

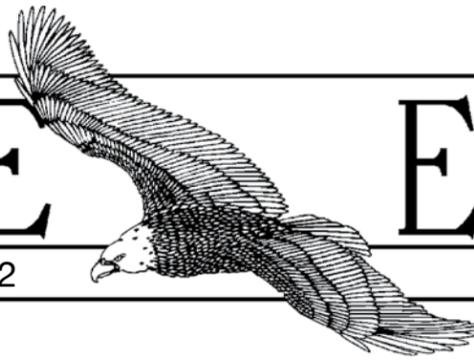
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 24, Number 12

December, 2013 \$1

24 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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Chilean Patagonia's iconic Torres del Paine with guanacos in cloud shadow. Winter workshop-safari. photo by Bill Ellzey. Please see our feature story on the work of Bill Ellzey on page 17 and also the Ellzey/Johns Studio Tour article on page 11. To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Snow! Record snowfall hits Crestone & Moffat areas

by Kizzen Laki

A record snowfall hit the Crestone/Baca and Moffat areas on Monday, November 25.

A series of storms pushing into the San Luis Valley over several days ended by bringing in a major snowfall—measured in feet by the time it was done. Wednesday night, November 20 brought Crestone around 4-5" of snow from a system mostly pushing up from the south west. Over the next couple of days heavy cloud cover lay over the valley bringing smaller amounts of

additional snow. Sunday, November 23, saw a light amount of snow during the day, but then after the system had moved east, saw the front come back over the Sangre de Cristos from the northeast, bringing heavy snow. On Sunday night, 10" of snow was very quickly deposited in just a few hours. By the morning of the 24th there was nearly 2 feet of accumulated snow in the Town of Crestone, reports of 33" in the higher elevations of the Baca, 18-20" out in the Grants and Casita Park, a foot of snow in

the Moffat region with a report of 15-20" in the Joyful Journey/Villa Grove area.

Saguache County, Baca Grande and Town of Crestone snow plows quickly responded to clear the roads. There were reports of vehicles that had slid off snow-packed and slippery area roads or were stuck in driveways. AAA tow trucks and helpful neighbors were seen rescuing those that were stuck. Since people had to expend quite a bit of effort to un-bury their

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Jim Hollmer, clearing 2 feet of snow in Crestone on Nov 26. photo by Lori Nagel

3A bond passes, planning for new Moffat School begins

by Kirk Banghart,
Superintendent of Schools
Moffat School District

On Tuesday, November 5 the voters of Moffat School District approved the matching money bond to build a new state-of-the-art PK-12 school. The existing school, built in 1921 and expanded little by little over subsequent decades starting in the 1950s, has been suffering evident degradation due to age, soil conditions and weather for many years.

In conjunction with the bond, the Colorado Department of Edu-

cation (CDE) is providing a grant reserve to allow adequate funding for the new Pre-K through 12 school facility. The new school is expected to be built in a lot next to the existing school and will be approximately 50,000 square feet. Consilium Partners has been hired to work as the Owner's Representative and RTA Architects out of Colorado Springs is currently under contract negotiations as the Project Architect. It is anticipated that a general contractor will be selected before the end of the year in order to assist with pricing and

constructability as the new facility is being designed. Construction would begin in early summer 2014.

The Board of Education has put together a Design Advisory Group (DAG). This group will be the basis for design direction and input for the project. The DAG will consist of a mix of school board member(s), staff and students, community members, and the school superintendent, Kirk Banghart. Along with the DAG, the community at large will be invited to monthly meetings during the design

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See our Shop Locally for the Holidays Special Section!

The Crestone Eagle

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Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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

Editor's Notes

Ask a woman

Last week I attended a gathering of women at the Moffat School. It was a "Udall Women's Policy Network" roundtable presented by Udall's SLV staffer Erin Minks as well as community leaders Mikela Tarrow and Suzanne Ewey. We were invited to join the discussion to let Udall know what women were concerned about. Women from all over Saguache County attended, ranchers, social workers, teachers, those active in their communities. It was a great group of women and we soon saw that we had many common concerns.

Topping the list were youth, children, senior and aging issues. The need for education and the importance of agriculture and the environment. The burden of high student loans was discussed as well as literacy, affordable housing and health care. A room full of intelligent informed women made for some lively conversation full of deep compassion.

What really struck me from this gathering was when the teachers spoke about how many children come to school hungry. And when the social workers and victim advocates spoke about domestic violence. Yeah, right here.

As we listed our concerns we kept returning to economics and the need for good paying jobs. Having to live on today's minimum wage meant the need to get food stamps, to have marginal housing, not to be able to afford the basics of life, and a huge stress on families.

As we celebrate the holidays this month, look around and see who needs some help. This heavy snowfall will mean heating and transportation problems for many. And besides maybe bringing a food basket, please lobby your congressman to increase the minimum wage. Then maybe we all can have future happy holidays.

Happy solstice to you all,
—Kizzen



Thanks to the community

Dear friends & community, Nora & I are deeply moved by all the support we have, and are, receiving from this beautiful community to aid me through this health challenge.

We are extremely grateful to all the friends and family and acquaintances who have been generous with donations of time and meals and funds. If you are among those who have contributed money by depositing it in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors account at the credit union, we have no way of knowing who you are. So we are writing this letter to thank you all so much for your generosity and support. Alternatively, the NHN address is Box 822, Crestone.

There's no way I could have coped with everything without the love and support of this incredible community. If I am learning anything from this experience, it is the reality of "It takes a village." From medical & natural healing folks, to those who have come and stacked firewood or brought meals, the truly community-minded support of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and its volunteers, and all the good wishes and prayers that are coming our way from all corners, we are deeply grateful to all of you.

Thank you so much,
Russell Schreiber

Healthy streams benefit all

Dear Editor,

The Crestone Baca Watershed Council (CBWC), as a local conservation team that advocates best practices for water resources, streamway habitat restoration, education and training, is gratified that important water issues are coming to the fore. We refer to the recent articles, etc. in the November *Crestone Eagle*, which the CBWC encourages everyone to read.

There is much for the discerning person to glean. Water is bringing its gift. We urge more people to speak out, write letters, attend hearings, be an active part of "localizing" protection and restoration within our greenbelts. Join in these rewarding efforts.

The CBWC fully supports the efforts of our local farmers and ranchers—as reported in the November *Eagle*—to get justice. The deep-water pumping folly must stop before the sub-district ploy occurs. The Closed Basin Project must close. It is time for water management to be sustainable.

Our challenge is to apply common sense, not computer models, in a cooperative approach between producers and conservators. CBWC calls on all parties to join us in working towards a restorative justice approach that utilizes (1)

nature's wisdom; (2) riparian and streamway ecological practices and (3) aquatic species habitat restoration; all of which simultaneously recharge artesian springs, groundwater and aquifers to health.

Please to come to CBWC's Greenbelt Appreciation Day December 7 (see Haps and calendar listings for details).

For the Crestone Baca Watershed Council Steering Committee, Glyder
Noah Baen
Paul Kloppenburg

Death Café a hit

Dear Editor,

Lynda Kucin and I consider ourselves so blessed by the overwhelming turnout for the first Crestone area Death Café, which we hosted on November 2, at the Elephant Cloud Studio.

Forty-four folks showed up and had a wonderful time at the "Café".

There were delicious sweets, many of which were donated. Lynda and Joany Nelson went out of their way to create a beautiful and welcoming afternoon event. Individuals gathered in groups of six to eight at tables, enjoying food and conversation.

I had the honor of hosting/facilitating the conversation. I've never been to a Crestone event that has had so many people coming to share and engage: it was a real honor. I gave the group questions from the Death Café site, www.deathcafe.com, to stimulate dialogue among participants.

The energy in the room built as conversations opened and sharing became more intimate. The topic itself, our mortality and the fears and concerns that surround that, made for rich and deep connections.

We are so grateful to all who participated. If you were one of the participants and have feedback, contact ceolp.info@gmail.com. or call Lynda Kucin at 256-5458 or Malina at 256-4211. Informed Final Choices, the educational arm of Crestone End of Life Project, will sponsor another Café in the new year.

Blessings,
Malina Feder

Generosity generated a beautiful space for CCC

Dear Editor,

My sincere thanks go out to everyone who helped make our youth program a success in 2013:

Town of Crestone Board of Trustees—your trust in allowing us to utilize the Crestone Community Building, this 135-year old historic space; Akia Tanara—your intuitive and professional guidance and friendship; Leanna Bradbury—your impeccable finance and organization skills; Gretchen Nelson—your support as employee, parent and role model; Jim Hollmer—your tender care and attention to the building; Crystal Wade—holding the overall space and intention with your good vibes; Carrie Allen—your presence, creative spark and yummy goodies; Whitney Gourdin—bringing fire, energy and deep care to

the mix; Robert Cole—the super-chic retro stove that feeds us all and your incredible patience, love and care of our ringleader; Donovan Spitzman—pirate extraordinaire and providing flair; Ashlee Jernigan—your playful guidance and laughter; Nina Clouse—inspired creations and attention to detail; The Tolian Family—your unending support, time and love; The Benavidez Family—your joyous artistic volunteer contributions; Will Baca—hard work and belief in our program; Ava Lowe—the sweet & stylish lounge chairs; Lars Skogen—the most comfortable couch in the world; Sarah & Tom Beggs—awesome couch and rug; Mark & Marlon Jacobi, Chris Canaly—the big screen TV & hugs; Jen Daveler, Benny & Jedi Roman—the kicking sound system & skate culture; Phil & Michele Schechter—the sweetest air hockey/pool table; Karen Kenney, Avery Runner, Jeff WishMer, Shoshanna—The Dragon Mural; The Bliss Café—our old hangout ground and delicious treats; The Crestone Mercantile—supporting our Denver trip & car washes; The Elephant Cloud—offering the healthiest and most nutritious food; The Crestone Food Bank & Tom Whitehead—always keeping our bellies full with your donations & cooking; Saguache County Commissioners—making youth a priority in our community; Crestone Eagle—your generous coverage of our events and programs CYP & Lanelle Lovelace—your generous support to create a wicked Haunted House; Every youth in this community who is my inspiration! Happy 2014!

In gratitude,
Lisa Bodey

Hijacked

Dear Editor,

Well, it looks like our POA board has been hijacked by BG-CAN. Bruce McDonald and Nigel Fuller both got more than 600 votes in the election. It seems to me from talking to many locals that chose not to vote, that the majority of these votes might have come from non-resident property owners who got their info from the Baca Grande Citizens Action Network—which is a small group in our community that, were I a non-resident member of the POA, I would probably believe were in the majority and were supported by the locals.

Instead, they insinuate and accuse some of the best people who live here. The ones who really serve our community and are of the highest integrity. Their hostility toward the fire department is very puzzling and has resulted in the resignation of 3 wonderful volunteers.

How many more will they offend before we have no fire department at all?

For you with raw land (that you probably have up for sale) this may not be a big deal. But fire is the most likely catastrophe that could occur here. And we who live here and have built our homes with love, are now saddled with a POA board that we would never have elected.

—Joanna Theriault

Buffy's new home

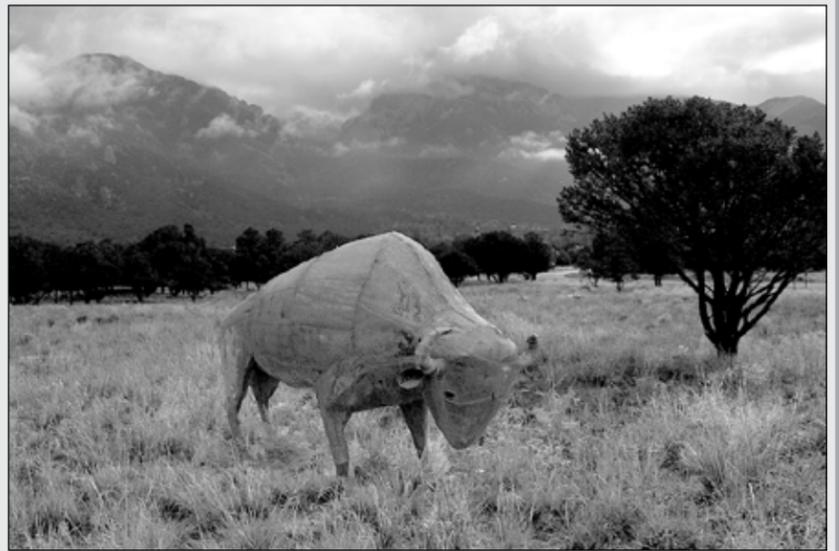
Dear Baca residents,
Does this buffalo look familiar to you? Do you remember our local rug dealer Richard Enzer? He had placed this buffalo in a field out by his ranch in the Grants. It was created for him by local artist Will Bartley who is now willing to let him live where he can be seen by all.

Several years ago money was raised for this project, but because of a number of circumstances "Buffy" never made it to a new home. So a concerned group of us have now asked the POA board if our buffalo might graze in a grassy area just as you enter the Baca on the first round curve to the left side

of the road. (See picture.)

The POA board would like some community feedback before they commit to doing so. Please visit our blog by Dec. 31 at <http://crestonebuffy.blogspot.com/> and vote as to whether or not you would like to see "Buffy" placed here. We have also shared this on Facebook's Crestonians and Crestone Chill pages. Donations for moving our 650 pound buffalo and cementing him in place will be accepted by Friends of Buffy via Sage Godfrey at PO Box 369.

Thanks for your support.
Aliyah Alexander
Sage Godfrey
Peter Taylor



It is being proposed that Richard Enzer's buffalo sculpture might be placed in an area just as you enter the Baca on the first round curve to the left side of the road.

Do the RiGHT thing

Dear friends and neighbors,

I wanted to let you know of a quick and easy way you can support the conservation of land and water in the San Luis Valley. On December 10, you can join Coloradans from all over the state and visit ColoradoGives.org and choose the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) as the beneficiary of much needed program funding. Since 1999, RiGHT has conserved over 24,000 acres of working ranches and farms, water resources, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes all over the San Luis Valley.

In 2012, we started a campaign called "Save the Ranch" to help RiGHT meet our costs to protect a ranch. There's a lot that goes into each conservation easement project, which can take up to two years and hundreds of hours of staff time to complete, not to mention travel and office costs. On average, those costs add up to \$25 an acre for us. Last year, we needed to raise \$10,000 to protect the Haywood Ranch, and thanks to you we achieved our goal and slightly more. This year, we are turning our attention to the Conejos River corridor where we have several exciting conservation projects underway. Our 2013 Save the Ranch goal is \$20,000, which will help us conserve the beautiful 760-acre Garcia Ranch, owned by Reyes Garcia and his two daughters. Colorado Gives has the potential to help us meet this significant goal. I joined the board of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust because I believe strongly that it is accomplishing some of the most meaningful and definitely long lasting work in our region. Important conservation work like this is only possible through the generous help of people like you!

Many Thanks, Muchas Gracias,
Angie Krall, Board Chair

Gold fever stories

Howdy Kizzen,

My friend Eileen S. sends me the *Eagle* now and then. I like the Chalk Creek Canyon stories and I really enjoyed the story of Earl and his gold fever. It reminded of sixty some years ago when I too was searching for gold and lost treasure. My buddy and I outfitted ourselves at the surplus store on Larimer Street in Denver and took

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WinterFest 2013

Friday, December 6th

Crestone Artisan's Gallery Reception

4-6 pm

Community Bonfire & Marshmallow Melt

Caroling & Street Dancing

6-8 pm

Saturday, December 7th
Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

New Crestone Charter School

& your downtown Crestone Merchants

10am-5 pm

Children's Story Hour - 1 pm

Santa Arrives - 2 pm

Sunday, December 8th
Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

New Crestone Charter School

& your downtown Crestone Merchants

11 am-4 pm

Special Events Both Days

Horse-drawn carriage between downtown & the school

11:30am-2:30pm

Contests

Holiday Cookie Contest
at the new Merc Diner location!

Winners announced at 3pm Sunday

Thanks to our

Early Bird Angel Sponsors:

Crestone Mercantile
Crestone Artisans Gallery

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

There were lots of speeding tickets issued this past month by Saguache County Sheriff's officers. Most of the tickets issued on Hwy 285 near the Town of Saguache were for going over twenty miles above the posted limit. These tickets went to out-of-the-county residents and probably make it much safer for local traffic in Saguache. Speeding violations from Saguache itself were for 5-10 miles over the limit. Saguache County Sheriff's officers were very active catching speeders on Hwy. 17 near Moffat and a few tickets were issued near the POA building on County Rd. T. Quite a few Crestonians were ticketed. Seems like it's a good idea in this busy season to pay attention to how fast we are driving to keep more holiday funds in our pockets.

Warrants were issued by the Sheriff's Department for several people. A Moffat woman was cited for driving with a suspended license and not having working tail-lights. A Saguache man was served a warrant for retaliation against a judge and a Center resident was brought in for second degree burglary, theft and criminal mischief. Another Center man was arrested for deer hunting without a license which he was evidently doing with an illegal rifle within 50 feet of a road.

Capt. George Dingfelder of the CO State Patrol released a statement about a single vehicle accident on November 16 off County Rd HH in Costilla County near Ft. Garland. A local woman travelling home to Blanca swerved to avoid an animal in the road, crashed and received serious injuries. She was taken by ambulance to the SLV Regional Medical Center and then airlifted to St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver. The victim was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash. "The CO State Patrol would like to remind drivers it is safer to brake and maintain your lane than to swerve to avoid animals."

New Moffat School

continued from page 1

phase of the project to provide input and feedback. Community members will also be encouraged to reach out to the DAG folks, as they will be the representatives of the community during the project. The design phase of the project will move quickly and require dedicated involvement from the DAG and community.

Here is a schedule of meeting dates and events to be held at the Moffat School in the next few months:

- Dec 18: Community Meeting (coincides with Moffat School Winter Concert) 5:30pm
- Jan 22: Community Meeting 5:30pm
- Feb 26: Community Meeting 5:30pm

A very special thank you goes out to the voters of Saguache County for making this project happen. Although "once-in-a-lifetime" can sometimes be a cliché phrase, in the case of this new school facility and for the community, school staff, and board members that made this happen, it really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will be met with excitement and great expectations.

Letters

continued from page 3

a bus to North Park. We hiked up Independence Mountain to an old gold camp where we were sure we would fill a sack with gold dust. That lasted about two days.

Then I read an article about the Russell Gang treasure. It was somewhere up Iron Creek in Hall Valley before you head up Kenosha Pass. The spot was marked by a knife made from an old file that was driven into a tree. I spent many happy hours looking for that knife. A later article said that treasure was buried on the south side of Devil's Head Mountain. Off I went to Devil's Head. I finally had to give it up, learn the carpenter trade and spend weekends doing side jobs to support my family. But I still know a couple of stories about where there is a vein of pure gold in the wall of Red Canyon and a creek where a man came out with a fruit jar full of gold dust. I guess that gold will have to stay there. The old body isn't up to the search.

I'm still curious about Earl and Kizzen, the hippie girl who lived up Chalk Creek Canyon who had enough smarts and chutzpa to put out a really good newspaper.

Yours truly,
Carroll Newberry
Westminster, CO

Happy Holidays to all!

Thank you to all the supporters of Crestone Botanical Gardens. Our winter location is in the Crestone at the Secret Garden (Alder & Silver). Come and shop the bountiful plant choices and other artful items.

Blessings, D'Lane



Ms. Naiya



Vicki Matthews 719/256-5020



Solar panels at the Crestone Charter School are part of its innovative design.

Engineers of Crestone Charter School win 2014 Engineering Excellence Award

Among 5 projects honored by ACEC/CO

Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers, Inc. has been awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado Engineering Excellence Award for their work on the Crestone Charter School.

The Council's Engineering Excellence Awards spotlight how engineers are intimately involved in creating safe, sustainable infrastructure solutions that impact nearly every aspect of quality of life from developing better roadways and sustainable water and power supplies to generating outcomes that preserve environments and revitalize commerce.

Crestone Charter School was awarded \$5.7 million by the BEST (Build Excellent Schools Today) Grant Program in 2010 to fulfill a vision of community leaders who desired to build a new school facility, which could also be used a community-gathering place. The old school facilities consisted of four dilapidated rental buildings that had outdated HVAC, plumbing systems, inoperable windows and air quality concerns that compromised the educational environment. In-

corporating dynamic heating, cooling and energy systems was essential to achieving the goals of the new school vision.

Today the new sustainable and solar-supported school features classroom and gathering space for 75 students, a multi-use gym/theater/social space, a proper science lab, sufficient administration and reception space, a conference room and counseling rooms. Crestone is the first and only public school in Colorado to operate with a ground-coupled solar thermal system, designed by Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers, Incorporated. Projections show that 90% of the building's heat and hot water needs will be met through this innovative system. The project has become an important community asset that will serve students, teachers and the community at large safely and economically for years to come.

The CCS project now advances to the American Council of Engineering Companies' National Competition. The winner will be announced on April 29, 2014 in Washington D.C.

REPRESENTING JESUS CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Crestone Baptist Church

A fellowship for everyone

Come Celebrate the birth of Christ
Christmas Eve with a candlelight service at 6:00 pm
Refreshments and fellowship will follow.
Merry Christmas and God Bless

As You Go About Your Day, Please Remember . . .

The Ripples You Create Today



Bring About the Changes for Tomorrow

Support
Crestone Youth Plaza
By Shopping At The
CYP THRIFT STORE
On the corner of Alder & Galena
(719) 256-5500

Saguache County News

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Elections and budgets dominated county news in November. Sales Tax Grants and Gunnison Sage Grouse provided a bit of balance. Veterans' services was also highlighted this month.

December is the month when commissioners from around the state gather for CCI, or Colorado Counties, Inc. Winter Conference. CCI, a non-profit educational organization for county commissioners and other state officials, offers a chance for commissioners to get together for education and strategic planning on key issues within Colorado. Because of CCI, the first meeting for Saguache County Commissioners in December will be on the 10th.

Budget issues

Boring as it may be to read about, finances are often the real determiner of what families, and governments, can actually do. Thus, the county's budget process is critical for decision-making as the commissioners make their plans for 2014. This year's budget process has been complicated by the federal shutdown in October, and the stalemate on funding at the federal level. Saguache County relies heavily on PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and SRS (Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act). Because so much of Saguache County is federal land (76%), such as Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM land, our county is unusually dependent on these funds, both for county government functions and school funding. SRS funding was finally secured when Congress attached it to, of all things, a helium bill. PILT, however, which has always been a mandated funding measure at the federal level, has lost that status, and as of press time, has not been funded. Thus, commissioners have had to look at cutting expenses in all departments and for most services to make up for the ½ to ¾ million anticipated shortfall if PILT remains unfunded for 2014.

Commissioners are trying hard to avoid staff cuts, but that means that many programs will take a hit, such as the Center Library and CSU Extension. Sales tax grants will continue at present, but competition is getting stiffer as many county departments are applying for these grants to supplement special needs. For instance the coroner, the sheriff, and Department of Social Services all received modest grants for equipment and repairs that might otherwise have been paid for by county revenues. There is still time for PILT to be funded, and our federal representatives are working in our behalf.

Elections

County Clerk Carla Gomez and her staff have dealt with a new situation of an all mail-in ballot as they carried out the recent off-year election, which nevertheless saw

some important issues. At the local level, voters approved the mill levy for the Moffat School, which provides matching funds for a BEST grant to build a new building. It also included a tax measure for schools, which failed, and a tax measure for implementing marijuana legislation and improving school infrastructure, which passed. Gomez reports that voter turnout was about 50%, which is lower than the approximately 75% of voters in 2012, but good for an off-year election. It was also the first time the clerk's office and voters experienced the new state mandate to carry out all elections by mail-in ballot. This provided an opportunity to "work the bugs out" of a required process before the state and federal elections of 2014.

Gomez announced "that the election equipment we had contracted to rent for this year's November election, is being provided to the County at no cost, by Elections Systems and Software, ES&S.

"This is a much appreciated gesture on behalf of ES&S, which is the company that previous clerk, Melinda Myers had purchased the M650 tabulating machine from in 2010, which was at the center of controversy in that year's election. In an effort to avoid election related problems and lawsuits that have plagued this County for many years, and in our effort to regain the confidence of voters, I believe that it is imperative that we take the action to have a complete, approved voting system with all the required components. I had entered into a rental agreement with ES&S for two tabulating machines, two Direct Recording Equipment (DRE) or handicap accessible voting machines, the software and other components required for this voting system, including training and on-site support, for the amount of \$8,285. I believe this was a justified action to bring us into compliance with election rules, especially now with the passage of House Bill 1303 and the sweeping changes to the election process this bill contains.

"I was contacted by ES&S in late September, informing me that they were revising the contract to reflect 'no charge' for any of this equipment and services. I was not provided with any explanation and will not speculate as to their reason for this decision. I do, however, gratefully accept their offer. In my letter to them dated October 4th, I wrote 'On behalf of the citizens and electors of Saguache County, I express my gratitude to ES&S for this gesture to help right the emotional and economic impact of the events surrounding the last couple of elections. As we are working to regain the confidence of voters through this upcoming election, continuing to use your equipment and services, this offering to us is gratefully accepted.'"

Gomez said, "I would also like to inform voters that there is a new website, MyColoradoVote.com. You can check your voter registration information with connections with the Secretary of State's office at this site. You can also visit govotecolorado.com, which is the Secretary of State's site. You can make changes to your information at both of these

locations by following the prompts."

Gunnison Sage Grouse

Saguache County now has 15 new residents—Sage Grouse, that is. In an effort to reinstate a population that seems to have disappeared, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) transplanted 17 young birds, 15 of which seem to have survived the transplant, to likely sagebrush territory north of Villa Grove. An additional transplant of 15 more birds is planned for spring. These transplants are part of a larger effort to protect the Gunnison Sage Grouse, and, locals hope, keep it off the Endangered Species List. Once a species is listed on the ESL it puts significant restraints on landowners who have appropriate habitat on their property. Commissioners are trying to avoid federal listing by collaborating with other counties to come up with a local plan that can protect the birds. FWS, at the national level, is responsible for the decision whether to list, or not. Linda Joseph, who has been working most closely on this issue, said the national agency keeps finding new concerns that need to be addressed, but she is hopeful that a collaborative agreement is close to completion that will protect the birds without the listing. Two local ranchers that have property within the grouse's traditional range attended to express concern about an ES listing. One rancher said, "those birds don't like to live here", noting that previous transplants have not been successful over the long term. Both men expressed gratitude that commissioners are trying to find an alternative to Endangered Species Listing.

Land Use Master Planning

The Crestone-Baca Planning Commission has been engaging in an update of the area Master Plan for about three years, as the current Master Plan is almost twenty years old. Earlier in the year, local citizens and owners of property in the area received a survey in the mail regarding their priorities for land use. Those survey responses have now been compiled and the Planning Commission is discussing the implications for a new Master Plan. If you are interested in the process, which will be ongoing for several months, the next meeting is January 8, at 9am at the POA Hall.

Spiritual Center in San Juans

In Crestone, we are so used to spiritual centers of various flavors that we have few concerns if we hear of one moving into the area. Not so on the other side of the Valley. A Buddhist group is proposing the Diamond Way Retreat Center in the Ewing Ranch subdivision in the San Juans. They have purchased 5 lots, each sizeable, and have submitted a plan for a center that would be primarily for small group and individual retreats, but with one or two special events that would bring more people to the area. They have proposed several mitigations to reduce impacts to neighbors, but current residents of the development, as well as two ranchers who have grazing rights nearby, are concerned that their privacy will be compromised, that traffic will be much worse, that gates will be left open and wells will dry up. They appealed to commissioners to postpone the decision and to require

that the retreatants use a different access road than the one other residents use, citing excessive traffic caused by "looky-loos", as well as retreat traffic. Commissioners visited the site and inspected the proposed alternative access, but determined that it was not a legal access. A number of other local Saguache citizens spoke in favor of the economic development opportunities that this group could bring, and Jeff Shook, Saguache County Planning Commission, said that this has been in the works for over 5 years and that there have already been six meetings on the proposal this year. He recommended that it be approved.

Jason Anderson, commissioner for Crestone/Baca area, said that the board is required to look only at the "facts and the law", that he supports private property rights, and was assured by the county's attorney that all documents had been submitted for a Conditional Use Permit. He noted that, while there may be more traffic at some times, the project may ultimately reduce density by taking five lots out of development. The board approved the permit with some added traffic conditions and promised to examine the issue again carefully when it comes up for review in a year.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Bringing Veterans' Services closer to Saguache Co. Vets

Saguache County Veterans Services Officer, Jim Sheeran, is reaching out and offering monthly open house and office hours around Saguache County. Veterans can visit with Jim at:

- Crestone/Moffat: YES! building next to the Library on T Road. Every second Wednesday, 10am to 4pm

- Center/La Garita: Haskin Public Health/Human Services building. The third Thursday of each month, 10am to 4pm

- Saguache: at the Saguache Clinic off 4th Street. Wednesday and Thursday, 9am to 4pm, and Fri. 9am to 3pm

Jim is welcoming and encouraging all veterans to learn about the many benefits they have earned, and to sign up for benefits if they haven't already done so. Call Jim at 719-655-2680 for more information.

Veterans please register!

Only 100 more registered veterans in the San Luis Valley will bring better veterans' services here.

Staffing and services to veterans are determined in part by how many veterans are registered in the area. The SLV Clinic staffing and services are based on a registered population of 1,200 vets. When 1,300 are registered, the Alamosa Clinic becomes eligible for additional doctor and nursing staff. With an estimated 2,200 veterans in the valley, just 100 more registering will make a huge difference in quality of services that cannot be accomplished any other way.



Winter arrives in Crestone. Looking east up Galena Avenue. photo by Lori Nagel



2014 Budget tops November BGWSD agenda

by Cindy Reinhardt for the Baca Grande
Water & Sanitation District Staff & Board of Directors

Faced with a loss in tax revenue of almost \$61,000 as a result of the decrease in assessed valuation of property within the district, an aging infrastructure requiring on-going maintenance and repairs, as well as the need for capital improvements, district staff and board approached the 2014 budget process with the priorities of maintaining systems' reliability and having a solid financial foundation long term.

In the end, after much discussion and review of several alternative scenarios, the board voted to increase the mill levy from 46 to 48 mills, monthly water and sewer rates by \$2 per month for each of these services, and Availability of Service (AOS) fees by \$10 per year.

Despite increases in costs for utilities, insurance, and materials for maintenance and repairs, the budget for operations expenses represents only a three percent increase over actual 2013 expenditures. Staff and board will review expenses again in January in an effort to identify areas that may be cut without jeopardizing future stability. The district will also continue to review the assessed values in cooperation with other taxing authorities such as the Library District to be sure that all properties that should be on the tax roll are as accurate as possible.

The mill levy increase will recoup approximately \$30,000 of the revenue lost by the decrease in assessed value. A review of 14 random properties showed that most property owners whose property values declined will still see a decrease in their taxes. While there will be exceptions for properties with significant increases in assessed value, most properties that experience an increase will range from \$4 to \$42 per year.

The monthly water and sewer rate increase is projected to add approximately \$34,000 in revenue. The AOS increase is estimated to add \$8,000 in revenue. Combined, the three increases recoup the estimated loss of tax revenue and allow the district to add to reserve fund balances for emergency needs in the future.

"No board member wants to raise taxes or fees," said Vicki Matthews, board president. "But, this board is committed not only to this year, but to provide future financial stability and the ability to fund needed capital projects."

Before voting on the budget and fee increases, Director Kyle Grote asked the audience for their input. The three members of the public in attendance indicated that they agreed with the proposed budget and increases. Long-time observer Michael Scully, said "I don't see how the district can operate (the water and sewer systems) for less than \$100 per customer per month." Asked later, he shared that the comment was meant lightheartedly rather than as an exact figure, but that, having observed board meetings for many years, he is impressed with district operations.

In addition to the operations budget, the board also adopted a Capital Projects budget for the remaining bond funds. The budget of \$769,078 includes water meter replacement, leak detection and repair, motel well improvements, sewage lift station upgrades, water main line redundancy in high risk areas, and heavy equipment replacement.

In terms of operations, General Manager Steven Harrell reported that the operations staff completed its goal of cleaning 60,000 linear feet of the sewer collection system and that approximately 50% of the system has now been jetted. This regular maintenance is aimed at decreasing sewage backups, costly breaks and other problems requiring expensive repairs. He also reported that the annual summer fire hydrant maintenance program is complete for this year and that 278 hydrants were checked, painted and repaired as needed.



by Deputy Clerk
Leanna Bradbury

"Artisans Park" donated to the public

Kim and Nancy Malville have been so generous with use of their property between the Crestone Artisans Gallery and the Crestone Town Center that many area residents have considered it a public park and didn't know that it was privately owned. Nancy Malville has now officially donated this 142' by 100' green space to the Town of Crestone. As public property it will now be maintained by the town, and its art pieces will move further west onto the lots holding the Crestone Artisans Gallery and *Crestone Eagle* building.

Kim and Nancy have contributed to the town's development in many ways. In 2006, Kim sold the town the lot that is now Little Pearl Park for a price significantly lower than its appraised value. Kim has also contributed a regular article, *Skies over Crestone*, to the *Eagle* for many years. Their legacy is a major green space in the center of town that has benefited thousands of people and will continue to do so for a very long time. On behalf of the entire community the Town Trustees thank them both for this major donation.

Leash law and requirement to clean up dog excrement

The new leash law adopted October 14 has had a public educa-

tion period while dog owners were informed, signs ordered, and the November news article circulated. Now enforcement begins. Your dog(s) must be leashed at all times throughout the incorporated town anytime they are off your own property. If you are shopping with your dog, you may leave it tethered outside the business if away from the entrance. Owners or caretakers are now required to remove their dogs' excrement immediately. Violations carry fines of \$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, \$100 third offense, and a mandatory municipal court appearance for the 4th and any subsequent offenses. The intention of this law is to protect the health and safety of the many humans and other animal species who live and visit here.

Our new public works assistant

Karl Grose, who has been plowing snow for the town for the last year, will now be visible in town a lot more as he learns the intricacies of maintaining our parks, buildings, roads, cemetery, and whatever else could possibly come up. Karl's appointment is in preparation for Public Works Coordinator Jim Hollmer to retire in April, 2014. Jim is so versatile and indispensable that it will take time to learn his job. It's wonderful to have the question "What will we ever do without Jim?" answered with Karl's willing service and many skills.

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Wishing
Everyone
Happy Holidays
~ Ken and Joany Nelson

CrESD in a quandary

by the board of the Crestone Fire Protection District

The Crestone Fire Protection District (CFPD, dba the Crestone Emergency Services District or CrESD) is in a quandary. To be or not to be? Even though the results of the dissolution vote last March showed that the local community, by a margin of 2-to-1, wants the Crestone Fire Protection District to continue, not to dissolve, we cannot become operational without the passage of a mill levy to fund district operations. The voters have had an opportunity to vote on this issue twice already—the first time when they voted to create the district in November 2011, and again in May of 2012. The second mill levy vote lost by 2 votes. Here's the problem: do we go for an-

other mill levy vote, most likely in November 2014? Well—there are a number of challenges:

- **Money.** It cost us about \$8,000 to run the last mill levy election. A mill levy election would have to be a mail-in vote. This does not include legal fees, which up now have been pro bono, to the tune of about \$20,000, including the cost to successfully refute a law suit by Bruce McDonald and Diane Dunlap. There will be legal fees if we link the mill levy vote to dissolution, i.e., if the mill levy were not to pass, the district would be dissolved. That would require complicated ballot questions, petitions, signature verifications, etc. We may need to modify the District Service Plan, another costly legal process. It will require substantial community support for the district to get on the ballot.

- **Modifying the Service Plan.** We believe one reason the mill levy has not passed is because it may be asking for more than people are willing to pay. If we leave ambulance services with the POA while maintaining a high level of fire protection

services, we can ask for significantly less than the original 16 mills. But first we have to come to an agreement with the POA.

- **Agreement with the POA.** If the POA declines to lease fire-fighting equipment and facilities to the district, the district cannot fight fires. Without an agreement with the POA, we believe we cannot approach the voters for another funding request despite the public mandate. The irony in this situation is that it was the POA that originally got this ball rolling along with other community members. The POA was advised to get out of the emergency services business. Fire departments are usually public, governmental entities, not private home owners' associations. In our particular case, the POA wanted not to be responsible for emergency services on top of the many other things it *is* responsible for, thereby reducing exposure to liability and reducing costs, which, in theory, could reduce dues. We continue to try to find a way to lease equipment and remove liability from the POA, which was a major sticking point in the past. We believe an agreement can be worked out, but only if both parties agree they want this to happen.

So, getting back to our quandary. We actually have to make a decision on whether "to be or not be" really soon. The Crestone Fire Protection District is required to hold

an election for new officers in May 2014. If we do not hold this election we will be "administratively dissolved" by law. If we cannot forge an agreement with the POA in the next few months, we are seriously considering this option, i.e., not holding a May election and letting go of the district. Even a relatively small walk-in election for officers will cost the district money it does not have and does not bring us any closer to becoming operational.

This is what we are considering (options 1-3 are contingent upon arriving at an agreement with the POA):

1. Re-enacting the original mill levy request
2. Applying for a mill levy for fire protection only, with a significantly reduced mill levy
3. Investigating being annexed by the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District and assisting them to achieve an agreement with the POA
4. Being administratively dissolved.

We want to do what we have been charged to do. We are interested in your opinion. We meet the second Thursday of the month, at 6:30pm in the Crestone Town Hall.

Submitted by the CrESD Board: Frederick Dunets, David Hillman, Eli Dokson, Bill Sutherland, and Peter Taylor



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Saguache election results: Turnout increases, mail ballot costs increase

by Lisa Cyriacks

Election results for local school bond issue: 472 YES for the bond issue question for the new school in Moffat, 163 NO. School Board election results: Linda Godfrey, Krissy Hedstrom, and Lisa Rosen were all affirmed with 384, 390 and 333 votes respectively. In the only contested seat for the school board, Jerry Berry won with 219 votes over Brian Morgan who received 139 votes.

Statewide, Constitutional Amendment increasing income taxes with proceeds for schools failed with 65% voting NO and 35% voting YES. Proposition AA, the sales and excise tax for recreational mar-

ijuana passed 65% voting YES and 35% voting NO.

Proposition AA would impose a 15% excise tax on wholesale transfers of recreational marijuana and another 10% statewide sales tax at the retail level. The excise tax money would go toward school construction, as specified in the constitutional amendment passed last year that legalized recreational marijuana sales.

Local governments that allow pot sales will get a 15% cut of the statewide sales tax money.

According to the state's voter guide, Proposition AA's sales tax is

expected to generate close to \$40 million a year, of which about \$6 million would be shared with local governments.

In most parts of the state, including Saguache County, the number of ballots cast was higher than in 2011. Turnout at Saguache County November 6, 2013 elections increased from 2011 turnout by 378 voters. Statewide it seems the more controversial issues on the ballot or the more contested local elections drove voter turnout higher.

Colorado legislators earlier this year made mail-balling the law, rather than just an option. Previously, the state allowed voters the choice of getting a ballot mailed to them. Seventy-four percent of voters chose to vote by mail ballot in the 2012 General Election. The November 5, 2013 election required that all registered voters be mailed a ballot.

In Saguache County, there are 4,218 registered voters with a total of 1,860 ballots cast. Out of these, 48 ballots were rejected, resulting in 1,812 ballots being counted. This means that 2,358 ballots were mailed out that were returned undeliverable or not returned at all. Only 30 persons chose to cast a ballot in person at the courthouse, the only voting center in the county.

Saguache County Clerk Carla Gomez shared her concerns about

rising costs of elections with the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners during recent budget discussions. She estimates costs to be \$8,000 for both a primary and a general election in 2014, which does not include voting equipment rental. Specific numbers are not available yet but it appears that it roughly costs \$2 per ballot to print, mail and process.

Vote tabulation equipment for this election was provided by ES&S at no cost, as an ongoing reflection of problems with the earlier contract for the controversial M650 used in the 2010 General Election and paid for with funds provided under the Help America Vote Act. The M650 did not meet the state's certification requirements and the Secretary of State's office, which oversees HAVA funds and the contracts for the purchase of equipment using these funds, intervened securing the lease of an approved voting system with all required components at no cost to Saguache County.

Costs for equipment rental in 2014 for both the primary and general elections could be as much as \$17,000. The Secretary of State's office is currently working on an updated definition of Unified Voting Systems to be implemented in 2015 and could require purchase of specific equipment.



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Happy Holidays from your Secret Santa... Edgar
I would like to thank all of you for your support in the recent election. There is however an issue pending that I feel is of great importance—the issue of the double secret ballots used to elect our fearless leaders. Many of you have chosen (for some odd reason) not to send in your ballots in hopes of establishing some sort of vote of no confidence. I on the other paw, have decided to take a Martha Stewart approach to these secret ballots and have chosen to be resourceful. I urge you to see these ballots not as a waste of time and money but rather as an opportunity to foster creativity. Here are a few popular uses that have been suggested to me.

#1 Dog Treat Holder (My favorite) Can be used to hold up to 2 large treats or 4-5 smaller ones. These keep crumbs from getting in your pockets or purse.
#2 Joint Holder (most popular amongst the masses) Can hold up to 3 large joints...1 before board meetings, 1 at half-time, and 1 to celebrate that you made it through the meeting.
#3 Spittoon (2nd most popular) Used to spit chewing tobacco into and mail in, telling the POA how you really feel.
#4 Key Holder for emergency volunteers who were recently locked out. Oh heck who needs access to emergency equipment... "No Key For the Tillerman."
#5 Donation Envelope for a new organization called "Neighbors Suing Neighbors"! Money will be donated to those less financially fortunate & allow them to get into lengthy, annoying & costly lawsuits.

A paid political cartoon.

"Earth Visions"
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POA holds annual election, 2 new board members elected, 3 firefighters resign

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association held their annual meeting and election on November 22. Six hundred and nineteen votes were needed out of a total of 3099 members in good standing to establish a quorum. Despite earlier concerns that a quorum might not be reached, 801 approved ballots were counted, approximately 27% of the membership. Only two candidates ran for the two open seats for the POA Board of Directors. Nigel Fuller received 654 votes and Bruce McDonald 623.

In the months preceding the election, there was an effort by POA property owners, unhappy with the two candidates, to discourage members from casting their ballots to prevent there being a quorum. Fuller and McDonald are both parties in a lawsuit in which they are suing three other former and current POA board members.

POA Board Chairman Russell Schreiber presided over the well-attended meeting. After the announcement of the votes, one of the first items members discussed was issues with the Baca Grande Fire Department. Three firefighters reported that locks were changed at the firehouse and although some firefighters received keys, others were locked out. They were told they needed paperwork updated and driver's license and background checks done before they would be considered "firefighters in good standing" and get new keys. Firefighters stated that all this paperwork should have been done *first*, and *then* locks changed and new keys issued. Firefighters voiced their concerns to POA management, saying the community was being put in danger. It was several days before keys were issued to all the firefighters. Board member Matie Belle Lakish said that the board was not consulted on the lock changing. It seemed at the meeting that no one was willing to accept responsibility for the way the locks were changed.

Volunteer firefighters Lisa Bodey, Steve Fillenberg and David Harper talked about problems between the Baca FD and the POA board. They felt that fire fighters were not respected, but disparaged. All three publicly resigned at the meeting. Lisa Bodey and Steven Fillenberg both read their statements to the board and member audience. Fillenberg, a volunteer for nine years, stated that the fire department has been undermined and harassed.

Lisa Bodey read a powerful statement on why she was resigning. She felt that the POA Board of Directors should be held to the same standards as emergency service volunteers. "We must have changes in our POA organization that creates stability in our procedures so long-term planning can occur. When fire chiefs identified problems and have offered solutions they are being faced with being fired and suspended."

David Harper had liability concerns, saying that a firefighter working for this private corporation doesn't have the same benefits and protections as firefighters working for government and public

entities.

Mikela Tarlow expressed appreciation to the firefighters and dismay at their resignation, saying that she hoped these problems could be solved so that we didn't lose more dedicated volunteers. There were concerns that the fire dept. budget may be cut by \$50,000. The POA budget for 2014 has yet to be finalized.

Hammersmith

Several audience members expressed the opinion that Hammersmith Management company should no longer be hired by the POA and that management operations, bookkeeping, etc. should be done by locally hired people. Others spoke in favor of keeping Hammersmith, saying that they provide a valuable service for a reasonable cost. One audience member stated "Between the board and an often-outspoken audience, it often seems that Hammersmith is the only adult in the room."

CrESD

Eli Dockson, president of Crestone Emergency Services District gave an update on what is happening with CrESD. (See related article). He stressed that he hoped that CrESD and the POA board could work together to create solutions to make the fire district work and suggested that more research be done to see if the POA could lease its equipment to CrESD.

Lot consolidation

There was discussion on lot consolidation. There were some concerns that millions of dollars over the years had been lost in dues due to lot consolidation. People then spoke in support of lot consolidation saying that it saved on the cost of services that would have to be provided otherwise and increased the value of property. Long time property owner Frank Judson said he wouldn't have wanted to see a potential build out of 10,000 lots. Reduced population density was viewed as a good thing that created a better quality of life.

Ken Nelson suggested that, like area schools, the POA use a Policy Governance Process whereby the board makes policy, which empowers management to put that policy into action and oversee the staff. Eli Dockson said PGP stops boards from micro-managing. Schreiber said that currently no board members have authority to act on their own or to direct staff. Diane Dunlap said that PGP works best for schools.

Bill Sutherland brought up that rather than the POA only having one meeting a month where the board can make decisions and vote, they are now moving to several meetings a month. Numerous meetings make it hard for members to attend and keep informed of board decisions. Schreiber replied that there were often times that the board needed to make a decision and have it implemented quickly, rather than having to wait a whole month.

While there were at times some raised voices and passionate feelings, overall there was an impression of attempting to work together. New board member Nigel Fuller stated that he was willing to listen to members' concerns.

That's a start.



Hooray snow! Nick Meisman on a snow pile in Crestone.



Yeah, it's deep! Walking on a Baca trail in thigh deep snow.



Two feet of snow cover old cabins in the Town of Crestone. all photos this page by Lori Nagel

Snow!

continued from page 1

autos and clear driveways, the main roads were cleared before many people were able to dig out, while side roads were plowed later in the day.

Local facebook pages lit up with photos and requests for snow removal assistance or comments of "just staying home by the wood stove". Electric power, phone and internet did not go out.

Keno's weather station in the Baca recorded the total snowfall for the day of Nov. 25 at 20.4 inches, which broke the old record for the date of 4.0 inches, set in 1991. (This snowfall figure did not factor in snow that was already on the ground). He reports: "this total is the second highest one day snowfall total for any day in November,

the record is 28.5 inches, set on Nov 28, 1997. We also set a record for the day for precipitation, of 1.92 inches, shattering the old mark of 0.12 inches, set in 1992. That also is the most ever precip in one day for the month, the old record was 1.62 inches, set on Nov 28, 1997. This total is also the third highest one day total ever for Crestone/Baca."

Typical for Colorado mountain areas, despite the heavy snowfall, school was not cancelled at Moffat school, but they did issue a 2-hour start delay. The Crestone Charter School started at its normal time.

By mid morning the sun came out—the first real sun the area had seen in four days.

The Crestone Creative Council has youth workers available to help shovel snow in the Crestone area. Call Lisa Bodey at 719-480-5925 if you need help.

Crestone Artisans Gallery—the place to shop for the holidays

The Crestone Artisans Gallery is a cooperative gallery representing over 20 local artists and craft persons. Our members have been working to fill the gallery with new and exciting gifts for the holiday season. There is something for everyone and every budget!

If you're looking for jewelry, we are the place to shop for unique one-of-a-kind items! Jeff & Myan Sorensen of Dancing Elk Designs create jewelry made from shed elk antler, polished and decorated with gemstones and precious metals. Robin Rosenberg designs jewelry with kiln-fired dichroic glass, blown glass beads and crystals. Jane Adorney displays her lines of "Dreaming Divas" and "Miyo", contemporary and classy jewelry with sparkle. Galaxy Dancer offers elegance and style with precious stones, pearls and gems. Melinda Myers has unusual and colorful feather and beaded earrings. Nancy Onizuko displays leather wrapped stone necklaces and medicine bags for both men and women.

Fine art painters Beatris Burgoin, Mae Green, Jo Anne Kiser and Kaia Dercum are showing current work in oil, water color and acrylic painting. Original wall art, matted and framed prints and greeting cards are available. Jane Adorney will have prints and originals of her collage art along with journals. In photography, see the landscape work of Autumn Grinath, Robin James, Patrick Moore and Lori Nagel.

Glass artist Jodi Price will bring sparkle to any home with her open designed bejeweled stained glass window hangings. Robin Rosenberg will show kiln fired

plates, clocks and tables. Don't miss Steve Fillenberg's Angel: a full size stained glass wall hanging which took him years to create!

The gallery represents three wood artists. Karl Grose, a wood turner, will have pieces from local cedar & aspen and various hardwoods; bowls, platters, candle sticks, bird houses, meditation benches. Barbara Hoepfner has painted whimsical folk art furniture, tables, mirrors and wall hangings. Bob Adler is a master box maker, decorative or for jewelry.

Fine crafts in pottery, leather, paper and textiles make great gifts! Hand stitched leather purses and wallets by Nancy Onizuko will be available. Textile artist Moira Forsythe will be showing her handwoven scarves and knitted shawls. Allison Wonderland has unusual paper sculpture and sheets of handmade paper. Ring in the New Year with Rose Burek's Wind Art constructed from found metal objects, brass bells and beads. Helen Martin brings organic functional pottery; mugs, bowls and platters glazed in rich hues with textured details and soft shapes. We also have angels, children's jumpsuits, hand warmers, handmade soap, tinctures and herbs, books and music.

CAG will start the Winterfest celebration off with an artist reception on Friday, December 6th from 2-5. Come meet the artists, enjoy refreshments and live music. Gallery hours for December are daily from 11-4, closed on Tuesdays. We'll be open December 24 for your last minute gift purchases. Shop locally and support your Crestone businesses, neighbors and friends. Happy Holidays!



Sarah Off, Nicole Kandelind and Randy Macy to perform a Christmas concert December 22 at Colorado College.

Gala Christmas concert at the Colo. College, December 22

Singers and soloists will be featured in a festive concert that has been assembled by Randy Macy, long time musical collaborator with violinist Sarah Off, at the Colorado College, Dec. 22, at 2pm. Sarah Off has endeared herself to Crestone audiences for years at the Hazlerig House with her exquisite musicianship and her radiant personality. Sarah and Randy gave an outstanding Christmas concert here last year, and this should be an even better musical delight.

The program will include such well known composers as Handel, Fauré, and Saint Saens (selections from the Christmas Oratorio), as well as other lesser known composers.

Joining Sarah and Randy will be well known Crestone resident Robert Demko (tenor), Sunia Deendendorf (soprano) of Crestone and longtime student of Sue Vaughn, Martin McKee (baritone) from Saquache, and Nicole Kandelind (soprano, Denver) who has performed with the Opera Colorado Chorus and various Denver and Fort Collins musical theater venues.

Music will include sacred standards as well as secular songs of the season. Also, there will be an audience singalong of popular Christmas tunes. Come get in the Christmas spirit at the College, Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2pm. Admission \$15, seniors and students \$10. Info 256-4135.



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14th Annual Ellzey/Johns Art Show happens Dec. 14 & 15

The 14th annual Ellzey-Johns Art Show is the weekend of December 14 & 15 from 2 to 6 o'clock both days. Sadly this year Harriet Johns, renowned enamel artist, who celebrated her 90th birthday in October, will be absent. She is residing at the Rio Grande Inn, a relatively new skilled nursing facility in La Jara, 15 minutes drive south of Alamosa and is happy to have visitors drop by.

The 2 day show has become a much anticipated pre Christmas season open house at Bill and Jillian's home, address 891 Camino Real (2.2 miles out "Two Trees Road"). The show features Bill's photographs of scenes from the area and distant travels. And there's snacks. It's a 2 day party at which the munchies masterminds, Judy Gilbert and Bill Sutherland have wowed guests with their mulled wine, spicy popcorn, sweets and non sweets, for most of the show's 14 years. They oversee the food court at the kitchen island, and will have made most of the goodies. "Yeah, the photographs have to compete with what really draws the crowd," chuckles Bill.

His work from India, China, Australia, Bhutan, Japan, Mexico, Alaska, Egypt, Ireland, Chilean Patagonia, and the American West can be found in magazines, books, calendars, newspapers, catalogs,

annual reports, galleries and private collections. His stock photography is handled by National Geographic Image Collection.

He directed Western Photo Workshops in Telluride, Colorado for eleven years and continues to teach privately and for distinguished photo programs in North America and overseas. Bill, an 18 year resident of Crestone-Baca, has a remarkable collection of images taken right from the house, a charming, rustic self-built straw bale dwelling. His teaching schedule and locations can be seen at the workshops section of his website. www.billzellzey.com. (Still scheduling 2014)

Most recently Bill traveled to Zambia for Shumei International Institute to photograph the women farmers' cooperatives during their celebrations of the year's harvest. While there he tacked on a short wildlife safari deep into the bush of South Luangwa National Park. A selection of those wildlife photographs, as well as others, can be seen under the Galleries menu of his website.

In addition to fine art photographs Bill makes small prints and greeting cards to order from more than 300 samples that are spread over large table tops at the house.

Everyone's invited. Come if you can.



Marble Caves, Chilean Patagonia

photo by Bill Ellzey

See this month's feature story "Who We Are" about Bill Ellzey on page 17

'Season of glad songs: A Christmas anthology'

A publication by Tessa Bielecki & David Denny

Imagine sitting beside a crackling fire, quietly preparing for a festive and sacred Twelve Days of Christmas. This anthology helps you celebrate a soulful season of glad songs, from the darkness of Advent to the light of Candlemas.

Advent means "coming" and is characterized by waiting like the pregnant Virgin awaiting the birth of her son. When we prepare well with stillness and simplicity during Advent, we are ready to celebrate the full Twelve Days of Christmas, walking through a doorway on New Year's to symbolize our new beginning, blessing gold, frankincense, and myrrh and marking the lintels of our front doors on Epiphany, blessing our homes and all who enter them in the coming year.

Season of Glad Songs includes rituals and prayers for lighting the Advent wreath and blessing New Year's calendars, for blessing each figure you place in your manger scene, for blessing candles on February 2, the fortieth day after the birth of Jesus and the traditional ending of the Christmas season.

We filled these pages with some of our favorite seasonal meditations, charming black and white illustrations by a variety of artists, and both original and familiar poems. We recommend books, movies, and music to enjoy alone or with your family and friends during this rich season. Our selections range from Caroline Kennedy's "A Family Christmas" and Patrick Stewart's incomparable role as Ebenezer

Scrooge to "How the Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico"; from Paul Horn's tranquil "Peace Album" to Smokey Robinson's rock 'n' roll version of "We Three Kings of Orient Are" with a rousing cheer at the end ("Gimme a J!"); from the spiritual wisdom of Thomas Merton and St. Thérèse to Christmas customs around the world, foods, folklore and legends about the Christmas tree, candy canes, and rosemary.

Lest we become overly sentimental at Christmastime and forget the broken world in which we live, we include Alfred Delp's prison insights into the "terror" of Christmas by Sharon Doyle, Winston Churchill's stirring greetings from the White House as the U.S. was about to enter World War II, and the paradox of "merriment in a warring world."

We hope there's something here for everyone, young or old, whether you follow the Christian path, an interspiritual one, or none at all, since Christmas entwines both the sacred and the secular. *Season of Glad Songs* is our joyful gift to all of you.



14th Annual Art Show

BILL ELLZEY ~ PHOTOGRAPHER

An exhibition and sale of fine photographs

December 14 & 15
2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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



© Bill Ellzey



Season of Glad Songs

A Christmas Anthology
by Tessa Bielecki & David Denny

\$20.00

Imagine a quiet Advent sitting beside a crackling fire preparing for a festive and sacred Twelve Days of Christmas. The authors take you there and beyond. There's something for everyone: young or old, whether you go to church or not. The tone is mystical and down-to-earth. Poetry, illustrations and essays, rituals and blessings, prayers and practical advice, even book, music and movie reflections help you celebrate a soulful season of glad songs, from the dark stillness of Advent and the Winter Solstice through Christmas, the New Year and Epiphany, on to the welcome light of a candle on a cold February night. Order from www.CreateSpace.com/4184188.

Sand & Sky
Publishing

Company of Players dinner theatre extravaganza

The Company of Players and Chokurei are combining to present dinner theatre/story telling at the Yak 'N' Cracker Restaurant on Sunday, December 15, 6-8:30. Reservations are limited to 30.

Fancy dress or costume is encouraged. Your story tellers (Findley West, Kelley Delamore, Ammi Kohn, Dean Lloyd, David Harper, Barry Monroe, Billy Wright) will serve and entertain, telling stories of all kinds to spice your holiday season. The new Chokurei chefs are creating a different delectable menu

for your enjoyment: a three course meal with a choice of yak steak, grilled cod, or vegetarian garlic- and pepper-stuffed zucchini.

One person in five will win a door prize! The cost is \$30 per person; \$20 dollars for the delicious fancy three-course meal with complimentary beverage, and \$10 to support your local community theatre. Call Robin Blankenship by Wednesday, December 4, 256-4904 for your seat and entree reservation. Please arrive promptly so that meal and storytelling proceed smoothly.

Company of Players interviews Barry Monroe

The latest production of the Company of Players, *Stories From the Edge*, was performed last September, Barry Monroe, a local musician, decided to join the Company and will debut in the next production, *The Dinner Theatre Extravaganza*, at Chokurei, on Sunday, December 15, 6-8:30.

A.K. Kohn: What motivated you to join the Company?

Barry Monroe: I never really get to tell the story of my songs. There is just a short introduction at a concert of party. People are dancing and listening to the music. They are not really hearing the story.

A.K. Which comes first, the music or the story? Or is this a chicken and egg question?

B.M. The story comes first. I get a concept, "Where should I be when the hurricane comes?" I'll do a stream of consciousness, page after page, based on that concept. A line will stand out and that line might become the chorus of the main idea. I'm developing a story.

A.K. The concept of "Where should I be when the hurricane comes" is interesting. There are no hurricanes in the San Luis Valley.

B.M. My dad was a seaplane pilot flying out of Ft. Myers who served the Florida Keys. There would be hurricane parties and lots of talk about where to go. The seaplane and my dad were a life line to the mainland. I flew with him and



The multi-talented Barry Monroe.

saw a lot of different cultures and artists in isolation in the islands. I heard a lot of stories

A.K. Sounds like Crestone.

B.M. Very much. Crestone is a little town at the end of the road, one way in and one way out, like the islands that had communities of artists, just like Crestone.

A.K. Crestone has been a creative place for you.

B.M. Something about the mountains stimulates me. My form became more exact here. I've thrown away nearly everything I wrote in Florida. Now I'll get a chance with this next production to really talk to an audience about my story and the creative process, as well as singing it. I want to tell stories where the message comes through the lyrics, and the song and the lyrics move hearts and feet.



Crestone potter Lynn Drake welcomes you to the downtown studio.

Clay Art Gallery holds holiday open house Dec. 13 in Crestone

On Friday the 13th of December the Clay Art Gallery will be having its 5th yearly holiday open house downtown all day from 10am to 7pm. See the local ceramic art by area potters including a display of work by Crestone high school Charter kids. Refreshments will be served.

Local work for locals and priced at wholesale rates make wonderful gifts. All monies go directly to the artists. Come by, celebrate and support your local businesses and artisans.

FRIDAY THE 13

OUR 5th YEARLY

HOLIDAY SALE DOWNTOWN !!!!

Join the celebration 10am to 7pm

Local artists work for sale along with a show of work by the Charter High School students.

Refreshments and good company. Bring a friend.

Downtown Crestone ♥ Open Wed-Sat 10am-5pm 588-1681

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WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS • 10AM-3PM

SESSIONS \$50 - APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

PRIVATE SESSIONS AVAILABLE

719-480-3516

Chokurei and Company of Players

Dinner Theater/Storytelling Extravaganza

Sunday, December 15th ~ 6pm-8:30pm

(Please arrive promptly to meet 8:30 ending time.)

☞ Limited to 30 reservations ☜

A three-course meal prepared by Chokurei's new chef

\$30 including complementary drink and door prize entry

Your storytellers are your waitrons!

Six door prizes!

Costume or fancy dress encouraged.

Call Robin Blankenship to make reservations - 256-4909

The CRESTONE EAGLE

All of us at

The Crestone Eagle

wish you and yours

a very happy holiday.

May the joy of the season

fill all our hearts.

With love,

~The Eaglettes





Barn dance in Villa Grove, Dec. 6 at 7pm

Did you miss the last barn dance? Did you miss having a barn dance in November? Then join us in Villa Grove on Friday, December 6, 7-10pm to help inaugurate the new fire house with a barn dance. All ages are welcome!

Blazing Mtn. meditations

There will be a four-week series of heart-centered meditations at the Blazing Mountain Retreat Center between now and the start of winter Dathun, on December 15. The practice periods will be on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30pm in the Main Shrine Hall of the BMRC on 2541 Carefree Way. We will gather on November 13 & 20 and December 4 & 11, with no gathering on Nov. 27 (the week of Thanksgiving). There will be two practice periods within the 90 minute timeframe, with some instruction offered as well as silent space and a short period for discussion. There is no cost and no commitment necessary—come to any or all of the sessions as you are able!

Erin Anderson has been a student of Dr. Reggie Ray since 2002 and has been living in Crestone with her husband and son since March of 2013. She has taught meditation in the context of Dharma Ocean's Sutrayana Seminary and various community offerings in Boulder, and looks forward to connecting with you through this short series at Blazing Mountain.

Children's program at the Ashram Dec. 7

Bal Gokulam (Children's Program at the Ashram (for children of all ages) Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10:30am until noon followed by a potluck lunch. Learn stories, yoga, puja to Lord Ganesh. We will also have Christmas crafts that day. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 for more info.

Saguache County Museum's holiday bazaar booths by Dorraine Gasseling

The Saguache County Museum will have a booth on Saturday, December 7, at the Saguache Holiday Bazaar in the Saguache Community Building and on Sunday, December 8, at the Crestone WinterFest.

For the first time ever, the museum will be offering yummy homemade candy, and special homemade Christmas tree ornaments.

You will find a new T-shirt design by local artist Wade Collins, along with a selection of the museum's T-shirts, which make great Christmas gifts.

At the museum's booths, there will be a great selection of historical books.

New this year are *Tom Tobin, Frontiersman; Ladies of the Lamplight, Characters of the Old Spanish Trail*, written and autographed by Dr. Doug Knudson, and *Grizzly Attack in Colorado—the Ed Wiseman Story*, written and autographed by Ed Wiseman.

Excellent true stories include: *Chipeta Queen of the Utes, Land of the Blue Sky People, Postcards and Places, The Ute Indians of Southwest Colorado*, and *Tough Trails* written and autographed by John Woodard.

The John Lawrence Diary will be on sale during these holiday bazaars for only \$15.00.

For area residents interested in detailed local history, the museum will have available *Images of the Past*, volumes 1 through 7, and *In The Sunny San Luis Valley* with artwork by local artist Pete Garcia.

We guarantee you will not be disappointed when you stop by and visit the Saguache County Museum booths at the Saguache Holiday Bazaar and the Crestone WinterFest.

Gear swap

Winter is coming and Crestone Charter School is helping its families to gear up for its Ski/Snowboard Program for students 4th-12th grade, with 67% of our students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Our program is in desperate need for quality gear and warm clothes.

Please drop off any donations by Friday December 13 at the school or contact us to arrange donation pick-up. Our school has non-profit status and we are able to provide a tax write-off for any donations received. The gear swap will take place Thursday December 19 at 1pm at Crestone Charter School.

You can make a difference this Holiday Season in the lives of our youth. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Democrats Central/Vacancy Committee meeting Dec. 5

The Saguache County Democratic Party Central and Vacancy Committee will meet on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:30pm at the Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd St., Saguache, to fill two vacancies, one each for precincts 3 (Crestone) and 4 (Moffat) committee persons; and to discuss precinct committee persons' duties, and upcoming March 4 caucuses. This meeting is mandatory for Central/Vacancy Committee members, which includes officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the county party who are authorized to vote to fill the vacancies.

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

Shumei Free Movie Night Dec. 20

A Christmas Carol: Oscar winner George C. Scott stars as penny-pinching miser Ebenezer Scrooge in this critically acclaimed television adaptation of Charles Dickens' holiday classic. After working into the wee hours on the night before Christmas, Scrooge returns home to find the ghost of his former associate (Frank Finlay) and the promise of visits from three more spirits. Will the dawn of a new day bring a new Scrooge? David Warner co-stars as Bob Cratchit. Refreshments provided. Friday, Dec. 20 at 7pm, 256-5284.

Crestone Baca Watershed Council Greenbelt Appreciation Day Dec. 7

The day will start at 11am. To get there, go down Camino Real (2 Tree Rd.) past Wagon Wheel and past Meadowlark. Before the hill there is a tree-lined creek; see cars parked there. We'll be there snow or shine. Wear layered clothing and a good hat; bring water and a camera. Come and learn about our precious greenbelts. For more information please call 256-4677.

Special days at the CYP Thrift Store during December

Did you know that December 4 is "Wear Brown Shoes Day"? Come in to the Thrift Store on December 4, show us your brown shoes & you will receive 10% off your purchase to celebrate this unusual day!

And on December 24 everyone will receive 10% off their purchase simply because it is National Chocolate Day! Chocolates will be available for customers, so it will be a Double Yummy day!

The Thrift Store will be open throughout WinterFest weekend, 12/6-12/8. Yes, we will be open on the 8th even though it's a Sunday and we're normally closed on Sundays. We'll have plenty of goodies for gifts & for decorating your home for the holidays, as well as cards for your friends & loved ones.

Come in to the CYP Thrift Store and celebrate December with us!

Moffat School kick off & concert, Dec 18

Mark your calendar for Wednesday December 18 and join us at Moffat School from 5-6pm for the "Community kick off meeting" for the new Moffat Pre-K-12 School. Following the community meeting, the Moffat School Winter Concert will begin at 7pm. We hope that you will join us!

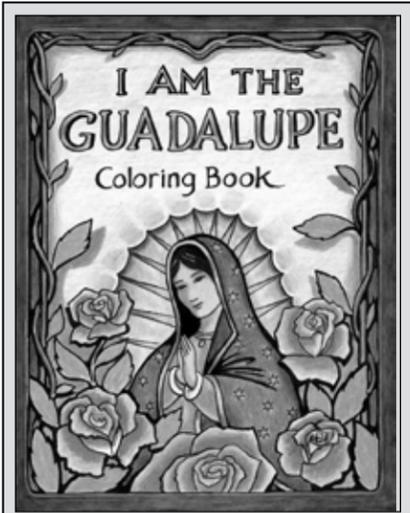


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I Am the Guadalupe

The *I AM the Guadalupe Coloring Book* is the second in a series of I AM coloring books by James Roderick and Naomi Lake. This book features line drawings of many of the original Guadalupe paintings by James (jamesroderick@fineartamerica.com).

Bring Our Lady of Guadalupe into your home by invoking her divine presence as you fill the world with color. It will, hopefully, be available before Christmas on Amazon.com or directly through Naomi and Jimmy at 719-937-7803 or naomi@naomilake.com.

Colorado Gives Day, Dec. 10

Tuesday, December 10 is Colorado Gives Day. Colorado Gives is an initiative to increase philanthropy in Colorado by supporting the nonprofits that protect and nurture quality of life in Colorado. People are encouraged to give monetary support to nonprofits during the 24 hour period beginning at 12am on December 10. Please remember CYP on this special day. Our mailing address is: PO Box 342, Crestone, CO 81131 or you can also give your gift of support in person at the CYP Thrift Store; just be sure that the person at the counter knows that you're making a special Colorado Gives Day donation to CYP.

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Community Calendar—December 2013

Get the details at www.crestoneeagle.com // NOW UPDATED DAILY ONLINE!!!

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Saturday, November 30

- Maha Lakshmi Stotram Day, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 9am-4pm donation babajashram.org 256-4108

Sunday, December 1

- Dorje Trolo practice, White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773
- Fellowship Sunday, Crestone Baptist Church 11am
- Worship service – Little Shephard Church 2-3pm
- OH! CHANUKAH – Elephant Cloud Studio 4:00 pm-6:00 pm \$1-\$5

Monday, December 2

- New-moon Fire Ceremony & Meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10-11:45am www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- Deadline for Sag. Historic Preservation Commission application, Board of Trustees 4pm 655-2232
- New Moon – 5:30 pm
- Town of Crestone Planning Commission meeting – Crestone Town Center 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 4

- Heart-centered Meditations – Blazing Mtn. Retreat Ctr. 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

Thursday, December 5

- Treasure Alley Trollbeads Trunk Show and Holiday Open House – Treasure Alley 9am-6pm
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. – 3-5:00 pm Free/Donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
- Dem. Central/Vacancy Committee Meeting, Sag. Rd & Bridge Meeting Room 6:30-7:30pm 719-221-8434

Friday, December 6

- WinterFest Cookie Classic – Crestone Mercantile All Day 719-256-5990
- Ladies Christmas Tea and cookie exchange – Crestone Baptist Church 1:00 pm
- Crestone WinterFest – Crestone Artisans Gallery 4:00 pm-6:00 pm 719-256-5330
- Earth Visions, CrestoneArtists@Salida SteamPlant 5-7pm Free www.CrestoneArtist.com 719-530-0933
- Barn Dance – Villa Grove Fire House 7-10pm

Saturday, December 7

- 3rd annual Saguache Christmas Bazaar – Saguache Community Building 9:00 am-3:00 pm 719-655-2566, -0297, or -2275
- Working with Elements & Elementals – 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$75 719-937-7786

- Bal Gokulam Children's Program – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:30 am-12:00 pm info@babajashram.org 719-256-4108
- Greenbelt Appreciation Day – Spanish Creek Greenbelt 11:00 am 719-256-4677
- Eric Karlstrom – Chokurei Farm Store and Yak N Cracker Cafe 6:00 pm-9:00 pm 719-256-4700

Sunday, December 8

- Element Wisdom – 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$75 www.rootsofhealing.com 719-937-7786
- Dorje Trolo practice, White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773
- Shumei's Monthly Sampai, Sanctuary 10:30-am-noon Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
- Serenity Strings at Sand Dunes – Sand Dunes Nat'l Part Visitors' Center 1-3pm 719-378-6399

Monday, December 9

- Town of Crestone Board Of Trustees meeting – Crestone Town Center 1:30 pm

Tuesday, December 10

- Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable – SLV Water Conservancy Dist. 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Crestone End of Life Project Open Meeting, Topping House 7-9pm crestone-end-of-life.org 256-4247

Wednesday, December 11

- Heart-centered Meditations – Blazing Mtn. Retreat Ctr. 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 12

- BGPOA BOD Working Business Meeting – BGPOA meeting room 5pm bacapoa.org 256-4171
- CrESD Board of Directors meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6:30 pm

Friday, December 13

- Annual Clay Art Open House, Clay Art 10am-7pm
- DJ Avery Runner – Chokurei Farm Store and Yak N Cracker Cafe 6:00 pm-9:00 pm 719-256-4700

Saturday, December 14

- Ellzey-Johns Studio Tour, 891 Camino Real, 2-6pm, billelley.com
- River Bottom Blues Band – Chokurei Farm Store and Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-9pm 719-256-4700

Sunday, December 15

- Dorje Trolo practice, White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773

- Ellzey-Johns Studio Tour, 891 Camino Real, 2-6pm, billelley.com
- Company of Players dinner theater/storytelling – Yak 'N' Cracker Cafe 6:00 pm-8:30 pm 256-4909

Tuesday, December 17

- Full Moon – 2:30 am
- Full-moon Fire Ceremony & Meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10-11:45am www.babajashram.org 256-4108

Wednesday, December 18

- Veteran Benefits Information – Y.E.S. Building 10:00 am-4:00 pm 719-256-2680
- Moffat Kick-Off Meeting – Moffat School 5-6pm
- Vicious Cycle – Chokurei Farm Store and Yak N Cracker Cafe 5:00 pm-7:00 pm 719-256-4700

Thursday, December 19

- Ski/Snowboard Gear Swap – Crestone Charter School 1:00 pm 719-256-4906
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. – 3-5pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
- BGPOA Regular Business Meeting – BGPOA meeting room 7pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, December 20

- Shumei's Free Movie Night, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, December 21

- Monthly recycling pickup – Crestone Secret Garden (formerly Laughing Buddha) 10am-2pm
- CB Jazz @ Yak N' Cracker, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm 719-256-4700
- Winter Solstice – 10:15 pm

Sunday, December 22

- Dorje Trolo practice, White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773
- Christmas Concert – Colorado College 2:00 pm-4:00 pm \$15, seniors & students \$10 256-4135

Tuesday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Service – Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm
- Christmas Eve mass, Nada Carmelite Hermitage Chapel 7pm spirituallifeinstitute.org 256-4778

Sunday, December 29

- Dorje Trolo practice, White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 8-9am, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Sampai & Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am 719-256-4778
- Morning aarati Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 8-9am www.babajashram.org 719 256-4108
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church 11am
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

Monday

- Zumba Toning Birch Street Studio 9-10am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- DanZen with Diane Elephant Cloud Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am 719-256-5912
- CCC "The Pack" Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) noon-6pm Free 719-480-5925

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710
- Awakening Artists Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-7pm 719-480-5925
- BGFD Training Baca Fire House 5:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30am-10am donation shaktisharanam.com 256-5668
- Zumba Fitness Birch Street Studio 9-10am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- DanZen with Diane, Birch St Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am 719-256-5912
- New Compassionate Communication 4:30-6:30pm cnvc.org & PaulShippee.com 256-4656
- Wednesday Night Bible Study and pot luck Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668
- CCC Meeting & Hangout Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-8pm Free

Friday

- Zumba Fitness - Abs and Glutes 9:00 am-10:00 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

We at The Crestone Eagle wish all our readers a joyous holiday season and a happy & well-informed 2014!

Two workshops with Láné Sáan Moonwalker

Although these two workshops can be taken separately, it is recommended that they be taken together.

Working with Elements & Elementals

Elementals have been known by a variety of names in different cultures; faeries, elves, kushare, angels, plant devas, dralas, kami . . . elementals are the intelligence or wisdom of the elements. Learn to build a conscious and intimate relationship with those elementals that benefit and assist Mother Earth, and experience your own enhanced awareness and perception in the process.

Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75, or \$140 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 937-7786, or dorje-

root@yahoo.com.

Element Wisdom Workshop

In this workshop we will be working with our local riparian elements and elementals. This is a hands-on, experiential workshop for those who want to develop a stronger relationship with these beings; nagas, water sprites, faeries, and others. Come prepared to spend time outside. This is the "lab class" for Saturday's workshop, including practices to foster these connections.

Riparian Environment Series, Part 6 with Láné Sáan Moonwalker. Sunday, December 8 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75, or \$140 for both workshops. At the Colorado College Conference Center. To register call Dorje Root, 937-7786, dorjeroot@yahoo.com.

Crestone End of Life Project news

November 2, saw two firsts for the Crestone community: the first green burial at the Town Cemetery and the first Death Café.

John O'Donnell's wishes were fulfilled. Through the combined efforts of the Crestone End of Life Project, the Town Clerks and Trustees, Mark Potter Excavating and the Men's Breakfast Club—not to mention the caring support of close friends and partner Edie Cooper—the first green burial in the cemetery's designated area took place. A simple and heartfelt ceremony saw John's return to the earth amidst autumn's beauty.

Day of the Dead took on real meaning as participants at the first Death Café in Crestone shared their most intimate thoughts on facing mortality. It was sponsored by Informed Final Choices, the educational outreach arm of CEOLP. Another Café is planned for the coming year, both here and in other locations. Contact Lynda Kucin, 256 5458 or Malina Feder, 256-4211 for more information.

The next CEOLP open meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 7pm at 33 Sunset Overlook. Call Wayne, 256-4247; Stephanie, 588-7415; email ceolp.info@gmail.com or visit www.crestone-end-of-life.org for more info.



The view from the door at the Desert Sage on Halloween night, a fundraiser for the Firefighters and Crestone Performances, Inc. photo by Lori Nagel



Arie Niernberger and Ann Bunting happened to be walking by each other when it seemed like the perfect moment for a fun photo op at the Charter School Carnival on Halloween.

Below: 3 cute sisters strike a perfect pose at the Charter School Carnival. L to R: Ivy (ghost), Clarity (Strawberry Shortcake), and Jasmine (penguin). photo by Lori Nagel



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Lord, let me be an instrument of Your Peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow Love. O Divine master, grant that I
may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console
To be loved as to love. -from The Prayer of St. Francis

Attend our meeting Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left past the Century 21 office). Call Wayne at 256.4247 for directions/information.

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Gratitude, growth & changes at Joyful Journey Hot Springs

Joyful Journey Hot Springs would like to thank the community for your support and patronage during the past 5 years of upgrades and growth. The retreat center continues to grow and many of you that have either hosted or attended events and make use of this beautiful addition, as well as the lovely hotel lodging.

JJHS heard your requests for new pool surfacing and, in July of this year, was able to complete that job and says thanks for your patience while that was done and required closings. The feedback has been tremendously positive and their are grateful for those that made the pools such a beautiful container for the healing waters.

It has been over 5 years since JJHS has had any sort of price increase and, in a recent cost comparison of other hot springs within 100 miles, discovered that their current prices are much lower. Therefore, as of January 1, 2014, their prices

will change. Free soaking will still be offered on birthdays as well as "\$10 Tuesday"—all Saguache and Chaffee County residents will receive \$10 admission price all day every Tuesday.

The owner and staff thank you for your understanding and support. In response to many of your requests, look for information on "Single and Couple Six Month and Annual Membership packages" in January by visiting the website at www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com.

Please note that the "10 punch pass" will continue at the current rate of \$95 through the end of the year and have no expiration date for those who want to "stock up" at the current rate.

Last, don't forget to mark your calendar for the annual "Locals Appreciation Night" on January 14, 2014. Admission is free from 5pm-10pm and light refreshments will be served.



Baby deer peeks out from behind Mama on October 30 in Crestone. photo by Lori Nagel

What's happening with the library relocation process these days?

At the November 8 meeting of the Northern Saguache County Library District (NSCLD) Board of Trustees, the Board agreed to offer a contract to Burt Wadman for the planning process to select the location for the new library. They felt Wadman to be the best choice for many reasons, not least among them his intimate knowledge of our community.

So now what? The process will proceed in phases, beginning in January of 2014. First will come the building program phase. This phase requires a very clear vision for our library. A library design specialist will work with Wadman, the current library staff, the community, and the NSCLD Board and Director, as well as the Facilities Subcommittee to determine staff requirements, community needs, and space planning. Please note there will be opportunities for public input during this phase. The vision that emerges from this work will inform the following phases.

Next will come the site selection. This will include analysis and evaluation of several existing buildings, as the community survey results very clearly indicated a preference for remodeling a building within the Town of Crestone. This evaluation will cover not only brick and mortar aspects like a building's architectural and structural suitability, but more intangible aspects as well: what sort of "presence" the library would have there, how it expresses and anchors our community. This process should result in the selection of a property—or the decision that no building currently on the market is suitable, and the NSCLD

and the community should move forward with plans to construct a new library building.

The schematic design phase will result in preliminary floor plans that utilize the determinations made in the previous phases, plus fostering a sense of community and learning while staying true to the character of the Crestone/Baca community. This phase will also include a "Preliminary Probable Cost Estimate".

The NSCLD Board of Trustees has also authorized up to \$15,000 of the Baca Grande Library's dedicated funds for this purpose, and grants are being written for the remaining costs of the planning process. The NSCLD is not planning to introduce any sort of ballot initiative to cover the cost of a new location—instead, there will be a capital campaign. To that end, board member and Facilities Subcommittee Chair Kim Smoyer has already held one workshop for the Friends of the Library to provide an overview of how a capital campaign runs. There will be more such workshops in the future.

If you have questions, please feel free to get in contact with Library District Director Sarah Koehn Frey (655-2551) or Facilities Committee Chair Kim Smoyer (655-0104). Public is also always welcome at the NSCLD monthly meetings. The next meeting will take place Wednesday, December 11 at 5pm at the Saguache Public Library. The next Friends of the Baca Grande Library meeting will take place Friday, December 13 at 1:30pm at the Crestone Town Hall. All are invited.

Joyful Journey welcomes Dr. Dean Sanna

Joyful Journey Hot Springs is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Dean Sanna, Chiropractor, to our staff of amazing therapists. Dr. Sanna comes to Joyful Journey with 27 years of clinical practice treating sports injuries (including Olympic athletes), automobile accidents, children and the elderly. In addition to clinical practice Dr. Sanna also taught for several years at Everest College.

Dr. Sanna recently moved to the San Luis Valley from Maui where he taught the Triple Gem—yoga, qi-qong and meditation—on the beach daily. Dr. Sanna's love for chiropractic, acupuncture, bodywork, water therapy and natural hot springs all combine to create the perfect healing atmosphere at Joyful Journey.

Dr. Sanna states "Nature is fundamental for my own wellness and I am excited about exploring and living in the area".

Dr. Sanna will be available by appointment which can be scheduled by calling the Joyful Journey front desk at 719-256-4328. A full list of his services and pricing will be available on the Joyful Journey website.



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*Hearts Grow Home Together again
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Who We Are

Bill Ellzey; Nature's beauty through the camera lens

by Gussie Fauntleroy

One of the first things Bill Ellzey noticed after he became serious about photography was how it changed his experience of driving the twenty-one miles into town from his grandfather's Texas Panhandle ranch. Bill was in his mid-20s, a year or so out of a four-year stint in the air force. He was working the ranch full time and increasingly wishing he could be taking pictures instead. At first, he remembers, when he drove down the road into town, all he saw was the road. After a year or so of looking through a camera lens, he would drive into town and see the road and the bar ditches on either side. Later he started seeing the road, the ditches, and the fences paralleling the road. Eventually his peripheral vision expanded to take in

drew a line in the sand and said, "This is the way the house goes!" the friendly, thoughtful photographer recounts, standing in front of mountain-view windows, his arms spread wide, his eyes crinkling as he smiles. Every December since moving in, Bill has hosted a community open house and art show, featuring his photos and enamel art by former Crestone resident Harriet Johns. Jillian Klarl-Ellzey, whom he later married, has assisted with the art show from the start. This year's event (the first in which 90-year-old Harriet will not take part) is set for Dec. 14 and 15, from 2 to 6pm.

Playing and working outdoors

Nature has always been a central part of Bill's life. Growing up in central Missouri, he hung out



Above: Monastery in Bhutan; Below: Baca Wetlands

photos by Bill Ellzey



Bill Ellzey with Anderson Ranch Arts Center participants

photo by David Hiser

the side canyons beyond the fences, even as he looked straight ahead.

Learning to see and share

Bill's vision was evolving in other ways as well. Without the words to explain it at the time, he found himself naturally gravitating to visual balance, to the feeling of rightness as he looked through the lens and framed a scene a certain way. Gradually he would learn about compositional theory and gain the skills to articulate and share what makes his, or anyone's, photographs good. Today, after more than 40 years as a professional photographer, Bill leads photographic workshops around the world. His work has been published nationally and internationally in dozens of books, magazines and newspapers, including *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Audubon*, *Outside*, *The New York Times*, *L.A. Times* and *USA Today*.

In 1995 Bill bought three acres of open, wide-angle land outside Crestone and four years later moved into the strawbale house he designed and built. "I faced this view and spread out my arms,

by a creek, turning over rocks and catching turtles and snakes. Many summers were spent on the Texas ranch his grandfather bought in 1917. In both places, butterflies were among his earliest memories of being caught by the wonder and power of beauty. (Butterflies and—he smiles—the girls at the women's college in Columbia, Missouri, where his father was a professor.) After high school Bill attended Denver University for a year and a half before leaving to join the civil rights movement, riding a "freedom bus" to Selma, Alabama in 1965 and marching with Martin Luther King, Jr.

Soon afterward, with the draft hanging over his head, he signed up for the air force. There, it turns out, he discovered photography. One night a buddy gave a slide show on base. Bill was astonished to learn that photos could be taken in the morning and projected as slides the same evening. His friend showed him the darkroom at the base hobby shop and Bill bought his first camera, a Kodak Instamatic-500. In Thailand he was as-

signed to barracks with men from the photo squadron, even though he was in electronics. That meant an unlimited supply of free film—and sticker shock for buying film when he returned to civilian life.

Committed to the camera

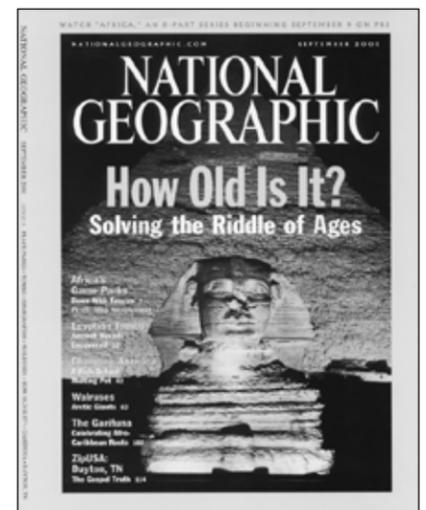
Back Stateside, Bill enrolled in electrical engineering at Texas Tech University. That first winter a massive blizzard hit the Panhandle and cows from several ranches became mingled in the storm. Bill left school to help round them up and sort them out. In the process he realized he was "lovin' that, a hell of a lot more than electrical engineering." He never returned to Texas Tech. He also realized he loved photography even more than ranch work. He set up his first darkroom in a closet and learned of a professional photographers' guild, where at his first meeting he submitted photos and won the top award in three categories, as well as best of show. "I was flabbergasted," he recalls.

In 1972 Bill turned full-time to photography. Six years later he signed up for a photo workshop in Telluride, organized by Lito Tejada-Flores. Bill, Lito, and Lito's wife, photographer Linde Waidhofer, all now Crestone-area residents, have been close friends ever since. Bill moved to Telluride in late 1978 and took over the Western Photo Workshops, which he directed for 11 years. He also began teaching photography in other venues, receiving photo assignments and selling his work. His commercial photography encompassed everything from stock images to passports, aerial to sports action shots, advertising, portraiture, and editorial photo assignments. Perhaps Bill's best-known image, a night shot of Egypt's Great Sphinx lined up directly with the Pyramid of Chephren with the full moon behind it, had the honor of being the cover photo for National Geograph-

ic in September 2001.

A passion for beauty

These days Bill focuses on fine art photography, with an upcoming travel schedule that will likely include such destinations as Patagonia, Bhutan, Africa, Japan and Tibet, leading workshops and wielding a camera himself. At home in Crestone he serves on the board for Shumei International Institute, to which he was drawn for



The cover of National Geographic

its philosophy of world citizenship and its emphasis on the value of art. For a number of years he has been responsible for selecting artists for the monthly artist's symposium at the organization's Crestone center. In fact, all the threads of Bill's life—photography, travel, art, the outdoors, and a commitment to the world family—converge in one word: beauty. "My appreciation and gratitude has always been for world's beauty," he reflects. "My love has always been the landscape, which includes the clouds and storms and wildlife—the natural world."

See Bill's work at billellzey.com and at his Studio Tour Dec. 14 & 15. See story on page 11.

News from the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

by Ramloti

Diwali was our big celebration last month and it was so beautiful. As usual, we had about 100 people there with wonderful songs, chants, and poems about light and peace. The food afterwards was also delicious. Thank you to all who shared in the evening of the festival of lights. Here is a photo.

We have a wonderful day at the Ashram on Saturday, November 30. We will have the Maha Lakshmi Stotram Day. Learn Sanskrit prayers and ceremony to bring the Goddess of Abundance into your life. This will be from 9am until 4:30pm with a break for lunch and rest from noon until 3pm. All are invited to stay for an Indian lunch at the Ashram. The final session will include a puja to Maha Lakshmi and at that time any donation that you would like to make for the teachings may be made.

Our new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, December 2 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Tuesday, December 17. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are



The Divine Mother at Diwali. Honor Her on the Lakshmi Stotram Day on Saturday, November 30. Read article for details.

followed by a meal. Morning aarati will move to 8am for the months of December and January with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 7:30am there is a paduka puja (washing of Shri Babaji's sandals) in His kutir (just to the west of the temple) followed by chandan.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has been updated and you may view what we have on-line at <http://mahalakshmiashop.wazala.com>.

Please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org to find out more about the ashram and its 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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The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Summer seminar on the Kena Upanishad & Savitri

Sri Aurobindo says a lot of things in his commentary on the *Kena Upanishad* about the prana. Moving from the concept of adhid-aiva, and adhiatma, the plane of the gods, and the supreme Self, downwards towards adhibhuta, manifest nature, we get the prana. The pranic movement is a movement like breathing in and out, taking in sense impressions, vision, words, energy and information, which is then distributed in the system as perception, and gathered into a concentrated knowledge, then elevated to the will that creates the response; and then the energy is evacuated through the breath and dissipated through the movement forward in action, or through dissolution.

This life force is not physical, says Sri Aurobindo. So it is not the breath, not the sensations, the smells, the sights and sounds. But the sense of smell and the odor, and the perception of the odor through the sense of smell and the imaging mind, are all movements of the prana, which also creates the sense apparatus that receives the odor, and knows what it is in the object by the mind, and in the knowing they are not separated. Knowing, knower, and known are one pranic field.

Prana in itself, in its essence, is desire, as Sri Aurobindo says. He means that the will to be is embodied in that subtle energy, which becomes desire to realize whatever it needs to become. There has to be a force of intention, a need, a goal. Desire is a word that can mean a very high level of energy of intention to produce a form, and to enjoy producing the form, creating it, being it, so that the essential energy in things is a desire to be those things, and each thing can only be what it essentially is; the soul is the essence that wants to be realized in the form and its relations.

The pranic field contains all of that: the will to be, the form, the relational position of the form in the whole field, its consciousness in the knower. Separate essences all together constitute the meaning of life, the beauty and power of processing the energy which makes it possible for the flower to shine, the bee to fly and buzz and suck the sugar, and spread the pollen to ignite its becoming in another flowering plant. All of that is the physical-vital-mental sheath



"The Mother" — Love in her was wider than the universe. The whole world could take refuge in her single heart. Feb.21, 1878 - Nov.17, 1973

that covers the prana.

The series of lectures from which this extract was taken was presented at the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center in August by Rod Hemsell and is now available online at www.universityofhumanity.org.

For more information on lectures, publications, and programs contact us at 719-256-4917, or join us for our Tuesday evening study circle, at 5pm, Savitri House, Lots 83-84 on Baca Grant Way.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas

by Mary Lowers

On December 12 millions of devotees, Catholic and non-Catholic, will honor Our Lady of Guadalupe in cities and towns all over the Americas. When she appeared to Juan Diego Cuauhtloatzin, a native convert to Christianity, outside Mexico City on December 9, 1531, the radiant apparition told him to go to the powerful Bishop Zumarraga and request a church built honoring the lady calling herself Guadalupe meaning "hidden river".

The written story taken from the oldest account of the visitation written in 1545 called the Nican Mopohua is a masterpiece of Nahuatl literature. It was penned by Don Antonio Valeriano, born in Mexico in 1520. He was a direct descendant of the Aztec royal house of Tacuba, his family line coming from the Emperor Moctezuma II. Valeriano in addition to being fluent in Nahuatl and Spanish had a vast knowledge of Latin and Catholic theology and knew Juan Diego per-

sonally. As "Governor of the Indians" a post he held for thirty five years, Valeriano was famous as an arbitrator helping his fellow natives feel comfortable as possible in this new chaotic world the Spanish had brought to his land.



According to the Nican Mopohua, when he encountered the Guadalupe, Juan Diego was passing the Hill of Tepeyac (hill of the nose) an ancient sacred site outside Mexico City. It was December but the smells and sounds of spring surrounded the young man and birdsong drew him up the hillside. "Is it my luck to be worthy to hear such music? Is it a dream perhaps? Did I get up from my bed? Where am

I in paradise or heaven perhaps? I do not know?" question the young man trying to figure out what's going on as he sees the radiant lady. She tells him, "I am the Holy Mary, the eternal virgin, mother of the true God. I wish a shrine to be built here to show my love to you. I am your merciful mother, thine and all

dwellers of this earth." The lady addressed the young man in his native Nahuatl language.

After at last gaining an audience with Bishop Zumarrago on December 9, 1531, the story of the apparition was questioned and proof demanded. Upon returning to Tepeyac, Juan detected the unfamiliar but enticing smell of Castillo Roses, never cultivated there before, and the lady filled a yucca fiber cloak with roses to take to the skeptical bishop. Upon gaining a meeting with Zumarrago on December 12, Juan Diego opened his cloak and the roses tumbled out, revealing a likeness of the Guadalupe. This miracle convinced the bishop that this "lady" was Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, and to do her bidding. A church was erected on the spot where the Guadalupe had revealed herself to Juan Diego. The image of the lady has hung in the basilica at the sacred site ever since.

The site where the Guadalupe chose to make herself know is an ancient pre-Columbian sacred site, dedicated to indigenous mother goddesses. Deities who made Tepeyac their home include the goddess

Tonantzin a patron of midwives and healing associated with the moon and female power, who bears a strong resemblance to the Guadalupe and the goddess Coatlique before her, a fierce manifestation of the earth mother. All these goddesses were honored there with temples, priests and ceremony.

The visitation of the Guadalupe and her declaration that she was the mother of the Americas was pivotal in the conversion of some six million. The first Catholic Church in Colorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe north of Antonito, founded in 1858, is dedicated to her. Thousand of personal and roadside shrines honoring her can be found all over the country, particularly in the southwest. Her devotees attribute many compassionate and miraculous acts to her. In 2002 Juan Diego was declared a saint in the Catholic Church. At her shrine at Tepeyac on December 12 of each year, thousands gather with groups of dancers and musicians from all over Mexico who perform for Our Lady of Guadalupe in gratitude for her protection and blessings. Local Guadalupe celebrations can be found all over North and South America. Check with local Catholic parishes to see about services honoring our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Bertha of the polished heart

by Anne Silver

"You can't take it on," Bertha always admonished me when the state of the world was eating at my happiness. "I learned that one years ago when all those babies were dying in Biafra. You can't save it. You have to let it go."

Bertha's sober appraisal of her own and my limitations did not mean she didn't take on the pain and suffering of others. She just knew that if any of us do things beyond our "stamma" (she never ever said "stamina") we will suffer. But don't believe that Bertha didn't take on our feelings of grief, anger, and fear! All of her many friends know that Bertha had extraordinary empathy and that any burdened heart that we took to her was always considerably lighter when we left.

As she listened with her patience of earth to endless litanies of sorrow, self-doubt or righteous indignation, she gave us the gift of living at peace with our brokenness. One visitor to the Nada Hermitage from Ireland came to see Bertha with the heavy grief of her brother's recent suicide. As she began to weep, Bertha said to her, "Welcome the salt. It will give flavor. It has its wisdom. It has its place." Salt is earth. Bertha, the woman with clay on her hands, knew earth's power. So sure was she of the power of the real that it didn't matter how well she knew us. Lynn Drake was with Bertha in an airport in the Virgin Islands when a former acquaintance of Bertha's recognized her. After Bertha chatted intimately with the woman for a half hour, they boarded the plane and Lynn asked who it was. "I have no idea," Bertha admitted.

"Bertha saw with her heart", as Jillian Ellzey says. And to keep her vision clear, she told Jillian that she actually polished her heart with her hands! "I take my heart out and polish it when it takes on too much. Then I put it back in." How like Bertha to touch her heart with her very hands! To polish it like she burnished her pots!

Touch is the sense associated with earth. One New Year's Eve, Hanne and Maurice Strong invited the whole community to a dinner party. (This was 1985 and there were only about 40 people living here in the winter). After dinner, Maurice suggested that we form a circle and share our wishes for the new year. "I just wish that this year everyone would reach out and touch each other," Bertha said. She certainly followed her own advice and no one left her presence without a real good hug!

Bertha's mastery of touch is obvious in her work. "I feel like I'm holding her hand when I pick up her cups," says friend Bill Ellzey. We all appreciate the unique handles of Bertha's cups that fit either right or left hand and touch us back!

Bertha's touch was guided by her vision. Her devotion for the things of the earth by no means excluded what to many might be invisible realms. And perhaps because of her deep respect and reverence, the mysterious forces allowed

themselves to be glimpsed and captured in the clay by her hands. Bertha's work was a fiat to Spirit, a surrender to something larger than herself that she responded to joyfully in her work, in her friendships, and in her service to the coming into being of the many many individuals she touched.

When you asked Bertha Gotterup about her religion she always pointed towards her feet and said, "I'm standing on it." "The Mountain" may have been the principle object of her reverence. Or perhaps "the Clay." Then followed, in no particular order, myriad other ordinary miracles of earth. Perhaps the rain and the snow which we always need so much. Or the birds that flocked to her feeders. The flowers in her garden. The apple cake and rum cake she made for thank yous. The plums she harvested early so "the bear" wouldn't get them. She adored the apricot tree that rarely bloomed late enough to grace the ground with apricots for Frederick the dachshund or Sophie, the roly poly dog that reluctantly left her lap. Whatever siamese cat wanted in or out was perennially named "Hermes". Not the least of her devotional objects was the person in front of her: you, "dear one", you!

Bertha's energetic yet simple mastery of her own earth was characterized by her death. She took care of all her affairs and then left. "No big deal." And she left the way she wanted to go: alone in her own home, no bother to anyone. After frightening experiences of confinement during the war in Europe as a child, she was determined never to be "taken away somewhere." When a neighbor was taken to a nursing home, Bertha quipped, "That's one of those places where you go in alive and come out dead, right?"

"I feel like I've said nothing", Jillian sighs after more than an hour of talking about her memories of Bertha. Both of us were feeling the immensity of Bertha's presence in our lives, a presence which had not ended with her death more than six weeks before. And as the two Crestone friends who knew Bertha longest (for almost thirty years) she was in almost every aspect of our existence here. "But you'll weave something out of what I said," Jillian says confidently, as she leaves.

I certainly needed her confidence in my "weavers hands" which Bertha had so lovingly dismissed from her pottery class so many years before. Those of us who knew Bertha's love know that Bertha can never be taken away from us. She lives in the hearts she helped us take care of so many years. (Every one of thousands of phone calls ended: "I love you, dear one, take care of your heart!") Her wise words still resonate in our ears, as do her laugh and her "mantras" of particular advice to each of us.

Bertha was a psychopomp for most of us. She insisted I "write, write, write" as she insisted Jillian "sing, sing, sing". And she listened to me read everything I ever wrote in our almost daily morning phone call. If someone else told me I should write, Bertha would



Bertha Gotterup in her pottery studio. It will be one year since Bertha passed on Dec. 23, 2012. We write this story to honor this wonderful being.

pout: "You know that's my mantra, 'write, write, write' but you don't listen to me! Maybe you'll listen to somebody else!" Now I have to listen to someone else, but the very thought of it hurts my heart and brings me to tears again. "That's good," I hear Bertha's voice again: "Let it all out."

Grief was a feeling Bertha knew well. As a child she lost her beloved father and was sent away by her mother during the war to a strange country and indifferent relatives. Bertha died on the anniversary of the crib death of her granddaughter twenty-one years before. She was still mourning baby Sarah.

Perhaps this is why Bertha was so good at jumping into that river of grief with us all! Her powerful acceptance could hold us afloat as we braved the depths of torrential pain. "Bertha was a container," Jillian acknowledged. "I feel so fortunate to have known such a beautiful being! She helped us grow up. She taught us the freedom in going deeply into feeling. I would come down to Lindisfarne before I moved here and just go through one cathartic experience after another with Bertha, one on

one. We would sit by candlelight in the kitchen which was the only place it was warm and talk and talk. She gave me so much on a soul level! And she insisted I sing! She knew the power in creative expression. That's what heals; that's what life is."

How many stories like this could be told by Bertha's friends? "With Bertha it was always about waking up," Jillian confirmed. And seeing better, I would add. To walk Bertha's path of feminine illumination means to live an unabashedly human life of love of the earth, creativity, and deep feeling. "That's good, dear one," I hear Bertha's voice as tears surface again. "You're seeing better, that's all!"

Besides her family and friends, few spent as much time with Bertha as the advanced pottery students who formed "The Guild" around their beloved teacher. Bertha's extraordinary legacy as a potter is not just in the magnificent works in clay that grace the lives of hundreds of people. "The Guild" was the group of students that worked with her in the last years of her life and represents the pomegranate of her creative life, the seeds of her mastery of the

Story & drawings by Claire Motsinger



clay, her deepest understanding of her art.

While Bertha's heart was all-inclusive, membership in the Guild had certain unspoken requirements which perhaps even Bertha would find it hard to define. As a confidante, I would hear about her struggles with different students but, she was always respectful of an individual spirit. She never judged another, preferring to speak to her own feelings of inadequacy or inability to satisfy the needs of a given person. Because the group worked so intimately with their feelings, they themselves might also decide who could join without diminishing this intimacy.



Dot Urn by Bertha Gotterup.

This mysterious and deeply feeling-based weaning left a small but devoted group of students who continue their work in the clay in highly individualistic ways. Each of them experienced a different internal process in the intimacy that Bertha's teaching required.

Deanna Wilfong describes her acceptance into the Guild. At her first "trial" visit, she created something which immediately awak-

ened Bertha's mentoring genius: "This is what you need to do," Bertha started her familiar litany. "Quit your job; don't worry, it'll all work out."

"She saw my talent before an-

nyone else and she saw it in pieces I didn't even know how she saw it," Deanna says. "Seeing with her heart" is how she taught each potter to develop her own highly individualized style. It is also how she plumbed the depths of feeling that such creativity requires.

"One day I came into the studio ticked off and Bertha saw it right away," relates Deanna. "Upon discovering that a large part of the problem was my husband's insistence that I give up coffee, Bertha said: 'Now why would you do that? If I made you some would you drink it?' She went upstairs and fixed us both a strong cup of espresso so we could get on with my work! 'Is it bitter?' 'Want some more?', Bertha wanted earthly experience to be delightful! She knew that good art needs good earth!"

The tall standing figures Deanna creates required some engineering which she and Bertha worked out experimentally together. When Deanna would return from a weeklong raku firing, Bertha couldn't wait to hear all the details about her life with "the fire."

Deanna's relationship with Bertha was complicated by each one having serious issues with her own mother. Like mother and daughter, they irritated each other at times. Unheard by her own mother, Deanna was infuriated that Bertha wouldn't wear her hearing aids. And Bertha worried about Deanna and nagged her at times. They always worked it all out, though. "She adored Josh," Deanna continues. She loved that he built me my own studio." "Go



Photo of Bertha taken January 15, 2012.

home and make love to your husband!" Bertha would say as Deanna left.

Whenever a helicopter flew overhead Bertha would call the Wilfongs, both EMTs, and ask what had happened. "She believed the mountain took a sacrifice every year. If there were more than one death in a year, she would say 'The mountain is hungry!'" Deanna thinks it was the perfection of a coherent universe that caused the rescue helicopter to circle Bertha's cremation.

When I asked Deanna what she thought the mysterious qualification for Guild membership might be, she opined: "Let's be real!"

Other Guild members described how blunt Bertha could be in getting people to be real with their feelings enough to follow their own path. "She confronted those she loved," says Margaret Wilson. "She was vulnerable with each of us. We would talk, laugh, weep, processing everything. When a prima donna joined the group, Bertha was loyal to the rest of us and this person had to go because she wasn't responding to the group."

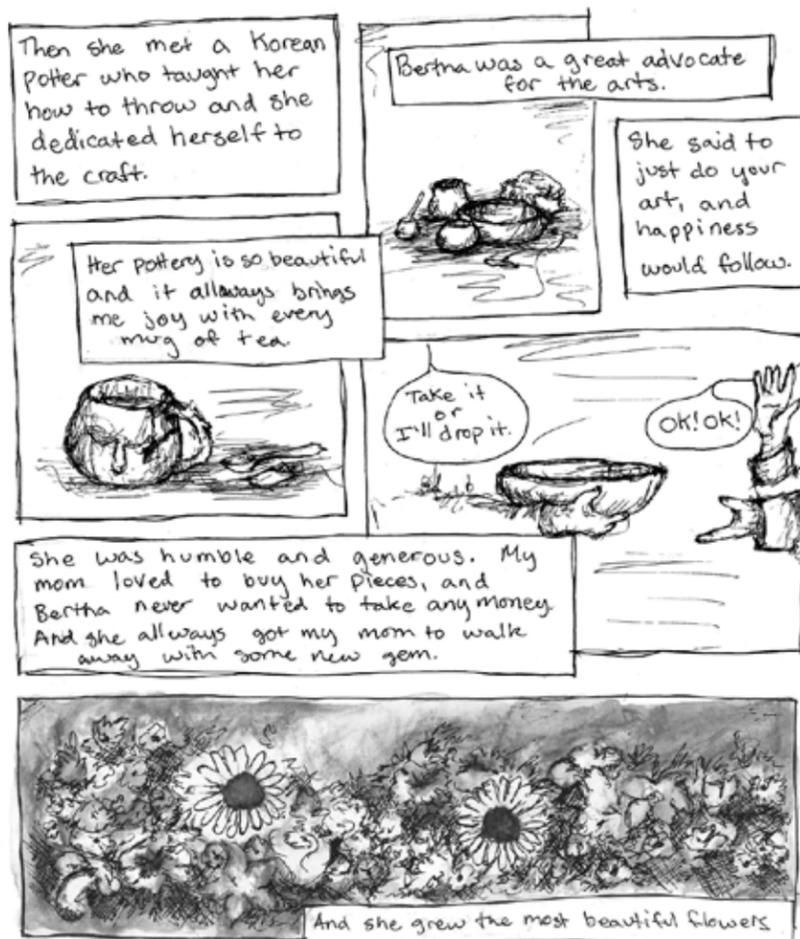
"Bertha gave each person a 'mantra' that characterized what needed to happen to make us

aware of our creative gift," Margaret explains.

"Mine was 'open up, open up' Joann Connington adds. "I came to Crestone with so much grief about the death of my son. Bertha knew how painful it was, but even in our very last lesson she taught me so much about opening up to make the large bowls I had to make for a commission. It was a great lesson! She gave me a lot of information that I can't do yet, but I know what it is. She was a cross between a little old lady and Yoda. When my mother-in-law was dying, she reassured me: 'We'll see her again!'"

"Feel it" Kizzen Laki remembers Bertha saying as the clay moved in her hands. And, "it's coming now isn't it". And it was. Kizzen and Bertha met each other soon after they had both moved to Crestone. "She was such a wise woman—she could see into our hearts. Hers was an unconditional love. She taught me the simplicity of a true spirituality—grounded in the earth, in life, in just being, of being in the heart. Walking through her garden gate was like walking into a sacred space—complete with birds singing, a cat and

continued on page 22



Bertha

continued from page 21

friendly dog. She was always so encouraging, especially when life was feeling upside down. After a session with her and the clay she would say something like 'it's better now isn't it', and it was. She encouraged us to be ourselves 'why would you want to be anything else?' She had such a great laugh. We talked about gardens and life. I saw her on the Winter Solstice, two days before she died. She had been working on the wheel making her famous coffee mugs. Her hands still stronger than mine. The last words we said to each other was 'I love you'. Of course. We did."

"My mantra was 'Let it go and it will come' says Lynn Drake whose studio Clay Art continues the guild tradition of potters working together. In addition to her own creative work, Lynn teaches local children and adults and her storefront studio serves as an outlet for the work of Guild members. Her close friendship with Bertha developed during a trip to the Virgin Islands where Bertha went to find resolution with the spirit of her father. "Ours was a soul connection," Lynn confides.

She remembers another exercise in being real that she and Bertha rehearsed in Bertha's kitchen once when she was very hurt and angry. Instead of encouraging her to "let it go", Bertha, advised: "If you don't say something, then they'll keep walking all over you." Together they chanted some rather colorful accusations and exple-



Water Spirits by Bertha Gotterup.

tives until Lynn was revved up and ready for an encounter. She invited Bertha to accompany her and Bertha at first accepted. "Let's go right now!" Lynn suggested, "while we're fired up!" Checking in with her heart, Bertha demurred. So Lynn went by herself the next day and healed any tendency to ever again be a door mat.

"It doesn't have to be perfect," Bertha insisted to Margaret over and over again. "I didn't believe in myself and she believed in me so I could start. We both had missing mothers. She really knew about mothering. She would do everything her kids did so she could understand. But, she only mothered us to a point. She pushed us out of the nest to follow our own path. She would get mad at us if we weren't creating. 'Are you still taking care of those dead people?' she would ask about my nursing home work."

everyone feel special, and played no favorites. Everyone was special and equal.

From Mary Lowers

Mary Lowers: "When my family first moved to Crestone the only people we sort of knew were Bertha, her daughter Judy and grandson Justin. In late October or early November the family hunters came home with a deer which we gutted and put in the cabin behind our house. Now, while I had helped butcher animals I was by no means an expert and a bit nervous about tackling the job. So I asked my new friend for help and as it turned out, Bertha was an expert butcher! Growing up in rural Denmark prior to WWII, she had cut up her share of deer and other critters to feed the family through those long dark Scandinavian winters.

Bertha's friend Liz Emmer came to join us, and as we visited, Bertha expertly directed our mission. In a few short hours we had a series of neat white paper packages labeled roast, stew meat, etc. ready for the freezer. We put the "leftovers" in a soup kettle to cook for the dogs. Bertha wasted no part of the animal. She saved the hooves which she buried in an ant hill and come the following fall the ants had cleaned them off so they could be made into rattles. Bertha smoked her own salmon every year and knew much about "putting food by." She was an amazing friend and teacher to me in many ways and an awesome butcher."

"We got each other"

—Anne Silver

When Bertha moved here in 1984 the greater Crestone/Baca area was inhabited by fewer than five hundred people. (This is a significant figure in village development theory after which population growth creates a whole new social dynamic.) When Bertha left Lindesfarne in 1986 and needed a place to live, the community came together to build a house designed by her son Michael Baron and organized by friend Marianne Sandstrom. Volunteers showed up to help largely drawn by the magnetism of a true "earth mother" who rewarded everyone with food and a hug. Bertha never forgot the hard work and kindness of others that fulfilled her dream of a space of her own. And she never forgot that impossible dreams are fulfilled when people come together.

A year after her death, the world within and beyond Crestone/Baca that Bertha left behind seems to be more divided than ever before. Bertha assiduously avoided getting involved in the endless power struggles. "We're all just little ants running around on the Mother," she would say about whatever turmoil was plaguing the community psyche. One of the few times I saw her truly angry was when someone disingenuously put her name on a letter of support in *The Crestone Eagle*. While our daily phone call was often an acknowledgment of how bad things seemed to be going for our planet, Bertha would always end our worry session with hope based on the fact that "we got each other."

As I sat down to write this last and most essential memory of Bertha, I was interrupted. Instead of a morning devoted to writing and editing, I hosted a spontaneous tea party for two young women who needed something I happened to have at the moment. "Perfect, Bertha!" I thought. This may be the last piece, but it is not the least of your legacy to the community you loved so well. Being here for one another is how we memorialize you best.

"It's organic!" Bertha would reassure Connie Bielecki when she had doubts about the virtues of a given piece. "She could see the beauty in everything," Connie remembers. "It is what it is" was another expression which encouraged acceptance. Lynn tells her students what Bertha always said to hers: "Go to Walmart if you want perfection!"

While lenient with her students, Bertha had high standards for her own work. Many of my collection's favorites were "seconds" she wouldn't accept payment for.

Bertha's mastery of the art of clay was legendary. "The faces she incorporated into her plates and bowls are masterful" "No one else does handles like those on her cups." "Her incorporation of the spiral in her work is the essence of nature's pattern for eternity!"

Bertha's students know from experience how hard it is to do what she did in the clay.

When Bertha turned eighty she went back to school to study color theory. She loved painting her pottery with dots. "The patience they required!" exclaims Joann admiringly. She made dotted gifts for all her Guild members. "I just love making dots!" Bertha frequently exclaimed with a giggle.

Bertha's generosity was legendary. Anything she had she would give away. Time spent with her was the greatest of these gifts. Most members of the greater Crestone community at least received one of her cups. "She passed something on to each of us and now our job is to pass it on," says a member of the Guild.

Everyone in the Guild agrees that the signature symbol for Ber-

tha was the spiral. She spiraled clay on the wheel with such mastery that she was able to throw forty pounds of it into a spire for our local Padmasambhava stupa in 1984. Bertha herself was a veritable cone of consciousness. She faced outwards with love and compassion so evenly because first she focused within to draw spiritual inspiration into her well-earthed center.

Was Bertha a saint? Was she enlightened? Some people say so. Some who loved her very well say "no way!" Bertha was undoubtedly



From Ceil McGowan, Nada Hermitage:

Bertha exemplified for me the Trinitarian Web of Exchange, as she received love from God and passed it on to others. Her life was not easy, but she made a deliberate decision not to pass on the pain that she experienced. She said, "It has to stop somewhere."

When I heard Bertha had died I was not so much grief-stricken as awe-stricken. I was grateful that I was able to get back to Crestone to spend time with her before her death and grateful for the influence she had on my life. I knew that she would be part of me forever. I was also grateful for her sake that she had died the way she would have wanted to, quickly and simply.

She had already planned her funeral, with the help of the Crestone End of Life Project. This impressive group of people came and washed her body and laid it out on her own bed, and people came to her house for last good-byes. On the day of her funeral, her son, grandsons, and son-in-law carried her bier to an outdoor cremation site. It was bitterly cold, but several hundred people came to pay her tribute. There were many apt eulogies. One friend said, "Bertha, you would hate it that you are warm and everyone else is cold." Jillian Klarl sang a Native American chant that she had often done with Bertha, and read an e-mail from a man who said that Bertha's gift was that she made

a special kind of master, a master of touching earth and enlivening it, bringing expression to its unseen potential. We whom Bertha loved and held, scolded and goaded are not the least of her legacy. Bertha loved us all as she loved the seeds she collected in little containers all over her house. In the soil of Bertha's humble presence sprouted many seeds of authentic being. When she nourished our creative spark she felt she was planting a garden of creative, happy human beings; every one with the potential to seed other gardens of love and beauty, joy and generosity.

Bertha Gotterup of the polished heart and loving touch . . . how can we ever thank you?

Once again, I hear her beloved voice say just like she said it hundreds of times: "Be, dear one! Just, be!"

Moving Up Higher Enjoying everyday life



by Joyce Meyer

Your anointing and how to use it

Romans 8:37 says that “we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us” (AMP). This means that believers in Jesus are empowered by God to have victory over sin and the things in this world that try to keep us from living a godly life.

So what’s the key to living in God’s power? The anointing. The ANOINTING is God’s ability in you to enable you to do something with ease, without it being a struggle. Much like a car’s engine eventually won’t run very well without motor oil; trying to do life without the anointing will leave us with some issues.

Every one of us has a calling on our life. But not everyone does what they are called to do in life. Many times, people get distracted by other pursuits . . . get overwhelmed by a task that feels too big to handle . . . or they may even get caught up in trying to do what someone else is called to do. And if we’re not living in God’s will for our lives, we’ll end up being anxious, sad and miserable.

Whatever the reason is for getting off track, lack of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is most likely at the root of it. You see, the Holy Spirit is our Helper, our Guide, our Teacher, and more. He is the One who leads each person to the work they are called to do. And He also supplies the anointing, or power, to do it.

So, it is in our best interest to seek and cultivate our own personal, intimate relationship with God first and foremost. Because it’s through a personal relationship with Him that He will, by His Holy Spirit, lead and guide each of us according to His purpose and plan for our lives. And He will anoint, or enable us, to do what He has called each of us to do with our lives.

Empty your glass

The secret is taking time to get satisfied with God Himself. God’s presence—His love and grace—is what we really need to be fulfilled

and have His power in our lives . . . But know that in this time, there is a lot going on. While we take the time to cultivate our relationship with God . . . simply loving Him and being loved by Him . . . we become consecrated to Him.

To be consecrated means to be set apart, or separated, for a purpose. It is a time for receiving discipline, guidance, wisdom and direction from the Lord. It’s a personal time . . . between you and God . . . a time for you to learn His true character and how to trust His way and wait on His timing. You will also learn how to make yourself available as He is ready to use you.

The Holy Spirit decides when and how to use His vessels. Our part is simple—to be available. It’s like this: If I want a drink of water, I go to my cupboard for a clean, empty glass to use. The glass doesn’t ask me what I’m going to put in it . . . it is just there; ready and available for me to use when I need it. But what if all the glasses are dirty or filled with something I don’t want? Then I won’t be able to use any of them as I planned.

So, be like a clean, empty, available drinking glass. Your time “on the shelf,” is simply time to prepare yourself, by building your relationship with God. Then you will be ready for the Holy Spirit to use you however and wherever He chooses.

The way to release and let that anointing flow in your life is simple: obedience to the Holy Spirit right now! Cultivate sensitivity to Him and learn to follow that “unction” in your heart (see 1 John 2:20). The anointing is for now . . . whether you are working on a detailed report for your boss, preparing a Sunday sermon for church, or making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for your kids...you are anointed for this moment. Don’t worry about when it will come; it is in you . . . right now!

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Joyce Meyer Article

Sponsored by the Free Spirit Christian Church

Corner of Hwy 17 and Moffat Way

Sunday Services	3:00 pm
Bible Study Thursdays at Pastor's Home	6:30 pm
Prayer Services Mon & Fri	10:00 am
Food Bank Tuesdays	2-4 pm
<i>Events at Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat:</i>	
"Clap for the Lord" Free Lunches ~ Mon-Fri	11 am-2 pm
Prayer Breakfast every 2nd Saturday	8:00 am
Shabbat Celebration every 1st Friday	6:30 pm

* Please feel free to call Earl LeRoy at 256-4277 or Tim Brenner at 588-1857 if you have any questions.



CCC sails the “Dead Sea” Haunted House for Halloween.

photo by Scott Murrish

Crestone Creative Council News —Generosity generates!

by Lisa Bodey

What happens when you give freely of yourself whether it is time, a hug, money, food, listening . . . a smile? I was fortunate to do some personal growth work with two dear friends this fall, Tim Hastings (Summit Coaching—happinessis-chosen.com) and Jo delAmor (Radiant Balance—www.radiantbalance.com) who really helped drive home the new paradigm of generosity and abundance and how when given freely, they truly do generate and manifest more generosity and abundance. The Crestone Creative Council (CCC) is an example of this philosophy vibrantly coming to life!

CCC would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and new year. We are amazed at what has been accomplished in 2013 with a little cash, a lot of heart and believing in the power and creativity of youth. We want to thank all of you who made this year such a success and have believed in our vision. Please see this month’s letter to the editor.

The biggest move we made this year was a physical one. In May we began renting the south room of the Crestone Community Building (old schoolhouse) and this has proved to be an incredible space for gathering and building momentum for the program. We are grateful to everyone who has supported us with donations to help with our rental agreement, purchasing basic supplies for the space and making this a safe and inviting place for youth to explore, grow and just be!

After the youth designed and

set up the space it has allowed us to host weekly Awakening Artist gatherings, Council Meetings, Open Hangouts and gather for meals. We’ve imagined and created the Dragon Mural, Skate Ramp painting and the “Dead Sea” Haunted House behind these walls. Our newest additions are “Belly dance: American Tribal Style & Fusion” for girls 12 & older and “The Pack” for boys 10 & over. Both are empowerment programs designed to engage youth in building self-confidence, improved body awareness and making healthy choices. Many thanks to Lyndsay Duebber and Mountain Ross for making these opportunities possible!

The talks, playing, crying, fighting, laughing and healing that happens within the magic of this space is incredible and we thank you Crestone community! Please stop by and see our handmade arts and crafts at our Winterfest Booth on December 7 & 8 at the Crestone Charter School.

To get involved or for more information about CCC, please call 719-480-5925.

Crestone Creative Council

Wishes all of our friends,
family & community

Happy Holidays!

We are grateful for all of
your support &
empowerment of
local youth!



HEALING - INSIDE & OUT!

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Moffat Middle School visits graveyard

by Lyndal Smith

A few days before Halloween, Moffat 6th- to 8th-graders visited the Monte Vista Cemetery to collect gravestone data as part of an interdisciplinary project they will be doing. Students wrote down the inscriptions from the headstones as well as noting any symbols or engravings that were found. Notes were taken regarding whether nearby headstones appeared to be connected either through family or marriage. Military and fraternal insignias were also recorded.

The afternoon was then spent at Monte Vista's Carnegie Library where archives of the local obituaries are kept. The young historians cross referenced their graveyard data sheets with obit files for each person and added to their data with more specifics. For some, this allowed some burning questions to be answered such as: why did a girl die at such a young age, and why did two nearby tombstones from the same family have the same death date. Not all tombstones had correlating obituaries, however, so the next step will be to search county records and genealogy web-

sites as we advance our knowledge of historical research techniques. In the next few months we will be compiling data to hopefully prove some theories we have developed based on historical studies of the San Luis Valley, the state, and America. We will also be "crunching numbers" to calculate and graph such information as average life span per decade, correlation between years with flu epidemics and death rates, family longevity, etc.

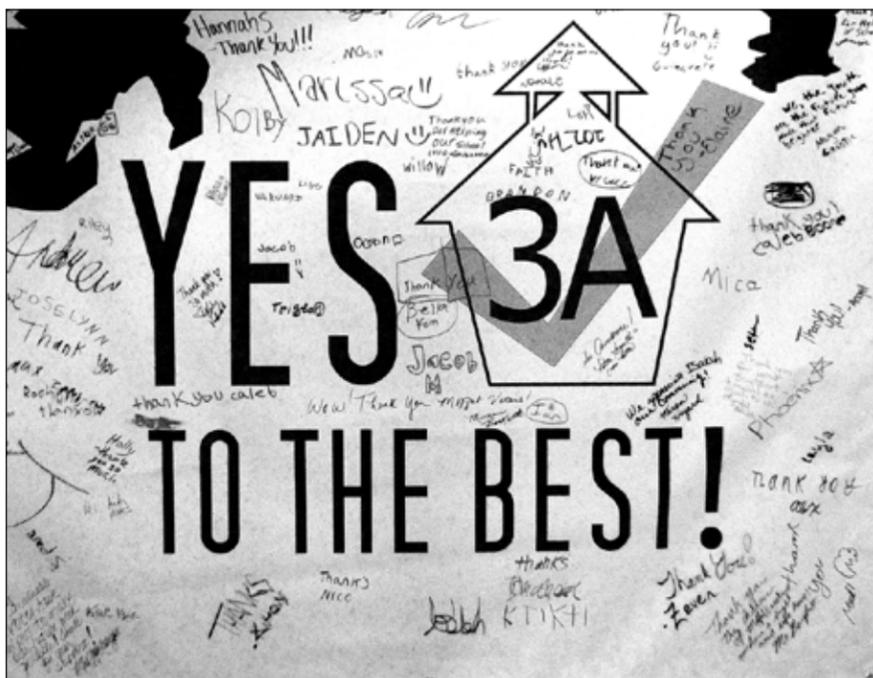
Students who want to begin their own family history over the upcoming year are encouraged to collect family trees so we can begin the fascinating journey of discovering exactly how our families tie into history and important events as well as people.



Moffat Middle School students visit the Monte Vista Cemetery as part of a history project.



Moffat Consolidated School District swore in new Board members on Monday November 18. Pictured here are the two newest members, Krissy Hedstrom, Secretary/Treasurer; and Jerry Berry, who will be joining current members President Sage Godfrey and Vice President Tina Freel. Lisa Rosen, who ran unopposed and won, was unable to be at this BOE meeting.



Thank you Moffat Consolidated School District voters! We would like to sincerely thank the voters for showing abundant support in passing our bond issue 2A on November 5 by such a large margin. Due to your overwhelming support, we are on our way to building a safe, healthy, energy-efficient, and modern school for the students of Moffat/Crestone. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous money donations from our businesses, individuals, and families that financially supported this campaign. We are extremely thankful for the hard work and volunteer efforts of countless individuals who gave generously of their time and talents to support 3A. We are proud of our Moffat/Crestone communities and the superior legacy it means to be a part of the smallest school district in the State of Colorado with two superior educational choices for our children — The Crestone Charter School and the new, soon to be built, Moffat School! Thank you!



The morning preschool class, along with their teachers, Megan Shellabarger and Gretchen Haller, enjoyed dressing in their Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating while parading through Moffat School.



In one of the exercises at the slam poetry writing workshop at Western State University, the students were broken up into smaller breakout groups to work on poetry analysis, performance skills, flash fiction writing, and slam poetry composition. It was a tremendous opportunity for Moffat students to gain some perspective on their own writing. Thank you to all who attended, including Daleth McCoy! photo by Kaley VanArsdale



Moffat alumni Rebecca Drake, Randi Black, Megan Black, Jennifer Maez, and Brenna Hunter stop by to visit with current Moffat seniors Megan Gillespie, Anthony Chavez, and Hannah Sheppard to discuss Senior Project. Seniors were visiting the Adams State University library to begin the research paper phase of Senior Project.



On October 29, Moffat High School had the opportunity to attend a Slam Poetry writing workshop at Western State University. They were treated to several pieces by the Western State spoken word club, WordHorde. Schools like Del Norte, Buena Vista, and Salida were also in attendance. Moffat represented the smallest school, but our students quickly shone as creative writers. photo by Kaley VanArsdale

Crestone Charter School news

by Michael Hayes
CCS Director

The past month has been full of events for the Charter School. The end of the October our LINK students planned and hosted a Halloween Carnival as a community gathering and a fundraising event for their travel this year. Families were treated to games and activities, a haunted house, and great halloween snacks.

A few days later, Carolina Sar-tain organized a Day of the Dead celebration with several classes.

Staff, community, and family members joined in for dancing, several short plays, singing, and piñatas. Meanwhile, middle school visited Earthknack several times in preparation for an overnight where they will sleep in shelters they have constructed and cook food they have prepared.

Students and staff across grades are busy preparing food, decorations, and blessings for our student and staff Thanksgiving celebration.



The 2-3 class making candles in the dirt with Robin Blankenship and Earthknack.



Students in the K-1 class went to Cañon City and played in a pumpkin patch, a corn maze, and a great big corn box at the end of October.



Solar panels at the Crestone Charter School.



Middle school students working together to build shelters for their overnight at Earthknack right before Thanksgiving break.



LINK student, Chenoa Off, painting the face of kindergartener Talus Anderson for the Day of the Dead celebration.



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The Washington Beat

*On again, off again
—will Obamacare work?*



by David Nicholas

In the long term the Affordable Health Care/Obamacare will work. But before we get to the long term—say three or four years from now—it has to endure the short term and that is looking to be the battle of the decade so far.

Washington has a volatile mix right now. You have all Republicans in Congress who hate and resent Obamacare, Republicans who hate Obama just for being president, and Republicans who want Congress shut down and government to cut anything but defense spending. Not all of them like one another (which is a mixed blessing for the Democrats), but when eyeing next year's mid-term election and Dems' ambitions to win back the House and maintain control of the Senate, their fortunes rise and fall with Obamacare.

In my view, Obamacare gets a bad rap because in principle it's a service middle America and low income families need, and it's been a long time in coming, but it's not working in the initial rollout to anyone's satisfaction. For the record, I believe healthcare should be universal without costs to folks who need healthcare but find it well out of their financial reach.

The way the law was negotiated, those folks would be covered by signing up for Medicaid, which was revised under the law, and eligible recipients would have their costs covered. Thanks to Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, who signed on immediately so Coloradans could get the benefit as soon as it was implemented October 1. To find if you are eligible you need to go through the website, and therein lays the cause célèbre. That was the way it was supposed to be.

How bad is it? Well, after a month of Obamacare in play only 106,185 people signed up for the plan of their choice. The federal government included in this figure those who have purchased new plans and those who have selected plans but not yet paid for them. In short, it was way below target.

Just 25% of those who had signed up for new plans through the marketplaces did so through HealthCare.gov. Three-quarters

signed up via state-run websites, which in many cases have functioned much better. New York and California alone accounted for almost half of the total sign-ups.

It's always much harder to defend a law that isn't working, but add to it hostile house Republicans and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) looking to distract from their disastrous government shutdown in early October. Unloading on Obamacare was a gift from heaven. So for the last six weeks, attacking the rollout and going after the endless line of administration officials who came up to the hill to mea culpa, there hasn't been a day Obamacare hasn't had a headline.

The President's poll numbers show he's taken a hit. President Obama had a 54% approval rating in doing his job on October 1; that number slid to 44-42-40% approval while Gallup has his disapproval numbers at 53%. Much the same as Bush43 had on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but there the comparison ends.

Whereas Bush43 was indifferent to the plight of Louisianans, President Obama has been reactive to the point of fretting as if he should be burning the midnight oil to get the website kinks ironed out. There is only so much continual apologizing one needs to hear. There's not much he can really do except to be seen as ensuring things get right.

The bad news is that at the time of writing, the President has given assurances/promises that HealthCare.gov will be up and running as it was designed to do by the end of November. Getting all the kinks and glitches ironed out sounds too good to be true. If this happens, great; if it doesn't, the President will take another poll hit. Some say that if he's unsuccessful, faith in his ability to do the job will be irreversibly damaged. I don't think that, but as some GOP Congressmen hunger to impeach Mr. Obama, this could be the impetus to forge ahead with that nuttiness.

Rule of thumb: don't promise



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what you can't control and don't put your fate in the hands of others. Case in point, read on.

The client dump

The bigger problem for President Obama right now is credibility. Even when you tell folks that they can keep their existing healthcare plan even when the plans won't/don't cover major healthcare problems, people take you at your word. People are happy with their healthcare plans right up until they need them for major operations and catastrophic problems and they get cancelled.

Also expecting healthcare insurance providers (who wish Obamacare be assigned to the trash heap) to play ball and not dump high risk/at risk clients, means that somebody in the administration wasn't getting written assurances that these guys would behave. They didn't, and they dumped millions of "at risk" clients. The timing was impeccable. The dump was designed to show up the unpreparedness of Obamacare and embarrass the President, and it worked.

At risk means people using private insurance for more than they've paid for. Paying for doctor's visits for colds and flu is OK, so long as it's once in a while, but when you need an operation for whatever reason, too bad, you lose. This is the health system Obamacare was designed to overhaul.

My final word on Obamacare this month is that that it needs to work. November 30 is Mr. Obama's self-imposed deadline. The only way the President's credibility is going to change for him, barring any other major catastrophes, is if the plan and access to it work properly.

Finally Democratic gump-tion – filibuster rule curtailed

It only took five years of the Obama Presidency, but after 80-some rejections of the President's nominees to fill influential positions, such as vacancies on the influential DC Federal Court of Appeals, the Senate finally made good its threat to revise its filibuster rule on appointees.

Before Thursday, November 21, Senate rules required 60 votes for nominees to be confirmed on the floor of the Senate, but after a vote of 52-48, with three Democrats voting to oppose the change, the rule was amended. Now it only requires a simple majority of 51 votes for nominees to be confirmed. This change doesn't remove filibusters entirely, but it does remove a good deal of the fights over nominations which has gone on since the Reagan era in the 1980s.

This appropriate Republican humiliation came after the Obama administration had its third judicial pick for the DC US Court of Appeals rejected for reasons Democrats have long considered were unreasonable grounds. Sometimes there is nothing so pleasurable

able than the screams and whines of Senate Republicans, whose obstructionist stance towards this administration using and abusing the filibuster rule has been shot to hell.

This is a major change in the way the Senate functions now. But the most immediate result will be confirmation of the President Obama's pick for Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellan, which I will discuss in the January beat. Her confirmation hearing is ongoing at time of writing and she will probably be confirmed sometime before the Senate rises for the Christmas break.

Iran: Deal or no deal?

Iran is the other issue on the President's agenda, and this is the deal Iran and the permanent five members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) are talking about.

Under the proposed deal, the six world powers and Iran were to meet November 20-22 and Iran would agree to halt the expansion of its nuclear program for six months. Among the measures the first phase would address are:

- 1) suspend 20% enrichment;
- 2) neutralize the 20% stockpile;
- 3) hold steady the stockpile of 3.5% enrichment by oxidizing any more accrued;
- 4) not install more centrifuges and not operate ones already installed but not yet enriching, including the more advanced IR-2Ms;
- 5) stop building fuel assemblies for the unfinished Arak heavy water facility; and
- 6) allow increased inspections and monitoring at enrichment facilities, for a period of six months.

In exchange, Iran would receive under \$10 billion in sanctions relief (including about \$3 billion in hard currency assets frozen in banks abroad that would be metered out each month depending on compliance), as well as the suspension of sanctions on auto sales, petrochemicals, gold and precious metals, and aircraft parts.

During the six-month first phase, negotiators would then seek to reach a comprehensive agreement under which all of the outstanding concerns about Iran's nuclear program would be addressed. In exchange there would be the lifting of proliferation-related sanctions, including on oil exports and those restricting Iran's access to the international banking system. Iran also seeks language in the accord that would permit it to pursue domestic enrichment to a verifiably peaceful, civilian nuclear energy program as part of the deal.

So what's not to like? If you talk to the French (acting as de facto broker for Israel's Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu), they are dead set against this deal. The French are generally stupid when it comes to world power plays of late, and espe-

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cially sensitive negotiations of this type. But, as they have veto power on the Security Council, they can't be ignored. A veto on UN Security Council kills any resolution and President Francois Hollande is adamant, at time of writing, to block this deal.

The agreement would provide "unprecedented monitoring and verification" of Iran's nuclear program, a senior U.S. official said. "The voluntary steps [in the first phase proposal] are good things in and of themselves. But the objective is to reach a comprehensive agreement that puts time on the clock, extends breakout time, shortens the time it would take to detect [breakout], and make the world, the US and Israel more secure."

Yasser Arafat redux

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat died nine years ago. His demise and the upheaval it engendered in the Mideast peace process caused the former head of Al Fatah's cause of death to be overlooked.

So earlier this year, al Jazeera, the Middle East broadcaster based in Doha, Qatar, sponsored a request from Mr. Arafat's widow that Chairman Arafat's body be exhumed and tests be carried out to find out his cause of death. As no autopsy had been carried out when he died in November 2004, the cause of death from a sudden illness was buried with the chairman.

However, in reviewing footage of Arafat's last days, questions arose as to what disease he was suffering from. The suspicion was that he has been exposed to excessive doses of radiation from a radioactive material, which is found in nature, Polonium 210.

While exposure to it in moderate quantities has little or no effect on people, in concentrated form Polonium 210 is quite lethal. Polonium 210 had a history of use as a weapon by the KGB, and its successor the FSB, to take out undesirable elements. These included radical dissidents and critics of current President Vladimir Putin, as was the case with Alexander Litvinenko.

Alexander Litvinenko was a former officer of the Russian Federal Security Service, FSB and KGB, who fled from court prosecution in Russia and received political asylum in the United Kingdom. According to his wife and father, he was working for MI6 and MI5 after receiving asylum.

On November 1, 2006, Mr. Litvinenko suddenly fell ill. Earlier that day he had met two former KGB officers and by November 22, after three weeks of painful deterioration of his physical body and mental faculties, he died. His death was attributed to exposure to Polonium 210 at 200 times the lethal dose. While there is no direct evidence that links Vladimir Putin with Mr. Litvinenko's demise, circumstantial

evidence and motive of who had the most to gain from his death point in that direction.

The report released in early November from Swiss pathologists who performed the autopsy of Yasser Arafat found that indeed it was likely he received 18 times the lethal dose of Polonium 210.

They found that his symptoms of physical and mental deterioration were not unlike that of Alexander Litvinenko, who died almost two years later to the day.

This report has momentum and ramifications as interest builds across the world and the Middle East. Anticipating the furor, an Israeli government spokesperson came out just days after the report was released on November 7, flat out denying any complicity in Chairman Arafat's death.

He dismissed the findings in the report as "not conclusive" and further denied the country was in any way involved in Arafat's death.

On November 8, Wasel Abu Yousef, a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the blame lies with Israel. "President Arafat was the victim of an organized terrorist assassination perpetrated by Israel, which was looking to get rid of him," he said.

The one thing that gets my notice is this: French pathologists in Paris could not find the cause of Mr. Arafat's death in 2004. Nine years later, French President Francois Hollande proclaims France as Israel's closest comrade in arms. A French connection between presidents and security services seems more than just coincidence. There is more to this story, and it's just beginning, in my view.

2016 Presidential race

Yeah, it's early, but the talk is that clear frontrunner Hillary Clinton may have a major challenger. This would/could be the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren. While she has denied she was interested in the brass ring and so far is not planning a run in 2016, her financial credentials make her a favorite for me. By financial credentials, I don't mean her successful career in the Wall St. ménage, but her financial career in being a watchdog on the financial dealings and business practices of Wall St. Specifically, noting the behavior of bankers during the turmoil of the 2008 global financial crisis.

In the wake of the 2008 GFC, Warren served as chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel created to oversee the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). She later served as Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under President Barack Obama. In the late 2000s she was recognized by publications such as the *National*

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Red Is the Color of: An interesting interplay between artist, his model and his wife. The model is free-spirited and enticing . . . opening the artist's wife to broader thinking. (Not porn, not even soft-porn)

2/ Guinevere: She is on the verge of a breakdown and finds love in a bohemian photographer that is as old as her parents who seems to have a stable of women in similar situations.

3/ Stolen: Master thief, played by Nicolas Cage, is ready to leave his criminal past behind him . . . but when his daughter is kidnapped he has to hook up with his old partner again to pull off this last heist.

4/ The Assassins: I found this an interesting Samurai-like film, taking place in the Han Dynasty when a prime minister ventures out and defeats China's greatest warrior, hence terrifying every ambitious warlord across the country.

5/ The Warrior: This is an excellent award-winning film with a theme that modern man can take to heart and learn from. It is filmed in the deserts of Rajasthan and the Himalayas. A local despot's ruthless head warrior is about to kill a young girl when he experiences an epiphany that changes the direction of the film.

Law Journal and the *Time 100* as an increasingly influential public policy figure. She was elected to the Senate in the general election in 2012.

Among her current senatorial duties she serves on the Senate Banking Committee, so she knows the players who deal in the current financial operations on Wall St. Just for the record, the banking behavior rampant up to and during the GFC appears to be recurring again. So there needs to be a president who can see the signs when Wall St. tries to pull a fast one on the American people.

In May 2013, Warren introduced her first bill, the Student Loan Fairness Act, which would allow students to take out government education loans at the same rate that banks such as Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan Chase pay to borrow from the federal government. Suggesting that students should get "the same great deal that banks get," Warren proposed that new student borrowers be able to take out a federally subsidized loan at 0.75%, the rate paid by banks, compared with the current 3.4% student loan rate. It sits in the Senate and in the current climate has little chance of passing in the house, but it's indicative of her thinking and what she intends as possible Democratic nominee.

The soft-spoken Ms. Warren is 64 and held in high respect by the

financial world, which means they fear her and what she might wreak upon them if they're found out doing wrong.

Good to contemplate.

Right now Hillary is running but she has baggage, not the least being that she was beaten for the prize in 2008. No objection, if she gets the nod. But I think a clear run isn't going to happen. As Chris Mathews of MSNBC's *Hardball* noted on Meet the Press, Sunday November 17, Democrats like a fight and there might be several candidates who would oblige.

Meanwhile be of good cheer this holiday season. Happy Holidays. Happy New Year. Blessings.

And the Beat goes on.

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You do not need to be a member of Aventa Credit Union to access and utilize Aventa's Insurance Marketplace. Visit aventa.com or aventamarketplace.com for details and to get started.

Smart Spending Puts Holiday Shoppers in Control of Cart

If you aren't smart about holiday spending, you could find yourself in trouble before the icing dries on the cookies. You can avoid financial mishaps by using simple spending strategies for this year's shopping season:

- Create a spending plan—To track expenses you need a budget: Who are you buying for? How much will you spend on each individual? Have specific gifts in mind.
- Shop before leaving home—Comparison shop online to find which stores carry the items you're looking for and the best price. Flag items in flyers and catalogs and bring with you to the store.
- Limit time at the mall—Shop during lunch hours or during your child's basketball practice so you don't have "too" much time.
- If you use a credit card, be committed—Ideally don't charge more than you can pay off when the bill arrives.
- Beware store cards—These cards generally have higher interest rates than general use credit cards.
- Disregard "buy now, pay later"—It's easy to bring a big purchase home without much thought when you don't have to pay for it for six months. Be cautious: If you don't pay off the item by the due date, you could be be socked with outrageous interest expenses.

If you need help with a holiday spending plan, talk to the professionals at Aventa Credit Union. You can also use the MoneyDesktop budgeting tool available within Aventa's Online Banking system. You can import data from your other financial institutions and/or credit card companies to give you a complete financial picture. For details call us today at 800.555.6665.



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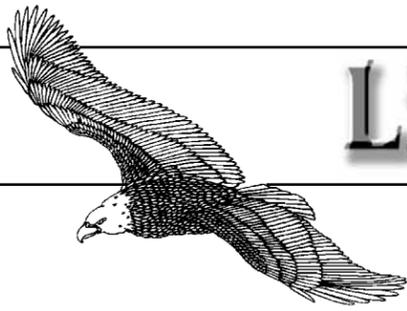
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Living on the Earth

El Paraje: Adventures in public archaeology on the high potential Old Spanish National Historic Trail Bunker Site

by Angie Krall,
Forest Archaeologist,
Rio Grande National Forest

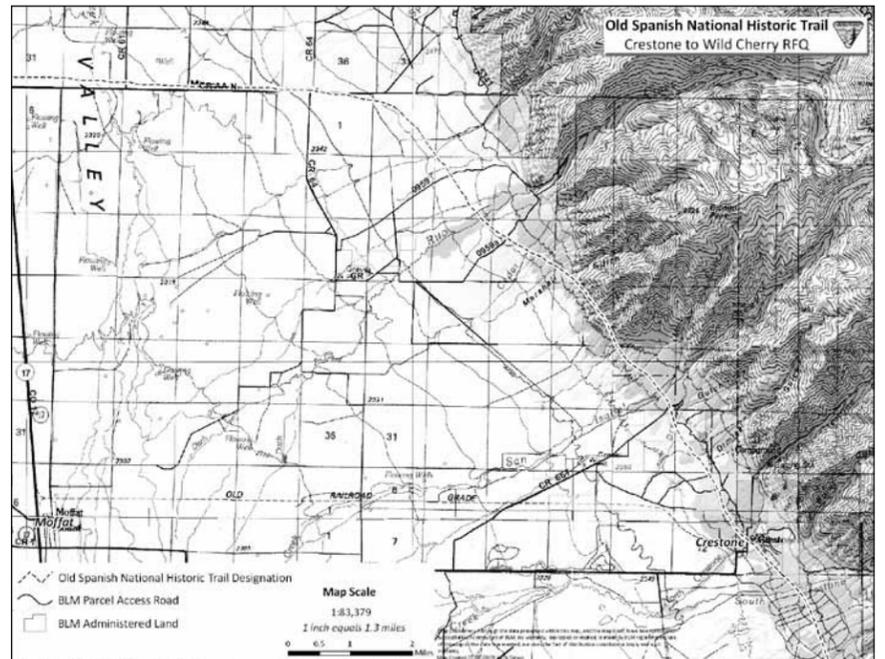
In September of 2012, a group of over 25 archaeologists and volunteers conducted investigations at the high potential Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) Bunker Site (5SH614) in the Baca Mountain Tract on the Rio Grande National Forest. This article explores the preliminary results of that investigation. The project was funded by the National Historic Trails Program of the Forest Service and the National Trails Pro-

gram of the National Park Service Intermountain Region. This combined funding was used as a match toward the "New Lands" Cultural Landscape Analysis of the Baca Mountain Tract funded by the

Colorado State Historical Fund. The Bunker Site is thought to be a high potential stop, or *paraje*, after a day's journey, *jornada*, along the Old Spanish Trail.

In previous articles for the *Eagle*, I noted that the Old Spanish Trail was pioneered by Mexican trader Antonio Armijo in 1829 as a pack trail and a later emigration route that connected Santa Fe and Los Angeles. Traders carried woolens, made from the wool of churro sheep that were traded in LA for hundreds and sometimes thousands of strong Californian mules and horses. American Indian slaves were also known to be illicitly traded during this journey. Over the years, multiple, parallel, and intertwined routes developed as travelers sought adequate water, grazing areas, shorter distances and smoother terrain. It is important to note that tribal groups in the San Luis Valley pioneered an extensive network of trails for the purpose of hunting, trade and travel. Later European immigrants, such as traders along the Old Spanish Trail, likely utilized and modified these trails. For this reason, some have proposed that the trail be called the *Indo-Hispano* Trail. Since 2009, we have followed the trail from an ephemeral line on a map to what we believe is the highest potential OSNHT camp in the nation.

Two main routes of the Old Spanish Trail have been documented: the Armijo (Southern) Route and the Northern Route. The "North Branch" of the Old Spanish Trail is identified as a variant



The old Spanish Trail came up from Santa Fe and through the San Luis Valley. It hugged the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains where there was firewood and protection from enemies; it also kept the travellers and beasts out of the marshy lands in the middle of the valley. North of Crestone the trail turned west and headed to Saguache and over Cochetopa Pass.



Christina Burch and Loretta Mitson work on test unit.

photo by Angie Krall (FS)

of the Northern Route. The North Branch ran through the San Luis Valley and the Gunnison River country of Colorado into eastern Utah, later crossing Nevada and California. The East Fork of the North Branch runs along the western toe of the Sangre de Cristo massif and runs through or very near the town of Crestone, after which it curves to the west through Saguache and over Cochetopa Pass. The primary trade period of the Old Spanish Trail ended when the Southwest became part of the United States as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 and when other trading avenues were established. The Old Spanish Trail was congressionally designated as a National Historic Trail in 2002. The West Fork of the North Branch of the OSNHT is thought to have run on the west side of the San Luis Valley. This trail is a variant "under study" and is not yet congressionally designated due to a lack of archival information.

The Bunker Site lies at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and overlaps the East Fork of the North Branch. It is a large site discovered several years ago by local ranchers Bob and Judy Bun-

ker when the land was part of the Baca Ranch. The site was investigated briefly in 2009 and 2010, and revealed artifacts such as a spent musket ball, a *coscojo* (jingle from a Spanish or Mexican style bit), a scrolled Spanish-style bit fragment and metal projectile points. These artifacts suggested ties to the Old Spanish Trail era of significance between 1829 and 1848. However, as many researchers know, it is very difficult to distinguish sites occupied by Native Americans participating in Euro-American trade networks from other Native American sites during the early contact period. Jicarilla Apaches often had a similar material culture to early Hispanic settlers. A diverse assemblage of artifacts at the site pre-date the use of the Old Spanish Trail, suggesting it has been a popular campsite for hundreds, if not thousands of years.

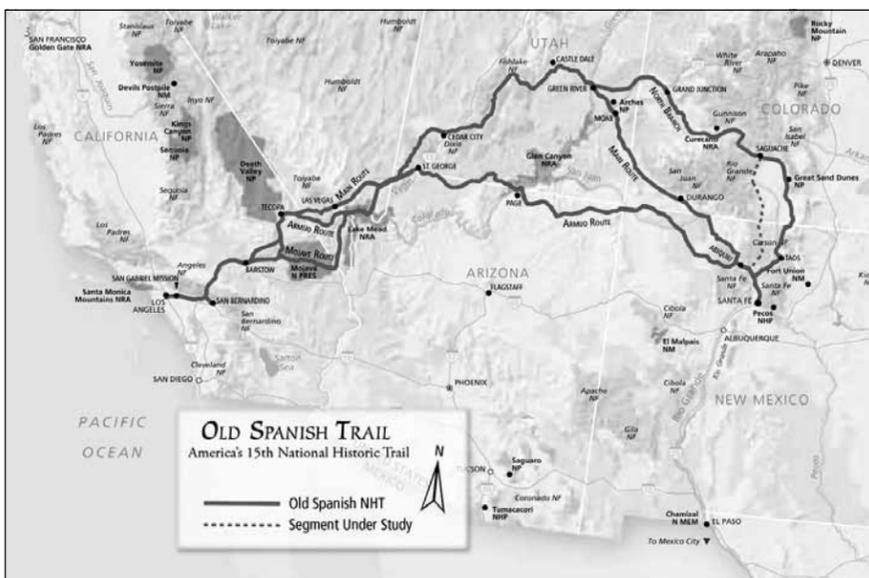
RMC Consultants Inc. carried out this investigation, under contract with the Rio Grande National Forest. PaleoCultural Research Group (PCRG), in cooperation with the San Luis Valley Archaeological Network and the Old Spanish Trail Association, recruited and man-

continued on page B-7



Examples of coscojos found at the Bunker Site, some with stamped designs.
photo by RMC Consultants, Inc.

aged this investigation, under contract with the Rio Grande National Forest. PaleoCultural Research Group (PCRG), in cooperation with the San Luis Valley Archaeological Network and the Old Spanish Trail Association, recruited and man-



The historic Old Spanish Trail.



Astrologically Speaking

... with Ananur

(mountain time zone calculated)

Mercury is not retrograde. That's good news. But ya know what? This being an 11-year cycle for solar flares, I have noticed when I read there has been, "a significant solar flare activity," taking place that seems to fit with why people are feeling out of sorts for a few days, than quickly back to "normal." What I've noticed is some people are more sensitive and feel achy, or get a headache or even flu-like symptoms when there is solar flare activity taking place. I usually Google "Solar flare," and the present date to find out if there is one taking place or not.

December 1 just for today Mercury is aspecting both Mars and Pluto. Intriguing conversations will take you deeper into understanding motivations of yourself and others. Your mind is likely to be sped up. The Sun is in a positive aspect, with Pluto offering options for turning your life around. Big time possibilities for transformation are available if you are ready and seeking

the support needed to make the big time leap out of old patterns of personality. Are you ready?

December 1-3 Mercury is in a positive aspect with Mars which will speed up your mind and nervous system. Ever have a conversation where you're both speaking at the same time? This would be one of those times.

December 2 the New Moon takes place at 5:23pm with the Sun and Moon both at 11° of Sagittarius and in a good aspect with Pluto. The aspects at the time of the New Moon set the pace for what the next 29 ½ days will be about. With Pluto in a supporting role you will have the option of going deeper and deeper into a transformational process that finds you leaving the past behind and emerging into the truth of who you really are on a soul level. You can finally let go of past notions of negative thoughts about yourself. Time for freeing your soul. Joy then emerges and guides the way.

December 4 Mercury will enter Sagittarius today and remain in this direct, fiery sign until December 24. Your mind is shifting all over the place with so many thoughts and interests to follow. Conversations will be stimulating, but jumping from topic to topic rather quickly can be hard to follow at times.

December 4-6 Mercury in Sagittarius will be aspecting Neptune in Pisces awkwardly which brings about confusion and misunderstandings. There's a tendency to be unrealistic by being overly optimistic.

December 7 Mercury is in a challenging aspect with Jupiter speeding up your mind. This is not a good time for decision making. Mars will be entering into Libra today and remaining here until the end of July 2014. Changes that take you by surprise are taking place in personal relationships during this time.

December 7-19 Jupiter in Cancer is in an ideal aspect (120° apart) to Saturn in Scorpio. This is

a good aspect for financial stability.

December 8-10 Mercury is in a super fine aspect with Uranus which is known to increase intuition.

December 9 the Sun is in a positive aspect to Saturn signaling a find time for organizing, and getting rid of things to make life simple and clear.

December 9-10 the Sun is aspecting Jupiter offering you high hopes, but unrealistic for the times. Keep your vision and work with it.

December 12-13 Mars is awkwardly aspecting Neptune which means you need to focus on strengthening your immune system. You're apt to feel tired, worn out at this time. This aspect will end on December 13 at noon.

December 14 you may be feeling crabby and critical of your self and others because Mars is in a challenging aspect to Saturn.

December 14-25 Jupiter is in an awkward aspect to Neptune. Be careful: this aspect has to do with illusions and delusions. Do you want to be convinced of something? Are you vulnerable to being deceived because you're feeling needy of flattery? Be careful. This is an aspect which suggests that you are being conned. Living in a make believe world (watching lots of movies) is one thing because you are choosing it. But, in life where relationships are important be aware of who is seemingly so convincing. Observe your reactions to others.

December 17 Uranus will turn direct after being retrograde since mid-July (2013). Now is the time to focus on inventing progressive practical ideas that could make you money. The Full Moon will take place at 2:28am with the Moon in Gemini and the Sun opposite it in Sagittarius. Because Mars is approaching an aspect to Uranus and Pluto it will dominate the energy of the Full Moon and bring on accident-prone energies. The Full Moon itself in Gemini and Sagittarius is all about learning and sharing what you are aware of and how you can learn more through conversations with others who disagree with your point of view. Their perspective can open you to a vaster understanding if you allow yourself to stretch.

December 21 the Sun moves into Capricorn at 10:11am and remains in this serious, goal-oriented earth sign until January 20. While the Sun is in Capricorn you can focus more on one thing at a time. Getting your goals taken care of and being productive is important and brings a certain amount of peace of

mind. Capricorn people are happy when organized and productive.

December 21 Venus goes retrograde while stationed at 28° of Capricorn. Trust issues are real and respect goes along with it. Be patient with yourself and know that you will know when you feel safe and trust in a new relationship. It does take time. It's not an intellectual decision.

December 22-24 good news! The Sun in Capricorn is in a positive aspect with Neptune in Pisces which heralds spiritual energies which can bring about healing. This is a fine time to go on a silent retreat.

December 23-25 (until 8am on 12/25) Mars is opposite Uranus. Whenever these two planets are awkwardly aspecting each other it is always "an accident-prone time." This is because there is a lack of patience and a feeling of wildness needing to be expressed somehow some way. This aspect is also known to stimulate conflict, rebelliousness, and eruptive anger.

December 24-26 Mercury enters Capricorn at 3:13am and enters into a favorable aspect with Neptune. This combination ushers in uplifting thoughts which need to be expressed. Singing and chanting spiritual values has a potent effect now.

December 25 Merry Christmas to all of you. On this day there are aspects between planets in Capricorn and planets in Libra which inform us that change is important; don't resist it. There is some tension which needs to be dealt with and not ignored. The best aspects on this day are in Pisces (Chiron and Neptune) indicating the ability to forgive and let go of the past. Today you can decide to stretch beyond your thinking (if you choose to) and allow yourself to accept all of humanity as your brothers and sisters. It would be super fine if we all decided to take a few moments to be quiet and send out positive thoughts for all of humankind.

December 27-31 the Sun, Mercury and Pluto are all awkwardly aspecting Mars in Libra and also Uranus in Aries. This is quite the set up for eruptive actions to take place. Certainly we will be feeling the tension 'round the world at this time. Where there is inequality there will be uprisings. These uprisings will make a future that is respectful of all people. Just how long that takes is hard to know. But the energy is going in that direction for years to come, at least until 2016.

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by David Lindsey
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by Kim Malville
What's in the sky this month?

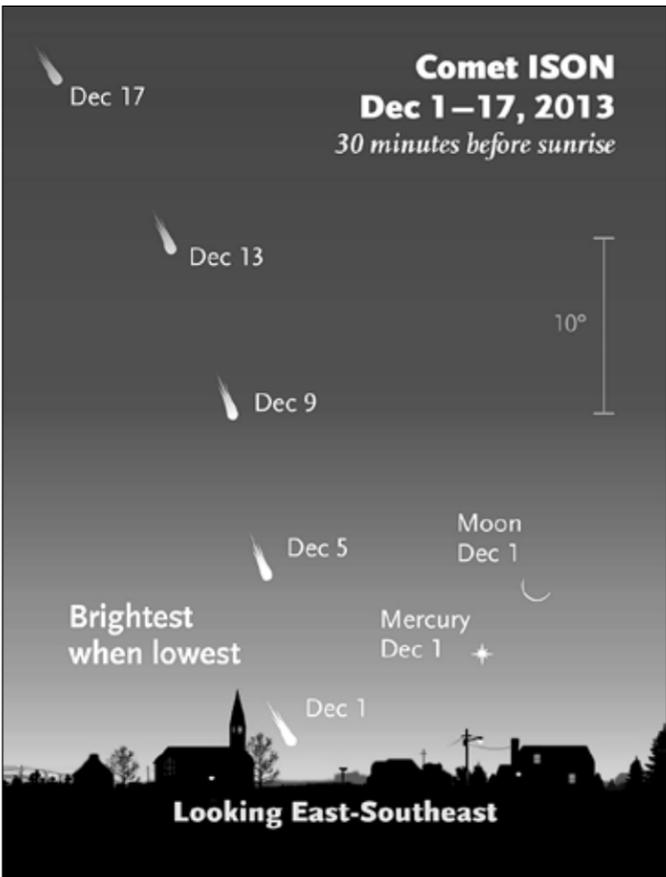
The great mystery of December will be comet ISON. Is it alive or dead? The comet is just appearing as a faint object near Spica in the morning skies as I write this column in mid-November. It will pass through a baptism by fire in the sun's corona on Nov 28, at which time its 3-mile-wide nucleus may evaporate due to the radiation of the sun or break apart by the sun's gravity. What happens is anyone's guess. It may appear as a

to be largely covered by a coating of a tar-like substance. Gas escaping through holes in that coating producing multiple jets of gas, resulting in the filaments of the tail visible in the photographic negative in the figure.

December 1-17: Look for Comet Ison in the morning skies

December 13-14. The Geminid meteor shower will be best seen in the hour between moonset and the first light of dawn. The peak of the shower should be around 11pm MST on the thirteenth. These meteors are relatively slow and are often yellowish. They plunge deeper into the atmosphere than most meteors because they are chunks of rock instead of the fluffy dust of most meteors coming from comets. The Orionids come from a small asteroid or the remains of a dead comet, which is gradually cracking as it heats and cools in its orbit around the sun. Every 1.4 years when it is closest to the sun its surface heats up to 1300°F.

to be largely covered by a coating of a tar-like substance. Gas escaping through holes in that coating producing multiple jets of gas, resulting in the filaments of the tail visible in the photographic negative in the figure.



Finding chart for Comet ISON.

photo by Sky and Telescope

bright object in the morning skies, in which case the finding chart will be useful.

This comet is a total stranger to us in the inner solar system. For the last four billion years it has been in the cloud of icy debris left over after our solar system was formed. A passing star may have nudged it out of its deep sleep, causing it to plunge downward toward the sun. Its ancient ices are sublimating heat of the sun, producing its beautiful filamentary tail, blown away from the sun by its radiation. Like Halley's Comet, it appears

December 17: Full moon

December 18: The almost-full moon comes close to Jupiter in the constellation of Gemini

December 21: Winter solstice occurs at 10:11 pm local time: the shortest day of the year.

MAVEN is on its way to Mars

There were celebrations in Boulder on the morning of November when the rocket carrying MAVEN blasted off flawlessly. Five hundred school kids crowded into the Glen Miller Ballroom of the University Memorial Center,

joined in a boisterous count down, and then broke into earsplitting cheers. Astronomers at CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics were elated, to put it mildly, that the space experiment into which they had devoted 10 years of planning made it off the ground. A maven is a trusted expert in a particular field, a knowledgeable enthusiast, who seeks to pass knowledge on to others. The word comes from the Hebrew and means one who understands, based on an accumulation of knowledge. The LASP astronomers had to work hard to create this acronym, but it works very nicely.

MAVEN will be studying the thin Martian atmosphere and, perhaps, will be watching in real-time as it gets peeled away, molecule by molecule, by the solar wind.

Upon arrival at Mars September 22, 2014, MAVEN will fire its braking rocket to put itself into a highly elliptical orbit around Mars, dipping as close as 65 miles from the ground to gather air samples and then retreat to its greatest distance of 3728 miles. The purpose is to determine how much of the atmosphere is being lost to space today and try extrapolating back to the time when Mars had a dense atmosphere.

In the 49 years since NASA's Mariner 4 spacecraft flew by Mars we have learned that Mars was once much more like the earth, with braided river channels and the shores of ancient lakes inside impact craters. There are minerals on its surface that could have formed only in the presence of liquid water. Indeed, once it may have been similar to the Mars of Ray Bradbury's *Martian Chronicles*. But that would have been long, long ago. There are two explanations for its loss of water and air: they disappeared either down into the ground or upward into interplanetary space. MAVEN is designed to explore the upward possibility. Escape of its atmosphere may have started about 4 billion years ago when the planet's protective magnetic field turned off and ceased protecting the atmosphere from the solar wind.

MAVEN should reach Mars two days before India's Mars Orbiter Mission, which was launched on November 5. India's probe initially didn't reach its target altitude and Indian scientists and engineers have been using a series of carefully designed rocket burns to raise it in its orbit around Earth. The space craft, named after the Hindu counterpart to the Roman god Mars, Mangal, should be in position on December 1 to begin its own journey to Mars.

Some have questioned the \$72 million price tag for a coun-



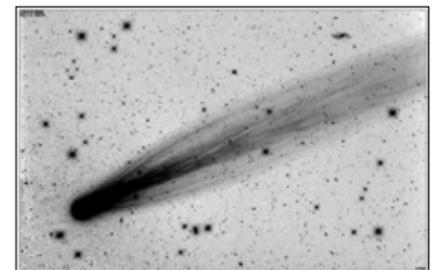
MAVEN on its way to launch.

photo by NASA

try of 1.2 billion people still dealing with widespread hunger and poverty. But the government has defended the Mars mission by noting its importance in providing high-tech jobs for scientists and engineers. One of Mangalyaan's experiment is to search for methane in Mars' atmosphere, which could be the result of a primitive form of life currently living on the planet. One thing is certain: if methane is found, it will not be evidence of water buffalos or sacred cows on Mars.

Planets, planets everywhere

One out of every five sun-like stars in the Milky Way galaxy has a planet about the size of Earth that is properly located for liquid water to exist on its surface. The analysis, performed by Eric



Negative image of Comet Ison taken on 15 November. photo by Damian Peach

Petigura, a graduate student at the University of California, was based on three years of data collected by NASA's Kepler space telescope. That adds up to 40 billion Earth-size potentially habitable planets. The closest habitable planet may be a mere 12 light years away. That distance is still an enormous distance away for an interstellar jaunt. Phone conversations would have a 24-year delay built into them. But such a planet could be easily studied by telescopes to learn if it has oceans of water and an atmosphere in which some creature could take breaths. We could even listen in on 12-year-old broadcasts. Once, we thought we might be alone in the universe. Now it seems livable planets, maybe even blue-green jewels like ours, may be the rule rather than the exception in our galaxy.

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Public input invited for Rio Grande Basin water plan

by *Bea Ferrigno*

At the November 12 meeting of the Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable (RGRT), members got down to work on the Rio Grande Basin Water Plan (RGBWP) which will become part of the statewide plan ordered by Governor Hickenlooper. Representatives of DiNatale Water Consultants (DNWC) and Craig Godbout, Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) described the structure of the plan in detail and the need for public input to the planning process, particularly because the deadline for the basin's draft plan has been moved up.

Stakeholders who are not members of the RGRT are needed on the steering committee and for public information and outreach efforts that will be tailored for different areas in the basin. Several working groups were expanded and new ones were formed: a water administration working group, an agricultural group to focus on minimizing loss of irrigated acres, a municipal and industrial group, and another to focus on non-consumptive needs. Area groups such as the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, and the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association will be invited to participate.

As Tom Spezze of DNWC pointed out, the RGBWP is not about re-inventing the wheel; rather it will be based on work and research that has been done over the

past several years as recorded in documents available at www.coloradowaterplan.com. The aim is to tailor the plan to respond to the diverse conditions and varied social, cultural, and economic impacts of water throughout the basin.

Among major areas of the plan are non-consumptive uses such as environmental and recreational activities. The CWCB's Non-Consumptive Toolbox is posted on the water plan site and a map of non-consumptive needs for the Rio Grande Basin has been prepared by the Wetlands Focus Group of the RGRT; it includes a zone of special significance east of Crestone in the Sangre de Cristo mountains. http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Documents/RioGrande/RioGrandeNCNA_Mapping%20Results.pdf.

The State Water Plan website at www.coloradowaterplan.com provides information on each of the basin plans and links to submit suggestions; there is also a local site at www.riograndewaterplan.webs.com. The public is invited to attend RGRT meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, from 2 to 5pm.

SNOTEL budget cuts possible

At the past few RGRT meetings there has been considerable concern about expected cuts in the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) budget for automated and manual reports of snow-

pack. It was expected that staffing for manual snow courses would be reduced to 20 surveyors for the entire state. The SNOTEL reports are needed by water administrators to prepare estimates of water available for compact compliance and irrigation, usually due on the first of April. A week after the November RGRT meeting, Senators Udall and Bennet and Congressman Tipton sent a letter to the US Department of Agriculture urging the NRCS to prioritize funding for the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program (see sidebar).

Acequia del Cerro

In other business, an application for \$100,000 in basin funds as part of a \$1.2 million project to rehabilitate the Acequia del Cerro near San Luis was approved. The balance of the funding was through Targeted Conservation and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) of the NRCS. The application had been approved by the RGRT and submitted earlier to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), but was not funded because the CWCB criteria had changed. To receive CWCB funds, projects now must have statewide benefits such as compliance with interstate compacts. The Acequia del Cerro draws water from Culebra creek and is not subject to the Rio Grande Compact because the Culebra no longer reached the Rio Grande when the compact was signed. The Acequia del Cerro, established in 1857, is one of the oldest acequias in Colorado and holds Colorado's 7th priority right. It serves 82 landowners who irrigate 1,880 acres of hay, grass, row crops and vegetables.

SNOTEL manual courses to be maintained this winter

by *Bea Ferrigno*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service says it won't reduce the number of Colorado snow survey (SNOTEL) sites this winter, though that plan had been under consideration due to anticipated budget cuts. The idea had drawn criticism from water managers and from Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet and Representative Scott Tipton in a joint letter on the issue: "In the face of prolonged drought, significant population growth and climate change, NRCS' snow program data provides vital information on precipitation and future water supplies essential for Colorado and the entire American West." Because automated sites can break down in winter conditions, "the manual snow courses [are] the only sources of reliable data to meet local demands and interstate compact deliveries." Snowpack data help water managers plan for spring runoff and adjust reservoir levels for anticipated inflow so as to fulfill water rights obligations and manage river levels for flood avoidance and fish habitat.

In response, William Shoup, acting snow survey supervisor in Colorado for the NRCS, said the manual snow course measurements would continue from all 104 manual sites through changes in how the operation is managed. He said the reduction in manual sites had come up for discussion given the budget situation and the fact that data from some of the manual sites isn't being used in water supply forecasting by the agency's National Water and Climate Center in Oregon. But he agreed about the importance of the long-term, historical data being generated by sites that in some cases date back to the 1800s, thus providing information on long-term climate change and the impacts of dust on snow.

Shoup said that while all the manual measurements will continue this year, funding for future years depends on the federal budget for the NRCS.

Parts of this update were drawn from John Orr's November 21 Coyote Gulch blog post of Dennis Webb's coverage in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel.



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Salida's Ploughboy wins the Colorado's People's Choice for Green Restaurant

by Nicholas Chambers

The small market store of Ploughboy in Salida is actually no small store. It is a giant in the local and sustainable food movement. So much that the people of Colorado voted them the greenest restaurant in the Nature Conservancy's Nature's Plate People's Choice Award.

To be eligible for this award you need to serve free-range and grass-fed meat, use organic ingredients, use regional (within 300 miles) or local (within 100 miles) produce, and serve tap water instead of bottled water. Ploughboy achieves this criteria with flying colors, as it is their founding business model to serve a local demand for local food, support and feed the socio-economics of their community, and practice good earth stewardship. This award has not only put Ploughboy on the map, but Salida as well. For a town of 5300 people beating out the progressive likes of Denver, Boulder, and Fort Collins, the dedication of the community to support a venture like this is evident.

Ploughboy founders Dave and Kerry Nelson were on what was supposed to be a cross-country road trip from Philadelphia in 2009. On day 5 they landed in Salida and went no further. Here in this small mountain community they were inspired to dig into the local food movement that was clearly being expressed. A former lawyer, Kerry envisioned a food depot that was beyond organic. She saw an affordable mecca that would intercept as many dollars as possible and "plough" them back into the livelihoods of the local farmers, ranchers, and product engineers.

Jack-of-all-trades and creator of an awesome beet cake, as well as Dave's Famous Baked Beans, Dave was able to lay the foundation for a vertically-integrated enterprise. On any given day this means cooking and baking in the kitchen, driving to individual farms to pick up produce, or building dovetail benches out back. One particular innovation worthy of note is their walk-in cooler that, when cool enough, uses the outside ambient temperature instead of running the compressors year-round.

Then you have Sara Andersen at the helm of Operations Manager. With a background in construction management and possessing a sixth sense in attention to detail and fiscal responsibility, she expertly juggles the procuring, ordering, and buying from over 100 producers in addition to wholesalers such as SOURCE Local Foods. Sara breaks down Dave and Kerry's vision into manageable pieces, which sometimes means buying under a dozen cherry pies per week from My Safe Haven Farm of the San Luis Valley.

Sam Montgomery is the Marketing Manager that has helped get Ploughboy the recognition they deserve as well as manage the steady stream of information that is native to a public-serving entity. Sam got her start in the alternative food industry by doing marketing for Zapata Ranch. With a love for Salida combined with a recognition of the team Dave and Kerry were building and the vision they were embarking on, Sam was hired on. "This is not just a job, it is a part of our lives. We all have a passion for this work. It is a labor of love," say Sara and Sam.



Marketing Manager Sam Montgomery and Salesperson Natalie Sharp on the floor of Ploughboy in Salida.



Salida Bread Company bakes fresh bread every day for Ploughboy. They use organic, Colorado stone-milled flour, locally-grown fruits, local honeys and sugars and all the top quality spices.

Newly added this year, Ploughboy has added a wine, cider, and mead tasting room where you can enjoy over 40 Colorado wines (including Vino Salida and Mt. Spirit Winery from Salida), two Salida meads, and three Western Slope ciders. The tasting room is open Friday through Sunday 11-7.

Next time you are on H Street in Salida you will notice two giants. One is of brick and mortar that is good at aggregating commodity food and shipping it around the

country. Across the street, however, you will find a giant of another kind. Under aged roof trusses reminiscent of markets of the past, amidst aromas of peach cobbler or braised short ribs, you will find a Colorado cornucopia filled with artisan wholesome goodness. The coffee and tea pot are always on, a loaf of Salida Bread is always on the cutting board, and inspired and friendly folks are ready to serve you. The 2013 Colorado Nature's Plate Award belongs to Ploughboy.

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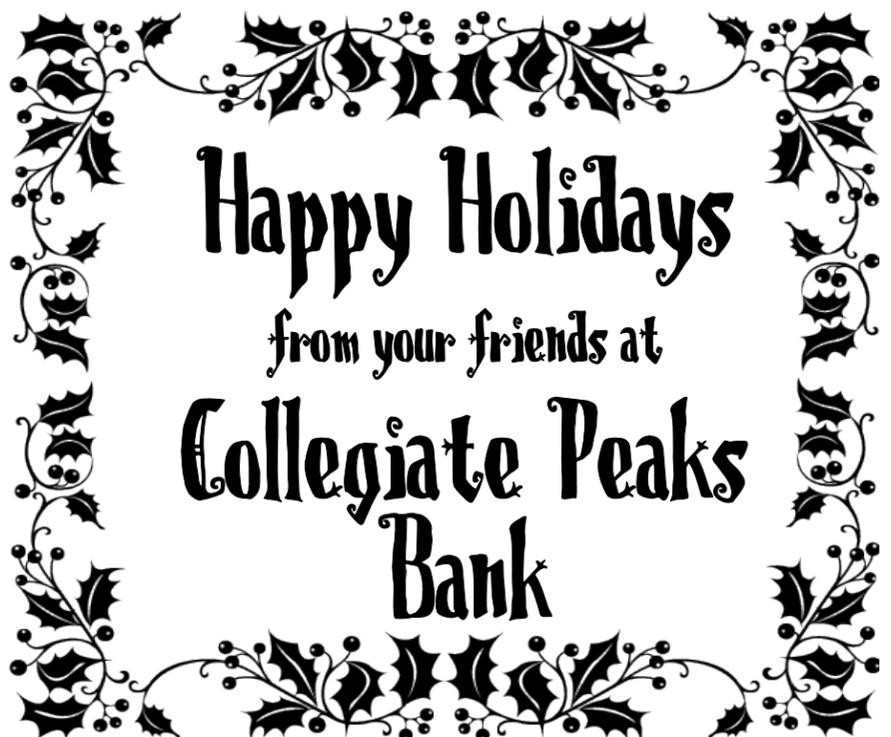


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As the Worm Turns

The Garden Journal

by Leigh Mills

Many of the gardening and homesteading books I've read suggest keeping a journal. Farmstead journals keep track of all the numbers and details that help determine the cost effectiveness of animals or certain crops, weather patterns, and other related items. Garden journals can be used to record germination rates, planting maps, insect populations, plant disease, and harvest amounts. I had been homesteading with animals and gardening for 6 years before I started my first journal.

When I began to garden years ago, the idea of keeping track of all the details did not interest me one bit. It seemed like too much work when there was work enough to do already. That all changed when I began researching honeybees a few years ago. The materials I read deepened my interest and practice of biodynamics and I purchased my first *Biodynamic Planting Calendar/Gardening Journal* in 2011. When I look back through the past three years of my calendars, I can see a gradual increase of notations about planting, transplanting, weather and harvest cycles. In 2012, I started writing notes in the little calendar almost every day. In March of this year, 2013, I outgrew the calendar lines and started using a blank journal book to keep track of the Heyokah Homestead happenings in more detail.

Actually, I use both of the journals together. The *North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar*, by Maria and Matthias Thun, informs me of the planting, transplanting, and harvesting cycles. I make notations in it every day about the morning temps, weather, and a couple of words about the garden. A classic, black and white marbled cardboard journal is used

to record the broader experiences of the garden, including the how-to's of certain garden tasks and results of other ones. I've learned to keep a pen in it and bring it with me whenever I go into the garden or greenhouse. I also write down stuff that pops up in my head when I'm doing contemplative gardening chores. The topics are garden-related and often esoteric like poems, mental observations, or ideas for gardening articles. I think I had the idea to write about garden journals a couple of months ago and tada, here's the result.

I've come to agree with the folks who suggest keeping a garden journal, and in my opinion, the best place to start is with the *North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar*. It can be found and purchased for under \$20 at Steiner-Books.org. Click the "Biodynamics" link on the left side of the page and when that menu pops up, slide over and click "Biodynamic Calendars". Using one of these as a planting calendar and starter journal can connect you further into the earth's cycles, your garden and into yourself. If you like to keep track of other garden and homestead details, then I suggest also getting a blank notebook and use both journals together. Have a great Solstice Season and Happy Gardening for 2014!

Leigh Mills has lived and gardened in the San Luis Valley since 2002 and written the "As the Worm Turns" column for almost 4 years. If you enjoy reading her monthly, visit her daily at The Infinite Bee website (theinfinitebee.com). View color photos and read journal entries filled with tips about high-altitude gardening and seed saving, food preservation, yummy recipes, and off-the-grid, homestead living.



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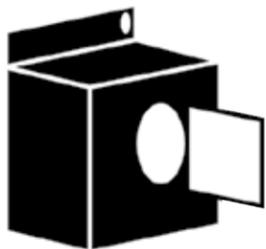
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Old Spanish Trail

continued from page B-1

aged the volunteers that were paired with experienced archaeologists. Several Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) members also volunteered through PCRG. PCRG is a unique, member-supported non-profit organization dedicated to research and public education in the archaeology of the southern Rocky Mountains and Great Plains and has partnered with the Forest Service and BLM on several successful volunteer projects in the San Luis Valley: www.paleocultural.org.

The goals of the 2012 fieldwork were to better define the site's extent, to gather data needed to assess its integrity, and to confirm its contemporaneity with the Old Spanish Trail. To accomplish these goals the research team carried out an intensive metal-detector survey, performed a total-station-controlled surface collection of selected datable artifacts, obtained dendrochronological data from culturally modified trees, and excavated two 1 x 1 m test units.

Metal detecting

The metal detecting recovered over 250 metal artifacts, many that appear to date to the Old Spanish Trail era including numerous styles of coscojos and metal projectile points; metal tools such as knives, awls, and a chisel or screwdriver; items of personal adornment such as buttons, buckles and a bracelet fragment; fired and unfired lead balls; cone tinklers and gun parts including parts of flint lock rifles. Coscojos are unique metal artifacts that would have been "jingles" or adornment on a Spanish-style bit.

Phil Born, an ordnance expert and curator with the Museum of Western Colorado, conducted an analysis of several metal artifacts. One of the more interesting artifacts found during the survey is the lower jaw of a miquelet flintlock firearm. The earliest known example of the miquelet flintlock evolved in Spain about 1625 and spread throughout the Mediterranean, lasting into the nineteenth century. It was also commonly known as the "Spanish" lock. Over the two hundred years that the miquelet lock was used, there were at least three variations of it during the seventeenth century and one in the eighteenth century. However, these variations were not satisfactory, so the miquelet lock maintained its almost exact original form up to its demise in about 1825. Determining the date of production for the artifact is quite difficult at best. Based on the two sources consulted,

it would seem that the date would be somewhere between 1625 and 1791. The reader should keep in mind that production of the miquelet lock persisted for a full two hundred years and fire arms in New Spain (including the San Luis Valley) were never plentiful at all. As they wore out, they were repaired, used again and again until they were no longer usable. Analysis suggests that this firearm was so completely worn out that it could no longer be repaired or even provide parts for another firearm.

Another unique artifact came in the form of a brass butt plate from a military style long arm. It is stamped with the date of 1808. Analysis suggests that the artifact came from what could have been a contract musket patterned after the 1795 Springfield musket.

In one metal-detected transect a cluster of artifacts suggest a later occupation. These include a spent .45 caliber cartridge, a military sleeve button and a possible wagon wheel hub. The 1853 Gunnison Expedition is known to have followed this section of the Old Spanish Trail in search of an east/west route for the Pacific Railroad. Expedition journals indicate that the group used wagons, camped and dug for



Lower jaw of a miquelet flintlock firearm (ca 1625-1791).

photo by RMC Consultants, Inc.

water in a dry creek bed. Post-Old Spanish Trail diary accounts following the same routes such as those from the Gunnison Expedition have been invaluable tools in Old Spanish Trail inventory as there are few written accounts from the Old Spanish Trail era itself. Possible trail traces, including drainage crossings, were also identified within the Bunker Site along with a small possible lean-to shelter associated with a metal projectile point.

Dendrochronology

During earlier visits it was noted that the site context had a "manicured" feel to it with wide openings between large piñon pine trees. At closer inspection, researchers realized hundreds of limbs had been removed with axes from the old piñon perhaps for shelter, corrals or to clear limbs in order to tie stock to



Bunker Site Volunteers a.k.a, the Tootsie Pop Crew.

photo by Angie Krall

the trees or to possibly create space for corral-like areas to gather livestock. Individual trees exhibited the removal of up to 18 limbs per tree, most of these cut when they were green. Many have a great deal of lichen on the limb ends, suggesting removal took place some time ago. De-limbed trees were present over 7 acres of the site, 54% of the total site area. Blazes, grooves cut with an axe, are also found across the site and were dated by taking core samples.

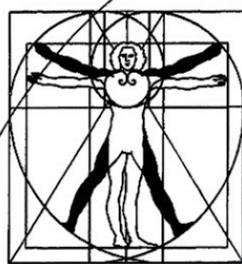
Dendrochronological sampling was conducted on over 20 of the de-limbed or modified piñon trees as an attempt to date de-limbing events and other modifications and age the trees. Tree cores were taken to obtain a pith date (the tree's birth date) and a set of tree rings with which the limb rings could be cross-dated. Most of the pith dates date to the early 1600s. The limb samples were sent to the lab of Peter Brown of Rocky Mountain Tree Ring Research. While many of the limb rings were too tight to read, some limbs did reveal preliminary data suggesting at least three occupation events. One set dates to the late 1700s that could point to early Spanish use of the trail. It is known that De Anza came through the San Luis Valley in 1779 en route to Poncha Pass with Spanish soldiers, Utes and Jicarilla Apache to engage the Comanche in battle. It is not implausible that they camped at this popular campsite. De-limbing events point to another possible occupation period in the 1820s and 1830s which is well within the Old Spanish era of significance. A third set in the 1850s and 1860s, one date from 1853, further strengthens the theory that the 1853 Gunnison Ex-

pedition camped here on their way from Ft. Massachusetts. The methodology for this research will be refined in order to select limbs that will have higher ring readability and a more statistically valid sample. One thing is certain, early fuels reduction by campers on these trees likely protected the site and the tree ring data from a stand-replacing fire that appears to have occurred on the site perimeter.

Locating segments of the Old Spanish Trail is a difficult task given the fact it was largely a stock trail utilizing a corridor, as opposed to a rutted wagon track. This makes the research of potential parajes, or camps, imperative to the understanding of the trail as a whole and a means to connect the dots. What is important about the Bunker site artifact assemblage is not only what is there, but also what is not there; such as later historic glass and cans. The fieldwork data, samples and artifacts are still in the process of being analyzed to provide further understanding of this remarkable site. The results will be used to assist the Forest Service and National Park Service in determining how to manage and interpret this portion of the OSNHT.

From a public archaeology stand point, the project provided a rich experience in the standard methods in test excavation, metal detecting and implementing unique methods aimed at retrieving data from the culturally modified trees. The interaction between a unique brain trust of professional archaeologists and volunteers will certainly further the understanding of this ephemeral linear resource and its associated sites from New Mexico to California.

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SOLD!	Under Contract	New Listing	Retreat Property
<p>Horse Property SOLD! Was \$349,000</p> <p>1342CRR Badger Rd - \$295,000 2bd/1.75ba/office/screen porch/864sf 2-car garage. SW-style home on 13.5 acres. Backs to creek/trees, 2 stalls/paddocks/pastures. Expansive views.</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>Townhouse 6 - \$199,000 Renovated & furnished 3bd/3ba 1622sf single-level townhouse w. granite tile counters, pantry, arch & walled courtyard.</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>3485 E. Graceful Ct - NOW-\$154,000 Open floor plan - 2bd/1.75 ba w/lrg eastern deck Oversized kitchen, ETS heater, wood stove. Spacious master bdrm/ba w/long soak tub. Views.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>Great retreat home!</p> <p>3766C Carefree Way - \$148,000 Immaculate, cozy home, 950sf 2bd/1ba ranch-style house built by Terrapin mid 2013. Magnificent mountain and valley views. Full-time residence or a vacation getaway.</p>
<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>Log Home - WAS \$139,000</p> <p>98 Skyview Way - NOW - \$134,000 Built in 2002, this ~953 sf log home is 2 bedroom/1 bath down with large ~200sf loft up. Located close-in to town and accessible by paved roads.</p>	<p>Separate Office/Workshop</p> <p>3732C Cordial Way - \$169,000 Private & unique hexagonal 2 bd, 1.75 ba home on 1.36 treed acres. Separate 384sf. building incl. heated & finished office & workshop/storage area. Great views, wrap around deck.</p>	<p>WAS \$669,000</p> <p>RETREAT CENTER NOW - \$479,000 Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!</p>	

Commercial Properties	Historic Hotel	Baca Grande Properties
<p>Residential + Restaurant + Office WAS 495,000</p> <p>121 E. Galena - NOW \$425,000 Premiere, newly renovated dntwn commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt and 3 rentals 1st floor, one with modern commercial kitchen. Great opportunity!</p>	<p>Downtown Commercial Lots</p> <p>Lots 11 & 12 Blk 43. - \$85,000 Rare opportunity to purchase 2 downtown commercial lots. 2 each 50x142. Utilities available. Prime location for development.</p>	<p>WAS 349,000</p> <p>Willow Springs (Moffat) NOW \$299,000 Historic building 9Bd/3BA 3600sf; detached studio, artesian well. Great business potential</p>
<p>46 Camino Baca Grande - \$257,000 Fully Leased Professional center. 2 story structure is ~2600 sf. and conveniently located near the entrance to the Baca on a nicely treed 1.05 acre lot- plenty of parking.</p>	<p>637 Panorama Way - \$699,000 Magnificent ~3000sf 3bd/3ba 1-1/2 story custom home with exquisite detailing & beautiful woodwork. 750sf det. garage w/studio apt. above. Stone fireplace, net meter solar, Viking appliances.</p>	<p>3926 Cordial Way - \$599,000 Secluded 4100+sf home 4bd/3.5ba 550sf guest house plus 2 car garage on 23.749 acres on Cottonwood Creek. Lovely views and privacy!</p>

Baca Grande Properties						
<p>Rustic Elegance</p> <p>923 Blue Spruce OL - \$439,000 Handcrafted home w/ spectacular views. ~2350sf on 1.93 acres. 2bd/2ba, spacious artist studio& meditation room. Surround windows & south facing 2nd floor deck</p>	<p>Was \$459,000</p> <p>786C Panorama Way - \$427,000 This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.</p>	<p>Was \$499,000</p> <p>1234C Brookview NOW - \$419,000 Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.</p>	<p>Was \$429,000</p> <p>1266C Forest Grove OL - \$375,000 Extraordinary ~2238sf on .97 acres, 2bd/2ba home with 408sf sunroom, 624sf 1 bd apt over 624 sf detached garage. Custom built. Magnificent views at top of Chalet I.</p>	<p>Was \$349,000</p> <p>483C Point of Rock OL - \$333,000 Teahen Construction, Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2-story home on 1.946 acres Attached 2 car garage, detached studio. High energy efficiency & quality throughout.</p>	<p>Was \$349,000</p> <p>4262C Serene Way - \$299,900 Immaculate 2500SF 3- level home on .98 acres 5bd/2.75ba. Custom finishes, fire resistant, energy efficient, magnificent views.</p>	<p>MILLION \$ VIEWS!</p> <p>909C Brookview Way - \$299,000 Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca iWaiting for the right person to complete the vision. 2324 sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576 sf guest house w/kitch.</p>

<p>A lovely sanctuary</p> <p>3919 Cordial Way - \$299,000 Two story, 3BD/2.5BA ~2400 sf home has a walled courtyard & 4 intimate decks w/ great views. Southwest style home gracefully adorned with fine details and finishes.</p>	<p>Bonus Cabin/Studio</p> <p>733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$295,000 This 1972sf 2bd/1.75ba/large studio/office Southwestern style strawbale home is located on 1.14 acres at end of secluded cul-de-sac. Adjacent lots avail.</p>	<p>5 Lots!</p> <p>1202 Hilltop Way - \$295,000 Lee Mitchell custom-built, 3bd/2ba home on 5-Chalet 1 lots. Fine finishes, radiant floor heat & framed views.</p>	<p>Rustic meets Modern - 15.31 acres</p> <p>22 Alpine Way - \$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>Very Private - Was \$297,000</p> <p>358 Birch Road - \$289,000 Off grid home with 3bd/1.75ba, office, 2nd living room, modern efficient kitchen & elegant bathrooms-an inspired renovation. Natural light, expansive & unobstructed views.</p>	<p>REDUCED! Was \$275,000</p> <p>1255C Eagle OL - \$267,000 Beautiful 2075sf 2-story home with 2bd/2ba/office/sun room, Chalet I on 1.766 acres, private cul-de-sac. Dramatic view windows, vaulted ceilings, master suite w/soak tub.</p>	<p>149 Moonlight Way NOW \$250,000 Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2118sf home w/ 2 living areas - extensively updated & immaculate condition. Cathedral ceilings & a wall of glass w/ great views. Adjoins greenbelt & creek.</p>
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<p>New Construction Reduced! Was \$269,000</p> <p>1647C Willow Creek Way - \$249,000 Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1780sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt. Views.</p>	<p>New Construction</p> <p>1738C Willow Creek - Way \$239,000 New Paul Koppana strawbale eco-friendly home high in Chalet 1. 3bd/2ba, 1532sf on .91acres. Strong passive solar. Solar radiant floor heat & domestic hot water. Energy efficient.</p>	<p>WAS \$260,000</p> <p>4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$239,000 Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available. Built by Paul Koppana.</p>	<p>Magnificent Views!</p> <p>764 Indian Hill OL - \$229,000 This sunny 3 bedroom 2 bath ~1800+ sq. ft. home. 2 living areas- with magnificent views from interior & deck. Detached 576 sq.ft garage & studio. Open plan & energy efficient.</p>	<p>Spacious & Gracious</p> <p>4114C Cordial Way - \$217,000 2171sf 3bd/2ba w/loft and extra room up on 1.021 acres of wooded lot. Decks and 2 car garage. Rastra walls. Spacious open floor plan. Adjacent lot available.</p>	<p>Includes Lot 1446</p> <p>2664C Happy Hollow - \$215,000 This spacious 2356sf home On 1.041 acres with 4bd/2ba, 2 separate dining areas + gardens, carport & workshop! Large windows-sunshine & awesome views. Passive solar & woodstove.</p>	<p>1447 Chaparral Way - \$212,000 This 1440sf 2bd/2ba home-complete remodel with bamboo flooring, Jenn-Air stainless appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, travertine bathrooms, ma ba soak tub.</p>
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<p>3356C Camino Del Rey - \$210,000 2 story, 1981sf, 2bd/1.75ba home w/ passive solar sunroom - great views on .864 acres . Master suite w/ clawfoot tub, pine floors, pellet stove. Propane heat, great appliances.</p>	<p>1468C Horseshoe Trail - \$209,500 Spectacular 360 degree views, immaculate, almost new 3 bd/2ba. Large windows, granite counter tops, hickory custom cabinets in kitchen and bathrooms. 2 stone patios</p>	<p>1885 Sentinel Point OL - \$209,000 Like-new Swedish cope log home on 1.425 acres. 3bd/2ba & is beautifully crafted w/ hardwood floors. Views and natural lighting complete this immaculate home. Great price!</p>	<p>Was \$239,000</p> <p>451C Chaparral - \$209,000 1543-sf 2BD/1BA w/ sunroom, great room, patios, Roof top balcony with exquisite tree-top views. 4 lots On 1.921 acres.</p>	<p>Detached Studio</p> <p>1540C Willow Creek Way - \$199,000 This classic farmhouse has 3bd/2.5ba, large deck w/hot tub, 2 screen porches, hardwood floors, large studio w/bath & kitchenette. Great Deal!</p>	<p>Gorgeous Views!</p> <p>1740C Willow Creek Way - \$185,000 This 1 1/2 story home located on 1.32 acres has 3bd/2ba with a downstairs studio. In addition it has a glassed-in sunroom with magnificent views. Wood floors downstairs.</p>	<p>Was \$174,000</p> <p>40 N Crestone OL NOW \$169,500 Built in 1971, renovated in 2010-2012. 1.5 story, 1624sf home with 2bd/1.5 ba/sunroom/study/office/utility. Located on private cul-de-sac close to town, backs to greenbelt.</p>
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<p>2747CR Easy Way - \$169,000 A unique 2 story, 1768sf, 3bd/2ba home in Chalet 2, 1.86 acres. Brick floors, rock walls, wood ceilings. Passive solar w/ ETS heater, propane heater & woodstove. Detached shed.</p>	<p>Great retreat home!</p> <p>936 Spanish Creek Trail \$159,000 1449 sf 1or 2 bd/1ba house on 1.57 acres backs to greenbelt and Spanish Creek. Unique design w/ open floor plan and rasta exterior walls. Passive solar.</p>
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SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

*by Lisa Bodey,
BGFDPublic Education Officer*

Fire innately satisfies the senses and our primal urge to play with the elements. The smell of pinion and juniper burning, the sound of crackling and popping, the visual trance induced by flames, the grounding feel of wood . . . but I think I will continue to keep the taste end of the senses satisfied by chocolate!

Many of us choose to use wood stoves and fireplaces as our primary heat sources, so let's take a look at wood as a fuel source. Firewood is classified into two different categories: softwoods and hardwoods. The term softwood describes evergreen, or conifer trees, which keep their leaves year round (pinion, juniper, ponderosa). The term hard-

wood applies to leaf-shedding or deciduous trees, which means they lose their leaves in the fall (aspen, cottonwood).

In general, softwoods are much easier to ignite, are readily available in our geographic area, put off a more aromatic smell and may be the best choice for having the ambiance of a fire while generating heat for your home. However, there are exceptions depending on the variety of the softwood and the BTU rating. A British Thermal Unit (BTU) is the amount of heat energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree F. This is the standard measurement used to state the amount of energy that a fuel has as well as the amount of output of any heat-generating device. So,

the higher the BTU number for the variety of firewood, the higher the heat produced.

Hardwoods are harder to ignite, don't put off as much aromatic scent, but generally give off more BTUs, thus our desire for that nice piece of oak before heading to bed. However, they are not as readily available in Colorado and the price is higher if you are buying firewood.

Firewood in our region usually consists of pinion, juniper, cottonwood, aspen and occasionally a ponderosa pine. Permits for cutting can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office in Saguache for \$10/cord.

If you are considering purchasing firewood, be cautious when hearing the terms face cord, firewood sold by weight, and pickup beds being used to describe measurements for firewood that is for sale. These terms make it difficult to know exactly what volume of wood you are actually getting. Always ask what the cubic feet are for those terms and that will help you compare accurate volumes and prices. The standard measurement of a true cord of wood is 4'x4'x8' or 128 cubic feet. This should be the amount once your firewood is cut, split and stacked.

Firewood with low moisture content produces more BTUs than green firewood, so you should ask if the wood you intend to purchase is seasoned or not. Green or unseasoned firewood is freshly cut and/or split, has a higher moisture content and releases less heat when burned. Seasoning of softwoods

generally takes 6-12 months and hardwoods may require 1-2 years to season properly, but your wood will burn hotter, longer & cleaner. Splitting allows air to come through the cells of the wood, not the bark, so it is best to cut your firewood to length for seasoning. Because our climate is so dry, it is not necessary to cover the wood unless we receive heavy amounts of rain or snowfall.

BTUs per cord for Rocky Mountain firewood*:

- Aspen – 14.7
- Cottonwood – 16.8
- Rocky Mountain Juniper- 21.6
- Ponderosa Pine- 21.7
- Spruce – 21.7
- Lodgepole Pine- 22.3
- Western Juniper – 26.4
- Douglas Fir – 26.5
- Pinion Pine – 27.1

While you are enjoying your cozy fires this winter, don't forget to check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and then test the alarms.

*Firewoodresource.com

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2013 Home Sales

<p>SOLD Curt's Ole Country Store \$575,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 780C Palomino OL \$520,000</p> <p>SOLD 1230C N Indian Bend \$399,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 340C Palomino Way \$395,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 1342CRR Badger Rd \$295,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 3615C Splendid Terrace \$239,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 62 E. Horse Tooth Trail \$235,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 233CR Sweetgrass OL \$219,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 2676C Happy Hollow Way \$215,000</p> <p>SOLD Townhouse 6 \$199,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 3713 Enchanted Way \$195,000</p> <p>SOLD 3435C W Graceful Ct \$184,999</p> <p>SOLD 3486C Graceful Way \$179,900 *</p> <p>SOLD 3862 Cordial Way \$169,000</p> <p>SOLD 1380 Chaparral Way \$149,000</p>	<p>SOLD 3735C Jubilant Way \$149,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 294C Palomino Way \$159,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 1381 Saddlerock Trail \$159,000 *</p> <p>SOLD Townhouse 9 \$159,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 3485 E. Graceful Ct \$154,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 356 N.Chaparral Way \$149,000</p> <p>SOLD 2721 Happy Hollow Way \$149,000</p> <p>SOLD 826C Ridgeview Way \$140,000</p> <p>SOLD 4407 Twin View Terrace \$129,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 151 Moonlight Way \$119,000 *</p> <p>SOLD 600 Heatherbrae \$99,000</p> <p>SOLD 364 E. Birch Trail \$89,000 *</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT 3766 Carefree Way \$148,000*</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT 98 Skyview Way 134,000*</p>
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* Denotes Listed and Sold

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\$495,000
PRICE REDUCTION: Established B&B Retreat Business. Property features Main house w/ 2 queen bedrooms, and exquisite Master Suite w/ separate entrance. Cottage includes kitchenette. Call Shirley on 666804R.



\$385,000
Well constructed beautiful home with additional 437sq. ft. Studio apt. with full bath, kitchen, and deck, and 475 sq. ft. light filled Artist Studio. Call Shirley on 680249R



\$334,500
Creek meanders thru this 2.72 acre lot. New builders home has lots of upgrades. Including fireplace in Master Suite.,3 bedrooms/ 2 baths, open floor plan. Kitchen features gas, range, dishwasher, disposal. Call Shirley on 685498



\$299,500
Lovely contemporary home on 8 acres. Creek runs thru the backyard, greenhouse, studio apt., open floor plan, exceptional price for this beautiful property. Call Shirley on 673795R



\$289,000
5 acres with north Crestone creek running through it just north of the town. With a 960 sq. ft home secluded near the creek. About 200 feet of creek with property on both sides of the creek. Call Terry on 681507R



\$259,500
Lovely contemporary styled 2 story with expansive views from the upstairs porch. Priced well below the last appraisal, seller is out of country and says "sell!" Downstairs is Call Shirley on 674420R set up as a separate residence.



\$249,000
5 bedroom 3.75 bath home with additional room off Master suite. Nice open living room with cozy fireplace. Kitchen has great pantry, and plenty of cabinet space. Attached 2 car garage with storage and extra bathroom. Call Shirley on 676577R



\$239,000
The kitchen features, concrete counters, with all appliances, and separate dining, and living room area. 2 spacious bedrooms, and bathrooms with custom vanities. and jetted shower in the master bath. Call Shirley on 678163R.



\$239,000
Completely off grid on 40 acres. Home. Gas stove, gas refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, pecan custom cabinets, breakfast nook, and lovely formal dining room. Spacious living room with wood stove, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Call Shirley on 678163R.



\$239,900
This home features Jenn-Air stove, all stainless appliances including side-by-side refrigerator, microwave, and built-in wine cooler. Large master suite and 3 additional bedrooms. Three lovely fireplaces, and a 3 car garage. Call Shirley on 682021.



\$239,000
Beautiful 3 bed room 2 bath home, designed by architect Ross Chapin. Bright sky lights, large windows, high ceilings and big closets. Walking distance the Charter School! Call Dara on 683599R



\$229,500
This home has 40 acres with Artesian Well. The barn has several stalls and storage. The lovely home has 3 spacious bedrooms and 3 baths. The Master Suite has a huge walk-in closet, and a newer bathroom addition. Call Shirley on 684796R



\$218,000
One level ranch, close in to new Charter School, on paved road. Home has been newly remodeled with fresh paint, hardwood floors, new ceiling fans, and both bathrooms have been updated with new fixtures. Call Shirley on 680230R



\$199,000
Large home 6 bedrooms, 3 baths. Open and spacious, would make great retreat for a group. Several areas could be used for meetings, etc. New hardwood floors in most of the home. Creek and very private setting. Call Shirley on 680925R



\$199,000
Complete remodel on this home in 2011, new windows, roof, exterior siding, and interior remodel. Very retro modern design, features 4 bedrooms and 2 baths on nicely treed lot in The Baca Grande. Call Shirley on 685247R



\$198,000
The perfect retreat home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with a larger Master in the upstairs loft. Living room has wood burning stove. Kitchen features built in range, oven refrigerator, and dishwasher. Nice back deck, and a front porch. Call Shirley on 685060R



\$195,000
Superbly constructed monolithic dome with R-60 energy efficiency. Spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bath home with comfortable and spacious living area. Detached, insulated and heated garage/workshop/studio. Call Shirley on 678507R



\$189,000
Walking distance to town and the Charter school. Great 3 bedroom 2 Bath house designed by Ross Chapin. Spacious rooms, large closets, high ceilings, sky lights, and beautiful balcony views of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. Call Dara on 684188R



\$188,500
This 2 story stucco home has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Open kitchen with pantry area, appliances include gas range, refrigerator, microwave, & washer, dryer. Master bedroom features walk-in closet, master bath. Call Shirley on 670054R



\$179,900
Walking distance to Dharma Ocean Institute-High up on the mountain with amazing panoramic views of mountains from upstairs deck. Beautifully treed lot with screened porch to enjoy the wildlife, and a greenhouse for the gardener. Call Shirley on 678174R



\$179,000
Great 5.25 acres for your horses or dogs. Backs to Willow Creek greenbelt for trail riding. Thoughtfully built strawbale, 3 BR, 2 BA home with lots of adobe finishes. Comfortable living space along Willow Creek greenbelt. Call Shirley on 680356R



\$179,000
Newly remodeled down town duplex, great for residential or commercial use. Close to Charter School, 5 bedroom 2 bath. Spacious living rooms and kitchens. Call Dara



\$165,000
High up on mountain strawbale home with efficient in floor radiant heat, and solar hot water 2 bedrooms 2 baths makes it the perfect retreat size home. Lots of light, and great views from the upper decks. Call Shirley on 684075R



\$145,000
Charming, quaint cabin close in to Town of Crestone, all appliances including washer, dryer. Nice vaulted ceilings in living room, with woodstove, and open floor plan. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Call Shirley on 676877R



\$120,000
Nice home on 1.468 acres on cul-de-sac. Home is set up as 2 units, with 1 bed/1 bath on each floor, and separate kitchen and laundry facilities. Large pantry, storage room, sunroom, and nicely landscaped with fenced gardens. Call ***1-888-229-2208*** for showing instructions. Call Shirley on 686849R



\$79,500
New roof, new carpet, new paint on this bank owned manufactured home on 1 acre of land in Lazy KV subdivision. Spacious living Room, and open kitchen, adjoins the separate dining area. Large Master bedroom. Call Shirley on 685243R



\$62,900
Nice open floor plan, with spacious kitchen, separate dining room, and wood burning stove. Property sold as-is, without repairs, warranties or representations. Property will be conveyed via Quit Claim Deed Call Shirley on 686116R



\$58,900
Great price for Casita Park-walking distance to the Library, tennis courts, golf and restaurant. Nice stucco finish. Property sold as is, without repairs, warranties, or representations. Property will be conveyed VIA Quit Claim Deed. Call Shirley on 686274R



\$29,500
Great buy for the horse person or someone who wants a greenhouse. Detached garage could be barn or greenhouse. Easy drive to monarch Ski area. Home needs TLC, large living room separate dining and large kitchen. Home is sold as-is, without repairs, warranties, or representations. Property will be conveyed by a Quit Claim Deed. Call Shirley on 686739R



\$27,000
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In Search of Economic Reality

Has WWII already begun?

by Ed Lyell

The continued expansion of austerity measures in Europe, and now the USA, parallel what happened in Germany after WWI.

The wealthy of the early 1920s were wallowing in massive new money as the new Federal Reserve (created in 1913) was printing money for the already wealthy Wall Street investment banks. The working class was drawn into purchasing stocks with only 10% down while banks loaned the 90%. This fueled the wild expansion of the stock market giving us the "Roaring 20s" until the bubble burst and we had the Great Depression.

In Europe their wealthy and powerful were also partying yet penalizing the average German for WWI. Although it was the German upper class that created WWI for their own greed, the majority of Germans were left with punishing debt. The average German was unemployed or underemployed. The European wealthy would not grow a real economy with real jobs for the majority, but wanted higher working class taxes to restore the money lost by the wealthy in that war. A Demagogue, Hitler, rose to fame and power by stirring up the angry, unemployed majority. The

frustrated unemployed become his new army invading other countries.

There is a parallel today in the conditions caused by today's highest-ever levels of income and wealth disparity. First the Federal Reserve prints new money and maintains low interest rates, permitting over-investing in Dot.Com stocks, causing a market crash in 2000. Then the same easy money low interest rates were used to give the middle class majority home loans based on fraudulent financial practices and layers of mortgages placed on homes in America and Europe. A \$200,000 home mortgage ended up having millions in derivative debt loaded upon it. The Fed's easy money created a bubble that burst causing trillions of dollars to be erased, since they represented no real assets.

Instead of the Wall Street banks accepting their losses, since they caused them, they used their political power to get the middle class to bail out the financial industry by printing more money and taking on more national debt. Thus, years later, we continue to have very slow economic growth in Europe and America. Unemployment and underemployment is over 20% in America and over

50% in Greece and other southern European nations. The US and European wealthy keep cutting wages while raising taxes only on the middle class, not taxing the wealthy, or even collecting the taxes owed by them.

The first armed revolutions have already started in the Middle East where most youth had no jobs and no hope while watching their leaders get all of the money. These revolutions were not about religion, but income and wealth disparity. Now Greece is being pushed into further unemployment, loss of government support and benefits while their wealthy pay less than one half the taxes they owe. Germany forces austerity on southern Europe while making increased profit from the high interest bonds used to bail out Greece and others.

Now the US Congress is pushing austerity and destroying jobs for our middle class. The Federal Reserve is loaning money to the big banks at less than 1% interest while keeping inflation under 1%, making the debtor pay the lender in precious money. The Fed is expanding debt by printing 85 billion new dollars a month yet only loaning it to the already wealthy. Wall Street banks, investors, and big corporations then purchase their own stock which drives stock indexes to record high levels. Yet there is no job creation, no real asset creation, no GDP growth, just another growing bubble.

In the late 1990's federal government spending was going down and we were paying off the national debt until President Bush cut taxes on the wealthy while doubling defense and homeland security spending in 2001. Congress and President Obama have continued this high level of spending while lowering tax revenue. Now this Congress wants to further cut government spending, including food for children. While the wealthy get

even richer, the poor suffer more and more. Congress wants to further cut higher education spending, research and development, and infrastructure spending. These activities create real physical and human capital assets. As real assets are being cut, Wall Street keeps creating new paper products on the borrowed money. Our problem is not the level of government spending but the mis-allocation, away from real investment assets into financial paper gambling.

The rising tide of frustration and pain among the majority of Americans will soon explode when they better understand the causes, and we too will have rioting in the streets. Perhaps this is why Bloomberg and other billionaires want to take guns away from the majority. What started among the Middle East oppressed is spreading into southern Europe and will soon be in America.

Ed Lyell, PhD, Professor of Business and Economics, Adams State University, edlyell@amigo.net

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Communicating With the Communities We Serve



Loren Howard
 CEO San Luis Valley REC

SLVREC's newsletter, the *Newsboy* is a long-standing and successful method of communicating with SLVREC members. About 5 years ago, the design of the *Newsboy* was updated to bring a fresh look to this communication. Once again, a new updated design of the newsletter is being evaluated. If you have thoughts on how to improve the *Newsboy*, please communicate with SLVREC staff. Be assured that the *Newsboy's* tradition will continue. In addition to considering a redesign of

the *Newsboy*, several different new or improved ways of communicating with you are being studied.

Before the end of November, SLVREC's website will have a new look. The new look and design should make it easier to use the website and the information and content of the web site will be maintained and updated on a timelier basis. The web site is an important place to get information about the events and work of your cooperative.

In addition to updating the web site, SLVREC will soon be on Facebook and Twitter. These social media outlets can provide information quickly and effectively to SLVREC members. These communication channels would have provided great ways to distribute information during the recent fire.

In addition to expanding communications through Internet channels, we are actively investigating expanding our radio presence. Radio ads are currently airing to present some to the regular messages important to our members such as energy efficiency ideas and electric safety messages. Radio is also a great medium to quickly disseminate information during emergency situations. We are working to start a weekly radio program that will include some live shows to allow listener interactions.

While all the above are useful and effective communication mechanisms, face to face interactions are usually the most effective. To that end, SLVREC staff is planning to implement community based meetings in order to present information that should be

likely useful to members and to be able to hear ideas and concerns directly from members. Currently, the annual meeting is the only scheduled meeting with direct interaction with members. These community based meetings will provide an opportunity to meet in a smaller group setting which allow closer discussion with members.

Effective communications are crucial to the success of any organization. We are working to provide more avenues to communicate with members and to improve the effectiveness of those communication channels.

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Please join us on Thursday, December 19 from 1 to 4pm for our annual Holiday Open House. We will have snacks and punch and will gladly show you around the library if you are new to the area

or have not been to the library in a while. We would love to share information about our new future library plans! If you would like to contribute goodies to the party, please let us know—we will have a sign-up sheet at the front desk. Your contributions would be much appreciated.

There are a number of new holiday selections for young readers in the children's room, and they will be displayed on the table this month. We have books on holiday traditions in other countries and of various religions, including information on the celebrations of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, and

activities for the Winter Solstice. There are holiday cookbooks and how-to guides for crafts and hand-made gifts.

In videos, who can resist *It's A Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, *White Christmas* with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *A Christmas Carol*? Other family favorites include *The Nutcracker*, *The Christmas Story*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *The Messiah*.

Just a reminder—when you change your address or phone number, please let us know so that

we can contact you if you have requests that have come in, overdue items that are accruing fines, or other library business. Please consider sharing your email address with the library so that you will automatically receive notices right before your items are due—it is a great way to cut down on overdue fines.

Note: The library will be closed for the holidays on Monday, December 23, Tuesday, December 24 and Christmas Day, as well as on New Year's Day (January 1).

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

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by Peter Anderson

In October of 1960, I saw Nikita Krushchev ride by in an open car waving to a hostile crowd of onlookers. Krushchev, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, was on his way to a Long Island estate where Russian diplomats from the UN occasionally stayed. I remember him as a portly, red-faced man, smiling and waving to the roadside spectators who held up signs and hurled insults his way. "Go Home, Pig," yelled a man standing beside me. I was a curious four-year-old wondering why everyone seemed to hate this seemingly jolly Russian.

That's the way the 1960s began for me or at least in my memory. My father, who had worked with the CIA in 1950, carried his Cold War beliefs well into the 1970s. Shortly after the Cuban Missile Crisis in May of 1962, he considered building a bomb shelter in our suburban back yard. I was glad that he opted for a swimming pool instead. But the threat of Communism continued to haunt him. He believed in the Domino Theory, whereby Communists were out to subdue the world one country at a time. He was also convinced that Communist sympathizers, maybe even spies, had infiltrated colleges and universities where students were increasingly getting involved in the anti-war movement.

My father was appalled that his teenage son seemed to be leaning toward the anti-war side of the equation. It may have been the music. The first record I bought was *Paul Anka's Greatest Hits*. That was safe enough. But the next one was Peter, Paul, and Mary, a gateway record to other dangerous folkies and lefties—Bob Dylan among them—who eventually plugged in their guitars. Then it was Katy-bar-the-door. Pretty soon, the demonic communists of the counter culture were subverting my elementary school book fair. Somehow school sensors had failed to nix a book called *Voices from the Love Generation*, a collection of interviews with counter culture thinkers from San Francisco. I read that book at the tender age of thirteen. Despite my father's frequent lectures, I was slipping away.

I mention all of this because of a recent gathering here in Crestone, where many of my elders spent an evening reflecting on their

experiences of the tumultuous, now mythic, 1960s. I listened with great interest as my neighbors offered first-hand accounts of civil rights demonstrations, early experiments (funded by the CIA among others) with LSD near Stanford University in California, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, the March on Washington, and the protests at the Democratic Convention in 1968.

A gathering of people reflecting on the 60s in another community would likely have taken on a much different tone than the one I attended here in Crestone, a town that sometimes seems like a refuge (or reservation) for alternative doers and thinkers. Here, the conversation was thoughtful, but also nostalgic for the passions of those times. It is easy to think of Crestone as a cultural anomaly in this agricultural valley and in many ways it is, although the population of our county, and of the valley as whole, tends toward the blue end of the political spectrum.

But I also think of Crestone of as part of a bigger historical continuum along the flanks of the Sangre de Cristos, which links us more to northern New Mexico than Central Colorado. I see the preponderance of 60s and 70s communes like New Buffalo and Lama near Taos, Libre near Gardner, and Drop City further east on the other side of the range as an upwelling of the same alternative sensibilities that led to flourishing art communities in northern New Mexico earlier on in the 20th century. Why have the Sangres attracted these alternative subcultures? I don't know. Maybe it's the light.

Now another cultural wave may be welling up. The other day, I was walking my nine-year-old daughter home from school. We passed by some new neighbors who were casually watering a huge cannabis crop in their back yard, which I assumed was legal (maybe a medical weed permit) only because it was so blatant. Already, alternative ag, such as it is around here, has become a mainstay of our local economy. My daughter will no doubt have questions as she gets older: Have you ever smoked it, Papa? And again I will be trying to find words for those heady days, now long ago, which I am still trying to understand.



The author and her granddaughter sport herb-stained tongues.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Six ways to get herbs into kids



There are many fine books written about herbs for kids, and I could refer you to many that I trust. This article is not presuming to cover that whole subject in 400 words. However, have you ever tried to get a 2-year-old to take a half cup of Horehound tea? Or have you tried to get a school-aged child to take a tincture 3 times a day, or munch on a clove of garlic? I was fortunate in two ways. One was that during my pregnancy with my younger daughter I took Chinese herbs on a daily basis. I swear the child was macerating for nine months! She could not tolerate the hideous pink antibiotic syrup she was given for ear infections, but she never met an herb she didn't like. My second bout of fortuitousness was that my daughters were 5 and 12 when I went to herb school, and provided me with actual children to practice on as I was getting my feet wet (pun not intended but acknowledged) as an herbalist.

My youngest managed to get the flu a week before I was to teach a class on herbs for kids. I took full advantage of the opportunity. We found that the best way to get garlic into her was to cut the clove in half lengthwise and tape the cut side to the bottoms of her feet. We made horehound cough drops with honey that turned out so sticky that you couldn't peel them off your teeth. We made syrups of all kinds, and teas, tinctures, glycerites, herbal popsicles, you name it!

So let's go through the list:

1. Herbal popsicles. Make an herbal tea and sweeten (if needed) with fruit juice concentrate, or other natural sweetener, freeze in popsicle molds. Great for sore throats or teething. The

cold and natural sugar can lower the immune system so use sparingly.

2. Apply a poultice to the bottoms of the feet – this works best when the child is too sick to run around, or when sleeping.

3. Herbal syrups. Children find this a very palatable way to take herbs but again be cautious with the sugars.

4. Herbal baths. Great for babies, toddlers, or anyone! French herbalist Maurice Messegue exclusively used herbs externally—baths, hand and foot baths, and poultices—with great success. In addition to being a great way to get herbs into the body, baths are so soothing that they provide an additional benefit. Make a giant tea bag with a muslin bag, or sock. Let it steep in the hot water first and then add cold water until the bath is the right temperature.

5. Herbal "candy". Mix one dose of powdered herbs into a mixture of carob powder, nut butter, natural sweetener (use your imagination here). Mix together, roll into balls, and roll in shredded unsweetened coconut. Be sure to keep extras out of reach!

6. Don't forget homeopathic remedies. They can be very powerful for babies and children and are very easy to take.

Be creative and see what works best for your child. Be sure to check with a qualified herbalist for appropriate herbs and dosage.

Dorje Root 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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New & golden or old & moldin', our garden needs 'em. Please call Janet at 719-937-3767 or stop by the Crestone Eagle office.

Real Estate Wanted

Real Estate Wanted: Long-time residents with family ties in the community seek Land contract/FSBO. Min 2 bedroom (3 preferred) with mother-in-law apt. or detached studio. 1 acre. Trees. Under 200K. Contact Caitlin: 720-351-9370, Mark: 720-979-5151 or Winter: 505-423-3098. email: cwatson406@gmail.com



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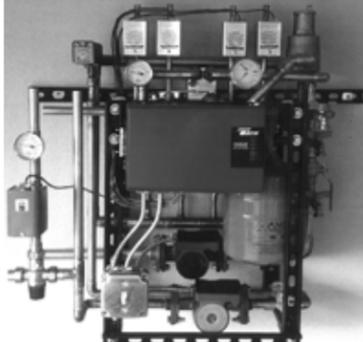
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Dependable and hardworking female is seeking work. Permanent employment preferred but will gladly do a one-time-job. I can paint, landscape and make your house sparkle! Excellent references avail. Please call: 719-496-0967

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Wanted: 6 months of house-sitting, seeking small, light, and warm. Stunning references, well-known community member, and one extremely well-behaved dog. Call (719) 588-0122

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Custom steel frame with wood treads. \$750 OBO. For more info and picture please call 805 451-5153

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Firewood ~ 2 - 4 Cord Loads ~ \$175.00 per Cord ~ Free Delivery ~ Call or Text 719-395-6253

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Send a chunk of Crestone to your loved ones! A small Crestone Conglomerate rock, complete with explanatory reprint from The Crestone Eagle, attractively packaged in a 3"x3" box for only \$5. All sales benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Available at His & Hers Hairstyling and The Crestone Eagle

GOOGLE JIM STARRY

FIREWOOD \$250 a cord—get early for \$200—3 bedroom needing a single older no pets, no smoke, Casita Park, happy house. \$350 including. 92 Toyota 4x4 pickup. \$2800. 73 Open Road \$2700, 84 Toyota Dolphin \$4500. 719-221-5059 or 815-499-1267. GOOGLE JIM STARRY

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Used Glo-Warm FB-5 unvented propane wall heater. Output max 25,000 BTU/hr. Works great. Not for bedroom use. \$50. Please email info@crestoneeagle.com.

Vehicles for Sale

Dodge Durango for Sale

2001 Dodge Durango for sale. in Crestone. clean, runs great, great tires, 145000 miles, \$3000 price.call Gary 970 443 0914

Community Service

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

CB Village is a local time bank where you can help others and gain credit for future help when you need it. Go to www.cbvillage.net or call 480-8757 to join for free.

Emotional and Spiritual Counseling

Change your life for free. "Change your mind/change your reality/expand consciousness through grace." Alice Blaszak provides free emotional and spiritual counseling to local residents. Privacy maintained. Phone Alice at 256-5670 for appointment.

Need Food? Emergency Food Supply-

Need Food? The Moffat Food Bank will provide an emergency supply of food for 3 days to anyone in need. Open 2-4 Tuesdays. Call for information at 256-4226.

Need a Caregiver?

I can help you find a local caregiver for you or a loved one. I have several names and numbers of individuals with a variety of skills and experience. (I am also looking for more trained caregivers/CNA) For in-home assistance, elderly care, ongoing illness, etc. call Kris at 719-256-4786; LM—Please speak clearly, I'll return your call.

Mountain Valley After School Program

Mountain Valley School District is excited to offer a new After School Program to MVSD k-12 students! The program will offer all kinds of activities such that aim to enhance students' academic, physical and social

skills. After School programs have been proven to increase participant's academic achievement, self-confidence and social skills while reducing participant's behavioral challenges and likeliness to engage in risky behaviors during adolescence. This is a great opportunity for our school and we are optimistic about the benefit it will have for our students. The After School Program is also actively seeking volunteers to help with art projects, tutoring, Spanish, gym games and much more! Contact Michael Clausen at clausenm@valley.k12.co.us or 655.2568 for more information.

Need Food? Crestone Food Bank is now Open

Crestone Food Bank is now open in the Crestone Town Center, SW corner of Galena & Alder. Open Wednesdays from 1-3pm, and as needed. Call Denise 256-4644.

Events

What's Happening in Crestone?

Look in the Eagle's print calendar (located in the centerfold of the first section) for northern Saguache County events as of the first of this month, or for the very latest, go online to www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar.

Free

Designing the Earth Anew Together:

We have to first together decide what the ideal world should be, before we can together start creating it! www.ModelEarth.Org

Free Manure

Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-4756.

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Hardware Store: 182 E Galena Ave
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(719) 256-5885

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

Happy Holidays from all of us
at the Crestone Mercantile



*Join us during Winterfest for hot drinks
& Cookies!

*Please watch the store for details on
how you can help those in need during
the holidays

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Ask the Weatherman
by Keno
How many days a year does the greater Crestone area see below zero temperatures?

It varies from year to year, and where you live is also an important factor, too. If you reside out in the Grants, you may see a few more subzero winter nights than those who live in the foothills.

Do note that we base this kind of data along with degree days

data, which runs from July 1 till June 30. So for our official weather station located in Chalet 1 (near the Baca firehouse), going back to the 2004-05 heating season when the records there became official, we have averaged 21 days a year with zero or below temperatures. Last season saw the second most days, at 30, and the 2007-08 heating season saw the most, with 43 days. The least number of days was 10, during the 2008-09 season.

What is the coldest location in the winter months in Colorado?

Taylor Park Dam, which is located in the next valley over from the San Luis Valley, just outside of Gunnison. Over there they average a temperature of -8°F during January and record around 90 days each winter with temperatures at or be-

low zero!

How much snow do we see in our area each year in greater Crestone?

Like temperature data, this varies from location to location, and if you live in the Grants or anywhere out in the SLV, you see a lot less snow than seen in the Crestone foothill's, with our mountains seeing the most snowfall. Our snow season runs the same as the degree days season (July 1-June 30); however, snow totals for Crestone/Baca before November 2002 are missing a lot of data, so with that in mind, our average since 1982 stands at 63.2 inches a year, and figure the average total is a few inches more than that. Now since September 2002, the weather station in Baca 1 has averaged only 55.2 inches, thanks to the droughts we have experienced in the last several years. The entire state of Colorado has also seen much lower than normal snowfall totals during this period. Before drought started to be a problem in our area in 1998, Crestone/Baca averaged 71.2 inches per snow season from 1982 till 1998, (again, that is with missing snowfall data). So no questions we do see a lot less snow these days than from what we expected to see in the past. All climatologists agree that we can expect to keep seeing less yearly snowfall for at least the next decade, if not permanently.

How many snow days do we see each snow season?

Again, I'll just go with the average since 2002-03, with data from the Baca 1 station. The total number of days with measureable snowfall (more than 0.1") is 39 days a year, with another 22 days recording a trace of snow. In case anybody is wondering about our snowpack at the station, we average 104 days a year with at least 1 inch of snow cover on the ground.

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

Oct. 21 to Nov. 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.40"

Snow: 1.9"

Measurable precipitation fell on 4 days.

Measurable snow fell on 2 days.

Measurable rain fell on 2 days.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

Total precipitation year to date

Since Jan 1: 12.32"

Total snow to date

Since Jan 1: 38.8"

Snow Season *: 7.5"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 61.6°F on October 23

Low temp: 10.2°F on November 6

Avg. high: 51.1°F

Avg. low: 24.5°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 2

Number of days with the low temperature below 32°: 28

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 2.5 mph

Highest gust: 30 mph on October 28 and 29

Main direction: Out of the Southeast.

Weather summary:

Temperatures for the period were above average and precipitation was below average, and for the first time in ages I have no new weather records to report.

Outlook for December:

We don't normally see a lot of precipitation in December, with the average of .58" being the second lowest total of the year, tied with January (only February sees less). All of the precip comes in the form of snow, with 8.6" being the average for the month. The most precipitation seen in December took place in 2007 when 1.79" was recorded, and the most snowfall was 21.6" in 1983.

Temperature-wise, the normal highs and lows for the first week of the month average 36° and 11°, and by month's end are down to 33° and 7°. The highest temp ever recorded in the month was 58°, set 4 different times on the first 4 days of the month (Dec 1-3 in '95 and Dec 4, 1998), and the lowest reading was -18°, set twice, on December 23, 1990, and then again on December 8, 2005.

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



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Shop Locally FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CRESTONE CELEBRATES WINTERFEST DEC. 6, 7 & 8

The Annual Crestone WinterFest is just around the corner! This year's seasonal kick-off of Crestone's holiday fun will be December 6, 7 and 8. Mark your calendars and invite your out-of-town friends for the magical, cheer-filled celebration of Crestone holiday spirit.

The Crestone Artisans Gallery opens the festivities on Friday night. The gallery will be featuring new work by area artists and special holiday music. Hot cider and wine with holiday snacks will be served during the opening from 4 to 6pm. Afterward, go across the park and join the campfire and singing where area youth will be hosting the event. The Bliss Restaurant will be offering dinner, and of course, the usual beverage selection and camaraderie until closing.

Saturday begins with the traditional Gift Bazaar in a centralized

location this year: the new Crestone Charter School. Hours are 10am to 5pm on Saturday, and 11am to 4pm on Sunday. A variety of craftsmen and fine artists will offer new and exciting products and gift ideas, as well as old favorites you have come to expect. Look for wooden toys, fine fibers and knitted items, special ornaments, natural beauty products, handmade soaps, leather wrapped jewelry, beadwork and antler jewelry, and much more. Chokurei and other vendors will be offering delectable warm foods at the Charter School both days.

Robin Blankenship will have that beautiful horse and cart you've seen driving around town by the Charter School, carrying a load of pumpkin bread and hot cider between 11:30am and 1:30pm on both Saturday and Sunday. It will make traveling between the school and town a

charming delight.

Santa will be arriving on Saturday. We expect him to land sometime around 2pm. Who knows what goodies he'll bring for good little boys and girls? Watch out, you may see him strolling around town, or perhaps he'll hitch a ride behind a horse, or maybe even a reindeer. We'll also have storytellers and listen to musicians play special music to build the holiday mood.

So put on your holiday spirit, get out your shopping list, and support your local artists and craftsmen. For more information on how you can participate, call Mati Fuller at 256-5330. Special thanks to our Early Bird Angel sponsors The Crestone Mercantile and the Artisans Gallery for their support. Thank them early and often by sharing the generosity and shopping locally!

ANNOUNCING THE 1ST ANNUAL WINTERFEST COOKIE CLASSIC

Dig out Granny's best recipe, or submit your own delectable twist on a homemade favorite. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite holiday cookie to the Mercantile on Friday December 6. Guest judges' votes will be counted and announced on December 8 at 2pm. Winning baker will receive a framed certificate, their picture in The Crestone Eagle, and a special thank you gift! Register by calling Moira at 719-256-5990.

CRESTONE

CRESTONE ARTISANS GALLERY



Crestone Artisans Gallery is an artist cooperative showing the works of 24 local artists and crafts persons. We have a wide variety of mediums including: jewelry, glass, wood, paper, oil, watercolor & acrylic wall art, leather work, textiles, pottery & photography. Our members are creating special gift items for the season in all price ranges. Please join us for our Winterfest Gallery Opening on Friday, December 6 from 2-4 and meet the artists while enjoying live music and refreshments! We will be open extended hours during the holiday season beginning in November: daily from 11-5, closed on Tuesday.

CRESTONE ARTISANS GALLERY



Corner of Cottonwood & Galena in Downtown Crestone
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DECEMBER HOURS

OPEN DAILY 11 - 4
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Open Christmas Eve Day!
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Crestone Artisans Gallery
representing 24 local artisans & craftpersons.

Join us for our
Winterfest Reception
Friday, Dec. 6th, 2-5 pm

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The Ragpicker, located off the hallway of the Sangre de Cristo Inn, has a collection of over 2500 books, mostly gently used. Some of the available books: books on religious and spiritual topics. Health related books, herbology and other alternative/natural healing. Cookbooks, vegetarian, vegan, macrobiotics, etc. Raw food. Nutrition. Massage. Yoga, books on alternative building, gardening, and farming. Arts and Crafts. Regional books. Field guides, Hiking, camping, survival. Metaphysics. Science. History. Psychology, self-help. And more. Also some fiction.

Both new and used books can be special ordered, and usually take a week to ten days to arrive. The Ragpicker Shop also sells cards made by Carmin using her photographs, and jewelry using armadillo shell. Gift certificates are available and can be used for books that are in the shop, for special orders, or for cards or jewelry.



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if you mention this ad. Cathy Amenta has been a Nationally Certified Therapeutic Massage & Bodyworker since 1997.

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Chokurei Farm Store and Yak n' Cracker Café believes that the future health of our community and planet lies in keeping it local, organic, and GMO-free. Shopping locally creates jobs for your friends and family within the community, supports economical growth and sustainability, uses less fossil fuels, and encourages neighbors to come together in a loving, symbiotic way. This holiday, consider giving loved ones gift certificates for a nutritious, organic meal, or stuff stockings with scrumptious homemade desserts, yak jerky, fiber, greeting cards, music and more! Know where your food comes from and feel good about your holiday spending this year!




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CLAY ART CENTER

This holiday season be sure to stop by your local art center, Clay Art. We have whimsical animal sculptures by Sara Eubanks to make you smile, small birds and tree greenmen to decorate your outdoor space by Judy Arnold, wonderful one-of-a-kind pots and sculptures by Jim Moore, and Lynn Drake's new series of work "From the Earth" pottery that is finely thrown on the wheel and stretched to resemble cracked earth or tree bark. Our gallery is brimming with mugs, bowls, and functional work to enjoy daily. We are open Wednesday thru Saturday 10 to 5 or by appointment and are located in the Sangre de Cristo Inn in downtown Crestone. Stop by.



CRESTONE MERCANTILE

Happy Holidays from the Crestone Mercantile!

While everyone needs to go to "town" once in a while to get away from the quiet pace of Crestone, it is no longer a necessity! Holiday shopping can now be done without ice-packed roads, crowded parking lots, and endless lines of shoppers.

The Crestone Mercantile grocery store can meet all of your holiday cooking needs. We have a full line of conventional goods and have added an extraordinary number of organic and natural products this year. The Crestone Hardware and Lumber store is much more than just hardware! We have a gigantic selection of items that are just right for that special holiday gift. From dolls to sleds—we have what you're looking for!

Unlike the big box stores, we're right here, we care about you, and we'll have refreshments throughout the shopping season!



MAHA LAKSHMI SHOP

Located at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, the shop has a wide assortment of gifts and devotional items, primarily from India, ranging in price from \$1 to \$666. Such items as: om purses; bindis; brass statues (from 1 inch to 48 inches); silk scarves and wall hangings; incense; Indian clothes and jewelry; crystals; calendars; journals; candles; cards; books; and music make it a great store to find all of your gift needs. They invite you to visit or go to their website at www.BabajiAshram.org and click on the Maha Lakshmi Shop. All proceeds from the shop go to support the Ashram and its work. Hours: 9-5 daily, 256-4108 or 4185.



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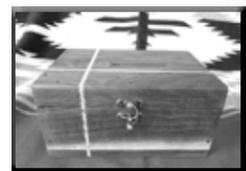
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ALAMOSA

TREASURE ALLEY

Voted "most interesting inventory" in the "Best of Alamosa County" 2012 awards.

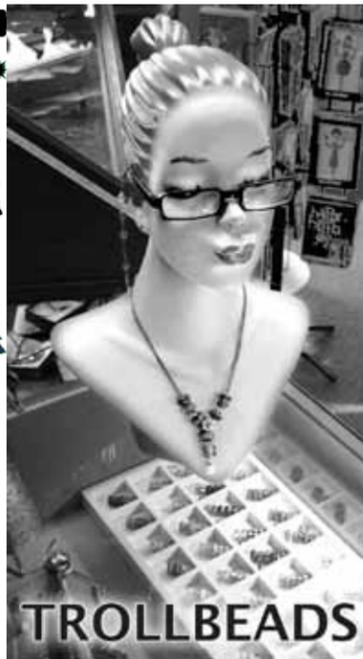
Happy Holidays from Treasure Alley. We have many new products in our 18th year! Our clothing selection continues to expand . . . great tops and sweaters and lots of scarves in all of the best fabrics.

Express your sentiment with a Lenny and Eva bracelet. Vera Bradley designs has now come to the SLV and the fall and winter handbags are just the best. We have a great selection. Visit Treasure Alley for our Annual Holiday Open House and Trollbeads Trunk Show on December 6 and 7.

Watch for Vera specials at that time too!

Treasure Alley is open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and beginning November 17, Sundays 12-4 for the holiday season. Treasure Alley is at 713 Main Street in Alamosa.

Hope to see you soon!



TROLLBEADS

BVH HOBBIES

When Matt Abbey, manager of the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad came to us and asked if he could open a small hobby shop in the Green Spot . . . we said ABSOLUTELY!

And thus . . . BVH Hobbies was born. Matt showcases model cars and trucks for all levels. He has a full line of rockets (with all the accessories), Bachman train sets, science kits, and Testor paints. How about Da Vinci models? Or what about a balsa wood airplane or glider—what a great stocking stuffer—for girl or boy. If we don't have it, Matt will try and get it for you . . . just let him know.

P.S. A Gift Certificate always works!



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... And The Best*

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- Trollbead Bracelets
- Interior Decor • Handbags

Treasure Alley

Mon-Fri 9am~6pm, Sat 10am~5pm
Sun 12pm~4pm
713 Main Street, Alamosa
719.587.0878



LIGHTSHINE MUSIC

Come in and browse our holiday specials and our always low-priced guitars, basses, mandolins, banjos, horns, amps, PA's, speakers, gear, pedals, cables, accessories, books, CDs, DVDs, and lots more. We have qualified instrument and amplifier repair personnel, guitar lessons, live sound set-up, on-site piano tuning. We can help with most of your music needs. Give us a call or stop in. "NO COVER" Hoping all our customers have a safe and happy holiday from the staff at Lightshine Music.

GREEN SPOT GARDEN CENTER & ANTIQUES

Ruthie and Larry Brown are at the end of their 11 years in business at 711 State Ave. in Alamosa. When trying to list the products carried at the "Spot" you need to understand that it would take the rest of this page to do justice to our inventory. And so . . . we'd like to invite you in for a cup of cocoa, coffee or cider and you can see for yourself. The Green Spot is open Monday thru Saturday 10am-5:30pm and Sundays from noon to 4. If we can help you this holiday season, please let us know. AND THANKS for your support in the past . . . we appreciate your business more than you will ever know!



P.S. Save the evening of December 20, as we will be hosting a special evening with Don Richmond entitled "Fellowship and Memories"! Details to follow!



*Inside
The Green Spot!*

**Science Kits
Testor Paints
DaVinci Models
Bachman Train Sets
Model Cars and Trucks
Rockets with Accessories**

711 State Ave. • Alamosa 589-6362
Open 7 days a week.
Mon-Sat 10am-5:30 pm • Sun 12pm-4pm

Green Spot

Garden Center & Antiques

**Fairy Gardens • KOPA Botanicals
COMPLETE year-round garden supplies
Antiques & Collectibles on two floors
Ladybugs, Mealworms, Feeder Fish and Crickets**

*Join us Friday evening, December 20th for
"Fellowship and Memories" with Don Richmond!*

711 State Ave. • Alamosa 589-6362
Open 7 days a week.
Mon-Sat 10am-5:30 pm • Sun 12pm-4pm

HEARTSTRINGS & HEIRLOOMS

Heartstrings and Heirlooms is a cozy quilt shop nestled in the heart of the San Luis Valley at 616 Main Street in Alamosa. Come in and feel the fabric! We also offer a wide variety of classes. Call or come in and leave your email address, then receive our newsletter with class descriptions and a calendar. Our shop offers a variety of services: hemstitching around edges of baby blankets, burp cloths and tablecloths for crocheting, and long-arm machine quilting. We are an authorized BERNINA dealer and have a repair tech on site. We are also a Handi Quilt rep, and your trusted source for long-arm quilting machines. Visit US for all of your quilting needs.



SAND DUNES POOL

Sand Dunes Swimming Pool in Hooper offers many holiday gift choices. Give the gift of health & rejuvenation! Individual or family passes ranging from 1 month to a year are offered, as well as gift cards in any denomination. Gift cards may be used for admission, food, produce, clothing, & a variety of pocket knives. Lap swimming daily from 9am-10am and open swim from 10am-10pm. Closed Thursdays. Please see our ad in the A section of The Eagle.

VALLEY FOOD CO-OP

It is holiday turkey time!

Come in or call to order your holiday turkey now. We have a limited number of organic and free range turkeys for special order this season. All are on a first-come, first-served basis.

We have a newly expanded store to serve all of your holiday cooking needs. Check out our well-stocked bulk section! And while you are shopping you can enjoy lunch from our new Deli Cart. We have fresh soups and sandwiches daily and tables for your dining convenience. Hope to see you soon!

KRISTI MOUNTAIN SPORTS

In 1969, Kristi Mountain Sports first "opened their doors" inside a storage closet of a former Alamosa menswear business selling ski equipment to the locals. After a few moves and small expansions, the current owners, Eric and Lisa Burt, took over Kristi Mountain Sports in 1984 and moved to the Villa Mall where bicycles, hiking and camping equipment were added to the selection.



In 2008 Kristi Mountain Sports expanded once again to a new 10,000 square foot location in the Villa Mall, large enough to comfortably display all the gear necessary to outfit almost any human and gravity-

powered outdoor adventure the San Luis Valley has to offer. Kristi Mountain Sports is the largest outdoor store for a hundred miles in any direction and though our establishment has grown, it still remains a "Mom and Pop" shop where your business is appreciated and quality customer service is our staff's first priority.

MONTE VISTA

SLV RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative offers recipes in every edition of the cooperative's newsletter, the Newsboy. Now you can obtain a cookbook with some of the very best Newsboy recipes and help valley food banks at the same time. "Recycled Recipes from the Newsboy" includes a variety of recipes, all taken from the pages of past editions of the Newsboy or submitted by SLVREC employees and friends. Cookbooks are \$10 each at SLVREC's office or \$13.50 shipped. For every cookbook sold, SLVREC will donate \$5 to the Valley Food Bank Network. Contact SLVREC to learn more.

Valley Food Co-op
3211 Main St. Ste G. Alamosa, CO 81101 719.589.5727

We are now open on Sundays from 11:00-5:00.
Come in and enjoy our newly expanded store!!

Open Monday-Saturday 8:00am to 7:00pm
Sunday 11:00am to 5:00pm

3211 Main St • Alamosa, CO
719-589-5727

Authorized Handi Quilter Rep for all your long-arm needs!

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For the chef

If you or someone you know turns to the recipe page in SLVREC's newsletter, the Newsboy, first, then we know the perfect holiday gift! SLVREC has compiled favorite recipes from the Newsboy into a cookbook. Copies are available at SLVREC's office and by mail. Call to have a copy shipped to you today! Best of all, \$5 from the sale of every cookbook goes to the Valley Food Bank Network.

719-852-3538
800-332-7634
P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144
www.slvrec.com • power@slvrec.com

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SALIDA

ANTERO JEWELERS

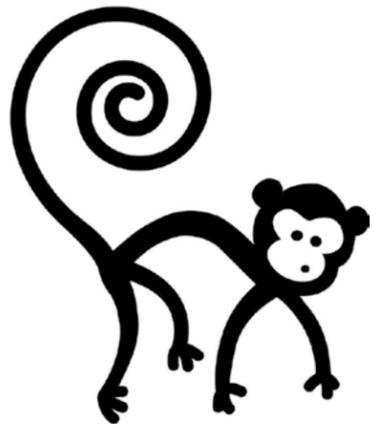
Antero Jewelers had been serving the Arkansas Valley and San Luis Valley for over 30 years. Equipped with the cutting edge of technology and carefully honed skills, master jeweler Dave Morgan and his staff offers personal, friendly service and unsurpassed quality. At Antero Jewelers, you will find meaningful and memorable holiday gifts at prices to fit any budget. Come by and see just how easy it is to create your own unique piece of beautiful jewelry for that special someone! 136 W. Hwy. 50 Salida, CO 719-539-7611



Luis Valley for over 30 years. Equipped with the cutting edge of technology and carefully honed skills, master jeweler Dave Morgan and his staff offers personal, friendly service and unsurpassed quality. At Antero Jewelers, you will find meaningful and memorable holiday gifts at prices to fit any budget. Come by and see just how easy it is to create your own unique piece of beautiful jewelry for that special someone! 136 W. Hwy. 50 Salida, CO 719-539-7611

FREE THE MONKEY CONSIGNMENT

During these tough economic times, saving money on clothing, accessories and housewares is important. Shopping in consignment stores is one way to do it. You can get high quality clothes at affordable prices—sometimes, ridiculously affordable. Stop in often. Our inventory changes daily. Allow plenty of time to shop. Our racks are filled with one-of-a-kind items, not twenty blouses of the same color and style! BYOB . . . Bring your own bag and help us promote environmentally friendly practices. Remember Re-Use . . . Re-Cycle . . . Re-Sale! We at Free the Monkey appreciate you shopping locally, and so do our 2500 consignors.



CRYSTAL SHOP IN SALIDA



Hello, Crystal people. I invite you to take a free 15 minute guided-tour video ride in the Crystal Shop in Salida. Go to YouTube - then type in Crystal Shop in Salida - and I hope you enjoy the ride. If you were to get on Skype (which is a free service and free download) I can show you over my webcam any crystal in my shop in excellent detail. Of course...what really works for me is seeing you come through my front door. I will be here 10 until 5 everyday including Sundays through the holidays. I wish for you the very, very best . . . always. Crystal Paul

FOUR WINDS GALLERY

Four Winds Gallery in downtown Salida offers one-of-a-kind abstract and landscape paintings by owner Linda Frances, \$40 and up. Popular State Tree images in originals and prints from 8 x 10 mini matted prints for \$32 to larger sizes. Richly colored monochrome "Love" series 20 x 20 inch framed prints are reduced. One matted set of Kabbalah prints of 72 Names of God are half-price, \$20 each. While they last, select poem and state print combinations are reduced to \$120 each framed, \$60-\$70 off. Seasonal holiday items and decorated gourds in stock will be available only through December 31.



*Season's Greetings
to all my friends in the SLV*

*& my admiration & love
for the countless many
who create Crestone
as the wonder it is.*

*Paul Martin
The Crystal Shop
in Salida*



Four Winds Gallery

118 F Street, Salida (719)539-6075
www.fourwindsgallery-colorado.com

Unusual, affordable, unique gifts of art with heart!

Large and small original paintings, State Tree prints, "Love" color prints, Kabbalah prints, Pottery, Jewelry, Cards, Ornaments, Photography, Glass animals, Wood Boxes, & more.

**Open Daily 10am-6pm ~ Saturdays 9am-7pm
Happy Holidays to all!**

Closed Christmas Day

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**Visit our second location!
312 E. Main, Buena Vista**

womens & mens clothing

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We ship ground, priority, or overnight, via FedEx, UPS, Postal Service, freight, van lines, or mule train. Call us at 719-539-7085 for estimates.

We copy black and white or color up to 11"x17", scan to email, scan to USB drive, fax, shred, laminate, and tell jokes. (The jokes are free.) We rent private mailboxes and can forward your mail anywhere in the world. Our customers say we have the best greeting cards and friendliest service in Salida. We're at 944 East Highway 50, between those two famous Salida landmarks, KFC and Conoco.



BRADY'S WEST

Brady's West offers Colorado-grown plant material, organic herbs and vegetables, a full-service florist, beautiful unusual gifts, hot tubs and hot tub supplies, patio furniture, and home décor. We sustainably harvest local evergreens for Christmas trees and handmade wreaths and garlands. Our Floral Department highlights creative holiday ideas, centerpieces, and gifts handmade by our talented local artists. Sunshine is always FREE in the greenhouse and we welcome you to come soak it in while getting inspired for the upcoming planting season.

We're in Salida, on County Road 107, just off Highway 50 downhill from the Burger King. Call 719-539-6400 or go to bradyswest.com for directions, maps, and more gardening information.



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Kaleidoscope TOYS

Unique Educational Toys & Games • Quality European Toys • Children's Books • Infant Clothing & Gifts • Arts & Crafts • Fun Jewelry & Novelties

Remember your neighborhood toy store for fun and unique gifts this holiday season!

116 F. Street, Downtown Salida www.kaltoys.com
719-530-0533 • OPEN Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Now carrying Legos!



KALEIDOSCOPE TOYS

Kaleidoscope Toys is a specialty toy store in downtown Salida and is a member of ASTRA (American Specialty Toy Retailing Assn.). ASTRA is sponsoring the fourth annual Neighborhood Toy Store Day on November 9, a day to celebrate the value of locally owned businesses and their impact on the community. Kaleidoscope Toys will be focusing on fun events for the whole family on Neighborhood Toy Store Day. There

will be a selection of toys and games available to play with. Customers can do a fun scavenger hunt and receive a special prize. We will also be making ornaments to hang on our tree in Holiday Park. Call 719-530-0533 for more information.

FIRST STREET FLOORING ON THIRD

Owners Aaron and Pip Conrad have been in the business for over 7 years. We sell all kinds of floor coverings including carpet, tile, hardwood, linoleum, vinyl and cork. We sell blinds: honeycomb, slatted, sunscreen and more. We also sell and service Oreck vacuums. We offer free estimates for all blinds and flooring. Our reputation is upheld by our customer's satisfaction and we work hard to achieve that. As residents of Saguache County, we believe in supporting both our home community and that of Chaffee County. Thank you for buying locally. Dollars spent here, stay here.



KRIVANEK JEWELERS

Mark Krivanek has been in business in Salida for 20 years selling fine jewelry and repairing fine jewelry, faceting gems, mining local gems, selling and repairing watches. Mark Krivanek is a Graduate Gemologist, Geologist, and Master Stone Cutter. Krivanek Jewelers is the evolution of Mark's success. Krivanek Jewelers has expanded its services and jewelry line to include estate jewelry and antique clocks as well as improving their selection of diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds and local gems such as Mount Antero aquamarines. Mark is also a coin dealer and collector, which buys silver and gold items, handling estates and helping with liquidations of fine jewelry. We would like to invite you to visit and shop for any of your jewelry needs. Once in a while we have a large sale and this November is our Anniversary Sale. 20% to 50% off of store stock items. We will be giving away a 1 oz silver eagle every week to one lucky winner and a 1/10 oz gold eagle at the end of November. So stop by Krivanek Jewelers in Salida, located in the Historic District, 101 F Street. 719- 539-7493

If you want a perfect gift, buy your partner an Oreck vacuum. But...if you want a perfect year, buy them a new living room carpet.



FIRST STREET Flooring On Third

129 West Third Street, Salida
719-539-6182 | www.FirstStreetFlooring.com

ANNIVERSARY SALE
Nov. 1 - Christmas
20-50% off select items
throughout our entire inventory of
diamonds, watches, precious gems

Krivanek Jewelers

OUR BIGGEST SALES EVENT EVER!

*Come in to register for our weekly giveaways!
We will give way one 1-ounce silver coin each week
plus
One 1/10-ounce gold coin at the end of the month*

101 F Street, Salida • 719.539.7493 • Tuesday thru Saturday 10am-5pm



BRADY'S WEST GARDEN & FLORAL

**Local fresh-cut Christmas trees
handmade wreaths and garland**

**Holiday gifts by local artisans:
Hand-Turned Wood, Decorative Gourds, Jewelry, Hats, Scarves**

719-539-6400 • 7121 County Rd 107 Salida, CO 81201

**Customer Appreciation Party!
Saturday, Dec 7th
5-8 pm**

SALIDA

MIXING BOWL

Thank you, faithful customers from the valley!

This is the Mixing Bowl's 8th holiday season and we have some new and wonderful additions here at our store in downtown Salida. We have expanded our food line to include Salida-made Don't Go Nuts soy butters in 5 different flavors and all natural energy bars in 6 unique flavors. We are featuring brand new Pinto Barn all natural and organic loose leaf teas in 4 flavors, Asian Plum Vanilla, Bavarian Cream, Lemon Mint and Lavender Vanilla, all made in Salida. You can also buy products from Pinto Barn's premier line, Sacred Sleep, which includes all natural Eucalyptus sheets, Alpaca throws and soy candles. There's a gift for everyone on your list. Just let us help you find it. Then we'll wrap it with all the



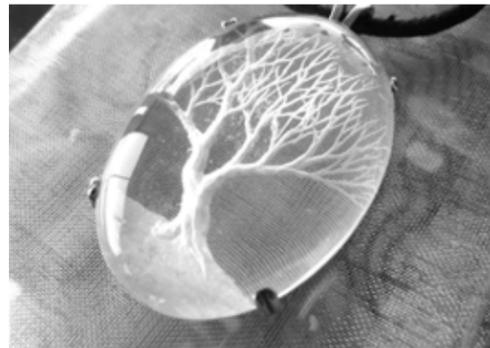
trimmings because you're part of the Mixing Bowl family. Please come by, taste some gourmet foods and give us a chance to serve you. Happy holidays from the Mixing Bowl Staff.



MOFFAT

GHOST HORSE GIFT GALLERY

Ghost Horse Gift Gallery on Road T and Hwy. 17 is celebrating their 1st anniversary this holiday season! We greatly appreciate all the local support and enthusiasm for the gallery and the unique artwork of gemstone sculptor and intaglio designer Jack Williamson. Stop and shop for a variety of metaphysical gifts and cards for any budget plus our rare, high quality crystal specimens, for collection and energy work. We are



now carrying flower essences, hand-knit scarves, goat milk lotions, soaps, posters, and natural bee products. Open 6 days a week from noon to six, and noon to five on the week-ends. Closed Tuesdays. Please check out our new convenient e-store too: www.ghosthorsegiftgallery.com and join us on Facebook: [facebook.com/GhostHorseHollowGifts](https://www.facebook.com/GhostHorseHollowGifts).

SALIDA CUTLERY AND SMOKE SHOP

Salida Cutlery and Smoke Shop is an excellent store to find unique gift items for your loved ones. You'll find shave sets and soaps, disposable razor sharpeners, manicure sets, scissors, and quality Wusthof kitchen cutlery.



Take a look to find wallets, money clips, pocket knives, and Colorado-made knives. We carry pipes, pipe stands, pouches, E-cigarettes, E-juice, boxes of fine cigars, lighters, humidors, and more. Stop by today at 132 W. Hwy. 50 or visit salidacutlery.com to find direct links to our Amazon and Ebay stores. We ship. Salida Cutlery and Smoke Shop wishes you a season filled with joy!



MIRAGE TRADING COMPANY



The Mirage Trading Company in Moffat has all your holiday needs. Bags of freshly roasted, organic, fair trade coffee beans make a wonderful holiday gift. A great selection of art by local artists is also available. Jewelry, paintings, pottery, photography, warm winter hats and scarves and cozy slippers are just some of the items available at the Mirage. Come on by and enjoy a latte while you do your holiday shopping! Hours are 8am to 4pm every day. 719-256-4357.

MIRAGE TRADING CO.

THE BEST COFFEE IN THE VALLEY!
100% Organic and Fair-Trade

MIRAGE ROASTING CO.

Remember to shop locally, and if you visit one of our advertisers, tell them you saw their ad in The Crestone Eagle. **Happy Holidays!**

GREAT COFFEE LOCAL ART
Open Every Day 8am to 4pm

IN MOFFAT NEXT TO THE POST OFFICE
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10% discount on Intaglio with this coupon
November 1 - December 31, 2013

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