ballet teacher, as the plot thickens and twists.

4/ Ingenious:

★★★

Two friends, an inventor and a salesman hit rock bottom in their pursuit of the Big Idea and have their friendship and the inventor's marriage threatened as they get regular jobs. They get creative for funding as they pursue their dream. Based on a true story.

5/ Confessions of a Brazilian Call Girl:

★★★★

Alert to some nudity. A girl, adopted by an upper middle class family, rebels and leaves her schooling at a traditional college in Sao Paulo, to become a call girl. She then starts a blog of her experiences that soon becomes a sensation in Brazil. She gets interviewed by the most famous talk shows in the country, while her life changes significantly, and she ends up writing a book about her experiences.

mental protection and may reverse the decision. We will be watching to see what happens.

Syria

Trying to end the regime of Bashir al-Assad is still a losing proposition. After six years of superior Western interference, mainly bombing Syria into oblivion, Bashir al-Assad is still there. Ironically, the careers of several world leaders have had their political fortunes sharply curtailed because of west-ern interference into Syria.

French President François Hollande will not stand for re-election making way for a far-right politician to take-over in the mid-year French elections. German chancellor Angela Merkel, who generally governs from the center, is moving to the right in order to keep her job due to reaction to her humane immigration policy, admitting Syrian refugees en masse to the Federal Republic.

Turkey's President Ragid Tayyip Ertogen has seen Turkey reduced to a shooting gallery for terrorists while he tightens his grip on power. He's not finding a lot of international support for his "democratic" power grab. Worse for President Ertogen is that bombings in and around Ankara are occurring on a regular basis. This marks Turkey as a must-avoid for tourism, an industry which provides vital income for an economy that offers little else. Compounding this was the fatal shooting of the Russian Ambassador to Turkey on December 19 at an art gallery in Ankara by a Turkish policeman.

Last but not least, former British Prime Minister David Cameron resigned after the Brexit vote. Brexit was due, in part, to the European Union's immigration policy and its inability to secure its borders from terrorism based in the war in Syria. Seeing the writing on the wall, Mr.

Cameron knew what he was doing when he resigned, ducking out when the going was good.

The plight of Aleppo through this lens makes the disheartening ruination and needless slaughter in Syria's largest commercial city over almost six years clearer to understand.

France and Britain righteously believed it was the West's destiny to bring Bashar al-Assad to heel, and bombing his major cities into oblivion would beat him into submission. Aleppo should be regarded as the West's idea of shock and awe, which has destroyed buildings, infrastructure and killed hundreds of thousands of people. If Western powers had stayed out of the Syrian uprising (which was peaceful when it began in 2011), it is quite likely Assad would have been forced to make concessions, allowing autonomy in Sunni-dominant provinces. Instead we have the bloodiest war of the 21st century.

President Assad will still be standing when ISIL and the other rebels in Syria withdraw or die. This is foreign policy irony.

Mr. Assad made new friends, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, and made stronger ties with Iran. Coming to President Assad's rescue as he did in 2015 made Putin a player in the Middle East, where before Russia was merely an onlooker.

The foreign policy pundits in DC claim that Syria remains a black mark against President Obama's legacy, but keeping the US out of Syria and the mess it has become goes down in my book as one of the smartest moves he made in his eight years. Mr. Trump should steer clear of this mire and not listen to the warmongers in his cabinet who crave to prove their warrior credentials.

And the beat goes on.

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Electoral College

continued from page 1

was not dominated by one or two states. Not only does Trump insist that he won the popular vote “because 3 million illegal votes were cast” (a statement unsupported by fact) but he has also insisted he would have run a different campaign without the Electoral College and still won because he would have campaigned only in populous states like California. People who want to abolish the Electoral College say that it’s unfair a candidate could win so many more votes and still lose.

Recounts were launched by Green candidate Jill Stein in Wis-

consin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania at the behest of election experts who said irregularities noted there merited further investigation. In one noted irregularity in Wisconsin, Clinton received 7% fewer votes in counties with electronic voting machines than in counties that have paper ballots. In Michigan, more than 80,000 ballots were said to be blank where the votes for president would be marked, twice the number left blank in the previous election, and several times the margin between the two candidates. In Pennsylvania, the gap between Clinton’s and Trump’s votes narrowed dramatically even before the recount, as officials got around to actually counting all the ballots.

Investigative reporter Greg Palast is pursuing an explanation for the 75,355 ballots in Michigan that were never counted. The majority of these votes came from Detroit and Flint, majority black cities. Palast presented his findings to an ad hoc Congressional hearing and the Justice Department about the suppression of minority votes.

When people went to the polls on November 8, they may have thought they were voting for Hillary Clinton and Tim Paine, or for Donald Trump and Mike Pence. In reality they were voting for presidential electors, most of whom are hardly household names, and typically would have cast their vote relatively anonymously. The Electoral College gets the final say in who wins the White House.

In Colorado on December 19, amid calls for Republican Secretary of State Wayne Williams to resign, Colorado’s electors cast eight Elec-

toral College votes for Hillary Clinton—and one that wasn’t accepted. That ninth elector was replaced by another who voted for Clinton. The votes marked the end of a drawn-out confrontation between the state’s Democratic electors and state government officials. Colorado statutes require that electors cast their ballots in accordance with the popular vote.

Colorado Secretary of State Williams passed a temporary rule at 11:48am—a mere 12 minutes before the noon deadline—binding electors explicitly to vote for the person who won the most votes, replacing language “to faithfully perform their duties” and including steep fines and imprisonment if not compliant. Leading up to the event, Williams said that any electors who violate the oath contained in the new rule could be charged with perjury and violations of the election code. Asked afterward if the renegade elector would be charged, Williams said that is up to other people now.

The vote was an anticlimactic ending to multiple court battles between state officials and Colorado electors to define the role of the Electoral College as defined by the US Constitution. A few Colorado electors were part of a national movement primarily of Democratic electors who wanted to vote for someone other than Clinton, perhaps even a Republican, to encourage Republican electors not to vote for Trump. The idea: If 37 Republican electors voted for someone other than Trump, then he would not have 270 electoral votes, and the decision for President and Vice-President would go to the House of Representatives. (US Constitution, Amendment XII)

Electors in two other states went to court seeking a chance to vote their mind rather than conforming to their state’s popular vote results; another resigned altogether. One Republican elector in Texas publicly stated he would not vote for Trump. One Democrat in Maine cast his vote for Bernie Sanders. In the end, most electors conformed to the standard of casting their vote

for the popular vote winner in their state—resulting in Trump winning the requisite number of votes to claim victory.

Almost 80 electors requested an extension of the Electoral College scheduled vote, asking for an intelligence briefing on the role Russian hacks may have played in the November general election. US intelligence officials denied that request. The White House has initiated a thorough investigation and a briefing is to be prepared for President Obama before he leaves office on January 20.

Votes cast by presidential electors will be counted on January 6, during a joint session of Congress, and only then will the winner be “officially” declared.

Despite questions raised regarding the necessity of the Electoral College, the outcome of the 2016 election remains predictable. The 2016 election—as did the 2000 election—serves as a reminder that a majority of Americans don’t necessarily elect Presidents in America.

Mj research grants

continued from page 1

executive director and chief medical officer. “The findings will inform our public education efforts and give people additional information they need to make decisions about marijuana use.”

The seven grants were awarded following scientific review and scoring of 16 full grant applications out of 58 preliminary applications initially received.

Two types of grants were awarded. Pilot grants will fund up to \$100,000 per year for up to two years. Full research grants will provide up to \$300,000 per year for up to three years.

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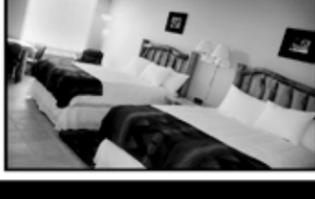
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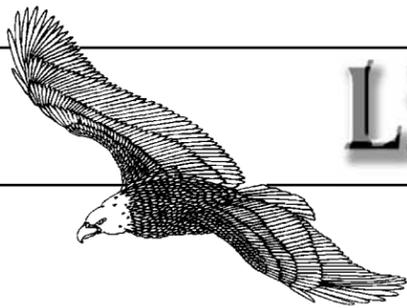
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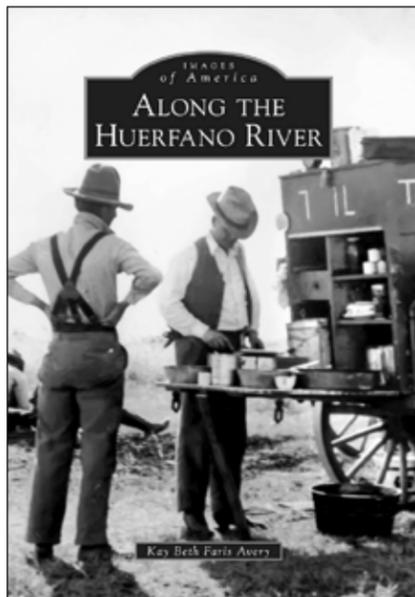
Along the Huerfano River: A book review

by Mary Lowers

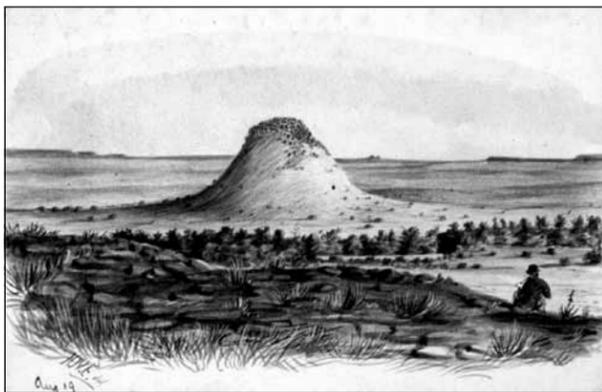
Arcadia Publishing's latest volume in the Images of America series is a compelling history in pictures called *Along the Huerfano River* by southern Colorado author Kay Beth Faris Avery. The author uses select images carefully gleaned from sources ranging from official state archives, regional heritage centers, county historical societies, city libraries, and private collections. These images draw you for a walk through the region's history and along the Huerfano River's trails. The unique cultural mix of the Huerfano Valley over time is fleshed out through the historic images. Historically relevant captions, insightful and well written by Avery, complete the historic stroll down the Huerfano River.

The Huerfano River is not a long stream. It begins at Lily Lake up on Mount Blanca and joins the Arkansas River in Pueblo County. It's had ancient and varied relationships with humans. Prior to European appearance on the scene, Native Americans, including Ute, Apache, and Taos Pueblo peoples, had established trading and hunting trails into what's now southwestern Colorado. One of these trails wound north into the San Luis Valley, ascending Sangre de Cristo Pass on the east flank of Mount Blanca. From there it follows Oak Creek to the Huerfano River. The trail follows the Huerfano to where the river merges with the Arkansas River. As the book picks up momentum we flow along effortlessly with Avery through illustrated tales of the Huerfano Valley.

Spanish and other explorers used the Native American trails to become familiar with all the routes that crossed the Huerfano River. After the Louisiana Purchase (1803), American Zebulon Pike was sent on a mission to explore/spy on the Spanish territories in Colorado and New Mexico. Pike was detained near Conejos and Antonito by Mexican soldiers and eventually sent to a prison in Mexico for a time. This incursion resulted in the Spanish Governor of the territory, Fercundo Melgares, establishing a fort in 1819 on south Oak Creek, near the top



Along the Huerfano River by southern Colorado author Kay Beth Faris Avery.



Huerfano Butte. Huerfano, meaning "orphan" in Spanish, was first applied to this butte and is the name of many regional features. Huerfano Butte stands alone, orphaned on the plains just east of Interstate 25, and is a naturally formed landmark visible from miles away.

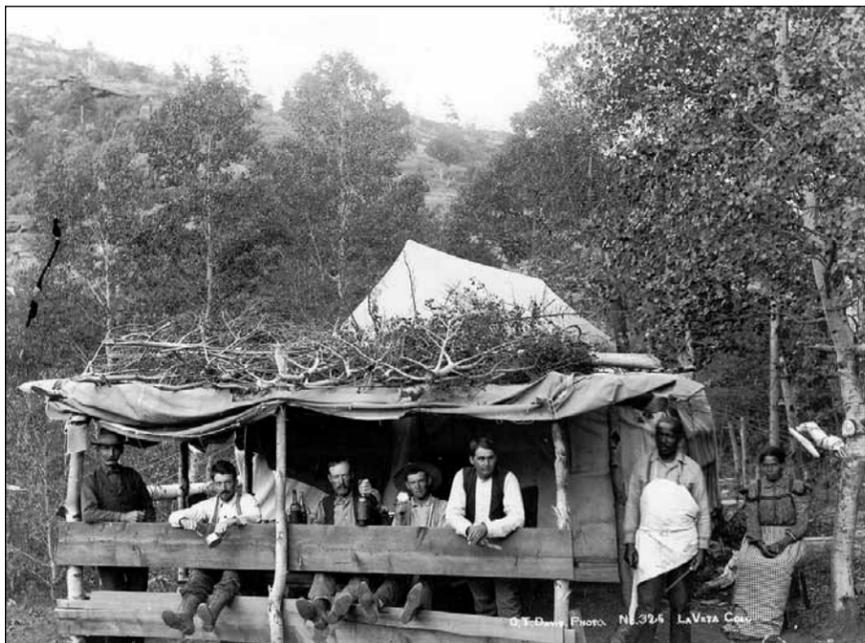
USGS Denver Library Photographic Collection

of Sangre de Cristo Pass five miles above the Huerfano River.

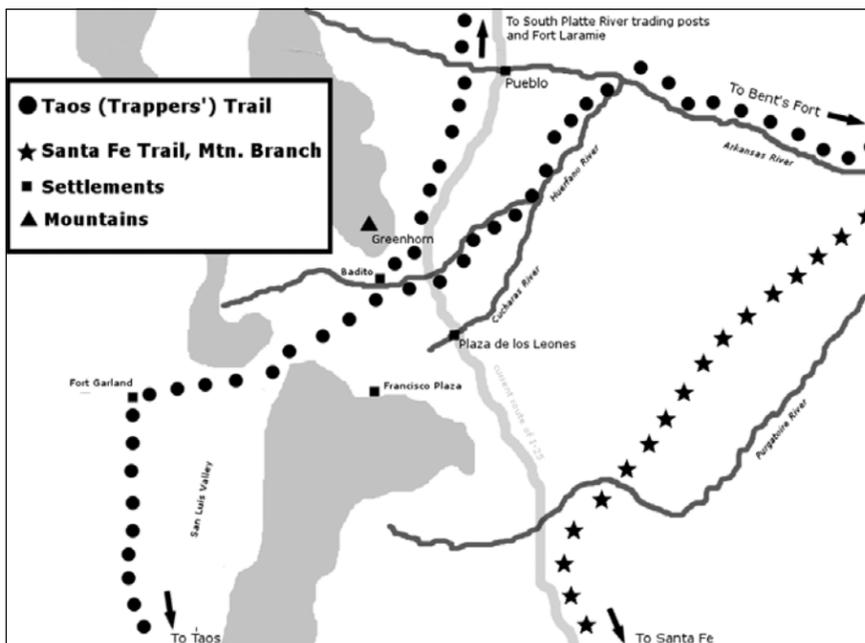
Avery tells readers that the part of the trail along the Huerfano River that was probably the busiest and most profitable was the Mountain Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. Established after Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the trail ran from Santa Fe to Missouri. Avery talks of amazing deals that were made. One of the first traders to reach Santa Fe by this route was William Becknell. Upon reaching the city of faith he "managed to exchange three hundred dollars in trade goods for six thousand in Mexican silver." In 1843 the traffic on this route was two hundred and thirty wagons hauling goods from the United States as far south as Chihuahua, Mexico.

The lucrative trade in beaver pelts and buffalo robes was also carried on along the Huerfano River. Quite a few traders set up forts

continued on page B-8



D&RG Construction Camp, 1899. During the construction of the standard-gauge track through the Huerfano and San Luis valleys, these workers endured hard living conditions. They spent their short nights on folding cots inside canvas tents and their 16-hour days at the grueling task of pounding six-inch-long iron spikes into wooden railroad ties with a sledgehammer. Monte Vista Historical Society/O.T. Davis Collection



Two frontier routes: This map compares the trail over Sangre de Cristo Pass (also known as the Taos or Trappers' Trail) with the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Both routes were extremely important in the development of southeastern Colorado. (Ruth Orr at the Huerfano World Journal in Walsenburg.)



Las Animas County, 1968. Drop City's impressive structures were based on Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes and the crystalline design of Steve Baer (founder of Zome-works Corporation, a pioneer company in geometric structure and passive solar energy). Drop City was abandoned in the early 1970s and torn down in the late 1990s. A truck repair facility now occupies a portion of the site. photo by Irene Guilly



by Kim Malville

This month the western sky after sunset is going to be dominated by Venus, which reaches its greatest height above the horizon on January 12. Above it you will find dimmer and redder Mars. Jupiter rises around midnight and will be high in the south at dawn.

January 1, 2, and 3. The crescent moon will pass Venus and Mars, appearing below Venus on the first; between Venus and Mars on the second; and above Mars on the third.

January 4: This is a very strange day for us in the northern hemisphere. In spite of fact that we are deep into winter, the earth is closest to the sun on this day, a mere 147,100,998 km away. Our seasons are produced by the tilt of the earth's axis, not the variable distance of the earth from the sun.

January 8-9: The gibbous (between half and full) moon moves past Aldebaran, the red eye of Taurus the Bull.

January 12: Full moon

January 14-15: The moon is close to Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, the Lion.

January 31: The crescent moon, Mars, and Venus form a triangle in the west-southwest soon after sunset. They will set around 9pm.

Winter solstice in the high Andes

Winter solstice has come and gone. I'd like to share one of the strangest, most spectacular, and perhaps even gruesome winter solstice ceremony I've studied.

The Incas are renowned for their marvelous architecture, skillful masonry, complex political organization and for their extensive system of roads. I suggest their most remarkable achievement was the ascent and the building of ceremonial structures on many of their highest peaks, the highest being Llullaillaco with an altitude of 22,110 feet. It is the seventh highest peak of the Americas, containing on its summit the world's highest archaeological site. It was climbed by the Inca around 1500 and then not again until 1952 when two Chilean climbers, anticipating that their ascent would be the first, were disappointed. The ruins on this peak have been carefully excavated by Johan Reinhard and colleagues.



The most important mountains were the sites of capacocha ceremonies, which involved child sacrifice, boys and girls chosen for their beauty and perfection, who were offered to the sun, Inti, the weather god, Illapa and mountain deities. Offerings on the summits were made after state-supported pilgrimages, which often involved weeks or months of travel and covered distances of 1000 km or more. They included priests, officials, assistants, local inhabitants, the child to be sacrificed, and sometime proud parents. They would travel along established Inca roads, stopping at sacred places along the way to make offerings. When passing through the mountains the pilgrims would keep as silent as possible to avoid angering the mountain gods. These were important imperial events, and when they passed through villages, the residents were not allowed to view them directly and had to prostrate themselves.

Llullaillaco can be climbed only during the southern summer, between November to March. The most likely times for pilgrimage would be days around December solstice, the time of the major Inca celebration of Capac Raymi. The timing of this celebration required incredible planning and precision. Everything on the mountain had to be ready for the participants. Weather would have added additional uncertainty, but since the sun does not move appreciably for a week around solstice, the date of the celebration was flexible.

The route upward contains a number of resting places (dharamsalas in India) for pilgrims, priests, and sacrificial victims. The largest of these way stations is a base station at 17,600 feet, where most of the pilgrims would have stayed. Ascent to the summit by a smaller party, which included the children, would have taken at least three days. They would have to spend a night on the summit before the sunrise ceremony. The two-room building on the summit may have been used by the priests and victims. Other members of the party must have huddled during the night behind the wind break.

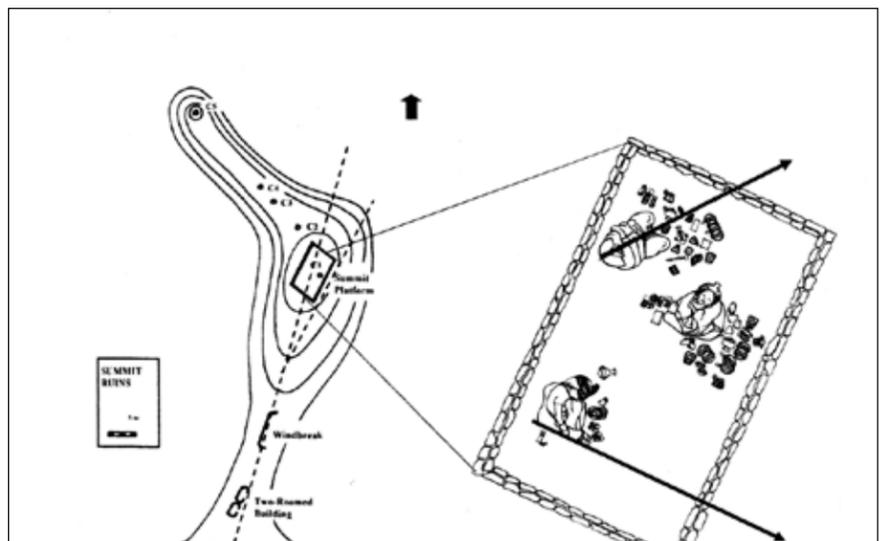
Whether it was in the rooms or behind the windbreak, spending the night at such a high altitude would have been an excruciating



Inca rooms and platform oriented to the sun on the summit of Llullaillaco, 22,110 feet. photo courtesy of Graham Zimmerman



Summit platform on Llullaillaco. photo courtesy of Graham Zimmerman



Summit platform showing the orientation of burials. The lower, southern, burial faced December solstice and the upper faced June solstice. illustration adapted from Reinhard and Ceruti

test of endurance, as any climber who has bivouacked at height altitudes can attest. Clearly they did not have down sleeping bags or down jackets, but some of the discomfort may have been alleviated by chewing coca leaves. When the first gleam of the sun appeared, its location would have been burned in the memories of those waiting for the dawn. Few sunrises could have been greeted more enthusiastically.

The platform, 33' long, 20' wide, contained the bodies of three children, a 13-year-old girl and a boy and girl aged 4-5 years. Because the burials were in undisturbed conditions when excavated by Reinhard, we have evidence of the role of astronomy in this ceremony. The platform has been rotated a little more than 10° away from the natural ridge line (see the illustration), indicating an intention to orient it to December solstice sunrise, very extraordinary considering the difficulties of building stone structures at such an extreme altitude. The young boy was

buried parallel to the short side of the platform, facing the rising solstice sun. The 13-year-old girl was facing northeast, in the direction of June solstice sunrise. This is truly extraordinary because the mountain cannot be climbed in June. Clever measurements had to have been made to achieve that June alignment.

There are 15 mountain peaks in the Andes that have evidence of child sacrifices. The scale of these sacrifices was far from as extensive or bloody as those of the Aztecs. All children had been carefully selected, well fed, and honored for a year before their deaths. Climbing the mountain and spending the night on top must have been terribly frightening. Perhaps sunrise was exciting. Perhaps being in the presence of gods of the sun and mountain was an epiphany for them. We cannot know. We do know that these three children on Llullaillaco had been anesthetized by combination of coca leaves and chicha (corn beer) at the time of their entombment.

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A whole new year to continue helping our pets!

by Patrick Moore

Happy New Year everyone! 2016 was a fantastic year for Pet Partners and the pets and animals in our community.

As the year drew to a close, the Crestone Mercantile and Bob's Diner sponsored and executed a very well attended and successful fundraiser for Pet Partners. On December 2, the Mercantile celebrated its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

to ring in the holidays and kick-off WinterFest. In conjunction with that they opened Bob's to serve warm food and beverages and to benefit Pet Partners. There was a huge crowd, over 100 meals were served. The attendees were very generous with donations. The Mercantile donated all of the food and beverages. Matt Johnson cooked everything. Looks like this will be an annual event. Look for it in 2017.

Spay & neuter clinics

Earlier in the year we had two very successful spay/neuter clinics. Lisa Petri with the Colorado Animal Welfare League brought her big, giant sterile trailer. (We should get one of those). Dr. Linda Behrns performed all the procedures (over 100). Consequently, most, if not all, cats and dogs in our community currently have safe, loving homes. There will be two clinics in 2017, one in early spring and one in early fall. We'll post the dates in the *Eagle*, around town and on Facebook when they approach.

A continuing issue is that a few people still let their dogs run loose. This is particularly an issue in the Baca, where people live, walk and hike. I think it stems from a romantic view that our pets are wild animals or just from lack of consideration for one's neighbors. Pet Partners is not a policing or enforcement body, but is here to help. If you need help restraining your dog to your property please contact us to see what options there are and how we can help. Please consider your neighbors (which includes all of us), and the safety of your dog and real "wild" animals.

You know, I'm very grateful for the little tail waggers in my house. Not just for the usual companionship reasons, but because every day they remind me that I too am a creature of this Earth, closely connected to nature. They remind me that all living things have feelings very similar to our own. And they remind me to take joy in true friends and simple pleasures. I think these are good things to keep in mind as we begin a whole new year. Happy New Year everyone!

Note: Pet Partners is compiling a directory of pet-related services

in our immediate community. We'll include everything from pet grooming to pet psychics. If you provide pet-related services and want to be included in the directory, please let us know by emailing me at epmdomone@gmail.com. Thanks.



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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Herbs for aging gracefully, part 1



I think one of the scariest issues that we think of when we think about aging is memory loss and dementia. There's a sense that if our memory begins to get a little wonky that dementia or Alzheimer's could be the next stage. While I am not an expert on dementia, I can offer a few herbal tips on brain health.

According to my knowledge, there are at least five contributing factors to brain and memory problems—poor circulation, toxins, exposure to EMFs (electromagnetic frequencies), inflammation, and lack of mental stimulation. So looking at prevention, there are some pretty basic things we can do: 1. Make sure to get enough cardiovascular exercise, 2. Avoid toxins (think pesticides, heavy metals,

etc.), and do a detox on a regular basis, 3. Decrease exposure to EMFs, 4. Decrease inflammation through diet and herbs, 5. Seek out mentally stimulating activities. Each one of these could be an article in itself!

So how can herbs help? Ginkgo biloba (leaf) is probably the best known "memory herb". It works by increasing circulation, especially to the brain and extremities. So not only does it help the memory but also is very helpful for circulation problems in the legs. I gave it to my aunt some years ago for her problems with obstructed arteries in her leg. It worked very well for her until her doctor told her to stop taking it and the condition returned. Ginkgo is also anti-inflam-



matory, a vasodilator, and a cerebroprotectant. In buying Ginkgo, make sure to get a reputable brand of capsules or tincture.

Other herbs that benefit the memory are Gotu Kola (Centella asiatica) which benefits circulation, and Rosemary, as a circulatory and nerve stimulant. Prickly Ash and Cayenne both increase peripheral circulation. Ginger is both a circulatory stimulant and anti-inflammatory. And Turmeric has become very well known as an anti-inflammatory herb. In a past article I gave a recipe for "Fire

Cider". It's a combination used primarily for respiratory issues, and all of the herbs in it are also great circulatory stimulants and anti-inflammatories. Try taking a teaspoon of Fire Cider a day for memory issues!

Here's to remembering as much as we want, and being able to forget that which does not serve us!

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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Garden Guru



Quinoa:
An ancient grain for the future

by Matie Belle Lakish

Generally, I write only about plants that I have personally grown, usually for at least a few years, but quinoa (keen-wa) is an ancient western hemisphere contribution that I have researched but never grown. I plan to make space for a patch in this year's garden.

I have been interested in quinoa for several years, but am motivated to write about it now because it is one of our native foods that is especially suited to cultivation in our high-elevation desert. Also, it has become so popular since its introduction to the United States in the 1980s that it is now being considered as a major commercial crop for the San Luis Valley. A *Valley Courier* article by Ruth Heidi (November 23, 2016) described an agricultural conference on the topic led by our local CSU Extension Service and the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The New family, of White Mountain Farms, proprietors of the Mosca Pit Stop and growers of fine organic potatoes as well as quinoa, have played a major role in introducing this crop to the valley and will be providing expertise and seed to prospective quinoa

farmers who decide to experiment with this ancient grain.

According to Wikipedia, "Quinoa is the common name for *Chenopodium quinoa* of the flowering plant family *Amaranthaceae*. It is grown as a grain crop primarily for its edible seeds. It is a pseudocereal, rather than a true cereal, as it is not a grass. Quinoa is closely related to species such as beetroots and spinach and to amaranth, another pseudocereal which it closely resembles." A common relative of the same family is Lambs Quarters, with which the young plants are often confused. As is true with Lambs Quarters, the leaves are as nutritious and tasty as the grain.

Growers in the Andes had generations to experiment with quinoa before the Spanish conquerors banned it because they felt it threatened their control. Because of its long history in the Andes Mountains, there are numerous varieties suited for many microclimates from elevations of 8,000 ft to 13,000 ft. Seeds come in numerous colors from white to red, brown, and black. Finding the right seed to plant in Crestone gardens will require some experimentation. For-

tunately, some of the other growers in the valley have done some of that research for us, and some seed stocks are available locally. White Mountain Farms will be attempting to provide seed to farmers, and may have small quantities of seeds available for home gardeners. I have had some success with sprouting seeds I've bought at local natural food stores. I presume that if they sprout in a jar, they will sprout in my garden. A few seed catalogs offer them, as well. My favorite, Pinetree Garden Seeds, is offering quinoa this year.

This cool-weather crop likes growing conditions similar to spinach, and can be planted early, before the last frost, in April or early May. The seeds are small, so plant them about 1/2 inch deep. Water well when planting, but water only every 7 to 10 days afterward. It is easy to drown them. When they are a few inches high thin to about 8 inches apart, as they will grow to 3 or 4 ft. tall before heading out. Thinnings make excellent spring greens.

Once the seed heads develop and start ripening seeds, the seed will probably not ripen all at once. In my own experiments, I will try harvesting the seeds in sequence by shaking them into a container as they ripen, and I will also try cutting the entire seed head and bringing it in to finish maturing as it dries. I do not at this point know what will work best. Once the seeds are harvested, they will need to fully dry in order to be properly stored.

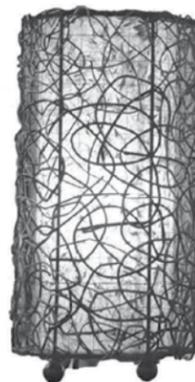


One feature of quinoa is its natural bug repellent, a saponin. A saponin is a soap-like chemical that makes the seed unpalatable to most insects, but also to people. To make quinoa palatable, the saponin must be removed before cooking. This can be done by rinsing the grain a few times with fresh water before cooking. White Mountain Farms removes the saponin mechanically before selling it. This makes it easier to prepare, but may impact its ability to be used as seed. Try it out by sprouting some before planting it.

One of the reasons to grow and use quinoa is its nutritive value. It is one of a very few plant-based products that is a complete protein. That means that it has all the amino acids your body needs to produce new cells. Most beans and grains must be combined to produce a complete protein, but the amino acid profile for quinoa is more like animal protein. Besides being a good source of protein, it is also high in vitamins and minerals, especially the B vitamins and the minerals iron, magnesium, manganese, zinc and phosphorus.

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In Search of Economic Reality

The whole community raises the child, whether for good or bad

by Ed Lyell

For decades America has been agonizing over the low student achievement of its students when compared to the rising achievement of our global economic competitors. It was America's lead in providing good universal public schools and higher education after WWII that gave us world leading economic productivity and rising economic prosperity for everyone. This worked for decades as the US middle class expanded and wealth went up for everyone.

Yet even then the US school system was not as good as it could be, but as long as our economic competitors were weak we still looked relatively good and our economy grew. In the early 1980s we awoke to the reality of our school system, in which one quarter of students never graduated from high school, and many who graduated knew more about their sport than any academic area. We increased our focus on high school sports achievement and developed a school-building culture which punished the studious and made heroes out of the sports stars and cheerleaders.

Decades of reports followed the 1983 "Nation at Risk" report that linked our failing student performance to our declining

economic dominance. So leaders started pontificating about how to improve student achievement. Yet the heart of the schools, teachers, were often ignored when school ideas and policy were discussed. Many of the best school teachers had left the profession, having been disappointed by teacher unions protecting the weakest teachers while holding back the ideas and rewards for performance by the best teachers.

Many teachers followed the incentives of public schools which pays administrators much better than classroom teachers, causing the best teachers to become mediocre principals. Other teachers often followed the money and become well paid union leaders. Policy makers, like me, fought to have the best elementary teachers make over \$100,000 a year, given the data that proved how important good teachers are to the students and ultimately our whole economy.

Yet student achievement is the result of many factors, many if not most beyond the school system. We know that the primary indicator of student achievement is family socio-economic status. Kids from poor families, in poor neighborhoods, seldom excel in student achievement. Yes, some escape their environment and do well. I

am a child of semi-literate waiter and waitress. I went on to do well in school and ended up with a PhD in business and economics. Yet my only brother was thrown out of 3 high schools for beating up principals, served time in California prisons and died young working for a mafia family. The difference was community activities and role models that helped or hurt us.

It will take total community commitment to create success for all. Schooling is too important to just leave to school boards. We must examine the multiple layers and interconnections of government and private organizations and get them all to focus on improving student achievement. Only then can America thrive in an increasingly competitive global economy which shows no mercy in our diminishing student achievement and economic demise.

We now have evidence to show that children in poor neighborhoods are increasingly exposed to environmental dangers, including lead and other toxic chemicals, that destroy their brains. Neighborhood behavior rewards the drug dealers and offers few pathways to economic success in the positive economy. City zoning laws, ger-

rymandered school districts and boundaries force the poor to stay poor and away from opportunity. City and county government services are housed in their own turf-based organizations that refuse to communicate and work with other agencies, but instead fight for more of the tax pie just for their own existence. Who actually looks at the totality of a poor family's condition and builds strategies and pathways for the success of their children?

We throw increasing amounts of money at schools, welfare agencies, cops and judges, and other separate agencies that are all part of the problems. When one looks at how and why the children of the super-wealthy have all been better educated, you see not just more expensive private schools but home tutors, as well as educated parents who coordinate academic subjects and emotional development to create that highly successful adolescent who gets into an Ivy League university and becomes the corporate executive and professional leader.

Instead of just blaming and trying to fix our broken factory-style schools we need to totally reorganize schools and other agencies to work together and focus on each child having a year round 24/7 support system that not just educates in math and writing, but develops the potential of each child by creating a lifelong learning community.

Ed Lyell PhD is Professor of Business and Economics, Adams State University (ehlyell@adams.edu).

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Chalets	Indoor Exercise Pool	Private on the Creek	Castle in the Woods!	Was \$459,000	New Construction!
<p>780 Palomino OL - \$585,000 Built by Lee Mitchell to capture mtn & valley views, elegant 3 BR/2.5BA home w/2-car garage on 2.787 acres. Fantastic landscaping & flowing water. In-floor radiant heat & Hearthstone woodstove w/stone surround. Expansive Master balcony.</p>	<p>1967 Rockyview Way - \$439,000 Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck, great views</p>	<p>3959 Cheerful Court - \$429,000 Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incl Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.</p>	<p>2795CR Brook Terrace - \$425,000 Built 1993, remodeled 2008. 3-story, 2 or 3BR/1.75BA 2182sf home on 2.765ac cul-du-sac, backs to greenbelt. Artistic stone & stucco offers feeling of antiquity, privacy & uniqueness. A must-see home in a special location!</p>	<p>786C Panorama Way - \$419,000 This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!</p>	<p>1114C Chaparral Way - \$349,000 2-story New Construction, 3BD/2BA 1740sf home w/fabulous views designed by R3 Concepts and built by Mountain View Design & Build. Overlooks Pundarika Retreat Center providing lots of open space.</p>

Magnificent Views	Fantastic Views!	Guest Cottage	Private/Views	Gracious Living	Non-Toxic, Great Value \$113/sf!	Garage & Studio Apt
<p>22 Alpine OL - \$295,000 CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!</p>	<p>2720 Happy Hollow Tr. - \$279,000 This meticulous, 4BR/2.5BA 2000sf home has magnificent valley views from the living spaces, including a large sw-facing deck. Excellent condition, flexible floorplan, nice outdoor space, located near Dharmia Ocean.</p>	<p>3481C E Graceful Ct - \$259,000 Beautiful property w/ 2BR/1.5BA ~1228sf home, guest cottage & detached one-car grg on 1.44 acres. Great passive solar, w/mountain views. Walled tiled front courtyard & landscaping. In-floor radiant heat, tile floors, T&G wood ceilings in LR</p>	<p>4376C E Twinview OL - \$249,000 Beautiful 2BD 1.75BA 1359sf home on 1.015 acre backs to greenbelt w/ Cottonwood Creek. Custom contemporary design built by Steve Elliott. Magnificent views. Screen porch & balcony. Very private & quiet location up high.</p>	<p>757 Rendezvous Way - \$249,000 Very lovely 1868sf 3-or-4BD/2BA + dining screen porch, sunroom w/ fireplace, yoga/exercise room, deck w/amazing views & hot tub. Private, but close-in. Beautifully landscaped.</p>	<p>207C Foothill OL - \$239,000 2-story 3BD/2.5BA/Study 2192sf home on .965 acres built with non-toxic materials & energy efficiency. Lrg kitchen, bamboo floors, pine ceilings. Spacious master suite w/Jacuzzi tub, sep. shower, marble counters. Views/Deck.</p>	<p>983C Peaceful Way - \$229,000 3BR/2.5BA 1894sf main house w/ studio apt, oversized 1-car garage & grow dome on 1.36 acres in Chalet I. Passive solar design w/ two adobe brick walls & curved back wall, concrete kitchen counter tops, in-floor radiant heat & wood stove.</p>

New Construction: Paul Koppana	Creekside!	New Construction	Energy Efficient!	Southwest Style	3/1.75 on 1.013ac	Immaculate
<p>1867C Rockyview Way - \$219,000 3BD/2BA 1520sf New Construction by Paul Koppana, energy efficient design. Active solar hot water sys thru radiant floor grid + domestic hot water. Very insulated, triple pane windows & heat recovery ventilation, airtight construction.</p>	<p>Tract 2 Lindisfarne - \$199,000 Creek-side 2 BR/1 BA 812sf home on 2.74 acres w/812 sf partially finished basement w/electric baseboard heat & concrete floors. New roof w/architectural shingles, new windows, new interior & exterior paint.</p>	<p>1911 Lone Pine Way - \$195,000 This 2BD/1BA, 1200sf New Construction by Art Reeves. Efficient, great design & views. Rustic wood & metal siding, hrdwd floors & vaulted ceiling in Great Room. Modern kitchen w/stainless appliances. Spacious Master bdrm, & bath.</p>	<p>958 Meditation OL - \$189,000 Beautiful 3BR/1.5BA 1363sf energy efficient home w/solar hot water system, passive solar, & well-insulated ceilings & walls. On private cul-du-sac in Chalet I w/ organic garden & storage shed. Full bath w/soak tub. Spacious kitchen.</p>	<p>1479 Badger Road - \$182,000 Custom 3BD/1.75BA home, built in 2004, backs to open space. Immaculate condition. Beautifully crafted w/diamond plastered walls, wood ceilings, wood floors, in-floor radiant heat, & wood stove.</p>	<p>635C Panorama Way - \$179,000 Lovely 3 bd/1.75 ba home on 1.013 acres. Open floor plan, custom kitchen cabinets, hardwood floors, lots of light. Bonus studio room. Passive solar design, propane HWBaseboard heat, honeycomb blinds. Landscaped courtyard.</p>	<p>107 Pinewood OL - \$172,500 Well maintained, spacious 3 BD/2BA home, built in 2006 w/lg covered front porch & back deck, 2-car garage w/built-in storage & landscaped garden. Energy efficient w/ETS, propane fireplace, wood stove & electric baseboards.</p>

Small Home, Small Price!	Treed & Private!
<p>3735 Jubilant Way - \$155,000 3BD/1BA 1094sf home located on 1.152. Protected views. Large loft BR w/balcony. 2BD/1BA downstairs w/ clawfoot tub. Woodstove & back-up baseboard heat. Aspen T & G ceilings, pine floors & wood exterior.</p>	<p>3708 Enchanted Way - \$142,500 2 BR/1BA 1088 sf energy efficient home w/ ETS heat & water heater on ETS, woodstove, honeycomb blinds, & solar heat collector. Lovely views from open living space, roomy master bedroom, backs to greenbelt. Many new windows.</p>

Grants	
<p>4485 Ridgecrest Way - \$74,500 Unique, small 394sf home, with 2nd structure in Chalet 3. Fixer-upper, but can be a home in the Baca at an affordable price. Woodstove, loft sleeping area w/wood ceilings. Full kitchen w/cookstove, fridge & combo w/d. Shower bath.</p>	<p>1038 Beaver Trail - \$337,000 This 2292sf 3BR/2BA home on 3.57 acres in park-like setting backs to greenbelt. Post & beam construction & strawbale in-fill, this 2-story sustainable home is passive solar, solar domestic HW & in-floor heat, woodstove. Separate 300sf studio.</p>

Jump in on an Active Market!

719-256-4198

2016 HOME SALES (* denotes listed & sold)

11311C Spanish Creek \$499,000. ... SOLD*	624 Panorama Way \$219,500. ... SOLD!	635C Panorama Way \$159,500. ... SOLD*
340C Palomino Way \$389,000. ... SOLD*	2145 Indian Well Way \$209,000. ... SOLD*	3376 Genial Way \$159,000. ... SOLD*
4262 Serene Way \$299,900. ... SOLD*	144 Rain Dance Trail \$199,000. ... SOLD*	1573 Kings Hill OL \$159,000. ... SOLD*
557 & 560 Panorama Way. \$299,000. ... SOLD*	909C Brookview \$190,000. ... SOLD*	719 Rendezvous Way. \$159,000. ... SOLD*
3615C Splendid Terrace \$275,000. ... SOLD	4417 Twin View Ct \$189,000. ... SOLD	1202C Wagon Wheel Road \$152,000. ... SOLD*
288 Allott Trail \$269,000. ... SOLD*	1447 Chaparral Way \$189,000. ... SOLD*	2784 Carefree Way \$139,000. ... SOLD
1202C Hilltop Way \$269,000. ... SOLD	3949C Cheerful Way \$189,000. ... SOLD	123C Skyview Way \$139,000. ... SOLD*
3919 Cordial Way \$269,000. ... SOLD	1927C Lone Pine Way \$185,000. ... SOLD*	4370 W Twin View OL \$138,000. ... SOLD
765CRR Heatherbrae Road ... \$269,000. ... SOLD*	Townhome #16 \$179,000. ... SOLD*	20510 CO Rd 59 \$99,000. ... SOLD*
1234 Laredo Trail \$265,000. ... SOLD	600 Heatherbrae \$175,000. ... SOLD	226 Staghorn \$50,000. ... SOLD*
1453C Wagon Wheel \$259,000. ... SOLD*	1649C Willow Creek Way. \$169,000. ... SOLD*	1564 Wagon Wheel \$229,000. ... UNDER CONTRACT*
149 Moonlight \$259,000. ... SOLD	190 Cascade OL \$169,000. ... SOLD*	760 & 761 Panorama Way. \$149,000. ... UNDER CONTRACT*
418 Moonlight Way \$249,000. ... SOLD	3704 Carefree Way \$169,000. ... SOLD*	1217 Chaparral \$199,000. ... UNDER CONTRACT
705 Rendezvous \$220,000. ... SOLD*	3732C Cordial Way \$162,500. ... SOLD*	

Along the Huerfano River



Shepherd Jose Manuel Cordova and his house on wheels. The sheep wintered in protected fields at the home ranches for seven months of the year and summered in the national forest atop Greenhorn Mountain. Margaret Archuleta Garcia remembers her family raising 1,000 head near Apache Canyon. Her grandfather Jose Benigno Archuleta had to ride up the mountain several times each summer to take supplies to his sheepherders. Huerfano County Historic Society/Alton Tirey Local History Center



Fur trapper's lodgings. This room inside the recreated El Pueblo Trading Post was furnished to look as if a fur trapper resided there. Note the adobe fireplace, the cast iron pots sitting on the hearth, the numerous tanned hides, and the metal traps decorating the walls.

continued from page B-1

along the Huerfano and other drainages onto the eastern plains. The most well known of these is probably Fort St. Vrain set up near present day La Junta by the Bent brothers and Ceran St. Vrain in 1833. In 1842 mountain man George Simpson built a fort known as El Pueblo where Fountain Creek flows into the Arkansas River. In trade for pelts and robes trappers could get "horses, guns, ammunition, coffee, sugar, flour, corn, copper kettles, caste iron skillet, cotton cloth, thread, buttons, shawls, knives, axes, farming tools, and whiskey . . . which locals called Taos Lightening."

The advent of the Colorado Gold Rush sent meat and produce down the Huerfano to the booming Denver area. When the train came in the 1870s there was considerably less traffic down the Huerfano Valley. Trails then were used mainly by cattle ranchers and sheep men who would fatten stock on the rich Huerfano Valley grasses before sending them off to market. Avery tells readers that by 1913 Huerfano County was home to immigrants from thirty-one countries

who spoke twenty-seven languages. They called the Huerfano Valley home and worked for the railroad, in the stockyards, as cowboys or for coal companies.

Things were pretty quiet until the "hippie counterculture invaded Huerfano County in 1968. Countercultural artists established Libre Commune in the foothills of Greenhorn Mountain near Turkey Creek and the Huerfano River." There were five communes in total in the area. "Each was unique in form and structure but together they left a mark upon the land."

Avery comments, "The last fifty years has seen people leave Huerfano County. Coal mines have shut; railroad operations have slowed to a few freight trains that pass through Walsenburg each day without coming to a full stop." Many ranchers have sold out land and water rights to oil companies or developers. Economic schemes including ski resorts have come and gone. But, as Avery points out, "From the windswept plains south of Pueblo to the pristine lakes near the summit of Mount Blanca, the land along the Huerfano continues to offer so much to its visitors." The earth endures. The river flows.



The Spanish Peaks. These twin crests were mentioned in the journals of many early explorers, who called them by various names, including the Wahatoyas (breasts of the earth), Dos Hermanos (two brothers), and the Mexican Mountains. The first recorded Europeans to explore the Spanish Peaks region came north from Santa Fe in 1706, one hundred years before Zebulon Pike discovered Pikes Peak.



Montoya Ranch. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 3, 2012, the Montoya Ranch dates to the 1860s, when hundreds of Hispanic settlers migrated north from New Mexico. The property features a home with a functional adobe basement, historic sheep pens, an irrigation ditch, an underground icehouse, and many examples of Spanish colonial and territorial adobe styles of architecture.



Walsenburg, 1907. Heavy snowfalls and turbulent rainstorms could produce dangerous conditions in the days before sophisticated flood control measures tamed the rivers in the Huerfano Valley. This is a view of downtown Walsenburg during the 1907 Cucharas River flood. Denver Public Library

About author Kay Beth Faris Avery

Kay Beth Faris Avery is a native of southern Colorado with a life-long love of history and literature. After a thirty-year career in teaching Avery began to write history stories about her home region. Her web bio says, "As a writer she now strives to make history come alive for both the adolescent and adult reads by writing well researched historical fiction and creative biographies." Her second book, *Tales from the Trappers*, was a finalist in the 2010 New Mexico Book Awards. In 2003 her short story "Homesteaders" placed third in the Tom Howard International Short Story Contest. Her third book, the biographies of three Colorado women called *Unbroken Spirits*, was brought out by Western Reflections Publishing Company. Some of Avery's published works and the Arcadia Press series, *Images of America*, can be found at the Narrow Gauge Bookstore in Alamosa.

SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION ON FIRST RESPONSE

**by Commanding Officer
Tad Crawford &
The Baca Grande Fire Dept.**

We would like to address the importance of inspecting and cleaning your home heating source, primarily chimneys. The NFPA has reported that on an annual average, 32% of home fires were caused by chimney fires. It is highly important to inspect and clean your chimney annually.

A few things to know about the causes of chimney fires: Chimney fires are caused by the buildup of creosote in the chimney. Creosote is created by the substances produced when wood is burned. These substances include smoke, water vapor, gases and unburned wood particles. As these substances exit the fireplace and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs, resulting in a residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney. Creosote is highly

combustible and if it builds up in sufficient quantities and the internal flue temperature is high enough, this can result in a chimney fire. A few indicators of a chimney fire could be loud cracking and popping or a low rumble like a freight train or low-flying airplane, an intense hot smell, or flames and dense smoke from the top of the chimney.

We have had an unusually warm winter this year, but we still have cold days and nights ahead. The Baca Grande Fire Department encourages you to do an inspection and cleaning of your chimney, if you have not this year. If you do not feel safe or are unable to do this on your own please hire a professional. There are local contractors who specialize in this kind of task.

Please stay safe and warm this season!



New Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department recruit Harold Fowler works the live fireline on a controlled burn.

Baca Volunteer Fire Department is growing again, come join us!

by Daniel Shahid Johnson

For the past few years, the Baca Grande Fire Department has been held together by only a few dedicated individuals after a previous chief and most of the highly-trained firefighters left due to unfounded accusations from a previous POA board. Volunteers were also subjected to absurd restrictions from a property management company, whom the board hired at great cost.

After attempts to hire a fire chief from other communities failed, Christopher Botz stepped up to the chief job. Although reduced to half-time wages, he has been the glue keeping Wildfire and Structure Fire services available (plus driving the ambulance). As expected in any 24/7 job which requires long hospital drives in the middle of the night followed by smoke reports, trainings and burn site visits, Christopher (60) will soon retire the position.

The incoming Fire Chief, Tad Crawford, lived much of his childhood in the Crestone area and was on the BGVFD back in the '90s. He left a fire chief position in the southern valley when he returned here last year. Tad is as dedicated, knowledgeable, qualified and also decades younger than Chief Botz. In the past, the Baca Grande VFD was closely related to the community with up to 30 active members sharing the duties with nearly-unanimous local support. They answered to the POA board for

support and funding but were not micromanaged by them. This is the model we hope to return to.

Since the management company was replaced and a more supportive board has been elected, some firefighters who felt wronged by the previous board have returned and new firefighters are signing on. One of the perks of being on the BGVFD is getting to train on the Saguache County Firewise Program for decent wages. As long as funds from the county program continue to be supplied by the commissioners, we have a chance to mitigate wildfire hazards before a large wildfire roars through.

Another perk of the job is getting basic wildfire training which can lead to experience on state, federal or private fire engines and/or hand crews. With a "red card," there are opportunities to get dispatched on huge project fires for two weeks at a time, the best hands-on training and pay available. Basic classes are scheduled to be taught this winter, with no cost to active volunteer firefighters.

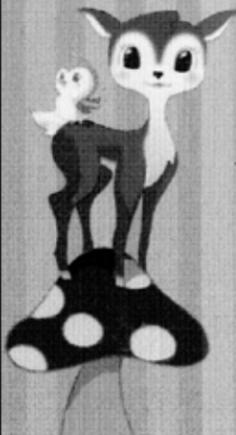
Even if you are not interested in a firefighting career, there is room for every volunteer to help locally: driving trucks, running pumps, handling traffic, disseminating incident information. It is an honorable calling and something any of us who have done it will be proud of the rest of our lives.

For more information on joining your hometown heroes, call 719 256-4781.

The 2016 Saguache County Firewise Team



Call Daniel S. Johnson at (719) 480-9764 for free wildfire assessment



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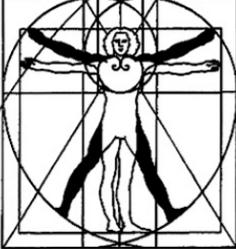
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Dara Blumenhein
303.709.3995
Zillow Premier Agent



303 N. Indian Pipe Trail. \$490,000 Very unique Feng Shui retreat built on 4 acres with earth changes in mind. 3 sep living spaces, off-grid. Beautiful stone & tile throughout. Meditation Kiva w/stained glass.



3458C Enchanted Way. \$475,000 Owner financing available on this income producing property includes main home, cottage apartment, Geometric Sacred Space, and tons of garden space.



668 Crocus Rd. \$420,000 2BD 1BA 41 pristine acres in the Grants. Great retreat property. Solar system. 3550 sq.ft, with home and meeting/retreat building. Creek runs through property.



253 Golden Ave. \$375,000 Partially finished construction, this property is part of an estate. Taking offers-price reduced \$100,000 for quick sale! call Crestone Realty for details.



1474 Badger Rd. \$350,000 3BD 2BA premier custom built Lee Mitchell home. Exterior Cempo walls, indoor stucco, R32 insulation, very energy efficient, open floor plan.



661 Camino Del Rey. \$235,000 Lovely off grid home, attention to detail, high ceilings, custom kitchen, excellent views, fenced in yard. Green house, amazing views.



1390 Wilderness Trail. \$325,000 Spacious 3BD 2BA home with passive solar. Majestic views, low-E windows. Custom detail throughout, high ceilings, lots of natural light, oversized master shower. On 3.2



170 E. Golden Ave. \$229,500 Cozy 3BD 2BA 1500 sq ft beautifully situated Victorian Ross Chapin cottage. ETS & baseboard heat. High ceilings, sky lights & fenced-in back yard. Close to charter school and



24248 CR. 41-G \$225,000 Preppers, Hunters, those that like indoor gardening and seclusion-Here it is! This home is on 40 acres, completely off grid, surrounded by BLM Owner financing available.



388 Starshine Ol. \$199,900 3BA 2BA, attached garage. Home for large family; spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings, 6 panel doors, tiled floor, fenced yard, deck. Sits on 3 lots, on private cul-de-sac.



3435 Graceful Ct. \$199,900 3BD 2BA, spacious, light home. Fireplace, vaulted ceilings, new carport; sits on 3 consolidated lots, at the end of the street. Downstairs has own entrance.



2035 Lost Cave Way \$194,900 Special little hide-away Deltec home in Chalet 11. Features art studio, sauna, beautiful little fenced garden & deck, all one level.



3949 Cheerful Way \$194,500 Cheerful-Great builders home near Cottonwood creek, contemporary styled 2 story, oversized carport, mt. views and balcony on 2nd story.



370 S. Alder St. \$189,500 Recently remodeled, bright, spacious, cozy duplex with private patios 5BD 2BA. Conveniently located on the edge of town. Close to Charter School & grocery store.



3528 Enchanted Way \$184,500 Cozy 2BD 1BA one level living and wheel chair accessible. Large bathroom, comfortable living area w/ wood stove, private fenced back garden area.



909 Lincoln \$179,000 Spacious store/shop with large garage door, located on 1.5 acres. Artesian town well, commercial kitchen. 2BA & laundry room. Quonset hut, plenty of storage & garages.



345 S. Cedar \$179,500 3BD 2BA 1434 sq ft cute Victorian Ross Chapin cottage home. ETS & baseboard heat. High ceilings, skylights, private balcony with amazing views. Convenient



3901 Rarity Way \$175,000 Motivated seller! 2BD 1 1/2BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen. Bathroom with garden tub, screened-in porch.



3705 Carefree Way \$174,000 This home includes all the extras you are looking for! Spacious 3 BD 2BA, garage, greenhouse, 2 lots, mountain views, backs to greenbelt, open floor plan, spacious bathrooms.



40 Crestone Overlook. \$171,000 2BD 2BA close to Crestone Charter school. New paint, newly remodeled kitchen features stainless appliances, Brazilian granite counters. Lovely sunroom, and workshop/studio.



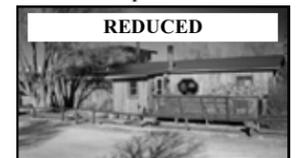
250 S 2nd St. \$169,500 2BD 1BA Last century feel! Private, mountain views. Home sits on 1 acre, has a deep well, landscaped, with new roof, new paint. Wood shed, partial fencing, woodstove.



776 Table Rock \$168,500 2300 sq. ft. home on 23 acres. Bordering 1/4 ml. of creek and greenbelt. Off grid, lots of windows with panoramic views. In process of remodel, finish and save-look at the price!



2024 Lost Cave Way \$165,000 2 bedrooms/ 1 bath with den/ office/extra sleeping area on upper level. This home backs to greenbelt with close, easy access to paved road.



107 E. 9th St. \$159,000 Unique home on 1.5 acres, 4BD 2BA. Beautiful wood walls, spacious living room with sunroom. Large, fenced-in yard, carport. Adj. shop with commercial well also for sale.



17 E. 10th St. \$159,000 An adorable café with commercial well on 3 acres. Excellent views. Commercial kitchen & appliances, spacious dining room, 2BA, office space and storage room.



3860 Cordial Way \$139,500 Great getaway home near Cottonwood Creek. Builder's own home, great room with vaulted ceilings, quality craftsmanship; loft could be guest area.



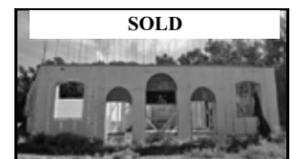
6 Baca Grant Way \$136,500 2BD 1 1/2BA vacation home, high up on the mountain, unsurpassed mountain & valley views. 1 car garage, all appliances, chest freezer, washer/dryer. Large windows, solar.



17580 HWY 17 \$139,000 7.71 acres, town artesian well, 1352 sq ft. 2BD 2BA, great views, plenty of storage. Detached garage, storage container, shed. Commercial/residential zoning.



354 Huerta Court \$99,900 Eclectic, artsy home in traditional adobe style, surrounded by privacy wall, gardens & trees. Guest quarters, 2 wood stoves, art studio. Amazing deal!



3892C Rarity Way \$99,900 Reduced from \$175,000 to \$99,900. Owner paid more than this for the 5 creek lots. Finish this home and have one of the best spots in the Baca Grande.



4440 Rarity Way \$89,900 Creative cozy Earth Ship privately located at the southern most border to the Baca Grande Chalets next to National Wildlife Refuge.



400 Paseo Ct. \$89,000 Gorgeous unencumbered views of the Sangre De Cristos. 3 spacious bedrooms, and 2 full baths, with Master Suite 5 piece bath.



51952 CR T. \$49,500. 5 acres, DOMESTIC WELL! outbuilding/garage, our own little mini farm, move-in ready. 3BD 2BA



349 Huerta Court \$25,000 This property is a garage & lot for mobile. Would be great for someone with an RV that wanted to store, and have garage storage space. Backs to greenbelt.



303 Palomino. bedroom 2 bath, garage, in quiet are of Baca Grande



Unique opportunity, 35.2 acres. Located just outside of Crestone and the POA. Backs to greenbelt and Willow Creek. Institutionally zoned. \$450,000

NEW LAND LISTINGS

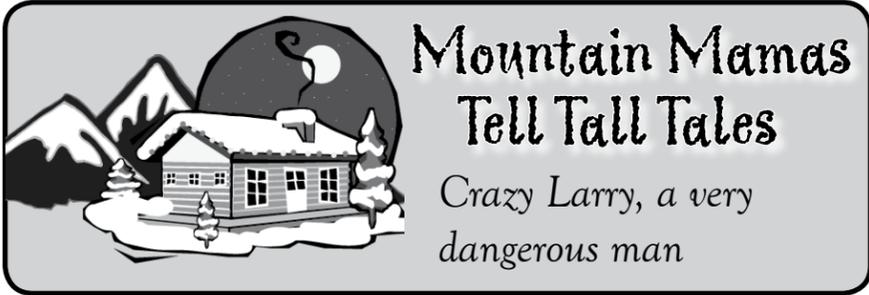
1231-1233 Suncrest Overlook on a cul-de-sac, high up, nice location \$6,000 each— more adjoining lots available.

1601 Silver Spur Trail - nice off grid lot in the Grants only \$4,000.

166 & 1661 Willow Creek Way - 2 lots adjoining open space, very private \$6,000 each.

823 & 824 Meadowlark Trail - amazing views in the Grants, very secluded 6 acres, hidden from main drag \$15,000.

CR 55 Moffat 40 acres look at the price \$9,000!



by **Kizzen Laki**

Larry was a scary man, a dangerous man. He was so scary that when he said he spent 8 years in the Illinois State Penitentiary, no one asked him what for. He and his wife Darla and young 3-year-old son Peter just showed up at the camp one day and moved into a recently vacated cabin. I have no idea how they found their way there. Refugees from Peoria, IL.

It was the mid-70s, and we were a group of assorted young folk living in a cluster of old cabins up Chalk Creek Canyon in the mountains of Colorado, eight miles from Nathrop, about the same from St. Elmo. Hippies, cowboys, construction workers, a tough woman miner, former Viet Nam vets, back-to-the-landers. Families with kids, trying to find a cheap place to live and willing to trade lack of any conveniences for mountain canyon beauty. Now we added an ex-con who arrived with his family in a pickup truck and a big motorcycle.

Crazy Larry, yep, that's what we actually started calling him from the day he arrived. He looked like a big biker complete with full beard, tattoos and leather jacket. Darla was nice and almost invisible. Peter was a sweetheart. Tagging along with them was a scraggly dude who tried to act tough. Also named Larry and quickly dubbed "Skinny Larry". He was into the kind of drugs that made you hyper and stupid, with a bad complexion.

Crazy Larry was a sociable guy and liked to party. He'd invite

us and a couple of other campsters over for games and drinks. We were a long ways from anywhere, and it was best to make friends. I had grown up in the rough neighborhoods of Chicago, Larry was a gangster from Peoria. Surviving in Chicago meant holding your own and never letting them see you shake.

Crazy Larry developed a kind of respect for me. He was an avid domino player (8 years in the pen) and I was about the only person in the playing group that could sometimes beat him at it. I also enjoyed the game and it was a way to pass the winter nights.

But he was armed and dangerous. And he never let you forget that. One evening while playing dominoes he left the room, came back in with a hand gun, pointed it at Darla and hollered "I've had it with you you bitch!" and BANG the gun boomed. We were stunned, shocked, ducking for cover! Then we heard him laugh. He had placed a fire cracker in the end of the pistol. His idea of a joke. Ha ha. Crazy Scary Larry.

He and Darla and the kid would disappear now and then for a month or so. They would head back to Peoria where Darla worked the "massage parlours". Yeah, he pimped his wife. They would make enough money to come back and live for awhile, Darla looking haggard and even more withdrawn. Sometimes she sported bruises. The women of the camp would reach out to her. Encourage her to leave the SOB. She was too terrified to do so.



A few of the cabins in Chalk Creek Canyon.

Myself and husband were the keepers of the electricity. After living a couple of years without it, I made the effort to get the camp power turned back on and the electric bill was in our name. We collected \$25 from each cabin to pay the bill. Larry fell behind a few months and it came down to me to tell him he had to pay or we were going to shut them off. (Why me? Another story.)

Larry and I ended up in a shouting match in the snowy yard. He was big, he was mean, he loomed over me. He started yelling and threatening about how he was going to burn our f-ing cabin down! He expected me to cower, but I had an ally up my sleeve. *Crazy Woman*. Crazy Woman, who had saved a scared teenager in the subways and bus stops coming home late at night through bad neighborhoods. Who came out when the predator guys or school gangs showed up. I started yelling. I totally flipped out and started shouting that I was going to burn HIS cabin down and burn up his truck, and hell, let's burn ALL

the f-ing cabins down! I stomped and snorted, made the Maori big-eyed crazy face at him, cursed him with shrivelled balls and totally freaked him out.

"Whoa whoa woman! Easy now." Not sure how to handle this unexpected turn of events, he made his exit while Crazy Woman gave him the evil eye, still breathing fire. I went in the house, locked the door, grabbed my children and shook and cried. In reality I was a scared skinny young woman with little kids.

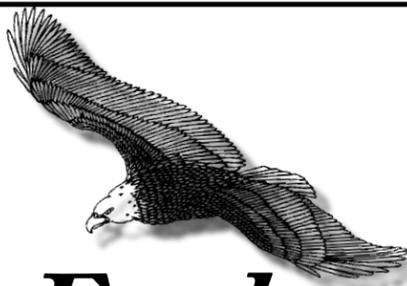
But Crazy Larry paid his bill.

Larry wasn't done with me though. There was a power play in his mind that wasn't resolved. We had played the first round to a draw. But a very scary night was looming on the horizon.

Stay tuned for Part 2, "The Great Smoke Out."

Kizzen and her family lived in a cabin in the Collegiate Range of Colorado in the 1970s. They chopped wood and hauled water. This is a story from those days.

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CDOT reminds motorists: Do not crowd snowplow trucks

Electronic message boards across the region are lighting up with this important message: "Never pass plows on the right!"

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) reminds the traveling public that snowplows need space to work.

CDOT encourages travelers to be aware of snowplow operations as maintenance crews across the region will be actively working to maintain the roadways.

"In the past few weeks, several passenger vehicles have crashed into our plow trucks while they were clearing snow from the roads. All were attempting to pass our plows," said David Vialpando, superintendent for CDOT's Maintenance Section 7, headquartered in Alamosa. "In order for our plows to remove snow efficiently and apply sand or deicing agents safely, a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour is required. This speed may seem slow to some drivers following a snowplow, but to attempt passing is very risky!"

Meanwhile Greg Stacy, superintendent for CDOT's Maintenance Section 3, headquartered in Durango said, "The ultimate advice to avoid causing a crash is simply: Do not crowd our plows. When a plow is in a crash it can no longer maintain the roadways for everyone."

Never pass on the right.

Never a good idea! Many plows use a blade extension (wing plow) on the right-hand side of the truck. The blade extends the plowing area toward the shoulder of the road, leaving no room to pass. Also, plows are designed to push all the snow, slush, rocks and other debris to the right of the truck. The flying debris will damage your vehicle and obstruct your view of the road.

Never pass during tandem plowing formations.

Tandem/echelon plowing staggers multiple plows to cover all lanes and clear the entire roadway in one coordinated sweep. This is

the safest and most efficient snow-removal method to clear the entire roadway. It is extremely dangerous for motorists to try and pass plows in this formation because you could encounter whiteout conditions, ridges of snow between lanes or get trapped between the snowplow trucks.

Never tailgate snowplows.

Plows need to drop deicer and sand, so make sure you stay back at least three to four car lengths of space. If you're too close, your vis-

ibility is reduced, and deicer and sand could hit your car. You also never know when a plow might need to suddenly stop; make sure you have plenty of room to do the same.

Stacy added, "We believe it is extremely important to educate the public about snowplowing operations and safety while driving near plows. We encourage everyone to visit our CDOT website to access this helpful information."

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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

We would like to thank all the individuals who contributed to our Holiday Open House last month, hosted by our very dedicated Friends of the Library (FOL). It is always a good way to end the month and start the New Year by taking a break to visit with our friends. We had lots of good food, laughter, and over 140 guests! Blessings and best wishes to everyone that 2017 (can you believe it?!) is full of joy, serenity and many exciting adventures. We hope that one of these adventures will be visiting your library regularly, as we have some great selections and resources for all ages.

Planning efforts were continued for the future of a new library in town with two community meetings and a Cake Walk/Bake Sale fundraiser for the land purchase. All of these were accomplished by the combined efforts of our Library Director and Board of Trustees and its committees, library staff, our Friends of the Library, community members, and many volunteers. Making sure that the library (present and future) meets your needs is a team effort!

We just finished another great year that included signing up 106 new members, getting new weather-resistant front steps and deck, replacing the computer chairs with new titanium ones on rollers, and improving landscape features that included an underground watering system. Plans are in the works for a new ADA ramp at the back entrance, and work will start on that early this year. We have had children's reading programs, parties, fundraisers, workshops, and record-highs in average daily visits. We anticipate such successes in this coming year.

One of the traditions of bringing in the New Year is making a list of resolutions—the setting of intentions to do a bit better in areas of our lives that could be improved. We would like to suggest a resolution that would really help us out. This resolution is: "I will remember that the materials in the library belong to *all* community members, and I will treat them with care." As we are borrowing from other libraries through interlibrary loans, we are sure they would appreciate this as well. And the resolutions of the library staff are to serve you in the most helpful ways we can and to make sure your library experiences are positive and productive ones. We appreciate all comments and suggestions for improvement. After all, it is your library!

Happy New Year from Suzanne, Barry and Sandia.

Baca Grande Library, 256-4100. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-5pm; Sat. 10am-2pm.

CROSSWORD														
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THEME: WINTER FUN

ACROSS

1. *e.g. "A Winter's Tale" by Mark Helprin
6. Bag in Paris
9. *Cold-weather lip trouble
13. Speak one's mind
14. "What?"
15. What phoenix did
16. Used a lot in sports
17. ____ of Aquarius
18. Misrepresent
19. *Troika ride
21. *Has two eyes made of coal
23. Beluga yield
24. Found in a wall
25. Reggae precursor
28. Whiskey without water
30. Mother of Calcutta
35. What little kittens did with their mittens
37. Computer operating system
39. Ascetic holy Hindu
40. Hippocrates' promise
41. Chemically induced waves, pl.
43. Good obtained illegally
44. Garment fold
46. Sandwich alternative
47. Northern freshwater fish
48. No, they don't really crawl in one's ear
50. Substance abuser
52. Neither
53. Type of tide
55. Jamie ____ Curtis
57. *Popular cold weather fabric
61. *Desired winter destination, pl.
64. Don McLean: "Drove my chevy to the ____"
65. *Elf on the Shelf, e.g.
67. *Remove its furniture in winter?
69. Like a Harvard building?
70. Call to Bo-peep
71. Painter Degas
72. Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name
73. Weary traveler's destination
74. Lofty homes

DOWN

1. Us, in Mexico
2. Prefers
3. Tiny bottle
4. "C'mon in!"
5. Wound
6. Persian king
7. Precedes Sep.
8. Maiden's "hope" storage
9. Captain's team
10. Islet in a river
11. Half-way around the world
12. Part of a hammer
15. Residences
20. "Faster!" to a horse
22. *Roast a chest ____ over an open fire
24. Cavalryman's foot holder
25. #61 Across, sing.
26. Bear Down Under
27. In the Asteraceae family
29. Again
31. Wood file
32. Buzz Aldrin's first name
33. Plumed military headdress
34. *Ice Angler's drill
36. *Warm winter day occurrence
38. *Winter Holiday, for short
42. Abracadabra, e.g.
45. Preserved in a can
49. "Fancy that!"
51. Go back into business
54. Cover story
56. Horace's poem
57. Dart
58. Prefix in levorotary
59. Like a zealous fan
60. Pauper's permanent state
61. Bridge
62. Units of work
63. Cut and run
66. *Gingerbread creation
68. 60 mins., pl.

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House Rental Wanted

Artist retreat-type seeks rental home

Artist retreat-type looking for a home by the end of December in/around Chalets. Ideally unit is private, furnished, heated, with stove, laundry, bath, and wifi. sarahsatoried@gmail.com. Thank you

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...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

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Misc. Wanted

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Community Service

School Board Vacancy
Notice of vacancy: There is a vacancy on the Moffat Consolidated School District #2 Board of Education Director District At Large #1. Please see district map for specifics) If interested in being considered for appointment until the next regular election in November 201 submit a letter of intention to and a brief résumé to: Board of Education, Moffat Consolidated School District #2, P.O. Box 428, 501 Garfield Avenue, Moffat, CO 81143 Letters and résumés may be directed to Moffat School by one of the following methods: Email to khazard@moffatschools.org, U.S. Mail to the address above or delivered in person to the District Office Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All letters by Monday, January 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. You must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the School District in the director district, be registered to vote for at least one year in the school district with no felony convictions.

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PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Crestone plans to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs. CDBG funds are intended to provide decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons through rehabilitation and preservation, economic/job development and public facilities improvements.

The application being considered would request \$ 600,000 * for Phase II of the Pedestrian Pathway Network Project (PPNP), to address significant infrastructure issues, inadequate handicap accessibility, unsafe pedestrian routes and economic development. The project will concentrate rather than disperse improvements to maximize impact including street improvements that will slow traffic and improve safety; road striping; signage improvements; debris removal; tree pruning; emphasize beautification to increase 'linger time' in the business district; establish anchor features (or events) to act as social magnets for community use; improve air quality, and capitalize on the existing charm of Town Center park *. It is estimated that approximately 87.4 % of the funds would benefit low and moderate-income persons. Permanent involuntary displacement of neighborhood persons or businesses is not anticipated. Should it later become necessary to consider such displacement, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement. If no feasible alternatives exist, required/reasonable benefits will be provided to those displaced to mitigate adverse effects and hardships. Any low and moderate income housing which is demolished or converted will be replaced. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during these hearings should notify Allyson Ransom, Town Clerk at Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave., Crestone, CO, 81131 a minimum of 3 days in advance so that appropriate aids can be made available.

A public hearing will be held at 1:30 pm on January 9 , 2017 at the Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave. Crestone, CO 81131 to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions related to:

- The proposed CDBG application for this project; and
- Community development and housing needs, including the needs or low and moderate income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be addressed through the CDBG program; and
- The performance of the Town of Crestone in carrying out its community development responsibilities.
- Potential historical effects.

A copy of the application(s) as submitted to the State will be available for public review at

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by January 9, 2017 at Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave. ,Crestone, CO 81131 or crestonetownclerk@fairpoint.net.

Oral and written comments will be considered in deciding whether to submit an application for the proposed project.

Written summary information will be available at Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave. ,Crestone, CO 81131 on January 1, 2017 until February 1, 2017 on any CDBG application(s) the Town of Crestone intends to submit to the State.

Information and records regarding the Town of Crestone proposed and past use of CDBG funds are available at Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave. ,Crestone, CO 81131 during regular office hours from 9:00 am- 1:00 pm.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that polyester fleece clothing is a huge contributor to the problem of plastic in our oceans?

-Mickey Walton, Seattle, WA

We're all familiar with the issue of non-biodegradable plastic debris (shopping bags, soda bottles, fishing nets etc.) clogging up our waterways and making its way out to sea—sometimes accumulating in huge “gyres.” But what you might not realize is that even if you are responsible about recycling and not littering, you may still be contributing to the ocean's plastic burden by virtue of the clothes on your back.

“The single biggest plastic pollution problem facing our ocean is microfiber: trillions of pieces of tiny fibers flowing into the ocean—every time we use our washing machines,” reports the nonprofit Rozalia Project. “Our synthetic clothing is breaking up, sending this plastic microfiber out with the drain water.” According to the group, just one fleece jacket could shed over 81,000 minute strands of polyester per wash. “New York City, alone, could have 6.8 billion microfibers flowing into its harbor every day.”

According to activist Sarah Mosko, the tiny size of microplastics actually adds to their dangers. “Because plastics are lipophilic (oil-loving), oily contaminants in seawater are drawn to them,” she reports on Algalita's blog. “Japanese researchers found that plastic pellets no more than a half millimeter in diameter could adsorb hazardous chemicals (like polychlorinated biphenyls, nonyl-



Several snowstorms around the Winter Solstice transformed the landscape. A family of deer pause to have their photo taken. *photo by Lori Nagel*

phenols and derivatives of DDT) onto their surfaces at up to one million times the concentrations in the surrounding water.” The tiny size of microplastics means that even minute creatures can ingest them, thereby introducing any chemicals they carry into the very bottom of the food chain.

The Rozalia Project adds that “ingested pollutants can unstick from the plastic and end up in the stomachs and tissue” of everything from plankton to whales, causing issues at the cellular level as well as digestive problems. Rozalia researchers found that two-thirds of all fish species tested from markets in California had microfiber or microplastic in them. Even those who don't eat fish may not be able to avoid ingesting microfibers, given that farm animals are typically fed fish meal as a dietary staple.

So what can be done? Rozalia has developed “the world's first consumer solution” to stop microfiber pollution. The patent-pending microfiber catcher works in any washing machine, catching microfibers so they can't flow out with the drain water. “Early test results show the microfiber catcher keeping 2,000-9,000 pieces of synthetic

microfibers from flowing into our public waterways per wash per household.”

Outdoor clothing and gear makers are starting to realize that they can be part of the solution as well. Earlier this year, Patagonia commissioned microbiologists from UC Santa Barbara to study the problem and suggest ways the company could reduce microfiber pollution moving forward. The company is sharing the findings with its competitors in order to collaborate on industry-wide solutions.

We probably can't do much, concludes Sarah Mosko, about the microplastics that are already contaminating our oceans, but we can start making smarter clothing choices, adding that “natural fiber cloths like cotton, silk, wool, bamboo, hemp and even soy may be better choices for those concerned about the environment. All derive from renewable sources, are intrinsically biodegradable, and their fibers would not attract oily chemicals out of seawater.”

Contacts: Rozalia Project, www.rozaliaproject.org; Algalita, www.algalita.org; UC Santa Barbara study, www.esm.ucsb.edu/research/2016Group_Projects/documents/PataPlastBrief.pdf.

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Fleece clothing produces millions of microfibers that pose serious pollution risks. *photo courtesy of Patagonia*

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

November 21 to December 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.93”

Snow: 6.7”

Measurable precipitation fell on 8 days.

Measurable snow fell on 8 days.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

No rain, thunderstorms or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1, 2016: 12.44”

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1, 2016: 53.9”

Snow Season *: 8.0”

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 54.6°F on December 15

Low temp: -4.2°F on December 19

Avg. high: 36.5°F

Avg. low: 13.2°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 40°: 12 (including 2 days above 50°)

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

Number of days with the low temperature at or below zero°: 3

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.7 mph

Highest gust: 35 mph on December 16.

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

Weather summary

Temperatures were above normal, especially at night. Precipitation was above normal for the end of November, then below normal for the first 3 weeks in December, with snowfall below normal overall. No new weather records to report, as none were broken.

Outlook for January

The first month of the year is also the coldest month of the year (average-mean-temperature-wise), with average highs and lows in the first week averaging 32° and 7°, then warming up a bit by month's end to 35° and 10°. The coldest January reading was -20° on Jan 17, 2008 (but that's not the coldest reading ever, as there are 4 colder readings that occurred in February), while the warmest reading was 59° set on Jan 29, 1986.

Precipitation-wise, we only saw snow fall in this month (but it did rain once, just a few years back), with the most snow for the entire month being 23.4”, set in 2005. We average 9.5”, making it the third snowiest month of the year. When that snow is melted down, the liquid measurement for the month averages only 0.56”, making January the second driest month of the year, so not a lot of moisture at all in the dry snow that falls around here in the dead of winter.

The 30-day outlook for January from the NWS is calling for average temps and slightly below normal snowfall.

Note: For current Crestone weather conditions visit Keno's web site: www.keno.org/vws.

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