

The CRESTONE EAGLE

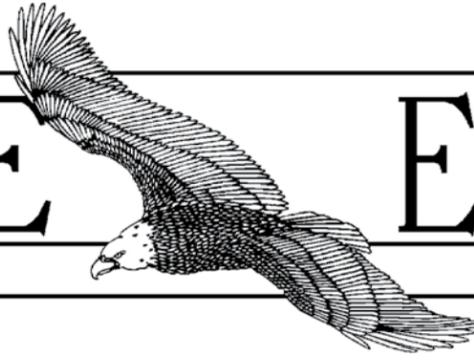
Crestone, Colorado Volume 24, Number 2

February, 2013 \$1

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"As Above So Below" photo by Matthew Crowley of a golden eagle and coyote. Both were feasting on a dead goat. For the full story and more photos see page 4.

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

HAVA complaint filed against Saguache County Clerk

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

A Help America Vote Act (HAVA) complaint has been filed against the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office in relation to the November 2012 election. Lisa Cyriacks, local voting activist, and Marilyn Marks, from the Citizen's Center, an Aspen area resident, have filed the complaint with the Colorado Secretary of State (SOS).

Representatives of the SOS office visited the county to conduct an inquiry, but have not yet issued a report. County Clerk Carla Gomez said she would prefer to refrain from

comment on the complaint until the report is issued, at which time she would be happy to share the results of the inquiry. According to Andrew Cole of the Secretary of State's office, "We are currently investigating the claims made in the HAVA complaint. Because it is currently under investigation, I can't make a comment one way or the other to the validity of the claims." (referenced in a *Center Post Dispatch* article).

The issue of immediate concern is an inaccuracy in the election results posted by the clerk in three races. The race for the state con-

gressional seat sought by Sal Pace provided the clue to Cyriacks, who, through a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request, examined the tapes from the Election Systems and Software (ES&S) M100 model Precinct Optical Scanner used to count the ballots following the November 1, 2012 election. The complaint was filed after examination of M-100 machine tapes from November 6 and November 14 showed apparent discrepancies in the vote tabulation.

According to Cyriacks, she
continued on page 7



Ara MacDonald fights the bitter cold as she walks home after taking her child to the school bus stop. photo by Lori Nagel

Record cold wave pummeled the San Luis Valley

by **Keno**

One of the coldest Januarys in 30 years to grip the San Luis Valley and greater Crestone area caused many damaged water lines, vehicles that would not start, and was sending heating costs through the roof. Since New Year's Day, all but one day up till January 18 had seen temperatures at or below 0°F, and on a few afternoons, the thermometer did not even reach the 10° mark.

The long spell of subfreezing weather hit the entire SLV and mountains and placed hardships

on many. The Baca Grande Water & Sanitation office had to deal with a frozen sewer line on East Stream Way, and has been receiving calls about frozen pipes, while plumbers were busy dealing with those frozen water pipes all over the area. There was at least a 2-day wait in most of the valley to just get a plumber to visit your home, which for many meant no water until the plumber could show up. One Crestone plumber noted a 10-fold increase for such calls versus a normal winter day. The cold air along with frozen pipes was also causing boilers to break

down. A few residents reported received bills of over \$400 each just to fix frozen pipes in their homes, and in the Grants, Pam Finney had it even worse: besides the bill to fix a burst pipe, she noted: "All of my carpets are ruined, along with the flooring underneath!"

Our local mechanics have also been extra busy thanks to the weather, as cars and trucks were not starting because of either batteries weakened by the cold, or frozen thermostats and fuel lines. M&K Auto's owner, Calvin Rilling, has
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Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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Stupa traffic a concern

Dear County Commissioners, POA Board Members, Crestone/Baca Planning Commission, KTTG and All Community Members,

We must express our strong disapproval, deep concern and horror of having 1,200 plus cars per summer month on the proposed road connecting the residential area of Serene Way with the old mine road, (East Dream Way), to provide access to the KTTG Stupa.

When Zoe de Bray of KTTG contacted us, one of the first questions we asked was, "Didn't KTTG secure access to the stupa before building it?" Her reply was that KTTG has access to the stupa along the commonly known old mine road on Manitou's conservation easement road. Their concern is maintenance of the road to meet their needs and standards.

Glenn showed Zoe that the easement by the Water and Sanitation Board for KTTG's road usage contained the rights for KTTG to maintain the road to safety standards. Zoe promised the Serene Way residents attending the 12/2/12 meeting that she would review, and possibly have legal review, of the Manitou road easement document for the same or similar text before moving any further on the road issue. We are concerned that articles in *The Crestone Eagle* seem to make this road an assumed done deal.

By KTTG's count using Forest Service equipment, there were 600 cars per month in the summer visiting the stupa two years ago. That is 1,200 round trip drive-bys a month driving on a residential road. This does not include the additional cars for people going hiking, driving to walk their dogs and going to other spiritual sites along East Dream Way. We noticed a significant drop of cars this past summer since the former access road at Tranquil Court was blocked. The natural quiet was restored.

KTTG is also proposing to cut the road through the greenbelt. We ask the POA Board not to add precedent to disregarding the importance and sanctity of the greenbelt network.

In summary, we ask that KTTG does not impose their huge numbers of vehicle traffic on a residential area and that they continue to find an agreement with Manitou to utilize their original road access to the stupa along East Dream Way, the old mine road.

Sincerely,

Meryl and Glenn Ennis

Stupa road FYI

As a person who attends most of the meetings for the county commissioners, planning commission and POA, I have a great deal of concern for all of our residents. Thanks to Meryl and Glenn for their letter outlining their concerns

about the discussion to change the access to the stupa. The discussion is much broader than stupa access alone, and is just that at this point—a discussion. At this point, no formal application has come to the POA nor before the planning commission. In lieu of an application, no further decisions or actions have taken place, and will not until an application is presented. All land owners in the area as well as the public will be invited to submit their concerns at that time, and both the planning commission and the POA board will take residents' comments seriously.

Sincerely,

Matie Belle Lakish

Election finances

Dear Editor,

After last month's letter in which I stated I had \$1,200 in the bank to run the March 5 Dissolution Election, with money coming from donations, a grant, and \$300 from BGCAN (the group leading the dissolution movement), it was brought to my attention by Diane Dunlap of BGCAN, that my statement "suggests that the \$300 Bond check from BGCAN was being considered a 'donation'." It was not. Please note that per statute below if the dissolution effort succeeds, we are to be refunded our \$300 Bond. Please plan your election budget to comply with this requirement."

I did not want to give the impression that BGCAN was helping us pay for the election which their petition initiated. The fact is, we have \$900 to run an election which we project will cost \$1,300, so we could use some help.

Voting in person will save the district on the cost of running the election. Please vote in person if possible on March 5, 7am to 7pm at the Community Building, 240 North Cottonwood St. in Crestone. If you feel moved to help us meet this obligation, please donate via a tax deductible check to Crestone Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 1254, Crestone, CO 81131.

We would like to thank *The Crestone Eagle* for waiving the cost of publishing the required Notice of Election in January and February, which would otherwise have cost us \$310.

Eli Dokson, Treasurer

Crestone Fire Protection District (aka Crestone Emergency Services Dist.)

'Two minutes, thank you, next!'

Dear Editor/Baca membership,

This is the response you receive from the POA board chairperson, if you ask a question or make a comment at a board membership meeting, specifically if your question or comment challenges any issue that the board is promoting or protecting from membership scrutiny. Hard to believe but true, no response to questions, no chance of discussion before the board makes a decision affecting the whole membership. We have to change this situation ASAP!

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association membership and specifically those members at-

tending board meetings deserve open and honest dialogues with the directors before decisions are made.

We deserve representation not self-serving leaders!

Equally, the directors deserve the same respect from the membership in our speech. The POA is there to serve us, the membership, not their personal agendas. We must all communicate fairly, honestly and respectfully to achieve a community we can be proud to be a part of; if we can't do that, then let's make NOTHING happen at all.

I am asking my neighbors to be more cautious and informed when choosing directors for the board.

Let's elect directors who will be unbiased in their deliberations and decision-making. I advocate for no directors from the fire or ambulance department, no real estate developers, no directors with personal agendas.

Actually, it appears now that we all have our own agendas in one way or another. Some have more money than others, some have more time than others, but we are all here together in this unusual place of beauty and quiet. I would like to ask us all to make compromises for the benefit of the whole. We could start by just listening to each other before responding or reacting; give some space for the heart to be heard. Let's all move to the middle, then maybe we can have some constructive dialogues.

Sincerely,

Steven Elliott

Preserve CrESD, vote NO on March 5

Dear Editor,

The formation of the Emergency Services District was a hard earned victory for the Crestone/Baca community. Most importantly, it was formed by the votes of the community at large, meaning a majority felt it was an important and essential community service. The district became a legal entity registered with the State of Colorado and bound to the articles prescribed by the State. Districts so formed are created for safety and life support in times of emergency. Unfortunately, this came about in a time of severe economic downturn which led to the failure of the passage of funding by an additional local tax. The failure of passage of the mill levy to support it is no reason to abandon the district and dissolve it. Times change, and though support of the District is a sensitive subject now, in the future it may not be. There is no liability to maintain the district in a lesser operational status now or in the immediate future. It would be a loss to dissolve the district at this time. To preserve the district only makes good sense.

Despite the district being in hibernation, the fire department, EMS, and search and rescue crews are doing their jobs because of their dedication and commitment to our safety, not because of our show of support. A better economic climate is ahead, and the prospects for proper support of the district in the future are a viable possibil-

Editor's Notes

Just keep it

A few days ago I got a call at the *Eagle* from a woman at a Crestone business seeking the phone number of the ambulance. There was an injured person at their establishment. They weren't sure what number to call. I said probably 911, but I also gave her the Saguache Sheriff's Office's dispatch number—just in case. You call the sheriff for a fire in Crestone, but 911 for a fire in the Baca. This ambulance event was in Crestone. So? I know this stuff, but was suddenly unsure. While they were busy calling me for the answer, the injured person waited. To call for an ambulance in Crestone or the Baca, you dial 911.

This month the *Eagle* has much content, both pro and con, on whether the Crestone Fire District should be dissolved. For me, I see no compelling reason to dissolve it.

When the vote for the district first passed, it showed community support. When the mill levy failed, twice, it showed that many people in the Baca just can't afford to pay higher taxes now. As a homeowner myself, I totally get and honor this.

But, the many reasons for a unified public entity still exist.

Several years of hard work, lots of money and good collaborative agreements went into creating the fire district. This district, and all of the effort that went into it, is a valuable community investment and we shouldn't just throw it away. Let's leave our options open.

Down the road, we may be able to solve its problems and make it work for all of our benefits—maybe in ways we've yet to explore. Let's give it a little more time. A vote to keep the district is *not* a vote for taxes. Any future tax funding would have to go to a public vote.

As someone who was an ambulance volunteer for 14 years, I encourage you to vote No on March 5.

Respectfully,
Kizzen

ity. The right thing to do now is to vote against the dissolution of the district. This will be a walk-in election. Show up and vote NO!

Vince and Mary Palermo

\$70 POA dues reduction & the CrESD mill levy

Dear Editor,

The Crestone Fire District mill levy question has been put to the voters twice now and both times it failed. The last time, it only failed by two votes. Given the absence of the POA's vehicles and equipment and thus the total lack of the district's ability to provide any services at all, one might ask why this vote was so close.

The answer is: because voters were misled. In the weeks preceding the election, Matie Belle Lakish mailed letters to all of the greater Colorado POA property owner/voters promising that their dues would be reduced by \$70 if they voted FOR the mill levy. Fired ex-POA Fire Chief Kimberly Bryant also telephoned absentee voters suggesting the same thing.

Let this be clear once and for all. There is NO relationship between any possible POA dues reduction and the passage of any mill levy.

A few years ago when the POA Transfer of Assets question was under consideration, the POA estimated the cost of maintaining emergency services to be about \$70 per lot. IF the POA membership had approved the transfer of +\$1,000,000 of emergency services assets to the new district, THEN there would have been a "possibility" of reducing the dues by \$70 per lot. However, the membership did not approve this transfer, so the potential for any dues reductions died right there.

Remember, when the Baca Grande Library joined the library district, the cost was estimated at \$26 per lot but the dues were only reduced by \$13. POA dues can change every year. There's no guarantee any one-time reduction will be sustained.

Without the POA's assets this district will never be viable (without enormous additional voter costs). But if you choose to vote against dissolution on March 5, don't expect to save any money on future POA dues.

Diane Dunlap

Dues & equipment & local control

Dear Editor,

It is true that there is no guarantee that a promise of "POA dues reduction" would continue from board-to-board in the future. It is also true that in 2010 the POA board approved two budgets for 2011. One budget included a \$70 dues reduction if the emergency services operations were moved to the Crestone Emergency Service District and one budget in case operations were not moved.

If you want to retain local control, there is no other permanent solution to the ongoing emergency service problems other than the new District. Many people examined this issue over a number of

years; the POA paid a lot of money to examine other options and none were found viable for various reasons. The only other possibly-viable option is to join the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District. While they run an outstanding service, this consolidation would remove all local control over equipment placement and budget disposition. Some of the equipment we now have for our local use could be assigned to stations in other towns.

Dissolving the district now severely limits our options for continuing your exceptional local services. The POA has many other important issues to consider and has not historically taken the time to understand the complex issues facing your emergency services. There is also no continuity of management at the POA.

With volunteerism down about 30% in the fire department, I hope you will make the effort to vote No on March 5 and let the CrESD Board continue to work on comprehensive, economical and enduring solutions. Please vote NO on dissolution so the volunteer time and money expended to come this far has not been wasted.

Kimberly Bryant,
Proud to have served as
Chief of the BGVFD

POA national dispatch & CrESD

Dear Editor,

On October 25, 2012 POA board members Russell Schreiber, Treat Suomi, and former President Bill Folk passed a resolution to permit the national dispatch of POA emergency services assets (something we warned was a main goal of CrESD: They wanted POA equipment to make money—not to provide more "cost-effective" emergency services for the people).

In order to sell the idea of national dispatch of our equipment, Treat, Russell, Bill and POA fire chief Ben Brack had to contradict just about everything they had said in order to justify the CrESD.

To justify dispatching our equipment and firefighters out of state, they now claim that the need to make money off our emergency services equipment is far more important than keeping all our equipment in the Baca to serve the needs of the membership should fires break out here. Russell mentioned that we must not be so selfish and that we should be ready to respond to the needs of those who live elsewhere. (This despite our governing documents which state that POA members' assets cannot be used to benefit outside third parties.)

In order to allay concerns about our equipment leaving the area, Brack emphasized how well our mutual aid agreements functioned when Crestone and Northern Saguache responded to the most recent house fire. He said most of our guys didn't even show up but the gap was readily filled by Crestone and Northern Saguache. He stressed that we didn't need all this equipment or all our firefighters, that any shortfall will always be filled by these other stations. One member asked: "You mean we have too much equipment?" Brack essentially said "yes".

CrESD was too expensive, infeasible without the POA's assets, and now it's clear that it was superfluous as well. Vote YES on dissolution on March 5.

Bruce McDonald

Fire chief response: District is a solution

Dear Editor,

Members of every emergency service on our planet operate under a simple auspice of responding to requests for help to make bad situations better. At the Baca and Crestone Fire Departments we accomplish this by focusing on "solutions" to problems rather than pointing out problems or lambasting the solutions and efforts of others. The Crestone Emergency Services District was a possible solution for challenges that continue to develop from trying to operate five different service organizations with the same pool of volunteers serving three unique sub-communities across 27 square miles. The challenges of organisational instability, legal, and financial liabilities were more than enough than to inspire an effort to see how the organizations could be improved.

As the operating chief of two of the fire departments and an active volunteer of the other services, I offer my opinion that service consolidation and organization under a Special District would be an improvement. Fortunately the choice is all of ours as a voting collective to decide what is or is not superfluous for our community.

Ben Brack

R.I.P. CrESD

Dear Editor,

The day is rapidly approaching when we can finally put to rest the ill-conceived Crestone Emergency Services District (aka CrESD) once and for all.

Petitioning for a fire district requires showing that there is some current actual need for the services the new district will provide. However, we have always had well-funded, well-equipped, and well-staffed emergency services and CrESD was just a far more expensive way to administer services we already had. This is why the voters rejected the district's request for a mill levy twice.

Moreover, the movement to create this district did not arise out of any perceived need by the community itself, but was generated by the local fire departments as a way to have total control of the purse-strings (+\$500,000/yr operating budget) and avoid any independent outside oversight.

Although CrESD came into being over a year ago, it has NEVER been able to provide any emergency services whatsoever. Our POA emergency services, Crestone emergency services and northern Saguache emergency services have continued to provide everything we have needed as they have for over three decades now.

CrESD's viability depended upon the transfer of the POA's +\$1,000,000 emergency services assets, a proposal the POA membership rejected. Now CrESD supporters are talking about needing

more time to look for "alternative funding". Translation: CrESD now needs to raise millions of dollars to buy equipment, buildings, vehicles, etc. on top of their half-million a year operating budget.

If we thought CrESD's mill levy was too expensive and could bankrupt the Baca, then adding on millions more to duplicate the POA's equipment is sheer folly. It's time to end this failed effort, vote YES on Dissolution on March 5, and move on without the looming threat of more and greater mill levy ballot questions in the future.

Sincerely,
Claudia Wolfe

Let's protect ourselves & preserve the district

Dear Editor,

Residents of the Town of Crestone deserve direct access to 911 dispatch services which can reduce critical response time in cases of fire emergencies. POA members deserve financial protection from a potentially large lawsuit. In a catastrophic situation, present POA insurance would be unlikely to cover the full amount of any settlement. As a non-governmental body, no insurance policy that the POA could afford would cover all costs. Uncovered costs would then be borne by lot owners. On the other hand, for governmental organizations like the Northern Saguache County Fire District, payout amounts are limited under state law.

We can assume that we will never experience a catastrophic emergency and simply hope for the best. State and federal disaster funds are very limited and getting more so. Unlike the banks, we are not "too big to fail". We cannot rely on a government bailout.

It is time to put emergency management activities in the hands of a regulated organization solely dedicated to public safety. This will put us in synch with emergency management services statewide. It will not prohibit us from taking care of ourselves but it will give us access to resources and protections we may need.

Vote NO, on March 5. If you can't vote in person, you can get a mail-in ballot until the end of February at www.crestoneemergencyservices.org/home/mail-ballot-election. Click on the "download" button, then click "open", print the application and mail it in to request a "ballot by mail".

Sincerely,
Tamar Ellentuck

letters continued on page 4

For Bertha

Bertha's soul takes flight on the soft wings
Of morning light
Searching flames return her body
To ash, to dust, to earth, to home
The earth is richer
We are poorer
Yet her spirit lives on
Warming our hearts with memories
Her deep kindness
Her unconditional love
The heart of all creation
Cries out in lofted song
Welcome home Bertha!

—Skip Wilson
12/26/12

Open letter to Judge Mike Gonzales, Saguache County Court

Regarding the Crestone Fire Protection District

Dear Judge Gonzales,
I am writing you to provide my perspective and intents in relation to the Crestone Fire Protection District (dba; Crestone Emergency Services District). Though I am aware that Monday's hearing to assess the dissolution effort is procedural, I feel strongly enough to extend my educated opinions. I have been a volunteer fire fighter, ambulance attendant, and search and rescue coordinator in Crestone for the past thirteen years. Currently, I serve as the full-time chief for the Baca Grande Fire Department and the volunteer chief for the Crestone Fire Department. This experience is what lends the "educated" to these opinions.

I would like to assert that the impetus, concept and efforts to create an inclusive emergency services district originated with the volunteers and administrators of these services. These efforts were born of the need to provide stability and unity for our community emergency services prior to experiencing catastrophic failure. The voters agreed well enough with this plan to vote in and de-Bruce the district. Understandably in these current economic times, in conjunction with a violent misinformation campaign sponsored by a vocal minority, our voters were split down the middle, voting down the mil levy by a two-vote margin.

In the days, weeks, months following the failed mil levy vote, the problems and concerns for our community emergency response have continued to plague our efforts. Though we remain positive in our attempts to resolve these issues, the duplication of efforts amongst our organizations, convolution of communications protocols, and dependence on the same handful of volunteers to operate all five services independent of each other, puts unrealistic expectations and undue stress on all of our responders. That, in turn, adversely

affects our customers. Though I am aware that the creation of a special district will not resolve every challenge we face, dissolving the district at this time will limit our options and abilities to provide service.

Currently one third of our community (an area included within the district boundaries) does not have any formal fire protection or mutual aid agreements in place. These holdings that fall outside of the Crestone and Baca Fire Departments' response areas include: the Baca Townhouses, the Colorado College Facilities, the White Eagle Village, and the majority of international spiritual centers (there are at least 25 world religions represented with facilities in the lesser Crestone metropolitan area). The special district that currently exists, even without funding, provides a legal/governmental framework that could have mutual aid agreements extended as well as a foundation to improve the awareness and fire suppression capability in these areas of our community. Dissolving the district now would be rescinding improvements to the emergency services in these areas.

As the chief of two fire departments, a volunteer for the other services, and property-owning member of the community, I am keenly interested in maintaining and improving our services for the greatest good. In my opinion, the special district can provide solutions to some immediate concerns in addition to providing sound options for the future. To this end I offer my input. My only expectation and hope is that you will have read this letter to become more aware of this issue from a perspective that, I'm afraid, was not previously offered. I thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

In service,
Ben Brack

Golden eagle & coyote: The story behind our front cover photo

by Matthew Crowley

I was out on a field trip with my friend Christian Dillo when we decided to head out along the fence line toward Atalanta's land on the northern edge of the Grants. Lo and behold, one of their goats had succumbed overnight. Maybe it was the cold, maybe the coyote, maybe both but what I saw first-hand was the cycle of life in motion. When we first arrived there were a pair of beautiful golden eagles along with the ravens and magpies. The goat was already reduced to mostly fur and bones. When I returned later with a proper camera and lens I witnessed a lone coyote successfully fending off the pair of eagles, not much smaller than he, for his turn at a meal. After an interesting scuffle that had the coyote lunging after an eagle and the eagle, wings brushing the snow, flying off, it seemed they had worked out an agreement of sorts. I imagine in this photo I am calling "As Above So Below," the eagle is saying to the coyote "In your eyes I see only myself. In the cycle of life each in its turn my friend, each in its turn...". Or maybe it's simply, "I'm hungry too!"



"As Above So Below, meets Eye-to-Eye" golden eagle and coyote.

photo by Matthew Crowley

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Saguache County News

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

New Saguache County Commissioners, Jason Anderson and Ken Anderson, were sworn in by County Judge Amanda Pearson at a special Commissioners Meeting held on January 8. At the meeting, held for the purpose of swearing in new members and the reorganization of the board, Linda Joseph was elected Chairman for 2013. Both Andersons will serve as Vice-Chairs. Shortly thereafter, all three attended a training for new county commissioners in Denver, where they did a four-day blitz on most of the topics that county commissioners are required to deal with in their roles as the decision-makers for county government. Besides budget and administrative issues, workshops focused on such topics as Departments of Public Health and Human Services, as well as current issues such as the state constitutional amendment that legalized marijuana.

Jokingly dubbed “the Anderson boys” by friends and family (they are not related) the two new commissioners will represent District 1 (Jason Anderson) and District 2 (Ken Anderson). Linda Joseph, who represents District 3, will serve through 2014.

At the last meeting for previous commissioners, held on January 3, Mike Spearman, Sam Pace and Linda Joseph dealt with some residual issues from 2012.

The county has been negotiating purchase of the Leach Airfield property that surrounds the airstrip near Center. While progress is being made, there are still outstanding details and contracts to be resolved, and Mike Spearman asked that he be appointed as a volunteer to continue working through those details. Pace and Joseph welcomed his offer, and he was appointed Voluntary Project Manager for the Leach Airport purchase/project until September 2013. Among challenges facing the airfield are some underground fuel tanks that must be removed by order of the state. Spearman hopes that final negotiations with current owners will be successful, and that once the county owns the property, services can be updated. He hopes to make it a valuable resource for businesses seeking to settle in Saguache County.

New veteran service officer

Saguache County has a new Veterans Services Officer. James Sheeran, Baca resident, has been selected to provide services for Saguache County’s veterans. Jim will have office space at the Saguache Clinic, 405 Denver Ave. Current office hours are 9am to 4pm, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Phone number is 719-655-2680.

For many years Tom Blunt

has provided services for veterans. He retired at the end of the 2012. Thank you, Tom, for helping so many veterans find the resources they needed. With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Veteran Services has had a huge increase in service needs in the last few years.

James Sheeran, who prefers to be called Jim, was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated high school in 1963 and received his draft notice in 1965 but enlisted in the Air Force instead. Having volunteered for Viet Nam he was stationed at Pleiku Air Base from September, 1968 to May, 1969. After the service he held several different jobs until he found his calling as a substance abuse counselor. He earned a bachelors degree in 1983 and graduated from Central Michigan University with a Master of Arts degree in community agency counseling in 1987. He and his wife, Mary Ann moved to Crestone in 2006. They live in their retirement home built by their son, Eric Maki.

Jim says he feels honored to serve as the Saguache County Veterans Service Officer. He will be receiving a two-day training in late February in Denver and will attend a week-long training later on in May. For now he is learning the many facets of the job as he goes along with help from Frank Muniz, the V.S.O. for Alamosa County. “It’s challenging but well worth the effort” he says, “especially when listening to veterans and helping them seek the benefits they deserve.”

Planning Commission appointments

Planning commissions hear applications for any change of land use within the county. For instance, a change from residential to business, consolidation of lots, and applications for certain types of businesses would need approval from the Land Use office, and may, therefore, go before the appropriate planning commission.

Saguache County has two planning commissions. Several years ago the Crestone/Baca Planning Commission was formed to address land use issues in our area. At their meeting on January 3, out-going commissioners made appointments for these two important boards. For the Saguache County Planning Commission, which handles changes of use in all other parts of the county, Rebie Hazard was reappointed to a three-year term, and Lynne Thompson received a three-year appointment. Chuck Tidd and Steve Carlson were appointed to one-year alternate positions.

The Crestone/Baca Planning Commission will include Kairina Danforth and Renee Hill from the Town of Crestone, Charles Sommers representing the Baca Grande Prop-



New commissioners Ken Anderson and Jason Anderson, with incumbent Linda Joseph, enjoy a congratulatory cake along with outgoing commissioners, Sam Pace and Mike Spearman.

erty Owners Association, and Jahree from the surrounding area. Matie Belle Lakish will fill Jason Anderson’s term through 2014, and Bill Dobson received a three-year term representing the Baca. Clay Bridgford and David Burrill will serve as alternates for one-year terms.

Once a year, both planning commissions meet together with the county commissioners for a joint meeting to catch up on changes in state regulations or discuss county issues that are “on the table”. This year’s joint meeting will be held on February 28, at 1pm at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department meeting room. As with all county meetings, the public is welcome to attend.

Public Health Director Della Vieira reported that Crowfox Fleming will be the new Office Manager in the Saguache office, with Gloria Quintana serving in Center. Vieira announced that Saguache County Public Health was selected to receive a two-year grant for \$125,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The county is one of eleven counties from around the country to receive this award. The grant will be used to develop a model for how counties in widely spread rural areas can collaborate to provide services—in this case, environmental health services—that would be difficult for individual counties to provide. In recent years, Colorado counties have been mandated to provide environmental health services by the state, but with no additional funding to do so.

One of the tasks of the new Saguache County Board of Commissioners is to make appointments to the various organizations, task forces, and commissions that the county deals with throughout the year, as well as to select vendors for the various services that the county requires. Some examples of appointments include: Colorado Commissioners, Inc. (CCI)—Jason Anderson; SLV Development Resources Group—Ken Anderson; SLV Council of Governments—Linda Joseph; Health Quarantine Officer—Linda; SLV Trails Committee—Jason; Senior Citizens—Ken. There are more than 20 boards and committees, both at the local and state levels, that commissioners participate in. Thanks to Sam Pace, who has represented Saguache County at many state-level boards and committees for the past 8 years, and to Mike Spearman for his service at the regional level. Our new commission-

Saguache Co. Assessor’s Office to review & initiate property inspections

—*Saguache*

The inspection of real property for property tax purposes is commencing in Saguache County. Field inspectors will be visiting many properties in the county to confirm and/or update the assessor’s records. They will be carrying credentials for the Saguache County Assessor’s Office or the State of Colorado. Generally, they will be measuring residences and buildings from the outside, but it is also necessary for them to obtain information such as number of rooms, bedrooms, baths, type of heat, if there is air conditioning and any additional information that might be needed. If no one is at home or the field inspectors encounter closed gates of posted properties, they will be leaving a card with what information is needed and a name and phone number to contact. Saguache County Assessor Jacqueline Stephens asks for citizens’ cooperation in getting the assessment records as accurate as possible. If you have any questions concerning this project, please feel free to contact the office at 719-655-2521 for further information.

ers are already taking up their duties on these extended committees.

Donna Wehe, SLV Small Business Development Center, updated commissioners on the services she offers. Wehe’s office, located in the old depot building in Alamosa, provides numerous services to small businesses, helping them to grow and become more viable. She offers individual counseling, as well as classes throughout the year. Small Business Development is currently offering a class on Taxes for the Small Business Owner led by Bob Jones from Wall, Smith and Bateman, and a Leading Edge class, which meets over the course of three months to help businesses move to the next step. Both classes are in Monte Vista. Wehe is considering offering both of these classes in Saguache County, if there is sufficient interest. Let her know by calling the Small Business Development Office, 589-3682.

Voters to decide fate of Crestone Emergency Services District in March 5 election

Staff report

Tuesday, March 5 is Election Day for retaining or dissolving Crestone Emergency Services District (CrESD). The question to be decided is this: SHALL THE CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DOING BUSINESS AS THE CRESTONE EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT) BE DISSOLVED? A NO vote will retain the district and leave the option open for finding a way to fund the district in the future or to use the voter-approved district in another way. A vote of YES to dissolve the Crestone Fire Protection District would eliminate the organizational structure altogether.

This election will be held at the Crestone Community Building (old schoolhouse) from 7am to 7pm and will be a walk-in election. No mail-in ballots will be sent unless voters specifically request them. CrESD has only about \$900 with which to run the election, so any voter, either local resident or absentee landowner, who wishes to vote by mail must request a ballot be mailed to them. Local voters are encouraged to mark their calendars and go to the polls on that day.

Detailed instructions on requesting a ballot are in the official announcement located on page B-15. Those wishing to receive a ballot by mail and return it by mail must send their request by February 26. All registered voters who live in the district or own property in the district and are Colorado residents are eligible to vote. Residents who are not registered to vote may register through February 5 at the Saguache County Clerk's office or by going to www.govotecolorado.com.

This election is only to vote on whether to keep or dissolve the district. It is not a vote for funding.

Over three years of effort by local citizens went into the formation of CrESD, which was approved by voters in November of 2011. At that election, voters approved the formation of the district, elected directors for the board, and eliminated the TABOR requirement, which allows the district to retain funds from one year to the next in order to purchase large equipment and to obtain multi-year grants. However, voters did not approve the mill levy that would have funded the district. The poor economy and concerns about increased taxes for non-vacant and larger properties appear to be a cause of the mill levy not passing (currently all POA properties pay equal dues for emergency services).

Diane Dunlap and Bruce McDonald, the citizens who are listed as the sponsors of the Petition to Dissolve, were able to collect sufficient signatures, around seventy, to put the issue to voters.

District history

Discussions between emergency service personnel, the Town of Crestone and the Baca Grande POA to form an emergency services district began several years ago. A letter dated March 5, 2010 from Shauna Ianson, POA Community Manager at the time, says: "As neighbors, the Board of Directors for the Association is interested in meeting with the Board of Trustees for the Town of Crestone to see if there is a long term solution we can work together on to provide emergency services to both the Town and the Association with a unified department. One solution may involve the formation of a combined special district that covers both the Town and the Baca Grande subdivision."

That special district later became Crestone Fire Protection District, dba Crestone Emergency Services District, when voters approved it in November, 2011. CrESD was formed because of a desire to consolidate and coordinate fire, ambulance and search and rescue operations in the Crestone/Baca Area.

Proponents say improving safety for residents and emergency responders was an initial thrust for CrESD. At present there are four services, each with different protocols, communications and administrative systems. The formation of CrESD was to bring all these services under one administrative roof. The current situation, with multiple radio dispatch centers and administration at various governmental levels, makes rules confusing for responders and sometimes causes response delays in our area, say emergency responders.

A public district such as CrESD has "governmental immunity" which limits the dollar amount of some legal awards in the face of a catastrophic event. Private districts, such as the BGPOA, do not enjoy this protection, and a large liability award that exceeds the limits of the POA's insurance policy would have to come out of the pockets of the property owners themselves. In the January 2013 *Crestone Eagle*, Ben Brack, Baca Fire Chief, says in the Smoke Column, "This private fire department status also exposes responders, property owners, and the POA as a whole to liabilities that special districts are pro-

ected from."

Intergovernmental Mutual Aid agreements with other public fire departments are also invalid for private districts, said Brack. The Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department (BGVFD) maintains an automatic agreement with Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District, which currently administers Crestone Fire Department, to provide assistance to one another. The BGVFD cannot participate in the Intergovernmental Mutual Aid agreement that the rest of the valley fire departments have with one another. He tries to maintain informal cooperative relationships, but they do not have formal legal standing.

Brack also notes that volunteer numbers are down in the fire department. There is considerable overlap among the fire, ambulance, and search and rescue operations and volunteers. Total available volunteers now are about 27. Without the additional protection of assistance from other emergency service agencies, our community is now in a much less favorable situation with limited backup resources.

Future options

What are the options for the district if the Petition to Dissolve is rejected by voters? Although the CrESD board of directors has given this some preliminary discussion, they noted in the December meeting minutes: "Mr. Dunets offered a list of thoughts of how the district might reconfigure itself, mostly in regard to the areas within the district currently not covered by official agreements with the existing providers of services. After lengthy discussion, it was informally agreed that this was good 'brainstorming', but was premature to initiating a planning process." In February, 2012, the POA board, in a letter to CrESD board, said, "One possibility that came out of the discussion between our lawyers is the idea of hiring the District as a 'property manager' for our emergency services." If the district is not dissolved, this idea could be revisited.

What are the long-term options for fire service if this Petition to Dissolve is successful? The multiple agencies could continue to exist as they have been, with the Crestone Fire Dept. remaining as part of NSCFPD.

The POA board will still need to consider the liability to members and directors of a private non-governmental non-profit organization providing fire and ambulance service. In the event the POA board should wish to transfer authority to a public entity, that entity would likely be the Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District (NSCFPD). If the Baca were to join NSCFPD, it would

not have the local control it now has. The NSCFPD board would make the decisions on how tax funds and equipment are allocated. In addition, the current mill levy for NSCFPD is nearly the same as that requested for CrESD, so there would be no financial savings for residents.

Opposition

Opponents of CrESD have cited the inability of the POA to transfer the fire and ambulance equipment to CrESD as a reason the district should be dissolved. On the BGCAN website, Diane Dunlap (secretary/treasurer) and Bruce McDonald (president) have posted a letter by Harold Buchalter of Sender Wasserman legal firm, addressed to Dunlap, that says that in preliminary findings, "Clearly, the bylaws require a 67% super-majority to transfer any real or personal property." The letter, which can be found on the BGCAN website, implies that this would also apply to leasing of property. Opponents say that since the POA cannot transfer trucks and equipment to the new district, that the Crestone Fire Protection District Service Plan is invalid, and the district should be disbanded.

Since funding for CrESD was not approved in either the November, 2011 or the May, 2012 elections, the transfer of equipment from the POA to CrESD through sale or lease has never been fully explored. Preliminary legal opinions suggest it would be unlikely unless approved by 67% of voters, a percentage that has never been achieved on any vote on any topic.

To view the Service Plan for CrESD, go to www.crestoneemergencyservices.org, and type Service Plan in the search window.

There is no taxation associated with a NO vote. It is a vote of confidence only to allow the Crestone Fire Protection District to continue.

The CrESD board will meet one more time before the election on February 21 at 6:30pm at the Crestone Town Hall.



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by Deputy Clerk
Leanna Bradbury

Grants for park improvements and tourist publications

A portion of state lottery revenue is designated as the Conservation Trust Fund and distributed on a per capita basis to counties and municipalities to maintain and improve public recreation facilities. Because the incorporated town has just 153 year-round residents, it doesn't receive enough funds to care for parks that are used by the entire Crestone/Baca community and its many visitors. In most recent years, Saguache County has granted the town a portion of its Conservation Trust Funds, and this year the grant is for \$5,000. A few more new park trees will be planted and weed barriers will be installed around all of the trees planted in the past few years. The rest of the grant will be used to maintain four parks and their equipment.

The Saguache County Tourism Board has granted the Town \$1,350 for production and distribution of "rack cards." Racks of brochures and cards to other tourist attractions are installed at high traffic tourist locations with the cards distributed by a private company on a route. For years Crestone has been invisible to most tourists with no mentions in guidebooks and no printed advertising material. Inviting more people to visit Crestone is very good for local residents who need jobs or more customers for their businesses.

Resolution opposing corporate personhood

The Town of Crestone has joined the growing number of local governments speaking out to prevent corporations from making enormous political contributions by adopting "A Resolution on the Issue of Corporate Personhood."

The Resolution will be forwarded to the Saguache County Commissioners and state and federal senators and representatives to urge a constitutional amendment that defines only humans, not corporations, as persons regarding constitutional rights, protections, and political contributions.

Vicious dog ordinance amended

Following a recent attack by a dog on a person who was approaching a local business, the Board of Trustees reviewed Ordinance 2006-005 on owning or keeping vicious or dangerous dogs. They concluded that the circumstances under which a dog owner may be cited needed to be clarified. Last month they adopted Ordinance 2013-002 "... Amending Ordinance #2006-005 (An Ordinance Prohibiting Owning or Keeping Vicious or Dangerous Dogs within the Town of Crestone.)" This ordinance is cited when a dog attacks or threatens a human or other animal, most often deer, cats, chickens, or other dogs. The town also has a "Dogs Running at Large" ordinance which requires owners to keep dogs either on their own property or under immediate voice control. Most dog ordinance violations occur when dogs are allowed to wander or are left unattended outside businesses.

Alamosa Planned Parenthood Health Center to receive Health Care Foundation Board grant Funds will go to provide care to the underserved

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is pleased to announce that its Alamosa health center has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Health Care Foundation Board in recognition of the preventive services they provide to the San Luis Valley.

The grant will subsidize the cost of preventive medicine for women and men who are uninsured and who qualify for sliding scale services at the Alamosa health center. Planned Parenthood strives to make basic health services like life-saving cancer screenings, more accessible and affordable to underserved, uninsured, or underinsured women and families. Having access to these funds from the Health Care Foundation Board will allow us to expand access to affordable health care in our area.

In these tough economic times, more women and families than ever before need access to essential health care services.

"We are excited to partner with the Health Care Foundation Board to offer the community greater accessibility and affordability. One in 5 American women has turned to us at some time in their lives for professional, non-judgmental, and confidential care," said Sara Jose, Alamosa health center manager. "Planned Parenthood provides a wide range of preventive health services for women, men, and their families—services that help families and our community stay healthy."

The Alamosa health center is located at 1560 12th Street #7 and is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Appointments are available and walk-ins are always welcome. For more information, or to make an appointment visit us at www.pprm.org or call 1-800-230-PLAN.

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains empowers individuals and families in the communities we serve to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health by providing high quality health services, comprehensive sex education, and strategic advocacy. For more information about Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, call 1-800-230-PLAN or visit pprm.org for the health center nearest you.



The Rio Grande River in winter. Taken from the State Street bridge in Alamosa, 12/29/2012.
photo by Lori Nagel

Hava complaint

continued from page 1

noticed that Democrat Sal Pace had about 300 votes fewer than would be expected from the predominantly Democratic Precinct 5 (Baca). In most other races in the precinct, Democratic candidates garnered over 500 votes. Sal Pace, however, showed only about 239 votes. The difference was not made up by votes for the Republican candidate, Scott Tipton. Wondering why there was such a discrepancy, Cyriacks requested to look at the tapes generated by the M100 vote counting machine, and discovered that the votes had not been accurately recorded in the abstract that Clerk Gomez filed.

The Canvass Board, made up of citizen representatives from the major political parties, meets after an election to examine the results and certify the election. Its task is to reconcile ballots cast in the election and to determine that 1) the number of ballots counted does not exceed the number of ballots cast, 2) confirm that the number of ballots cast does not exceed the number of registered electors, and 3) certify the Abstract of Votes Cast and transmit the data to the Secretary of State.

Since the Canvass Board had already met and certified the election when Cyriacks discovered the error, she says that the Canvass Board had to meet again to re-certify new results based on the Secretary of State staff's investigation. Reportedly, no notice that the canvass board would be reconvening was posted publicly. According to Cyriacks, however, her main concern is not so much with Saguache County's election results as it is with the Secretary of State. According to an email from Cyriacks, because of HAVA, the SOS is required to use complete certified voting systems that produce a verifiable election count. "The election in Saguache has become the proving ground for making the case that elections in Colorado are not run according to the requirements under HAVA."

She says, "The Help America Vote Act is a key piece of federal law in standardizing 1) how elections are tabulated and 2) how the results are reported. The SOS, as the chief election official in the state, is required to uphold these standards in all elections under his purview and (to see) that all 'voting systems' comply with these standards."

In describing how HAVA works, Cyriacks says: "HAVA mandates that all states and localities upgrade many

aspects of their election procedures, including their voting machines, registration processes and poll worker training. The specifics of implementation have been left up to each state, which allows for varying interpretations of the federal law.

"HAVA uses the term 'voting system' which many interpret to mean machines, but could also apply to a manual hand count system. The point is that whatever system is used by whichever official it must meet a standardized set of requirements in tabulation and reporting."

The combination of components used in the disputed 2012 election included a touchscreen voting system (DRE) using one kind of vote tallying system, the ES&S M100, and an Excel spreadsheet. The SOS's office sent staff members to Saguache County prior to the November election to go over local systems to be sure they would be in compliance with the SOS's requirements. The representative met with citizens and reporters at that time, and said they would be helping Saguache County with the November election.

Cyriacks says, "According to standards set by the SOS, 'all [software] systems' must be able to produce 'a consolidated printed report of the results for each contest of all votes cast' for each election." She contends that the Excel Spreadsheet used for the 2012 election does not meet that criterion.

According to Cyriacks, "Saguache has become a proving ground because the system used: did not produce an audit trail verifying that all the votes cast in the election were counted; errors in the tabulation occurred resulting in reporting of inaccurate results (this was verified by the SOS investigation); the combination of machines used in the Saguache election did not (meet) the certification requirements of HAVA or the SOS rules. This combination violated a voter's right to privacy in the use of the DRE's (touchscreen computers).

"The SOS, as the chief election official in Colorado, is required to ensure all elections under his jurisdiction conform with the requirements of HAVA, including Saguache."

Voters must await the outcome of the Secretary of State's investigation to know more details from the County Clerk's perspective. It is clearly a difficult balance to run elections according to new HAVA guidelines while adhering to budget constraints in small rural counties.

Another review of the ballots will take place on February 1 at the Saguache County Courthouse.

What has been causing water main breaks in the Baca water system?

—*more than just the cold*

by the BGWSD Board & Staff

Many Baca and Casita Park residents have experienced periods without water this winter as a result of water main leaks and breaks in the District's system. Some were quick and relatively easy repairs, if anything can be easy working outdoors in the extreme winter temperatures of late December and January, and impacted only a few customers for short periods. Others were large breaks impacting many customers for several hours, and, in one case most of the day.

What causes water mains to break? Any number of factors can be involved, including extreme cold temperatures, how the line was installed, traffic, and accidents. In addition to repairing each break as quickly as possible, the operations crew also does a bit of sleuthing to try to determine the cause and apply that learning to preventing future problems.

One of the frequent causes is large angular rocks left in the trench when a line was put in. If water main lines are not protected with appropriate backfill, the rock places pressure on the line. According to General Manager Steven Harrell, "water mains along high traffic roads are subject to continuous vibration which can cause these rocks to settle down into contact with the PVC water main. The rock puts pressure on the water main and eventually the line is likely to break." This is the probable culprit of at least one of the recent major breaks.

Equipment failure was the cause in a couple of the recent breaks. One was the result of a faulty fire hydrant, another was caused by a leaking valve that created settling. Accidents, such as a road grader running over a flushing valve, happen from time to time as well. Then, there are extremely cold temperatures over a prolonged period of time. Sometimes though,

there is only mystery. Harrell says that when a large, sharp rock is found near the break or water line has burst due to ice in the main, the cause is evident. Other times, it is hard to pinpoint a single specific cause.

What happens when a break is discovered? The typical repair involves locating the leak and securing it by shutting gate valves. Operators call for emergency locating of phone and electrical lines, mobilize needed equipment and repair materials, and secure the work site with warning signs. On-site, excavation is the first step. Once that is completed, the operations staff makes the repair, backfills the excavation, and cleans up the site.

The water main is then charged up and disinfected with chlorine tablets. An operator then checks the chlorine residual until the target residual is met. When the water main is back in service, customers are notified and reminded to flush their water for 10-20 minutes before consuming.

Short of replacing the whole system, what can be done? One step toward controlling leaks is to undertake a hydraulic study which will provide crucial information related to pressure zones, and identify areas where the system can be improved by reducing pressure. According to Harrell, "less pressure equals less stress on the system which I think will equate to fewer leaks." The district hopes to fund this study in 2013.

What to do if you don't have water, or see or suspect a leak? Call the district office 719-256-4310. This line is answered by a service when the office is closed. Should a water or wastewater emergency occur after hours, weekends, or holidays, indicate your emergency with the answering service and they will contact the on-call employee who will address your emergency and call you back.

POA election ballots reviewed

by Earl W. Sutherland

On January 3, 2013 a group convened at the Baca Grande Property Owners Association offices to examine the ballots from the recent election of the Directors of the Board of the POA. Present were Nigel Fuller, Diane Dunlap, Bob Garnett, Woodora Eisenhauer, Russell Schreiber, Martin Macaulay, and this reporter as well as three staff members of the POA. The examination took about two hours.

An actual recount of the votes was not performed. However, several helpful observations were brought out by the review. While our By-Laws have few details about how proxies work (the form of ballot used in this election), several informative articles on the subject can be found in the website of Hindman-Sanchez, attorneys for Hammersmith Management. Several examples of failure to follow these "guidelines" were found.

1. When the holder of a (green, in our case) proxy form delivers this to the voting site, after it's confirmed, it should be exchanged for a (blue) ballot, one for each valid vote, and the voter marks that official ballot which is then delivered to the election tellers. In this recent election, in most cases the proxy form itself was evidently considered to be the same as the ballot, as most votes could only be attributed to the (green) proxy forms.

2. If the person to whom the proxy is assigned is not at the meeting, the votes can only count for the purpose of forming a quorum.

3. Even if, in our case, the proxy-giver has already filled in his/her three choices, the proxy-designee can over-rule and vote as wished. This point was affirmed by Nicole Armstrong of Hammersmith. It appears that the proxy-designee here (the president or vice-president of the board) never had access to the proxy forms before they were counted, rendering that aspect moot. However, in some cases discovered by Ms. Dunlap, votes were cast with her name as proxy-designee, without her knowledge.

It is important to note that these "guidelines" are not to be found in the Colorado Revised Non-Profit Act, although the issue of proxies is discussed there. It appears the authors of the Hindman-Sanchez articles were offering their informed opinions rather than expressing statutory regulations. There actually seem not to be explicit rules for how to manage proxy ballots other than those which may have been formulated by the property owners' association. These rules haven't been evolved in sufficient detail in our POA. It seems even clearer now that the present system of proxy-ballots must be replaced. Nevertheless, there is no evidence that the election was fraudulent, however badly flawed it was. It'll be better next time as the Board of Directors has already formed a task force to present an improved system.



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3rd Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange happens Feb. 16

by Leigh Mills

Seed security creates food security. The Infinite Bee is organizing the 3rd Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange taking place on Saturday, February 16 in the Joyful Journey Hot Springs Conference Center from 10am until 3pm. All are welcome. Admission is free.

The SLV Seed Exchange is where our regional community comes together to share seeds and knowledge. The Saguache County Library is hosting a table full of gardening books available for check out and there will be information tables about beekeeping, local foods, and ORMUS alchemical salts. Local restaurants and chefs are creating the soup and baked goods that will be available from the "Sprout Café", with hot coffee, apple cider, and tea for beverages. Joyful Journey's 42ft geodesic grow-dome will be open for tours and event participants will receive a discounted soak in the

mineral springs.

Gardeners and seed savers are welcome to bring their saved seed or unused, unopened packages of commercial seed to share. If bringing home-saved seeds, please have them cleaned, packaged and labeled before you arrive. If you are interested in bringing seeds and participating, please call The Infinite Bee at 719-655-2011 to arrange a free table space.

The Infinite Bee is very grateful for the SLV Seed Exchange's sponsors: Blue Water Alchemy - Compost Technologies - Joyful Journey - *The Crestone Eagle* - Farm Table Restaurant - Xplore Design - O&V Printing - Sunshine Market - SLV Wanna Beekeepers - Elephant Cloud - Cactus Hill Farm - Brady's West - the Salida Ploughboy - Mirage Roasting Co. - Crestone Telecom - Cho Ku Rei Ranch - Alamosa Community Greenhouse - SLV Local Foods Coalition - Saguache 4th Street Diner - Simple Foods Market - Avalon Wellness - Rocky Farm - Shumei International - Kathy's Neighborhood Goods - ScSEED - SLVjunction.com - Saguache Tourism Council, and the Villa Grove Trade.

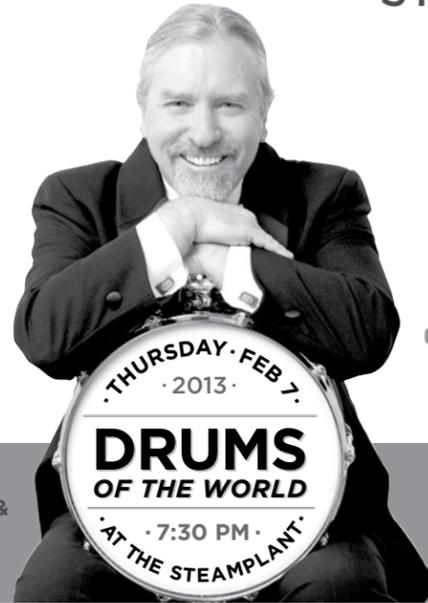
For more information about this event and sharing seeds, please contact The Infinite Bee, Leigh Mills, at slvseedexchange@gmail.com or call 719-655-2011.

For more on how to save seeds, see article on page B-9.



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3rd Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange

Saturday, February 16, 2013

Joyful Journey Hot Springs Conference Center

All Invited 🌸 **10am-3pm** 🌸 *Free Admission*

Local Seeds 🌸 Info Tables 🌸 Grow Dome Tours 🌸 "Sprout Café"

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Salida Ploughboy 🌸 Mirage Roasting Co. 🌸 Crestone Telecom 🌸 Cho Ku Rei Ranch 🌸 Rocky Farm 🌸 Brady's West
Alamosa Community Greenhouse 🌸 SLV Local Foods Coalition 🌸 Saguache 4th Street Diner
Avalon Wellness 🌸 Simple Foods Market 🌸 Saguache Crescent 🌸 SLVjunction.com 🌸 Saguache Tourism Council

Information Contact:
The Infinite Bee – slvseedexchange@gmail.com (719) 655-2011

Don Richmond performs at Shumei Feb. 22

Don Richmond has been a professional performing musician for more than forty years. He regularly performs and records on more than a dozen instruments, including electric and acoustic guitars, mandolin, violin, viola, dobro, electric and string bass, pedal steel guitar, banjo, harmonica, accordion, trumpet and percussion and is an award-winning songwriter. And he's coming to Crestone! Come join us in an evening of stunning music on Feb. 22 at 7pm at Shumei International Institute.

Don owns and operates Howlin' Dog Records, which has recorded and released numerous other recordings by many local, regional, and national artists. Don has also been an Artist-In-Residence and Aesthetic Institute instructor in Colorado Council of the Arts' Art in Education program. Don created and recorded the music for the public television documentary Roy Bedichek's *Vanishing Frontier*, the independent short film *Hexama*, *Hexama*, the highly acclaimed civil-rights documentary film *We Did It All Ourselves*, and a film on the plight of Katrina refugees titled *Still Waiting—Life After Katrina*, which aired nationally in the fall of 2007. Don recently released his sixth solo CD, titled *Like Lazarus*.

In late 2004, Don published a book on performance psychology and creativity titled *Getting Your Music Past the Fear*. He is also a regularly featured contributor on creativity to the nationally-syndicated radio program *The Art of the Song*. Don is currently on the board of Crestone Performances, Inc., which produces the Crestone Music Festival, and is a past board member of and regular volunteer for the Alamosa Live Music Asso-



Don Richmond comes to Shumei in Crestone on Feb. 22. This rare solo event is not to be missed! photo by Dave Hensley

ciation, and volunteers for numerous other local non-profit organizations.

While Don often shares the stage, this concert is a rare solo event and honestly a show not to be missed! Come join us at Shumei in Crestone on Feb 22 at 7pm. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door. CDs will be available for purchase. Visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 719-256-5284 for more information. You can visit Don's website at: www.donrichmond.com.

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46 Camino Baca Grande

12th Annual Celebration of Ranching & the Frontier Spirit happens Feb. 10 in Saguache

by **Connie Rapalski**

Cabin fever? Grab a hat, find a partner and dust off those lyrics and yarns, and head on over to Saguache to celebrate this special area and its people during the 12th Annual Ranching Celebration sponsored by the Saguache County Museum and ScSEED (Saguache Sustainable Environmental and Economic Development.)

The passion for ranching and the frontier spirit will be shared in story, song and poem on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Saguache Community Building from noon to whenever it's done. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ranching way of life, and the men and women who live daily with the elements and rhythms of the land.

The afternoon begins with a potluck meal to bring a favorite dish to share. ScSEED will supply coffee, tea, juice, plates and plastic ware. Enjoy western pickin' by local musicians during the potluck.

The remainder of the afternoon will be filled with cowboy stories, songs and poems. Typical time slots are 10 minutes or less. A timekeeper will be on hand to keep the storyteller honest. The program includes an open mike session towards the end of the afternoon for those who might get a burst of bravery on that day.

The theme of the 12th Annual Celebration of Ranching and the Frontier Spirit is Cowboy Sweethearts. Think about featuring a cowboy or cowgirl sweetheart in a story, poem or song.

Fred Hargrove is the perfect host for this event. A native Kansan, he now lives near Monte Vista. Through countless hours in the saddle, raising cattle and horses, and managing the land, Fred has gained the knowledge needed to write and sing his original cowboy songs. He has been performing on stage since 1992. He is a member of the Western Music Association and has performed throughout the United States.

Fred's album, *My Sacred Ground*, released in 2010, has been on four top 20 Western Music charts, across the U.S. and in England. The same album was nominated for 2010 "Best Traditional Western Album of the Year" by the Western Music Association. In 2011, a song from the album, "Code of the West," was nominated for "Song of the Year" by the WMA. Fred's album number five is titled, *Watching Eagles Fly*, and the song is about the plight of the ranchers and farmers in the San Luis Valley.

Artisans and antique collectors with western art and crafts for show or sale are encouraged to host a table for this event. If items are for sale, then a donation will be requested.

The Saguache Community Building will be decorated for this event with saddles, tack, blankets and other miscellaneous western items. Decorating will take place at 1pm on Saturday, Feb. 9. Volunteers are welcome.

To reserve a time slot to share a story, reserve a table or to volunteer for the event, please call Liza Marron at 719-539-5606.

The *Ranching Way of Life* DVD will be for sale at \$10 each.

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Saguache County Museum & ScSEED join to
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"Cowboy Sweethearts"

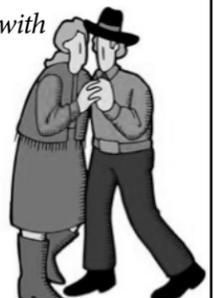
the 12th Annual Celebration of
Ranching and the Frontier Spirit
February 10th 2013 – 12 noon
at the Saguache Community Building

Potluck dinner begins noon – Please bring a dish to share
(Table service and drinks provided by ScSEED)

Fred Hargrove will MC the afternoon which will be packed with
tales, & performances by local folks (maybe even YOU)

Do you have a Story to tell, a Song to sing, or
Western Art or Antiques to sell?
Call Liza Marron at 719.539.5606

Come and Join the Fun!



Shumei International Institute
Sharing Natural Agriculture, Art & Beauty, and Healing Jyorei
with the world....

Art Symposia, Exhibitions, Concerts and Special Events
See the community calendar or visit www.shumeicrestone.org
for an up to date schedule

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

Art of the heart —and other news from the Crestone Artisans Gallery

by Patrick Moore

As we all know, February is celebrated as the month of the heart, with Valentine's Day celebrated on February 14. In spite of excessive commercialization of this day, the true meaning remains the special effort to share one's heart with loved ones, and perhaps with everyone.

The most popular mythology associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire; during his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. Legend states that before his execution he wrote "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her.

The gallery is the place to find that special token of heartfelt appreciation for the one(s) you cherish. And of course, showing your love with a gift from the gallery also shows your love for the entire community. That's truly "spreading the love."

Here are some suggestions from the gallery.

New CD from Leigh Ann Phillips

Leigh Ann Phillips is an award-winning singer/songwriter, sound healing practitioner, lecturer, and teacher. She also owns and operates The Dragon House Sound Sanctuary, a retreat, workshop, and sound healing space here in Crestone. She has been busy the last few months finalizing a new CD, titled *Mik'ael*, which is now in stock at the gallery. Leigh Ann says of the CD, "co-written and co-produced with Thomas Barquee, this project is very dear to my heart. The musicians who played on the album span from Los Angeles to India."

Friends who have listened to Leigh Ann's new CD say it is "full of life, body, energy and heart-changing music." You can preview the single "Tarofe" from the CD on her website at leighannphillips.com. It's awesome! and makes a wonderful gift.

Tokens of the heart

The Gallery has a very large selection of locally handmade jewelry and cards from our artists, including, but certainly not limited to, Jane Adorney's romantic and meaning-filled pendants and cards, Nancy Onizuka's tantalizing leather beaded and feathered earrings, Beatris Burgoin's intricate and beautiful hand-beaded jewelry, Galaxy Dancer's magical, energy-radiating semi-precious stone necklaces and Myan & Jeff Sorensen's brilliant, one-of-a-kind jewelry from their Dancing Elk Designs, made of naturally shed deer, elk and caribou antler.

For the "soft" touch, consider Josefina Gordh's beautiful, sensual hand-decorated silk scarves and Moira Forsythe's warm and exquisite hand-woven scarves.

For the man in your heart you might consider Dearing Fauntleroy's



"To My Valentine", antique Valentine card 1909.

strong stone animal-inspired fetishes, Karl Grose's natural, rugged hand-turned wooden bowls and bird feeders, John Myszkowski's very powerful hand-made wooden ceremonial boxes and drums and Lori Nagel's magnificent, framed photographs of wildlife, such as bears, eagles and elk.

And above all, shop locally and send a token of your love to your entire community!

Art Quote of The Month: "There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people." —Vincent van Gogh

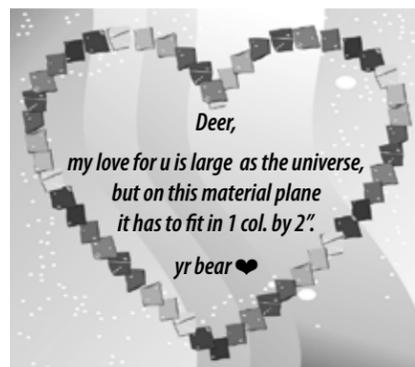
Bear sighting in January!

The Crestone Eagle got a report of a bear sighting (and no, it wasn't a "polar" one). Matthew Crowley let us know that a Shumei staff person spotted the bear January 17. While still quite cold, that was one of the first days after the bitter cold spell broke and was relatively warm and sunny. Crowley says that from a poor photograph that was taken, it looked like a pretty small bear.

He spoke to Jason Surface from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and according to him it is only slightly unusual to see a bear in January, although this was the first report he has heard of a bear sighting this year, at least in our area. Surface said that 1-2 year olds are usually the ones who will come out early as they haven't quite figured out survival as well as their elders, who, he said, have something like a 95% survival rate once they get through those first two winters. The young bear was spotted just west of Dream Way Road between the Zen Center and Shumei.

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Winter Clearance Sale

We've got great prices on winter shoes to make room for the new spring styles!



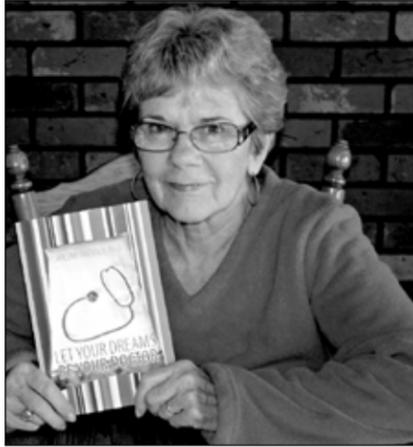
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Let Your Dreams Be Your Doctor Salida author reads work

Salida author, Arlene Shovald, Ph.D., is signing copies of her latest book, *Let Your Dreams Be Your Doctor*, from 1 to 3pm Saturday, March 9 at the Saguache Welcome Center, 404 4th St. in Saguache.

Shovald is a certified clinical hypnotherapist and past life regression therapist and owner of Fresh Start Therapies LLC in Salida and combines dream analysis with her other services. She has a Ph.D. in Transpersonal Psychology. *Let Your Dreams Be Your Doctor* is a more "reader friendly" version of her doctoral dissertation on using dreams to diagnose and treat physical and emotional problems.



Arlene Shovald with her new book "Let Dreams Be Your Doctor".

The book sells for \$11.95.

Everyone is invited to stop by the Saguache Welcome Center and meet the author. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact the Welcome Center at 719-655-2235.

Saguache County Republicans announce re-organizational meeting

The Saguache County Republican Party will hold their re-organizational meeting at the Saguache County Road and Bridge conference room on Saturday, February 9 at 2pm.

The re-organizational meeting takes place every two years for the purpose of nominating and electing officers for the executive positions on the central committee and to fill vacancies for the central committee precinct chairs. The executive offices consist of four positions, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Any registered Republican is eligible to run for the executive committee but you must be present at the meeting to run for a leadership position or be eligible to fill a vacancy on the central committee.

We encourage all Republicans in Saguache County to attend this important meeting and make your voice count. The 2014 election cycle is right around the corner and now is the time to get active. We will have refreshments and a ballot survey to determine the direction of the Saguache County Republican Party.

For more information all contact names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on our web site on the contacts page, www.saguache-gop.com; or contact Richard Drake at 719-256-4215.

How cold was it?

It was so cold that:

- ... now I've got polar bears in my trash.
- ... when we milked the cows, we got ice cream.
- ... I can fit into my wife's underwear.
- ... my heater froze
- ... I had to heat the toilet seat with a hair dryer before I sat down each morning.
- ... Antarctica had higher temps.
- ... the Eskimos sent us letters of condolence.
- ... the husky dogs were wearing poodle sweaters.
- ... my mustache froze to my beard and I couldn't open my mouth for days.
- ... I saw a teenage boy pull up his pants.
- ... words froze in the air. If you wanted to hear what someone said, you had to grab a handful of sentences and take them in by the fire.
- ... our mail was cryogenically treated.
- ... the yaks were trying to trade in their woolly coats for down filled gore-tex.
- ... it was colder than Dick Cheney's heart.
- ... I had to break the smoke off my chimney.
- ... it was so cold that 10° above zero felt warm!

Crestone Conglomerate

LarryCalloway.com

a reporter's blog...



Sharing a moment in this Winter Wonderland called Crestone.

photo by Lori Nagel

Cold weather

continued from page 1

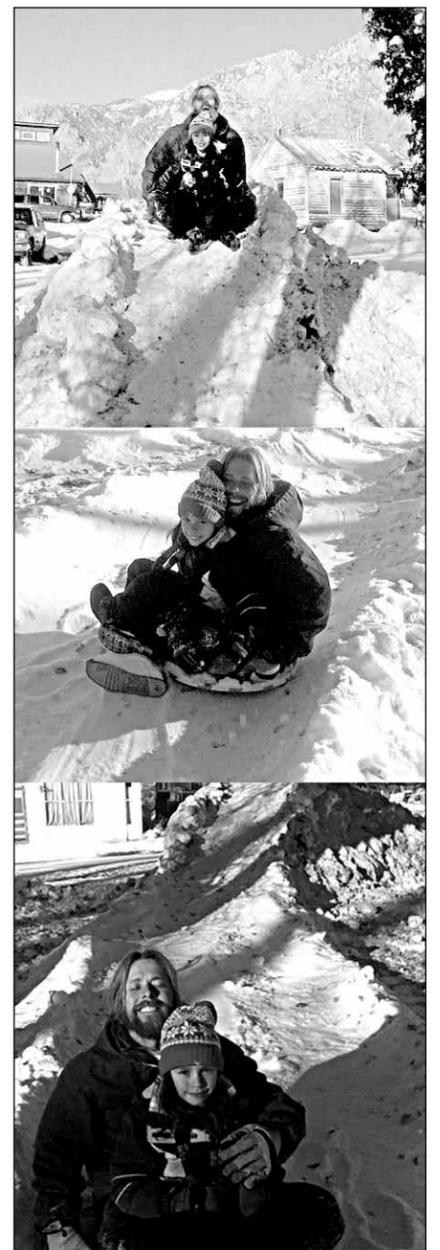
seen non-stop work thanks to the frigid temps. "We're receiving 20 calls a day right now for cars that will not start". He noted that was about 3 times the normal rate. He also said that he was selling much more antifreeze than normal, too. "Most people only have the coolant in their radiators protected to -10°, and we've been way below that on several mornings".

In Crestone alone, as of January 18, 17 nights/mornings saw temperatures below zero, with 7 nights below -10°, including two record low readings of -16°. The record for most days with temperatures below zero in January for Crestone is 22 days. But if you live in the valley, (including Casita Park) it's been even colder, with a few mornings seeing readings of around -25° or colder!

This kind of cold weather could easily recur in February, so be proactive to avoid problems and headaches from damage caused by the cold. Keeping a slow flow of water running through a faucet can save you from a major repair bill. Insulate pipes and check on unheated areas like crawlspaces for unprotected water lines. And keep an extra blanket in the car.

But, importantly, enjoy our quite "wintery" winter this year and on sunny warmer days get out and enjoy the snow and crisp mountain air.

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



Jeff Winsett and Ava Guidry take to the slopes. Sledding ramp by Eagle office courtesy of Jim Hollmer and Jeff Winsett photo by Lori Nagel.



Crestone/Baca Watershed Council meeting Feb 26

On Tuesday, February 26, the Crestone/Baca Watershed Council will meet to discuss conditions in local streams and wetlands and to make plans for the May Waterfest. This will take place at the Elephant Cloud (aka Birch Street or Jillian's) Studio, at 6:30pm.

NHN presents March Madness Cabin Fever Talent Show March 9

On Saturday, March 9 at 6:30pm take your talent out of cold storage and bring it all to the Crestone Charter School for a heart-warming good time. Your talent is appreciated, and if you know of anyone who might be encouraged to share a hidden talent with the community, please consider asking them to participate as well. All potential performers are asked to contact Bon Dellegar at Crestone-bon@gmail.com.

Let's make this a hot time in the old town to lift spirits in the alpine winter weather.

Gunnison Sage-grouse and its proposed ESA listing

The Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable will hold an educational presentation on the Gunnison Sage-grouse and its recent proposed Endangered Species Act listing Thurs. Feb. 21 at 6:30pm at the Saguache Road & Bridge meeting room, 305 3rd St., Saguache. Jenny Nehring, Coordinator for the Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG) Poncha Pass Working Group, will be our guest speaker. The Poncha Pass area is home to one of seven populations of GUSG in southwestern Colorado and Utah. The sagebrush habitat used by GUSG at Poncha Pass has been identified as critical habitat in the proposed rule.

Gunnison Sage-grouse were recognized as a new species of bird (different from Greater Sage-grouse) in 2000. Conservation efforts for this species have been ongoing since 1995. This presentation will include background information about the species in general as well as specific information on the Poncha Pass population. Q&A during/following the presentation. Refreshments will be served. For more information: 256-5436 or barb@olt.org.



For Cupid's sake

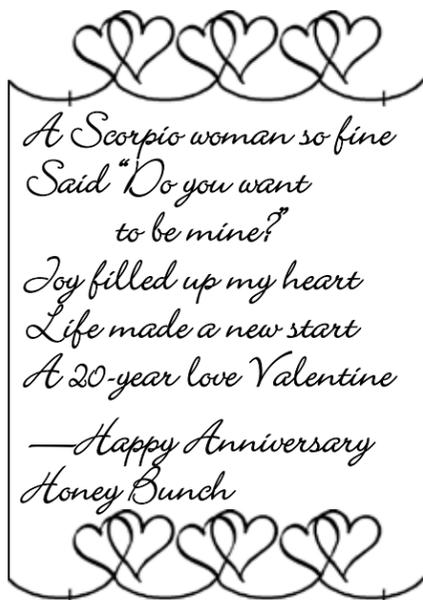
Valentine's Day at Yak N Cracker Cafe will feature belly dancing by Crestone Tribal, a rose for your valentine and a special Mediterranean menu. For reservations: 719-256-4700.

ARR! The pirates are coming!

This summer the SLV Theater Company will be performing Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. To receive audition info, or volunteer to help with costuming, sets or props, please call Sue Vaughan at 719-256-4915.

Locals' Appreciation Night at Joyful Journey

Joyful Journey Hot Springs welcomes you to our annual Locals' Appreciation Night on Wednesday, February 6 from 5-10pm. We will offer free soaking plus light refreshments. Towels and robes will be available for an additional fee. Please come join us, and we thank you for your support throughout the year.



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Intro to worker/owner cooperatives

There will be a free introduction to worker/owner cooperatives in The Art of Sustainable Business Models offered by Carol Anne Robinson of CarolAnne Creations on Thursday, Feb. 21, 6:30-8:30pm at Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio.

Join us for a fun and informative evening as we explore the dynamics of the worker/owner cooperative business model, why the UN declared 2012 the Year of the Cooperatives and how the culture of CBVillage could help community members move from striving to thriving through the use of this business model.

NHN phone book

Please make a note in your new NHN phone book:

- Conway Bill & Tonya 970-302-5853
- Hedstrom Rocky/Krissy 256-5261
- Hill Joy 480-3938
- Larson Richard 937-7722
- Mattis Naomi: Wrong number in book.
- Popovits Marika 937-7782
- Skogen Lars 256-5845
- Thomson Jennifer 937-7694
- Yarbrough Darlene 256-4190 (home)

Sushi dreams at Shumei Free Movie Night

On Friday, February 15, at 7pm, Shumei Free Movie Night hosts *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. This delectable documentary profiles sushi chef Jiro Ono, an 85-year-old master whose 10-seat, \$300-a-plate restaurant is legendary among Tokyo foodies. Ono is also a father, whose sons struggle to live up to his legacy and make their own marks.

Refreshments provided, 7pm, 256-5284.

The Bertha we knew

When the great friend of this community passed away last month, many were out of town and unable to gather to share their memories of the Bertha who loved us and whom we loved in return.

Several of us have thought of collecting the memories of how a truly wise woman touched our lives in this place at the end of the road. We can celebrate our friend Bertha and also the way she nurtured our growth into our own being which is the tribute Bertha would love the most.

If you care to write something which we can edit to this purpose, or if you would rather "talk" your contribution, please contact Anne Silver at 256-4104 or ahsilver@wildweb.us to schedule a short interview.

Free tax service to qualifying individuals

For the fourth year, Adams State University School of Business, Trinidad State Junior College Valley Campus, and The Piton Foundation are providing free tax service to qualifying individuals starting January 26. If your family's income is under \$50,000, IRS-certified students at Adams State can save you hundreds of dollars you'd pay to file, and make sure you get all the tax credits you're due.

This year sites include Adams State campus, TSJC Valley Campus, and the Alamosa Senior Center.

For more details and the locations of all free tax sites in Colorado, dial 2-1-1, a free call, or visit www.piton.org. Or call the Adams State School of Business at 719-587-7316 or 955-0742.



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Sarah Rae Quick Barker

Sarah Rae Quick Barker graduated from Colorado State University on December 15, 2012. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology with minors in Spanish and International Development.

Sarah is a 2008 graduate of the Crestone Charter School.



Community Calendar—MONTH 2013

visit us online at www.crestoneeagle.com // NOW UPDATED DAILY ONLINE!!!

Monthly Events

There is a \$5 charge per calendar listing for for-profit classes/events, with a discount for display advertisers. For more information contact us at 719-256-4956. To list your event, (print or online) please submit via our website: <http://crestoneeagle.com/calendar> (preferred)

~or~ e-mail to: calendar@crestoneeagle.com ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131 by the 22nd of the month. To list calendar items online (between print issues), please fill out the form at www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar.

Saturday, February 2

• Stories from the Harp: “Women Rising” – Elephant Cloud Studio 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Sunday, February 3

• Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon whitejewelmountain.org 719-256-5773

Monday, February 4

• Town of Crestone Planning Commission Crestone Town Hall 7-9pm townofcrestone.org 256-4313

Tuesday, February 5

• Senior (over age 60) Bus Service to Salida – Kiosk 9:00 am \$10 256-5084
• Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome – Baca library back door 7:30-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday, February 6

• Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (pre-recorded) 5:30-6:30pm 256-4480
• CoDependents Anonymous Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078
• Locals Appreciation Night, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, 5-10pm

Thursday, February 7

• Rumi Study Circle. All welcome 1-3:00 pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Saturday, February 9

• Sag. Co. Republican Party re-organizational meeting Sag. Co. Rd. & Bridge Conf. Room 2pm

Sunday, February 10

• Dorje Trolo Practice – White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon whitejewelmountain.org 719-256-5773
• New Moon Fire Ceremony, followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am
• 12th Annual Ranching Celebration & Frontier Spirit, Sag. Community Bldg, noon, 719-539-5606

Monday, February 11

• Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Town Hall 1:30-5:30pm townofcrestone.org 256-4313

Tuesday, February 12

• Crestone End of Life Project monthly open meeting Topping House Noon free www.crestoneendoflifeproject.org 719-256-4247/256-5324

Wednesday, February 13

• Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (pre-recorded) 5:30-6:30pm 256-4480
• CoDependents Anonymous Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, February 14

• BG Library Valentine’s Day Open House 1-4pm

Friday, February 15

• Shumei Free Movie Night *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* 7pm

Saturday, February 16

• 3rd Annual SLV Seed Exchange Joyful Journey Hot Springs 10:00 am-3:00 pm 719-655-2011
• Jay Kings at Secret Garden, 7-11pm, Suggested \$7, Reverbnation.com/jaykings, 256-6100

Sunday, February 17

• Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon whitejewelmountain.org 719-256-5773
• “Plants, Animals & Inspiration” Art Exhibit Reception White Eagle Lodge 2-4pm free whiteeaglelodgeatcrestone.com 719-256-4722

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver

Tuesday, February 19

• Deltiology (study & collection of Post Cards!) Club – Bliss Cafe 11am-noon 719-480-3704
• CrestoneArtists February Meeting – 3-5:00 pm free www.CrestoneArtists.com 719-256-4182

Wednesday, February 20

• Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (pre-recorded) 5:30-6:30pm 256-4480
• CoDependents Anonymous Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, February 21

• Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. – 1-3pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
• Crestone Newcomers meeting Bliss Cafe 5-7pm
• Worker Owner Cooperatives Elephant Cloud Studio 6:30-8:30pm 214-469-7838
• Presentation on Gunnison Sage Grouse, Saguache Road & Bridge conference room, 6:30pm

Friday, February 22

• Don Richmond at Shumei 7-9pm \$10 Suggested Donation shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Sunday, February 24

• Dorje Trolo Practice – White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773

Monday, February 25

• Full Moon Fire Ceremony, followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am

Wednesday, February 27

• Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (pre-recorded) 5:30-6:30pm 256-4480
• CoDependents Anonymous Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Tuesday, March 5

• Vote on Petition to Dissolve Crestone Fire Protection Dist. Old Crestone Schoolhouse 7am-7pm
• Senior (over age 60) Bus Service to Salida – Kiosk 9:00 am \$10 Call ahead to reserve 256-5084

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

• Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9am 256-4778
• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

Monday

• Hatha Yoga Classes Elephant Cloud (Jillian’s) Studio 5:00 pm-6:30 pm \$10.00 719-256-5129
• Zumba Toning Birch street studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 256-4040
• Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773

Tuesday

• Gentle Yoga class with Joann Connington Elephant Cloud Studio 10:30am-noon 256-5129
• Savitri Reading Circle - Potluck, reading & meditation Savitri House 6pm 937-7687 or 256-6010
• Deltiology (Post Cards!) Club Bliss Cafe 11am-noon free 719-480-3704
• Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style; classes resume March Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 256-5668
• Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30-8:30pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday

• Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements; classes resume in March Shakti Sharanam 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 5668
• Zumba Fitness Birch St. Studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
• Hatha Yoga classes w/Joann Connington Elephant Cloud (Jillian’s) Studio 5-6:30pm 256-5129

• CoDependents Anonymous Meeting Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm None [coda.org](http://www.coda.org) 720-352-2078
• Kundalini Yoga The Secret Garden 6:00 pm \$10 949-355-6236

Thursday

• Gentle Yoga class w/Joann Connington Elephant Cloud Studio 10:30am-noon 256-5129
• Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style; classes resume March Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
• Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. 1-3pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday

• Zumba Sentao Birch street studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

Boredom is the feeling that everything is a waste of time; serenity, that nothing is. —Thomas Szasz

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by Val Valentine

As always, there are many amongst you who are alone, lonely and wish you had something better to snuggle up next to than your dog, your cat or your teddybear. Yet, there are also many of you who are in a relationship, but still wish you had something better to snuggle up next to besides your dog, etc.

If you are alone, take care of yourself. In a couple of months, the weather will be warmer and your social life will improve. People are out and about more, and the likelihood of your meeting your “twin flame,” improves greatly. For now, put down that bag of cookies, you don’t want to be 20 lbs overweight when the love of your life shows up in May—he or she may not recognize you. Comb your hair, wash your feet (even if you have to crack through a layer of ice in your water pail to do it) in the off chance that you’ll walking down the street, trying not to slip on the ice and break your neck, and there he or she is. Your eyes meet, bells ring, your heart flutters, but as you approach each other, you wonder if you have cookie crumbs between your teeth, neither of you smiles because you’re both thinking the same thing (you really were twin flames), and opportunity melts like an icicle on a sunny day.

It is difficult to give advice to those of you who are together, but lonely, even for Dr. Val, physician of the heart. If your sweetie tells you, “Not tonight, it’s just too cold to take off my clothes,” for ten or more long, dark nights in a row, he or she might be experiencing one of two

emotional disorders: SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) or NIY (Not Into You). The symptoms of these two disorders are similar: moody, grumpy, sarcastic, uninterested in intimacy, eating all the cookies and not caring that he or she didn’t leave any for you. Counselling and extensive testing may help, but will probably prove inconclusive, so you might as well save your money and wait until spring.

You can take the money you save on counselling and put it towards a 10-day cruise or a tropical vacation; then you can have your answer right away. If your sweetie still says it’s too cold to take off his/her clothes, well you can be sure it’s NIY. But hey, you’ll be in the tropics; there are plenty of fish in the sea—go snorkling. A sexy Valentine’s dinner might help enliven your darling’s interest in intimacy, but then again, low lights and soft music just might put him/her to sleep or make your beloved grumpier, whether it’s SAD or NIY. To increase togetherness, you two can sit, holding hands in front of a 10,000 lux full spectrum light every morning while waiting for the sun to come up. If, after a few days, the one you thought was your twin flame still eats all the cookies and tells you to go get your own bag, well, as you suspected, it’s probably a case of NIY.

But be of good cheer. Spring is on the way, you can split the sheets and find another twin flame. But, you say, you expected it to last forever. Well, nothing lasts forever, not even you. Cheery thought is it not—I may be experiencing a bit of

SAD myself. But on a more positive note, think of this person as only one of your twin flames and feel joy that you are one of the lucky ones to have had more than one twin flame, perhaps you’re even one of the really lucky ones to have an abundance of them.

Until next year, I say, don’t be stingy with your love. Open your heart to all you meet, love is bigger than just you and me, him and her. If you don’t have a significant other just now, give that love to yourself, love your life, love your friends and your enemies, and you will be so lovable that you’ll be a love magnetic, and you’ll be irresistible!

And don’t forget to pet and cuddle your dogs and cats and teddy bears too. They get SAD in the winter time too, but *they’ll* never get NIY.

Creekside Kitchen Valentine dinner delicacy

by Daleth McCoy

With Valentine’s day around the corner, I thought it might be nice to feature a meal with a romantic flair. This recipe caught my eye due to the 37 5-star reviews it received; it was easy to make and held up surprisingly well to my expectations. May you all have a terrific month, and treat yourself to a little delicacy from the sea!

Parmesan Crusted Broiled Scallops

- 1/3 cup finely crushed onion flavored melba toast (appx. 9)
- 1 tablespoon grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1.5 lbs sea scallops
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- lemon wedges

- 1) Place the broiler pan on the second rack position to keep the scallops from burning
- 2) Combine the first 5 ingredients in a large ziplock bag
- 3) Brush scallops with butter
- 4) Add scallops to bag, shake to coat
- 5) Place scallops on a broiler pan coated with cooking spray or lightly oiled
- 6) Broil 10 minutes or until done
- 7) Serve with lemon wedges

Great side dishes include sautéed greens with garlic, roasted asparagus, and of course the classic fettucini alfredo.

Servings: 4
Calories per serving: 153
Total fat: 4g
Total protein: 21g
Total Carbohydrate: 6.5g

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Love yoga? Want to become a teacher?

Crestone Yoga Institute offers 200 hour vinyasa certification course

by M. Diane Bairstow

Carolina and Chris Sartain moved to Crestone from Georgia a few months ago to teach at the Crestone Charter School. “We weren’t thinking about opening another yoga teacher training school, we were going to take a break, but people began asking and several people are already interested.” Chris explained. “It is where our hearts are,” Carolina added, “we love it and want to share it with the world.”

They had a yoga school in Georgia, Heart Center Therapy, and in two years they graduated 20 teachers, 18 of whom are currently teaching yoga, and two own their own studio. Their school is

Chris and Carolina were both ordained as a teacher/ minister in the Kriya Yoga tradition by Roy Eugene Davis, a direct disciple of Yogananda. Chris is also an ayurvedic health practitioner, and the author of *The Sacred Science of Yoga and the Five Koshas*.

Carolina has been practicing yoga since she was a teenager, and she (with Chris) received her teacher training certification at Peachtree Yoga Center in Atlanta, GA, five years ago. She is also a certified Pranic and Reiki healer. She has been teaching yoga for the past 5 years from children to adults. She has coached in the athletic area for years, and is currently working with Angela Anderson



Carolina and Chris Sartain.

registered with the yoga alliance, and certified teachers are given preference when applying to teach at resorts, health clubs and spas all over the world.

“We are going to make it affordable,” Carolina said, “and we will work with peoples’ needs and the pace of our student.” “And the classes will be small” Chris continued, “with lots of personal attention.”

Both Carolina and Chris have impressive credentials. Chris has been practicing yoga for over twelve years and teaching for five.

teaching Zumba and offering internet coaching, but “Yoga is my heart,” she reiterated.

The couple holds a 9am Sunday morning meditation at their house; it is free and open to the public. They are working on their website, but you can find out more about Crestone Yoga Institute at the Yoga Alliance website www.yogaalliance.org. Their phone numbers are: Carolina 706-429-4781 and Chris 404-202-9652. You can also email them at: carolinasartain@gmail.com and chrissartain@gmail.com.



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Reggie Ray teaching in the shrine hall at Dharma Ocean.

photo by Corey Kohn

‘In the Beautiful Silence of a Still Mind’

An open invitation from Reggie Ray & Dharma Ocean

by Dr. Reginald A. Ray

Since Dharma Ocean moved to Crestone nearly eight years ago, I have wanted us to offer a weekly meditation to the Crestone community, no matter what their spiritual allegiance or lineage. The form of meditation we practice, taught by Trungpa Rinpoche, is based on the Tibetan Dzogchen tradition. It emphasizes the natural beauty and perfection of our own state of being, right at this moment, and offers a variety of simple, somatically based practices so that we can experience this perfection for ourselves. At that point, it is not a matter of mere theory or conceptual understanding, but rather our direct personal experience. That is, after all, why we meditate—we all want to taste for ourselves the nectar of freedom, well-being, and joy, the natural bounty of our own human existence. Anybody from any tradition or lineage can do this practice as a way to deepen his or her spirituality. As Trungpa Rinpoche said, “it isn’t the property of any

tradition or religion; it is just human and belongs to anyone who is a human being.” So this is the general approach we will take in the practice group.

I plan to lead the group this spring, at least until the end of March when I have a program coming up. My idea is that each week I could give a brief practice talk and some simple meditation instruction and then we could all sit together. Maybe at the end we could have a little discussion and meet each other afterwards. I suppose the group will be quite small, and that would be wonderful; a way for us to meet each other and perhaps initiate new friendships.

So I’d like to invite anybody in Crestone who would like to join us to come along. There is no commitment required; you could just come whenever you feel inspired and your schedule permits. Very casual and informal. Just a chance to enjoy each others’ company in the beautiful silence of a still mind.

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No previous meditation experience is required.

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or kathyg@dharmaocean.org for more information



Dharma Ocean



photo by Corey Kohn

Dr. Reginald A. Ray brings us four decades of study and intensive meditation practice within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. He currently resides in Crestone and Boulder, Colorado where he is the Spiritual Director of the Dharma Ocean Foundation, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study, practice, and preservation of the teachings of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and the practice lineage he embodied.

Who We Are

Cristina Cabeza-Kinney:

Life in the circle of community

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Self-reliance. Renewal. Weeding out the unwanted and sowing seeds that are natural and integral to a healthy dynamic in this special corner of the world. The goals Cristina Cabeza-Kinney is working toward as chair of the Crestone Town Planning Commission bear a striking resemblance to those she long has valued in her own life.

The difference is that in town planning the emphasis is on the deliberate and long term. Life, on the other hand, seems to offer up unexpected plans of its own. Still, Cristina's choices at important crossroads and the events that propelled her forward have led the 35-year-old community service

from sports. Instantly gone was her identity as a sassy, charming, gregarious young girl. Cut off from her circle of athletic friends, she became quiet and self-reflective, drawn to the writings of Thoreau, the poetry of Rumi, the Tao, yoga, and earth-based spirituality.

On the side of the underserved

Cristina emerged from her inward phase while at Florida State University in Tallahassee, where she studied communications and business. At one point a required internship presented a pivotal choice whose ramifications continue today: She could intern either with the March of Dimes or as a lobbyist for Ticketmaster.



Cristina. photo by Lori Nagel

Naiya.

The path of service continued following college when Cristina moved to Colorado. In Estes Park she worked at a free health clinic and later served as director of a non-profit aimed at integrating and supporting the immigrant community. Her role included restorative justice and victim advocacy, providing support and empathy for women of all races and classes in domestic violence situations.

Crestone & the path of fire

In 2004 Cristina, her then-partner, their six-week-old son and a friend set off on a camping trip to find a community more in line with their earth-focused lifestyle and spiritual orientation, which incorporated elements from Native American, pagan and shamanic traditions. Near Montrose, the friend fell asleep at the wheel and their van went off an embankment and rolled. Cristina had just gone to the back of the van; the passenger side where she'd been sitting was crushed. No one was badly hurt, but on the way to Valley View Hot Springs to recuperate, the friends made a detour to Crestone. "After 15 minutes at Shambala (café)," she recalls, "we knew this is the place."

Soon Cristina accepted a job with the non-profit Crestone Peak. But before she could start she experienced what she calls an "unintentional initiation by fire." At a campfire with friends one night, she remembers looking up at the trees and moon and hearing the words, Do your will. "I'm not sure whose voice it was; it's still a beautiful mystery," she says. The next thing she knew, her friends were screaming, dousing her with creek water and wrapping her in a blanket. She'd lost consciousness and fallen into the fire.

With second and third degree burns on her face and neck, a long period of pain and healing began. Her hair and eyebrows were gone and soon her relationship ended as well. "It was about accepting that my old self had died, and I had to rebuild my life," she says. "My mom wanted me to come home but something kept me here. It felt so

right, even though it was so hard. This community was so beautiful—the prayers, my friends, everyone took care of me."

A community vision

As director of Crestone Peak from 2005 to 2006, Cristina began to give back. When she joined the town planning commission in 2011—Adam was elected a town trustee in 2012—she brought with her the long-term vision of a more self-reliant community. Among plans endorsed by the commission is revitalization of the commercial district. The design includes new street signage, installing storm drainage and creating pedestrian walkways.

Weed abatement around town and reseeded with natural grasses is also a passion for Cristina, and one that embodies her view of the larger web of life. A key component of that project will be community education about wild plants, including practical uses for some types of weeds. "Hopefully, with the town addressing its own weed issues, starting with where the new water lines went in, it will inspire people to take care of weeds on their properties, because we're all interconnected, and this is a perfect example of that," she notes.

Cristina's community aspirations merge with her personal dreams in other ways as well, and are reflected in the symbol of the circle, central to indigenous cultures around the world. Among the circle's many layers of significance is the concept of holding both what is treasured and what is troubled



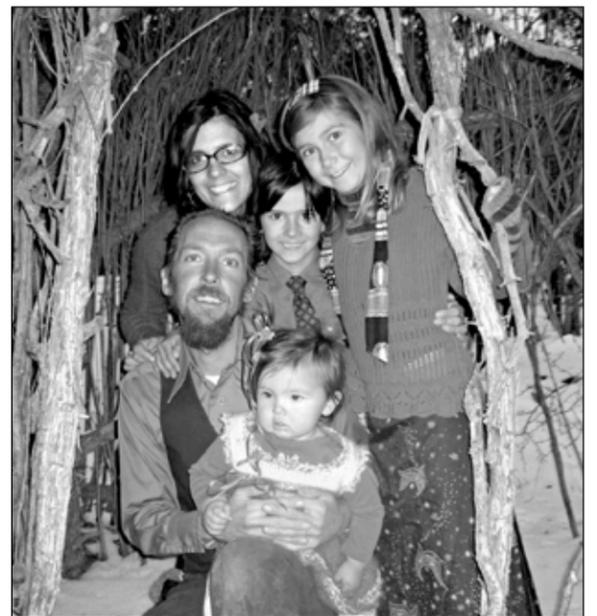
Cristina, left, with friends Jo delAmor and Alycia Chambers check out the delicacies in Cristina's garden. photo by Chris Faith

worker, peace advocate and mother to a place she knows she was meant to be: right here, right now.

From coquette to contemplative teen

The daughter of a Bolivian-born mother and Cuban-immigrant father, Cristina grew up bilingual in middle class comfort in south Florida, yet retained a deep sympathy for the immigrant experience and Latino culture. Her life's first major "course correction" took place in high school when knee surgery sidelined her indefinitely

"I could have started a political career, but I started working for a non-profit instead," she relates, her dark brown eyes smiling as she sits in the cozy sunroom/living room of her strawbale home just east of downtown. There she and her husband, finish carpenter Adam Kinney, raise chickens, a homesteader's garden and children—Adam's 10-year-old daughter Luna Blue (who lives part-time with her mother, Jo delAmor), Cristina's 8-year-old son Raven, and the couple's 2-year-old daughter,



Cristina and her family: (clockwise from top left) Cristina, Raven, Luna Blue, Naiya and Adam. photo by Lori Nagel

in the center of the circle. With experience in conflict resolution and training as a peace ambassador through James O'Dea's Shift Network, Cristina describes the ongoing work of peace as "a big part of my soul. When there's conflict, that's where to put the attention and figure out how to grow, how to heal and humble yourself through this, and then move forward," she says. "That makes sense to me."

For more information on her work, visit her website <http://awakeningthephoenix.com>

This is an ongoing series celebrating the vibrant threads that make up the tapestry of our community, the individuals who make the Northern San Luis Valley what it is. Suggestions of people to profile are welcome. gussie7@fairpoint.net

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Winter Solstice 2012

by **Betsi Sites**

Despite all the hype and confusion about the end of the Mayan Calendar, most of us are still here! Another doomsday “end of the world” scenario has come and gone and little appears to have changed . . . except that a flicker of new hope has been ignited around the world that we may learn to live in peace and cooperation after all, and if not immediately, then in the near future.

By now most people are aware that December 21, 2012 represented a conclusion of a 5,125 year and an even larger 26,000 year cycle of Mayan time keeping. Signifying the alignment of our solar system with the “Dark Rift-Xibalba” center of our Milky Way Galaxy or Hunab Ku, there was much anticipation around this date as a major global event. However, many were disappointed. There was no ascension, no pole shift, no great earthquakes or giant storms, no nuclear disaster, no disease epidemic, no fiery blast from the Sun, no global period of darkness. The Sun rose faithfully on December 22 and thereafter.

To keep things in perspective, one must acknowledge that for an alignment of such galactic proportions to be pinpointed to one particular day ONLY is statistically improbable. It would be more reasonable to view the 2012 Winter Solstice as a symbolic and ceremonial moment in the transitioning of great world cycles, one that will play out over the ensuing months, years or even hundreds of years, spanning several generations.

Nonetheless, to mark the “End of the Mayan Calendar” and this rare alignment with the galactic center, global celebrations and ceremonies were held around the world simultaneously in such places as Stonehenge and Glastonbury, England; Madrid, Spain; Copenhagen, Denmark; Bacuranao, Cuba; Tikal, Guatemala; Uxmal, Palenque and Chichen Itza, Mexico; Los Angeles California, and elsewhere.

On this momentous date, I was fortunate enough to be at Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico, known as the heart of the ancient Mayan world, where thousands of global citizens gathered before the steps of the Pyramid of Kukulcan, honoring the Plumed Serpent, Quetzalcoatl. Dressed in white and arriving by candlelight procession at first light, it was both a somber and joyous gathering of thousands of souls, eager to witness first hand whatever might occur on this very special day! With great fanfare and donning colorful feather headdresses, a band of Mayan priests performed a ritual of incense and prayer, dance and chants, cheered on by the enthusiastic crowd. Although more performance than sacred ceremony, it satisfied the throng with its pageantry. After that, groups broke out and held smaller clustered rituals, including a huge circle dance that encompassed the Great Pyramid.

Experiences that day ranged from “ho hum” to deeply felt moments of inspiration, with visions of a more equitable and honest society, soon to become reality. For Synthesis 2012 participants, the next 3 days were full of music and dance, workshops, ceremony and good fellowship in which feelings of this new age of equality and higher consciousness were both tasted and savored.

The Fifth Sun

We are on the cusp of the Mayan Fifth Sun, which will last for the next 5,125 years. This period corresponds roughly to “The Age of Aquarius,” the long anticipated Golden Age of Enlightenment we sang about wistfully in the 1960’s and 70’s. The Fifth Sun signifies a time of transformation leading to universal social justice and balanced relationships between men and women as well as with the Earth. The rising consciousness within humanity will help us develop our powers of telepathy and intuition to the extent that lies will no longer be possible and transparency will prevail. Unity and



Ceremonies for winter solstice 2012 in Madrid, Spain.



Enthralled throngs watch Mayan solstice ceremony.

oneness are said to be within reach during this epoch.

Mayan Chieftain Carlos Barrios tells us, “The dark power of the declining Fourth World . . . can only be transformed when confronted with simplicity and open-heartedness. This is what leads to unity . . . We are now in a transition

period called the ‘Cycle of the merge of the dark and the light.’ The cycle of the light will come in full force on

12/21/2012 (when) Mother Earth as a living entity will transcend to another level or frequency of consciousness and a new and special era will begin . . . This era will be very positive . . . the times are here for total brotherhood . . . The spirit beings, different philosophies, different races must begin to weave together all knowledge to create the tapestry of harmony and balance.”

Mayan Elder Hunbatz Men adds, “According to the prophesies, in the year 2013 the first stage of higher understanding will begin. If we are willing to work with our subconscious, we will then be able to reclaim the information that has been impregnated in the deepest parts of our being. In this way, the ancient knowledge will rise again.”

Disasters yet to come?

For those who are still longing for some giant cataclysm to validate these “End Times”, the next few months may be critical. On March 28, 2013 the Mayan Sun-Venus Calendar will complete one of its 104-year rounds of Sun-Venus Conjunctions, considered very significant by the Maya. And Mayan Elder Don Alejandro has prophesied that “On March 31, 2013 the sun will be hidden for a period of 60-70 hours and this is when we shall enter the period of the Fifth Sun.” This happens to be on Easter Sunday, a Christian ascension festival date as well as the Mayan day of completion, 13 Ahau. Then on April 1, 2013 we expect Asteroid 4034-1986 to pass the Earth closely. So you can hold your breath a little longer if you so choose, or you can go on living ever more consciously, manifesting a brighter future and a more harmonious world within your own circle of influence. I highly recommend the latter. The promise of the New Age will be fulfilled (or not) depending on you and me. Happy Birthday, Planet Earth!

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Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

We have been slower at the ashram with the cold winter weather but have been very grateful for the snow that we have received. I have actually been in California both visiting my children and grandchildren and also conducting fire ceremonies in different locations here. It has been a sweet time.

This month we will commemorate Shri Babaji's Mahasamdhi on Valentine's Day with a paduka puja at 5:30pm before our evening aarti. It will be 29 years since Babaji left His physical form. After that Tribhuvan and I will be traveling to the front-range for programs the weekend of Feb. 17. We will then be flying to Florida for a week of chanting programs and fire ceremonies. For more information on these programs go to the Ashram newsletter at: www.babajiashram.org/newsletters.

A heads up for Shivaratri: this year it falls on Sunday night, March 10 for all-night chanting (10pm until 4am) with a fire ceremony the next morning at 10am followed by a meal.

Our new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, February 10 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Monday, February 25. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morn-



Babaji's Mahasamdhi, February 14 with paduka puja at 5:30pm.

ing aarati will remain at 8am until March 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 mahalakshmiashram.org.

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.



The Mother

The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

Mother's birthday

She is the golden bridge, the wonderful fire.

The luminous heart of the Unknown is she,

A power of silence in the depths of God;

She is the Force, the inevitable Word,

The magnet of our difficult ascent,

The Sun from which we kindle all our suns . . .

—Sri Aurobindo, Savitri

February is the birth month of Mirra Alfassa, The Mother. Born in Paris on Thursday February 21, 1878, Mirra was raised in a materialistic home by her Turkish father, a mathematician and banker and her mother, an Egyptian from a banking family. Mirra was not sent to school but learned mathematics and languages from her brother. As a teenager, Mirra was sent to the Ecole des Beaux Arts as a student of Gustav Moreau; she was a secretary to Rodin and met the great Impressionists of the day. Mirra became acquainted with leading occultists and went to Algeria several times to study, becoming an adept. In 1914, Mirra sailed to Pondicherry and met Sri Aurobindo. When her ship was two miles from port, she experienced Sri Aurobindo's aura. When they met, she recognized him as the teacher she had seen in visions and followed for many years.

Mirra's great mission was as The Mother of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. The disciples were reluctant to listen to "that French woman" so Sri Aurobindo declared that he and The Mother shared the same consciousness. They are "The Two who are One." With great energy and intelligence, Mother organized the ashram to accommodate the influx of new disciples, renovated houses for them, initiated cottage industries, started gardens and the dining room, and set up the playground where mostly Indian men, women and children wore shorts and were immersed in physical culture as an aid to the yoga. She guided each devotee's spiritual journey with infinite care.

Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga requires physical transformation. He wrote that just as the ape evolved into homo sapiens, humans will evolve into superman. The Agenda is Mother's record of her own work of cellular transformation. She is truly "the magnet of our difficult ascent." This writer received Mother's Darshan several times in 1970-1972, and felt an amazing power of love in her presence. She left her body in 1973.

Savitri House, dedicated to Mother and Sri Aurobindo's evolutionary work, was host to a wonderful gathering on Solistice. Sharon Landrith held an all-day and evening retreat open to all. Participants traveled from LA, Boulder and Crestone to meditate, envision the future and break bread together. About 35 people gathered around the fireplace on 12-21-12, witnessing the birth of a "new age".

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Moving Up Higher

The key to having the life you've always wanted



Joyce Meyer

All of us have some sort of dream or vision—areas of our lives where we want to better ourselves or achieve more.

Maybe it's to get in shape or have better physical health. Maybe you want greater financial stability or greater success in your business. Some of you might be believing God for greater ministry opportunities.

Whatever your goals are, there's one thing for certain—it will be almost impossible to get there without discipline and self-control.

There was a time in my life when I would think, If I eat one of those chocolate chip cookies, I'll have to eat a dozen. Why? Because I had no self-control . . . and I had absolutely no faith in myself ever changing.

But here's the truth: We can change. By the grace of God, we can begin making right choices and developing new habits that will bring us the life we really want to have.

Know your power source

First and foremost, living a disciplined life and establishing new habits requires a lot more than just will power.

I'll never forget the time years ago when I heard a teaching about the power of words. That day, I left church and said, "That's it! I'm going to shut my mouth and not say one bad thing. I'm going to discipline myself!"

You can probably guess how that turned out. Actually, I did manage to keep quiet, but then I realized I was depressed. The Lord spoke to my heart and said, "You shut your mouth, but nothing on the inside has changed."

Here's the lesson: Even when God asks us to do something, we still cannot do it successfully unless we lean on Him. John 15:5 has changed my life. It says . . . Apart from Me you can do nothing (NAS).

Take a little time each day to read God's Word and talk to Him in prayer. Some of my greatest breakthroughs have been the result of simply sitting quietly in His presence, letting Him know that I can't do anything if He doesn't make it happen.

You can't have the "perks" without the "works"

Years ago, people were expected to work at their jobs for a long time before getting raises, vacation and special benefits. Today, these

things are expected up front. I'm all for people having great benefits, but there's a sense of entitlement today that can actually hurt us.

I believe a lot of people want the "perks without the works." In other words, they want to have all of the good results without having to discipline themselves or take any of the responsibility.

Well-known college football coach Vince Lombardi said that he was going to teach his players how to discipline themselves so they could have what they said they wanted to have.

You see, although today we can microwave a meal, there's no such thing as "microwave Christianity." Actually, I like to call God's process "The Law of Gradual Growth." Why? Because little by little, as we make right choices that line up with God's Word and His wisdom, He delivers us from our enemies and takes us where we need to be.

Yes, in the beginning, disciplining yourself will be difficult. It won't feel good and you won't like it. But every time you make a choice to do the right thing, the next time it gets a little easier. And you get one step closer to your goal.

Truth or consequence?

The Bible teaches us that wise people think about the consequences and care more about later on than right now.

Yes, you can live a lazy, undisciplined life and still go to heaven. But you won't have peace, you won't be happy and, worst of all, you won't glorify God with your life the way He intended!

I encourage you to start viewing discipline and self-control in a whole new way . . . as helpful keys to good health, peace, prosperity, great relationships, and the satisfaction of fulfilling your purpose.

And remember, whatever your goal is—whether it's to get in good physical shape or change a negative attitude—you have what it takes. So start drawing on God's power to help you achieve it. As you do—little by little—you'll begin to find more freedom, more success, and more fulfillment than you could ever imagine.

For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

by Ish

1/ London Boulevard: An adaptation of Ken Bruen's novel is also the directorial debut of award-winning screenwriter William Monahan. Starring Colin Farrell as an ex-con trying to go straight and Keira Knightley as a reclusive young starlet, he becomes handyman for her and the plot intertwines touchingly without the usual typical ending.

2/ The Magic of Belle Isle: Morgan Freeman plays a has-been celebrated author whose battle with alcoholism has left him without any motivation or enthusiasm towards his writing . . . until he meets his neighbor, a single mom with her 3 girls played by Virginia Madsen. It is quite fine to see a imaginative young girl slowly pull out from him his own renewal of life and writing. A feel-good uplifted film.

3/ The Art of Getting By: I found this to be interesting and inspiring as Freddie Highmore plays a teenage rebel, who upon the realization of the inevitability of death sees no point to just about anything and thusly chooses to not do any homework at all, yet he is rather brilliant, bored and a good artist. He falls for a female rebel and becomes slowly inspired to try to realize there is and can be some *joie de vivre*. A good story.

4/ Columbus Circle: Here we have an almost Hitchcockian murder mystery when an agoraphobic heiress who hasn't left her apartment in decades is forced out as she meets new neighbors that move in after her old neighbor was murdered, along with a smart and persistent detective played very well by Giovanni Ribisi. The cast is filled with strong actors such as Selma Blair, Amy Smart, Jason Lee, Kevin Pollack, Beau Bridges and others.

5/ Nobody Else But You (PouPouPidou): Here we have a French thriller as a crime novelist stumbles upon a particular local beauty's death written off as suicide but he doesn't buy it and the unraveling begins. It turns out to be a source of inspiration and somewhat stranger than fiction.

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Joyce Meyer Article

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Crestone End of Life Project news

What an honor it was for the Crestone End of Life Project to serve our beloved Bertha Gotterup. For many years, Bertha offered beautiful urns to families wishing to contain the remains of their loved one in beauty. That tradition is being carried forward by Bertha's protégé, Lynn Drake of Clay Art in downtown Crestone. We hope everyone will visit the studio and gallery to see her beautiful work.

The new year has brought changes to the structure of CEOLP. We have a new registrar, Allison Wonderland, who has been trained by Rainbow Adler: the hostess with the mostess at our annual registration parties. For registration packets or information you can reach Allison at 508-237-8915 or by visit-

ing our website at www.crestone-end-of-life.org.

We are in the process of building four attractive benches at the cremation site. Should you wish to sponsor a bench (\$200), or just make a contribution to the project, mail a check to CEOLP, P.O. Box 1238, Crestone, 81131 or visit the website (see above) and go to the Paypal button.

If you would like to learn more about our unique service to the community, attend our next meeting on Tuesday, February 12 at 7pm. It will be held at the Topping House, 33 Sunset Overlook, on the left, behind the Century 21 office. Call Wayne at 256-4247 for directions.

Juggle, juggle.

From what I've been hearing, it doesn't matter whether one is employed, unemployed or self-employed, there is a lot coming at each of us that needs to be dealt with. So, we *deal, deal* and it seems like there is even more to do. So, we *speed-up, speed-up*, and the challenge is even greater. What if we chose to *stop, stop*, and *breathe, breathe*? Maybe the Big, Bad Busy Wolf would go away.

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LOVE IS THE FLOWER OF LIFE AND BLOSSOMS WITHOUT LAW

**The Crestone End of Life Project Council
would like to take this opportunity to thank the following
people and organizations
for their service, support and love made manifest:**

The Saguache County Commissioners: Sam Pace, Mike Spearman and Linda Joseph
Wendy Maez and Sue Gallegos, Saguache County Land Use
Colorado Department of Health and Environment/ Air Quality
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
Tom Perrin, Saguache County Coroner, and his wife, Karen
Rio Grande County Clerks Office and Deputy Clerk, Cindy Hill
Hospice del Valle
Rogers Family Mortuary, Alamosa
Lewis and Glen Mortuary and Crematory, Salida
Drs. Incao, Bassinger, Day and Hutchinson
The Crestone/Baca Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Services
The Town of Crestone Board of Trustees
The POA Maintenance Department, Shawn Hollmer and crew

The Dragon Mountain Retreat Center, Steve Allen and
Angelique Farrow for their generosity in providing land for the community open-air
cremation site and for hosting
our annual contemplative retreat

Our Neighbors: Jahree Burton, Mark and Sheila Timm, Greg Newbauer
The Haidakandi Ashram and Maha Lakshmi Shop
Shumei International, its Directors and Staff
Sanctuary House, William and Brahma Howell, for acting as our
501.c3 umbrella

The Toppings for use of their home as the CEOLP meeting place
The Spiritual Life Institute
The Desert Foundation

Annie Pace, Shakti Sharanam, for music and garlands
Leigh Ann Phillips, celestial sounds

Chris and Andrea Long, traditional First Nation music
Sean Owen, documentary filmmaker for preparing our
conference presentation video

Peter Callan, author of The Prepare 2 Die Book
Xplore Design and Mark Talbot for our website

The Crestone Eagle, Kizzen Laki and the Eaglettes
Daniel and Vinnie Terres, for sponsoring our ads
Gussie Fauntleroy, journalist

The Sacred Earth Journal, Cindy Pearson and Staff
The Bliss Café, Scott Swordy, Ava, and Michael Divine
The Desert Sage, Tsering, Ling, James and all the Staff

Curt's Store, Curt, Bernadette and their wonderful Staff
Crestone Mercantile, Steve McDowell and Elaine Johnson
Elephant Cloud Tea House and the Studio, Benjie and Michelle
Lynn Drake at Clay Art

Renee at Blossoms

Crestone US Post Office Postmaster, Anthony, for letting us put up announcements

Ken Skoglund and staff, for the fines at the site
Mark Potter and family for grading at the site

Paul Kloppenburg, McGregor Gaines and Ken Summers who comprise the CEOLP
construction and design crew, as well as all of our volunteers who helped in every way.

Shahna Lax, Studio Moresca for the beautiful copper memorial plaques
Blue Earth Design, Bruce Nygren and Russell Schreiber for the well-crafted stretchers
Michael One Wing and Friends for donating the Louis Acker gong

To all those who have donated financial support and with special thanks to Anne Silver and
the now dissolved Soaring Eagle Foundation,
we are truly grateful.

Boundless gratitude to all the CEOLP volunteers who make our service possible:

Rainbow and Bob Adler, Paul Kloppenburg, Anna Louise Stewart, McGregor Gaines, Kathleen
Haas, Lynda Kucin, Robin Ross, Noah Baen, Mark Talbot, Allison Wonderland, Michael One Wing,
Dom Spillane, Jeannie Krogh, Tessa Bielecki, Malina Feder, William and Brahma Howell, Avadhan
Larson, Tom and Karen Perrin, Julia Voss, Naomi Mattis, Guy Standing, Matthew Crowley, Jan

Foster Miiller, Rebecca Thomas, Ken Summers, Janie Thomas,
Elianna Krakauer, Steve Smilack, Rho Painter, Tom Ontko,
Barbara Dose, Wayne Halstrom, Steve Elliott and Kirsten
Screiber, and Colleen Bennett



**I bow to you all,
Stephanie Gaines**

A Love Story

This January 26 will be the 10th anniversary of the passing of our dad, Bill Sisemore. Today I found a story he had written once upon a time, and it seemed an appropriate time to share it. My parents, Bill and Gladys Sisemore were married June 22, 1941 and lived their entire married lives in Crestone. They owned the station and grocery store that set on the site that is now Curt's store. About 30 years ago they decided to work for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Company part time reading meters all over their end of the valley and around Crestone. It was a perfect part time job driving over the back roads and chatting with lifelong friends. Finally the time came that they needed more help getting through their days, and so

in September 2000 we moved them to Oklahoma where my sister and I could provide the help they needed.
—Beth Hathaway

A Love Story written by Bill Sisemore

My wife and I read meters all over the San Luis Valley. Every month we travel over many miles of back roads, across fields and meadows, anywhere there are pumps and meters to read. In our traveling around we have encountered many kinds of birds that are extremely interesting such as hawks, owls and eagles. We have watched them nest and hatch their young. They are funny little puffs of feathers in the beginning.

This story is about a pair of eagles that we noticed several



Gladys & Bill Sisemore

and couldn't see him on any of the poles anywhere, and we hoped he was off hunting.

I walked over to read the meter and looked down and found him there. His beautiful wings were spread out over the last remains of the other eagle. He too had made contact with the high-line wires over head. It was sad to see this magnificent bird who had devoted his life these last months to watching over her, die the same way. Then I think, maybe it is better this way, winter is coming on and he will no longer have to sit alone atop that pole and keep vigil as the cold wind and snow blows over him.

P.S. My mother, Gladys, is in the nursing home now and asks many times each day if Dad is all right. Somehow the bitter sweetness of his story still goes on.

Michael my Love,
 "The minute I heard my first love story, I started looking for you, not knowing how blind that was.
 Lovers don't finally meet somewhere.
 They're in each other all along." ~ Rumi
 your Dom

months ago, close to a meter that we read each month. Since eagles mate for life we enjoyed seeing them together. Every time we came close, they were perched on top of the high line pole sitting side by side. Then on one of our trips there was only one. He was on top of the transformer pole where I read the meter, and he stayed there until I was almost beneath him.

As I read the meter I noticed there on the ground a few feet from me was his mate, she was dead. She had spread her wings too far and made contact with the wires that killed her instantly. The months passed by and each time we saw him keeping a silent vigil over her. This November as we came by again, we missed him

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Are you depressed, moody & have no energy? You may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder

by *Diane Bairstow*

All you want to do is sit by the fire, stare at the TV and eat carbs, life has no meaning, and the only reason to get up is to get another bag of cookies. If this describes how you've been feeling, you're not alone. In mid-January it seemed like everybody was feeling this way to some degree.

According to the Mayo Clinic, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) "is a type of depression that occurs at the same time every year . . . symptoms start in the fall and may continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. Less often, seasonal

affective disorder causes depression in the spring or early summer."

"Sad may begin in teen years or adulthood" according to PubMed-Health, ". . . and more often occurs in women than men. Symptoms usually build up slowly in the late autumn and winter months."

This—and all forms of depression—is helped by getting adequate sleep, eating a healthy diet and exercising. PubMed also warns that alcohol and illegal drugs can make depression worse and also affect your judgment about suicide.

Different seasons, different types of SAD

Symptoms differ for fall/winter SAD and spring/summer SAD. Fall/winter SAD symptoms include: depression, hopelessness, anxiety, loss of energy, heavy, "leaden" feeling in the arms or legs, social withdrawal, oversleeping, loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed, appetite changes (especially cravings for high carbohydrate foods), weight gain, and difficulty with concentration. Spring/summer SAD symptoms include: anxiety, trouble sleeping, irritability, agitation, weight loss, poor appetite, and increased sex drive.

When it's time to see your doctor

It's recommended that you see a doctor if you feel down for days at a time, if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed, and especially if you think about suicide and find yourself turning to drugs and alcohol. To diagnose SAD as opposed to other forms of depression, your doctor will want to know if you have been depressed during the same season for at least two years in a row, your appetite and sleep patterns have changed and if a close relative has had SAD. Your doctor may also want to do a blood test to rule out other diseases that may mimic the symptoms.

Treatment

For fall/winter SAD, light therapy works for most people, and there are two types that are often recommended. It's best to start treatment in the fall or early winter. One type of treatment is to sit for 30 minutes with your eyes open in front of, but not looking directly into, a very bright light (10,000 lux) that mimics the light from the sun. If you choose this form of therapy, be aware that eyestrain, headaches and mania can occur. Another form of therapy is dawn simulation, wherein a dim light goes on in the morning while you're sleeping and it gets brighter over time. According to an article in *Sacramento Magazine* reporting a study by the American Journal of Psychiatry in 2006, "Light therapy, used properly, has been found as effective as antidepressants in treating SAD." Artificial light can also help if you keep your house bright enough.

Melatonin

According to an experiment by the National Institute of Mental Health, low doses of melatonin may help. Researchers determined that the interval of time between when the pineal gland secretes melatonin and the middle of sleep is about 6 hours. Seventy-one percent of the SAD patients had intervals shorter than 6 hours and taking melatonin capsules in the afternoon lengthened the intervals, bringing their rhythm, 29% twenty-nine percent of patients had longer intervals, and these patients were improved by taking melatonin in the morning.

Unfortunately for those with spring/summer SAD, treatment options are not as simple. It is recommended to be sure you get enough sleep, keep up with your exercise

but don't overdo it, don't let obligations get you down, plan your vacation carefully and don't beat yourself up.

Of course, there are always anti-depressants, and your doctor can work with you with this and all of the above treatments.

Go with it and go within

If you're only occasionally feeling dreary and down, put away the cookies, eat some fruit and get some exercise—I know, it's too much trouble, but it will help. And these cold months are a time for withdrawing and being introspective. Instead of doing a treatment or taking a pill, you might consider going with it rather trying to fix it. If life doesn't seem worth living, look at how you're living. If it all seems hopeless, search your soul for what gives your life meaning and meditate on that. Face your demons rather than fleeing from them. Spring is on the way. Take this time to plan your garden, literally and figuratively. The old year is passed, what do you want the new year to look like? Turn off the TV and visualize it.

Get help if you need it

If you're feeling consistently depressed for an extended period of time and thinking of suicide, be sure to get help. Take care of yourself, even if you don't feel up to it!

Sources for this article: www.nlm.nih.gov, www.sacmag.com, www.webmed.com, www.pubmed.com and www.mayoclinic.com.

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Aventa Credit Union. . . In Your Interest

Aventa has made a commitment to continue to communicate with Saguache County on a monthly basis through The Crestone Eagle. Look for informational articles, promotional announcements and comments from the President/CEO of Aventa Credit Union. With the intent to keep open communication as to Aventa's direction in Saguache County, we encourage you to email us your financial topics of interests, questions or comments to feedback@aventa.com.

From the Desk

2012 for Aventa was a challenging year in some very positive ways. Amidst the continued economic challenges and sustained regulatory build up on financial institutions, we navigated 2012 in a fiscally strong and financially sound fashion. Your credit union ended the year at \$151,893,055 in total assets. Total loans ended strong at \$117,207,298 realizing an increase of over 8% while total deposits ended at \$136,395,934.

Our business region expanded last year with the purchase and acquisition of SCCU, now moving us into the San Luis Valley and giving credit union access to anyone who lives or works in Saguache County. We have a total of 7 operational branches and 69 employees servicing the Front Range and the Valley.

Aventa is currently working on projects, products, and services that will continue to give membership access to the credit union to include mobile banking, remote deposit capture, shared branching and a new home banking platform that will be launched in August of this year.

It is our continued desire to be your primary financial institution in the San Luis Valley. Thank you for the opportunity to be your credit union – a cooperative financial institution as we look forward to an equally strong 2013.

Greg Mills
President & CEO

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'We may have come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now!'



Parents Vesper Gers and Cristina Cabeza-Kinney helped students create art for MLK Day.

by Kathryn Brady

CCS doesn't take off school for MLK Day. Eight years ago when I joined the Moffat District community, coming from south Louisiana, where celebrations for Dr. King are a very big, joyful deal and all schools and many businesses are closed on this federal holiday, I wondered why and got the following explanation.

Crestone/Moffat doesn't have community parades, civic speeches, picnics, musical gatherings or other civic engagements on MLK Day. If we "take off" a day of school then many of our students wind up at home in isolation, or if they're older, they may head up to Monarch for a day on the mountain. While that could be OK, it doesn't help them approach the concepts of the Civil Rights movement in this country, or the contribution of Martin Luther King to the world. The best chance our students have to celebrate Dr. King on this day is

through offerings we provide as a school community.

In past years to honor MLK day (and lacking a common space to gather together as a whole-school) individual classes have watched videos, student performances, heard from guest speakers, or spent time with literature such as *Warriors Don't Cry*, a memoir of the struggle to integrate Little Rock High School by Melba Patillo.

This year we joyfully held a whole-school assembly in our multi-purpose room where we honored the historical context of Dr. King, his life and voice, watched a short skit about civil rights performed by primary students, sang together, and used a technique inspired by call-and-response in the "Occupy" movement to broadcast King's words through our collective voices. We want to thank parents Cristina Cabeza-Kinney, Vesper Gers and Isaline Simms for giving their time to help students create art and offerings for this year's MLK gathering.



Travel Cole and the primary class recreate the "I have a Dream" speech.



Ashlee Jernigan with student Lizzie Dercum. Michael Pacheco with student Evan Rude.

Welcome new Arts & Technology staff

by Kathryn Brady

Crestone Charter School welcomes our new IT Coordinator, Michael Pacheco. Michael has four years experience as part of the team at Saguache County Public Health and we are thrilled to have him join us at CCS. A north valley native, he has a background in Business Studies from CCU in Denver. His duties include managing the school's network, inventory of technology, and supporting students and teachers with educational opportunities through technology. This spring Michael will teach a LINK mentorship in programming to high school students. Michael also helps Deb Morley with overall office duties, so you may hear his cheerful voice answer the phone when you call the front office.

Ashlee Jernigan is the new Middle School Teaching Assistant and Arts Electives coordinator for Daya Scheide and Chris Sartain's classrooms. Ashlee holds a BA in Education and Fine Arts from Miami University Oxford, Ohio. She'll be working in her area of professional expertise at CCS students and is integral in helping take arts programming to the next level for our middle school students.

Crestone Charter School earns an 'A'

by Kathryn Brady

CCS is a non-graded program. We don't assess our students with letter grades. But our school has earned an "A" with Colorado School Grades ranking system. By oversight, our ranking was not reported in the article in January's *Valley Courier* that cited all public schools in Moffat District and the valley and the grade each earned. But as a public charter school, CCS was measured and ranked according to the same criteria used for every public school, and we earned an "A" as a program. We were sent a letter of notification of our "A" grade and a banner to hang at school from the Colorado School Grades organization. There are very good and defensible arguments against a private ranking system and, as an advocate of alternative education, I agree with the premise that "grades don't tell the whole story." But as CCS has been fighting the old myth that we are "not academic enough" for 18 years, we want to acknowledge that we earned an "A" for academic student growth and achievement as a school. We're flying our "A" banner on the front of our building and celebrating the good work we've accomplished as a team.

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The Washington Beat

The second term begins

by David Nicholas

The inauguration: Faith in America's journey

Officially, the oath was administered on Sunday, January 20 in the Blue Room of the White House with Chief Justice John Roberts swearing in the President reading the oath from a card

The formal ceremony took place at the Capitol, January 21, Martin Luther King Day, with crowds jamming the mall to see history in the making. The first black President reaffirmed the Oath of Office to begin his second term, on a bible used by the civil rights leader as well as the bible used by Abraham Lincoln at his inauguration.

The speech surprised the pundits. Most speeches from presidents beginning their second term are unremarkable.

However, this speech sounded like it was one from a president beginning his first term. This was his agenda, the vision of where he wants to take the country. The passages below made history and the key themes were drawn from the opening preamble of the Constitution and from Martin Luther King about faith and hope, and that all men were created equal. But President Obama took the preamble a step further. In this speech, this president made the Constitution much more inclusive. Read on.

"This generation of Americans has been tested by crises that steered our resolve and proved our resilience. A decade of war is now ending. An economic recovery has begun.

America's possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands: youth and drive; diversity and openness; an endless capacity for risk and a gift for reinvention. My fellow Americans, we are made for this moment, and we will seize it—so long as we seize it together."

"We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still. Just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall. Just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth."

"It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law—for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity; until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for, and cherished, and always safe from harm."

"We, the people, still believe that every citizen deserves a basic measure of security and dignity. We must make the hard choices to reduce the cost of health care and the size of our deficit. But we reject the belief that America must choose between caring for the generation that built this country and investing in the generation that will build its future. For we remember the



lessons of our past, when twilight years were spent in poverty, and parents of a child with a disability had nowhere to turn. We do not believe that in this country, freedom is reserved for the lucky, or happiness for the few. We recognize that no matter how responsibly we live our lives, any one of us, at any time, may face a job loss, or a sudden illness, or a home swept away in a terrible storm. The commitments we make to each other—through Medicare, and Medicaid, and Social Security—these things do not sap our initiative; they strengthen us. They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great."

"We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms. The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition; we must lead it. We cannot cede to other nations the technology that will power new jobs and new industries—we must claim its promise. That's how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure—our forests and waterways; our croplands and snowcapped peaks. That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God. That's what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared."

There was more, but for this progressive agenda, he made history just saying these passages. It is these passages that will make this speech stand out as the United States goes on. It makes Barack Obama a president for the ages and you will say "I remember when he said this." The speech was that good. Abraham Lincoln would have been impressed. So be it.

President takes on gun control legislation

On Wednesday, January 16 with four kids and their parents behind him, before a live audience which included parents of children slain at Newtown, the president signed 23 executive orders dealing with gun control. Yes, they dealt with bureaucratic issues. Issues that

allow information to be gathered to engage the fight and ensure the issue of gun control is kept before the public for as long as Congress takes to address the four major issues in the proposed gun legislation. Legislation the White House will bring before both houses for consideration.

The four issues are:

1) Complete background checks for all weapons sales, including the 40% of guns purchased at gun shows.

2) Complete ban on assault weapons. Enough said.

3) Ban of high-density ammunition clips, and background checks of all ammunition purchases.

4) Registration of all gun dealers who sell weapons to criminals as well as minors without sufficient ID/background checks.

Essentially these four issues take gun-rights advocates head on, especially the NRA, whose major statements in response to the Sandy Hook massacre were appalling and showed NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre to be seriously out of touch with public sentiment.

Previously, the problem with proposed gun legislation was that public sentiment died away after the initial enthusiasm to get something done. Out of sight is out of mind.

However, President Obama has a two-prong approach:

The government been set tasks under the 23 executive orders mentioned previously; and President Obama has issued instruction that the Obama Campaign be changed to a non-profit and be used in the fight to keep people apprised of progress. Normally a campaign is disassembled after an election, but after 2008, a skeletal framework was maintained so that when President Obama's 2012 campaign started up it already had the basic infrastructure in place. The Obama Campaign has been geared down but is still intact.

The name of the 501(c)4 is Organizing for Action. Officials said the group would be separate from the Democratic National Committee and advocate on key policy issues such as gun control and immigration, train future leaders and devote attention to local issues around the country. However, gun control is its first priority.

Major strategic policy change

Because of the Algerian gas-field attack (see "Mali" below), outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta on January 18, on the spur

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of the moment by all accounts, decided to make a major change in military planning. Mr. Panetta inserted language into a set-piece speech on the United States' relationship with Europe, telling students at King's College London that "terrorists should be on notice that they will find no sanctuary, no refuge, not in Algeria, not in North Africa, not anywhere."

Study the wording. It means no national border is to be observed, where perceived terrorism is to be found. This along with the pre-emptive first strike policy enunciated by President George W. Bush on June 2, 2002 at the commencement for West Point graduates, allows carte blanche attacks when and wherever the President of the United States deems it prudent, with or without a nation's approval prior to hostilities.

Bush 43 declared the policy and formally released the details in the National Intelligence Estimate of September 2002; we invaded Iraq in March 2003 and were at war there for the next 10 years.

Mali

You have to love the French. The only other graduate of the Ecole Militaire (French Military Academy) besides Napoleon to distinguish himself in conflict was Philippe LeClerc, whose armored brigades raced towards Paris after the D-Day landing in 1944 to arrive there before Allied forces (who had other ideas about Paris in the scheme of liberating Europe). All the rest were and are about pageantry—really nothing of substance.

Comes now socialist President Francois Hollande, a man without friends, elected by a popular vote, whose perception was that his predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy was too preoccupied with Europe and the debt crisis and less about those that elected him. M. Hollande, a mayor of a small French town before he moved to the Elysee Palace, has a hostile national assembly of Conservatives, who until three weeks ago called him indecisive.

Three weeks ago, M. Hollande committed France to a two-week incursion in a former French colony that is mostly equatorial desert, famous for a city called Timbuktu, and mineral-rich. French national interests are focused on the mineral uranium, which fuels France's nuclear power plants and weaponry.

For months now Islamic militants, thought to have ties to al-Qaida in the Inner Maghreb (whatever that is) have successfully taken over northern Mali and are now moving

south to the capital, Bamako. Mali is landlocked, so to export uranium requires travel through other countries, mainly Algeria.

It took M. Hollande two hours after a plea from Malian President Dioncounda Traore, to commit aircraft and ground troops.

What would happen if France had not sent in troops?

Official answer: "Another Somalia" in northwestern Africa. Lawless and dominated by Islamic radicals close to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, they would set about instituting the harshness of Sharia law all over Mali, stoning adulterers and cutting off the hands of thieves, while engaging in the drug and arms smuggling, kidnapping and terrorism that funds their notion of jihad.

So 2,500 white Christian French troops fighting Islamist militants—well armed and organized—in a predominantly Islamic (90%) country (and not to put too fine a point on it), were called in on the pretext of protecting 6,000 (or 10,000) French secular citizens. What's not to like?

M. Hollande committed to this campaign while calling on African countries to step up and send troops to support his effort, but not so good so far. To date, Nigeria has sent troops, but not a lot of countries are answering the call.

One country, the US, has been pressuring Algeria to front-up troops. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton dropped in to Algiers several months back to cajole, arm-twist, and generally plead for Algeria to send a force into northern Mali for a rear guard action designed to get militants to fight on two fronts.

Naturally, the last thing Algeria wants is to get involved in a war. Having just ousted one tyrant several years ago, it just wants to get along and ramp up a fragile economy.

The point was conveniently made on Thursday when a group of 32 Islamists took over an international gas-field facility at InAmenas and took the 500-700 (depending on whom you read) plant employees as hostage. At the end of the incident, 23-35 hostages had died and 14-32 militants, at time of writing. No one know the exact number for sure. Probably the number will be higher.

What happened is the Algerian military had the temerity to ignore UK & US governments' advice to exercise caution, and went and attacked the insurgents in frontal assault. It took three days to gain control of the facility and even then, it

was thought militants were hiding throughout the complex. It takes a minibus 30 minutes to move from one end of the plant to the other.

The hostages/employees came from various countries, including the UK, and the US (7), but the hand-wringing and advice from London and Washington fell upon the ears of a government determined to resolve the situation on its own terms.

The leader of the group that took over the gas-field said his attack was in response to the French invasion of Mali; he wanted to bring the war north into Algeria in the hope of making it a wider war. The statement is why the response by Algerian armed forces was swift, attacking in preference to negotiating for hostages, and left 81 persons dead. The final figure of the death toll is till unclear as facility still under military control and there is a news blackout.

In summary, M. Hollande is out on a limb and without help from the US and the UK; Mali's is likely a war that will go on for years. The French president's critics have called it "Hollande's Sahelistan", seeing it as the French president's Afghanistan.

To provide some context, the word "Sahel" refers to the ecoclimatic and bio-geographic zone of transition between the Sahara desert in the north and the Sudanian savannas in the south, having a semi-arid climate. It stretches across the north of the African continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea. The Arabic word sāhil literally means "shore, coast", describing the appearance of the vegetation of the Sahel as a coastline delimiting the sand of the Sahara. Central Mali is part of the Sahel. We will watch.

Important upcoming events

a) President Obama gives his State of the Union address on February 12. Besides outlining his agenda for his second term, subjects should include deadlock in Congress and an update on the War on Terror, especially if he refers to or elaborates on out-going Secretary of Defense Panetta's major policy shift on terrorists/militants.

b) Hearings for former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel's nomination for Secretary of Defense begin on or around January 31. His confirmation appears all but certain since Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) obtained assurances that Mr. Hagel

endorses current US government policy on Iran and will not deny Israel's maintaining their "quantitative military advantage" over their neighbors. Specifically, he will ok supplying the F-35, Joint Strike Fighter, to Israel under the current US aid agreement (read: free). Committee hearings promise to be feisty.

c) John Kerry's nomination for Secretary of State should be confirmed within weeks. He will breeze through the Senate confirmation hearings.

d) Jacob Lew, President Obama's Chief of Staff, has been nominated for Treasury Secretary. He should be confirmed, but not without some tough questioning in Senate Banking Committee hearings. Newly elected Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) is widely credited for the original thinking, political courage, and relentless persistence that led to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a branch of government universally loathed and bypassed by Treasury and Federal Reserve officials who forced her resignation. So anything to do with US banking reporting to Congress is going to be a headline now that she has oversight over her enemies.

Therefore, Mr. Lew will have to be on his game. He was part of the Wall St. crowd that brought about the global fiscal crisis. This will be one to watch.

e) San Luis Valley rancher and current US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar handed his resignation to the president after four years in the job. He gets mixed reviews, in part because of his loose oversight of deep sea drilling permits that happened under his watch, and which led to the worst offshore oil drilling disaster in US history. BP USA has been fined billions of dollars, and the cleanup is still on going on, such as it is. The environmental consequences along the Louisiana coast, the bayous, and the nesting grasses will be felt for generations, not to mention the loss of sea life in the Gulf of Mexico.

History will no doubt remember Mr. Salazar fondly as time passes, but for the moment, memories are still raw. The president thanked him for his service.

The former senator will stay on until his replacement is confirmed, thought to be around March 1, but as yet, no one has been named to the cabinet position.

And the Beat goes on.



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Preview of Colorado 2013 Legislature

Taking advantage of a Democratic majority

by Lisa Cyriacks

Colorado's General Assembly went into its first legislative session January 9 with Democrats in control of the House, Senate and the governor's office. Both chambers have new Democratic leaders, House Speaker Mark Ferrandino of Denver and Senate President John Morse of Colorado Springs.

The mix of big, complicated issues with a new cast of characters in the legislature could mean an intense and unpredictable year for education in the 2013 Colorado General Assembly. What follows is a look at important and controversial issues legislators are expected to tackle this session, which is scheduled to end May 8.

By most accounts, jobs and the economy remain the No. 1 priority for Colorado's lawmakers.

Budget: Lawmakers begin the session with the brightest economic outlook in recent years. Tax receipts for the general fund controlled by lawmakers are projected to be \$8.1 billion for the fiscal year that began in July. The fund now exceeds, albeit barely, the pre-Great Recession peak of \$7.7 billion in 2007. More money has gone to schools as a result, but not enough to keep up with enrollment and inflation over the last five years. Most general fund spending goes to education, Medicaid and prisons.

Schools: Legislators have been

talking about big education changes for decades—and they're going to try to untangle Colorado's complicated rules for how schools are funded. A kaleidoscope of voter-approved tax measures has put public schools on a downward funding slide for years. The state's largest teachers group wants to see lawmakers finally revamp school funding formulas. But it won't be easy. Any changes will likely require voter approval and higher taxes—no easy sell. House Republicans want to pump more money into colleges.

Civil unions: Civil unions for gay couples appeared well on its way to passing during last year's session before last-minute maneuvering prevented a vote. Having a Democratic majority in both chambers makes it highly likely this will be taken up again and passed. Democrats, though, are guarded about the possibility of marriage for gay couples because the state constitution bans it, and lawmakers take an oath to uphold those laws.

Marijuana: Pot legalization brings a long list of issues for lawmakers to settle. They must tweak state criminal code to allow adults over 21 to possess marijuana and come up with an excise tax on recreational pot. The constitutional amendment calls for the pot tax, which will need to be approved by voters. The money would go to school construction. Expect pro-

posals to set driving-while-high standards similar to drunken driving laws. There could also be efforts to address "on site" marijuana consumption that could determine whether Colorado develops Amsterdam-style pot cafes.

Elections: Democrats want to change rules that prevent registered voters from getting mail ballots if they have missed an election and put more restraints on Secretary of State Scott Gessler, a Republican, who they say is trying to suppress votes. According to Gessler's office, non-citizens can register and vote undetected. The Colorado County Clerks Association also met with lawmakers on Monday for an informational session to outline several proposals ranging from an all-mail ballot delivery system to shortening voter registration deadlines and eliminating contention surrounding mailing ballots to inactive voters.

Health Care: Colorado is ahead of the curve on many aspects of the Affordable Care Act. But there's more work to be done. Lawmakers will keep an eye on the developing state insurance exchange, a new marketplace for health insurance shoppers.

Hickenlooper, meanwhile, will ask lawmakers to make significant

Medicaid changes to provide health assistance to more low-income adults. Medicaid expansion is a key goal of the health care law. Expect Republicans to balk at Hickenlooper's argument that Colorado can afford it.

Fracking: The popular term for hydraulic fracturing involves pumping millions of gallons of water mixed with sand and chemicals deep underground to break up layers of rock and extract oil and natural gas. Noise, air pollution, water consumption and risk to groundwater have all become contentious issues.

Gun control: Last summer's Aurora theater shooting and the more recent Connecticut school shooting have sparked new efforts across the nation to restrict access to certain types of guns and ammunition. But perhaps nowhere will the gun-control debate be more heated than in Colorado, a state that traditionally has shown staunch support for the Second Amendment.

Last November's election results changed the political composition of the Colorado legislature from divided control to single party domination, residing with the Democrats in the Senate, House and the governor's office. Single party control didn't work out so well for the last governor and we'll see how this governor handles it.

There will be no shortage of controversies this year, some repeats from the recent past and some new.



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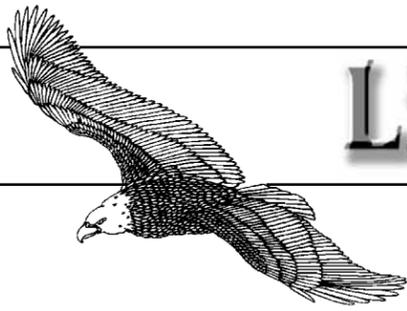
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Living on the Earth

Rio Grande County hydrology study reveals risk to waters in western valley

by Bea Ferrigno

Results of a recent hydrologic study in Rio Grande county raise concerns that oil and gas exploration or development there could lead to contamination of subsurface waters. The Conejos Formation, which is an aquifer and includes oil-bearing shales, is complex and quite permeable to its considerable depth. It also lacks any barrier, such as the blue clay layer present in the San Luis basin, that could prevent contact between subsurface waters and oil or drilling fluids. Oil is definitely present, as some wells in the area have produced cores with oil-bearing deposits, and oil seeps also occur on the surface.

The study also determined that there is deep water circulation in the Conejos formation; consequently, its authors recommend that exploration and development wells be cased to the bottom of the Conejos formation which in some areas lies nearly 6000 feet below the surface. This provision is considerably more stringent than those lately recommended by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC).

The study further recommends that exploration or development wells not be placed within 1,000 feet of an alluvial flood plain or intermittent or ephemeral streambed unless measures are in place to prevent the escape of drilling fluids; and that all water wells within a mile of an oil or gas well be monitored for water

quality. The COGCC presently requires that only two water wells within 1/2 mile be monitored.

Although there has been sporadic exploration in the mountain areas around Del Norte, recent applications for drilling and increasing concern about its environmental effects prompted the county to declare a moratorium on new drilling until this study could be completed. Two drilling applications, however, were already in the approval process prior to the moratorium so the study consequently focused on their sites near San Francisco and Old Woman creeks, which are settled mountain areas with numerous domestic water wells. Creeks in this part of Rio Grande County flow to the Rio Grande; the area is also a recharge source for the aquifers of the San Luis basin.

Lying in the western two-thirds of Rio Grande County, the area of interest is a formation known as the San Juan Sag, a northeastward extension of the San Juan basin which is a petrole-

um-producing area. In Rio Grande County, oil-bearing deposits lie west of the Cimarron Fault which runs roughly north-south at the longitude of Del Norte. East of the fault, the oil shales have been removed by erosion, thus there is no potential for oil extraction in the eastern third of the county.

The study was sponsored by Rio Grande County and funded through the Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable. It was conducted by

Davis Engineering Service and Geological Solutions, both of Alamosa, and HRS Water Consultants of Lakewood. The complete 126-page + appendices study is available in print for \$30, on CD for \$10, and online for free at the Rio Grande County website, under Land Use. For the complete report, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/eagle-hydro

See related story on page B-5

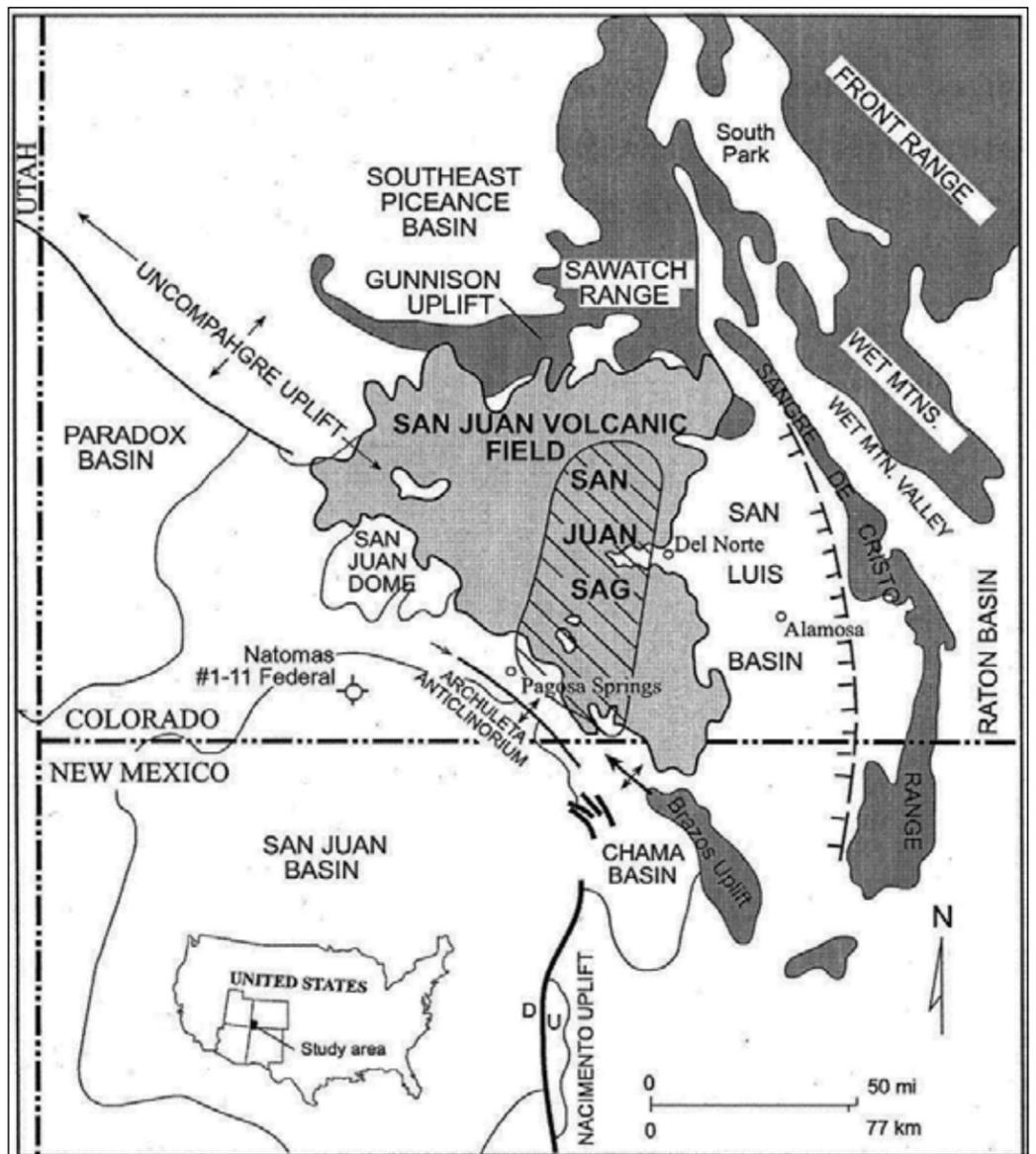


Figure 3.5 from RGC Hydrogeologic Report: Regional map showing location of the San Juan Sag (from Gries and others, 1997).

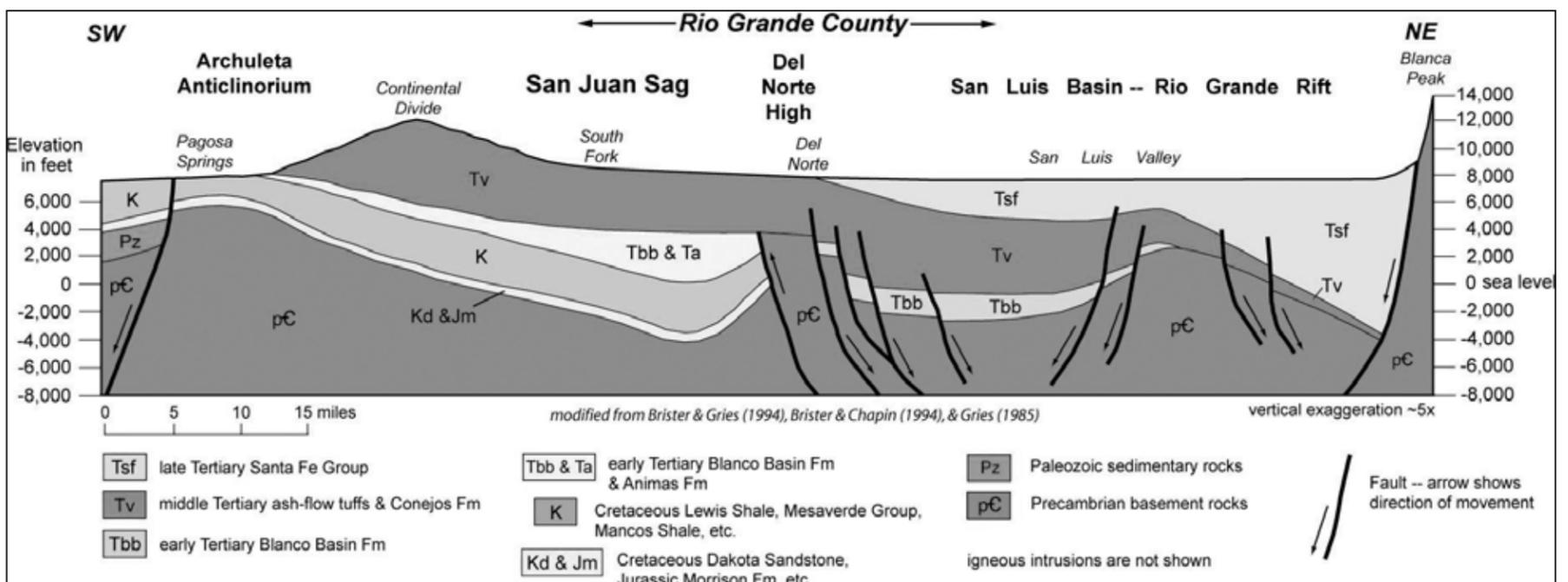


Figure 3.4 from RGC Hydrogeologic Report: Simplified geologic cross section. Extends from near Pagosa Springs, past South Fork and Del Norte, and across the San Luis Basin to Blanca Peak. Rio Grande County spans the eastern part of the San Juan Sag, the Del Norte High, and the western part of San Luis Basin.



Astrologically Speaking ... with Ananur (mountain time zone calculated)

Mercury retrograde? Starting on Saturday February 23 at 2:42am until March 17 at 1:03pm. Meanwhile as always between New Moon and Full Moon is the BEST time to begin a new project. The planetary energies are here to support your success. The New Moon will take place Sunday February 10. The Full Moon takes place Monday February 25.

February 1 Venus is in a positive aspect with Mars which favors a balance between male/female energies within us all. It can also be about men and women working together harmoniously. Venus enters into Aquarius today and Mars enters Pisces today. Women carry vision and men hold compassion.

February 2 Mercury will be in an awkward aspect with Pluto. Sharp words said will create a setback. It takes humility to go over what was said and find the truth in the hurtful words.

February 2-4 Mars is conjunct Neptune at 1° of Pisces. Pure compassion wants to be expressed and used as motivation for what you do. Allow this process to take place without a whole lot of thinking, it works best that way. Pisces is a psychic sign. Let Love move you without expectation.

February 3 Venus is in a sweet aspect with Neptune, also nudging you to be open to trusting that Love can lead the way and make a difference. You may find this especially true in art work, dance, poetry or music.

February 4-6 Venus is in a positive aspect with Uranus, producing the energy it takes to create unique music, writing and art. Venus is also nicely aspecting Jupiter which is ideal for a wedding, social gathering or fundraising event, especially in tandem with Venus aspecting Uranus! The temptation to overindulge in food or drink goes along with these aspects. Mercury is conjunct Neptune. This aspect opens you up to uplifting thoughts. It can also produce imaginary realities which confuse what is really going on here. It can be used well for writing and or meditation.

February 5 Mercury is in Pisces until March 17, which is a long time, and that is because Mercury will be turning retrograde this month. Mercury in Pisces can bring about confusion between your dream life and your waking life.

You may find yourself going in circles inside, about what was said and what you should've said. It's common to be drawn to watching films and reading books that take you into another realm. It's a favorable aspect for meditation.

February 6-8 Mercury is conjunct Mars in Pisces, both nicely aspecting Uranus, making you more outspoken and quick to respond. Don't forget to listen to another, rather than cutting them off so that you can speak.

February 7-9 Mercury is in an uncomfortable aspect with Jupiter which brings about distractions and a scattered mind. However, plenty of humor!

February 8-10 Mars is aspecting Jupiter. The result is trying to do too much and ending up exhausted. You will have a huge blast of energy, especially those born: February 24-27 or May 27-31 of any year. Venus in Aquarius is aspecting Saturn in Scorpio. Hurtful things are happening or being said and you're probably feeling more vulnerable than usual.

February 9 the Sun is awkwardly aspecting Uranus bringing out the rebel in you. You have no patience with someone telling you what to do. You want to do things your way, "the right way." Mars is in a fine aspect with Uranus which gives you energy galore, and is ideal for athletics and dance exercise.

February 9-10 Venus is in a positive aspect with Pluto which is fine for a new romance or a fundraising event. You're ready to leave past hurts behind: healed and forgiven, this is energizing.

February 9-11 Mercury is in a positive aspect with Pluto, favoring research and psychological realizations which help you move forward in life. Your awareness is sharp. This is an ideal time to teach or write about what you're passionate about. You will uplift others with your sincerity.

February 10 the New Moon takes place before Mercury turns retrograde. The New Moon at 12:20am has the Sun and Moon conjunct at 21° of Aquarius. There is a focus on diving deeply within. A time for dreaming, meditation, retreat from the world and a diet from "trying to make things happen." Aquarius is a visionary sign, geared towards the future and manifesting an ideal real-

ity for all of humankind. It's time for all of us to envision the ideal future. Wait for the Aries New Moon April 10 to go into outer action.

February 10-12 Mercury is nicely aspecting Saturn ushering in patience.

February 13 conflict and arrogance reside in the ego thus taking us to places that are uncomfortable while the Sun is aspecting Pluto. This would bring about stalemates in Congress or local budget meetings due to competition.

February 12-15 Mars is in a positive aspect with Pluto nudging you to tap into the deep place within you where perseverance resides and determination finds you not quitting, but working on something that feels overwhelming.

February 14-16 includes Valentine's Day. Mars is in a favorable aspect with Saturn bringing about steadfast commitments. You have patience and can be productive due to the support of your partner who believes in you and reminds you of that fact.

February 18 the Sun enters Pisces at 5:02am and stays until March 20. Be aware that you are more psychic than you think. Allow music to carry you and inspire you.

February 18 Saturn turns retrograde until July 8. It will take effort to discipline your impulses. Saturn turns retrograde at 11° Scorpio impacting those born November 2-4 of any year. These individuals need to apply self-discipline to their lives. It is required for health of body mind and spirit.

February 19-21 the Sun is conjunct Neptune in Pisces precisely. It's a time of incredible psychic awareness or incredible confusion and misunderstandings. Don't argue with your inner knowing.

February 23 Mercury turns retrograde at 2:42am until March 17 at 1:03pm. It's a poor time to sign a legal document. Real estate brokers know this from their experience. Make an effort to listen during conversations as misunderstandings are more likely. You know that computers and cars tend to break down while Mercury is retrograde. Please don't avoid taking time with yourself. It's time to shift old rotting beliefs that no longer fit.

February 23-24 the Sun is in a positive aspect with Uranus encouraging you to allow your creative juices to flow. Your motivation is con-

cerned with humankind and the vision to improve all living conditions, world wide.

February 23-25 the Sun is awkwardly aspecting Jupiter finding you over extending your helpfulness. Don't expect anything in return for your actions. Do what you do, because it feels good and because you want to give.

February 25 the Full Moon takes place on this day at 1:26pm with the Moon at 7° Virgo and the Sun at 7° Pisces close to Neptune. This Full Moon is nicely aspecting Pluto at 11 Capricorn and Saturn at 11° Scorpio. There are calm emotions which produce an instinctual knowledge of what to do in an emergency. There is deep inner strength available when needed.

February 25 Venus enters Pisces at 7:03pm and remains here until March 21. Venus is said to be "exalted in Pisces," by astrologers. Anyone who was born with Venus in Pisces is probably a healer in their own unique way, for their ability to love is extraordinary. It could be manifest as a singer, musician, artist, writer, fantasy writer who weaves in spiritual teachings or it could point to a psychotherapist, EMT, firefighter, massage therapist, doctor/nurse or energy worker. With Venus in Pisces we are all called upon to tap into the part of ourselves which holds the potential to develop or further develop healing abilities. Empathy is strong with this placement of Venus. That surely helps in counseling and healing another.

February 26-28 Venus is conjunct Neptune. Be in a film, watch a film, check out of this reality and enjoy the idealistic images that come to you.

February 28-March 1 the Sun is in a positive aspect with Pluto which offers terrific inner strength and determination. The Sun is also aspecting Saturn, nicely reinforcing that which took place on the Full Moon February 25. Hopefully you're feeling incredible inner strength no matter what is going on in the world. Your action can support and uplift your friend's life situation. It's a time to be involved in volunteer efforts to help those less fortunate than you.

Ananur Forma remembers fondly the incredible view of the stars and the people who are the stars on the earth in Crestone. To contact Ananur in Maine 207-594-2565 or email ananur@AstrologyWithAnanur.com.

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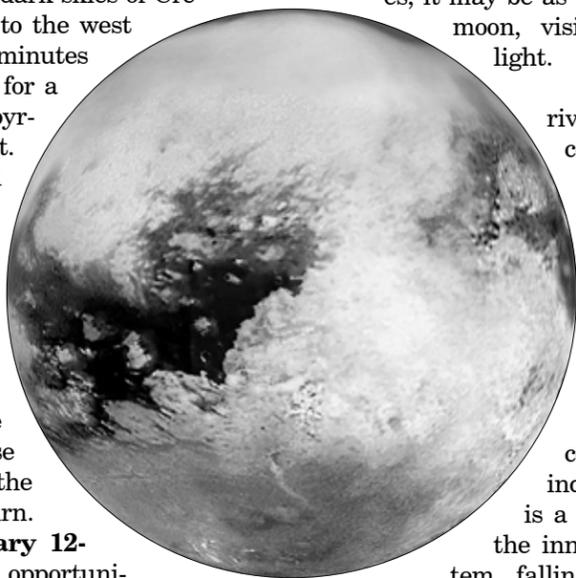


by Kim Malville
Almanac

Jupiter reigns supreme throughout the month, setting around midnight. It ceased its retrograde motion on January 30 and now glides smoothly to the east, moving away from the Pleiades, toward Aldebaran. Saturn rises about two hours after Jupiter sets.

February 1-10: The first ten days of February is a great time for observing the Zodiacal light, especially in the dark skies of Crestone. Look to the west about 80 minutes

after sunset for a left-sloping pyramid of light. It is caused by sunlight scattered off the band of dust particles that surrounds the sun like an immense version of the rings of Saturn.



Saturn's moon, Titan, showing its dark lakes of methane surrounded by methane ice and snow. photo courtesy of NASA

February 12-20: Great opportunities for viewing Mercury. It will be visible above the west-southwest horizon about 30 minutes after sunset.

February 15: An unnamed asteroid, between 130-160 feet in diameter, will make a close pass with the earth, coming within 18,000 miles of the surface of our planet at 12:25pm MST. Fear not: it is nearly certain that this asteroid will miss the earth. If it does hit us, we are in for a 2 megaton explosion.

February 17, 18: The Moon and Jupiter: The rapidly moving moon is to the right of Jupiter on the seventeenth and to its left on the eighteenth. Note the triangles formed on each of these night with Aldebaran, the red eye of Taurus. This beautiful sight is similar to what happened last month on the nights of January 21-22. If you missed it, here is a second chance!

February 28: Look for the moon and you will find nearby Spica, the brightest star of Virgo. In eastern Mexico to Central America Spica will disappear behind the moon.

The comets of 2013

This will be a fantastic year for comets, those dirty snowballs that in the past may have been responsible for depositing much of the water in

our oceans (as well as those that once existed on Venus and Mars). The most spectacular comet, Comet ISON, has been described as the comet of the century and should arrive in our skies in December. Discovered by two Russian astronomers in September 2012, far beyond the orbit of Jupiter, it appears to be a sun grazer (like Comet McNaught of 2007), passing through the sun's corona on November 28. If it emerges, it may be as bright as the moon, visible in daylight.

Before it arrives, another comet, P A N S T A R R S will appear in our western skies around twilight in the week of March 12-18. This comet's orbit indicates that it is a newcomer to the inner solar system, falling in from the Oort comet cloud where billions of its kind have been living in icy hibernation for more than four billion years.

The ice lakes of Titan

Those who are still smarting over the ejection of Pluto from the ranks of planets should take heart by the fact that the most interesting objects in our solar system (excepting Earth, of course) are not planets but their moons. The most fascinating moon of them all is freezing-cold Titan, Saturn's largest moon. With a diameter of 3,200 miles and a temperature of -297°F, it is the only body in our solar system apart from Earth known to possess stable bodies of liquid on its surface. While Earth's weather cycle is based on water, Titan's involves hydrocarbons. Liquid ethane and methane fall as snow and rain, forming large lakes and seas. Recent measurements of Titan by the Cassini space craft indicate icebergs of methane floating in these cold seas. One of the most intriguing possibilities is that they might host a truly alien form of life, with an entirely different chemistry than ours, on the boundary between liquid and solid. Such a boundary may have been important for the origin of terrestrial life.



Comet McNaught in January 2007. photo courtesy of European Southern Observatory S. Deiries/ESO

Hydrocarbon ice should float in the moon's seas, as long as the temperature is just below methane's freezing point and the ice is at least 5% air, which is the average composition for young sea ice here on Earth. Those conditions will change with the seasons on Titan. The Cassini spacecraft's extended stay in the Saturn system provides a fascinating opportunity to watch the effects of seasonal change of Titan. The \$3.2 billion Cassini mission, a joint effort of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency, was launched in 1997 and arrived at Saturn 2004. It will continue to observe the ringed planet and its more than sixty moons through at least 2017.

Black Beauty landed in Morocco

A dark lump of rock found in the Moroccan desert in 2011 has turned out to be the oldest meteorite that has arrived from Mars. Weighing 320g, the stone was purchased from a Moroccan meteorite collector and has been nicknamed "Black Beauty". There are over 110 Martian meteorites currently in collections worldwide. They were all blasted off the surface of the red planet, probably by asteroid impacts, and then spent millions of years travelling through space before falling to Earth. Their

discovery has been mostly by chance. A few were seen in the act of falling. Their dark forms have caught the eye of meteorite hunters who scour desert sands for these rare rocks that can often sell for tens of thousands of dollars. Many have been found in Antarctic glaciers, where they have been concentrated by the flow of ice. Needless to say, this method of collecting rocks from Mars is enormously cheaper than sending a manned mission to that planet.

All the other Martian meteorites were crystallized 200-400 million years ago, while Black Beauty dates to 2.1 billion years. Its chemical composition is remarkably similar to that measured by the Mars rover Spirit in Gusev Crater. The rock also has 10 times more water than other Martian meteorites, adding to the evidence that water was once abundant on the surface of Mars. Today's cold, dry planet with a thin atmosphere appears to have been a lot warmer and wetter. The original water on Mars may have come from volcanic eruptions or falling comets. After its volcanoes ceased erupting and the rain of comets stopped, water escaped into space because of its low gravity. Personally, I hope there was sufficient time for primitive life to have gained a foothold.



Black Beauty, a 2.1 billion-year-old meteorite. courtesy Institute of Meteoritics, UNM AP

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Weather recap for 2012

by Keno

Weather-wise, 2012 was one wild year for most of the planet. Global warming is changing our weather for the worst. From the many wildfires right here in Colorado, caused by the on-going drought, which is covering most of the west, to numinous tornados in the south and mid-west, and then the late season Super Storm Sandy hitting the east coast; the US alone saw a year full of crazy weather.

Overall locally, we had some very interesting weather events right here in Crestone during 2012, so let's take a look back at some of the highlights.

January was the fourth driest ever in Crestone since record keeping was began in 1983. The 2.2" of snow recorded was also the fourth least amount to fall in the month. By the end of January, downtown Crestone lost its snowpack for the second January in a row, and for only the third time overall.

Whereas the first two months

March also turned out to be the second driest on record, and the sixth driest month ever overall, with only .03" of precipitation recorded. March also saw only 0.5" of snow, the second least amount of snow recorded in the month. Plus March saw 10 days with the humidity values below 10%.

On March 26 the low temperature was 37°F, a record high low. This was also the first 24-hour period with temperatures above freezing in 2012, and also since October 16, 2011.

April 2 was a windy day, with a top wind gust of 50mph recorded. A wind gust of 62mph was reported at the Crestone Charter School's weather station.

A record high temperature was set on April 10 at 72°F.

April 11 was a day for a few "firsts", including the first rainfall of 2012, along with the first two thunderstorms. One hit in the afternoon with little rain, and the other contained the first hail of 2012.

The snowfall on April 15 of 1.3"



Double Rainbow.

photo by Kelly Hart

of 2012 weren't too exciting weather-wise, that could not be said for March. Temperature wise, this was the warmest March on record, with 6 record highs set on the following days: March 16, 66°F; March 23, 68°; March 24, 69°; March 25, 69°; March 27, 67°; and on March 31 the high reached 71°, not only a record, but the warmest temperature ever recorded in the month.

was a record amount for that date. April 15 had been one of only two April days when no measurable snowfall ever occurred. So April 27 became the lone day of no measurable snow fall for any April date—but keep on reading below for more on this.

Records are not kept for the warmest temperature at which snow has ever fallen, but if such records were, Crestone might have broken



Fresh snow lightly covers the landscape. February brought a little snow, and a lot of cold.
photo by Don Gifford



April 2, 2012 saw a fierce wind, blowing dust plus a wildfire. This photo shows T-Road near the Baca National Refuge entrance. Visibility was very poor and the driving became hazardous.
photo by Lori Nagel

one on April 20. Snow pellets fell that afternoon for less than 3 minutes with the temperature at 57°F! Crestone has seen snow fall several times with the temp around 50°, but never with a reading higher than 52°.

April 27 saw 3.1" of snow fall, breaking the record for snowfall for the date. April 27 had been the only day in April with no measurable snowfall. Plus the latest date with

no measurable snowfall in Crestone was May 7; but again, keep reading below for more on this.

April saw 7 days with humidity readings below 10%.

The 0.56" of precipitation and 0.6" of snow that fell on May 7 were both records for the date. May 7, as noted above, had been the latest date on record for no measurable snowfall. The new date is now May 9.

May saw 15 days with the humidity values below 10%.

June 2012 turned out to be the warmest June ever, with 6 record high temperatures set on the following days: June 22, 90°F, plus on the same day a record high low of 56°; June 23, 91°, with also a record high low of 55°; June 24, 94°, the second warmest temperature ever recorded in the month of June. This reading was also the warmest temperature recorded in Crestone in the last 7 years; plus another record high low on June 25 at 55°. In all, a total of 7 June days saw temperatures in the 90s, and it was the first time in 6 years that temperatures in the 90s were reached in June.

June was also dry; the seventh driest on record precipitation wise, along with a total of 24 days with humidity readings below 10%, including 4 days with afternoon readings of only 4%. Also, heavy haze and smoke were present on many days. The smoke came from the Little Sand Creek wildfire burning in the San Juan Mountains.

Just two temperature records wereset in July. On the first, a record high low was set at 56°F, then on July

7, a record low high of 71°.

Heavy hail hit on July 17, and lasted close to 20 minutes, dropping the temperature 27° in 15 minutes, from 82°F to 55°.

A record high temperature was tied on August 29 at 88°F.

Crestone saw .93" of precipitation fall on September 12, but was it a record? Well, that total becomes the fourth largest total in a 24-hour period for any September day; however, it wasn't a record, since back in 1982 on September 12, 1.04" of rain was recorded, with that being the third most precipitation to fall in one day for the month.

Crestone saw 7 days with humidity values below 10% in September.

0.52" of rain fell on October 12, which was a new record for the date. October saw 4 days with humidity values below 10%.

A record high low temperature was set on November 9 at 35°F, and a record low temperature was set on November 12 at 3°F.

Rain mixed with snow fell on December 6, marking only the fourth time it has rained in December, with all four times occurring in the last 7 years.

The low temp on December 20 dropped to -12°F, breaking the record for the date.

A record for the most precipitation for the day (.22") and snowfall (4.6") was set on December 31. December saw a total snow accumulation of 19.7", the third most ever recorded in December.

The total precipitation for 2012 was 13.10". This marks the fifth year in a row with below average precipitation for Crestone, and drops the annual precipitation average down to 13.10". Since the year 2000, Crestone has only seen 3 years with above average precipitation. Temperatures for the year were above normal, too.

So what kind of weather events can we expect to see in 2013? That's a great question which isn't easy to answer. But there's no question the planet is warming up year after year. Let's just hope that here in our part of the world, that at least average precipitation falls this year, since we need it badly!

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Rio Grande Roundtable approves five water projects

by Bea Ferrigno

At the January 8 meeting of the Rio Grande Interbasin Water Conservation Roundtable (RGRT) in Alamosa, five projects, totalling about \$4 million, were approved for forwarding to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) which is expected to decide their fate at its March meeting. The projects, most of which had been previewed at earlier meetings, were all unanimously approved.

- In Costilla county, the Acequia del Cerro requested \$450,000 to rehabilitate some 10,000 feet of the northern Cerro ditch.
- In Rio Grande county, a supplemental amount, \$431,000, will be used to reduce the risk of flooding by including automated gates in a new diversion below the old Seven Mile Plaza bridge. This is the McDonald Ditch project, part of Phase 2 of the Plaza Project.
- Phase 3 of the Plaza Project was approved for \$430,000 to replace the Prairie Ditch headgate and diversion dam.
- The Mogote Northeastern Consolidated Ditch Company and the Romero Irrigation Company together requested \$285,000 to install automated measuring weirs to improve management of the water they draw from the Conejos river.
- The Santa Maria Reservoir Company requested \$463,750 to rehabilitate its siphon and canal system which has deteriorated to the point that the state has imposed storage restrictions on Continental reservoir. This system supplies water to the Rio Grande and Monte Vista canals which serve Rio Grande, Conejos, Alamosa and Saguache counties.

To date, the Rio Grande basin has received some \$8 million for projects supported by the RGRT and CWCB, about 24% of all funding allocated via roundtables to the nine river basins in Colorado. Although the amount of funding on hand at CWCB was initially thought to be insufficient for all five projects, so that one or more of them might be declined or carried over to September, the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) liaison to the RGRT, Greg Johnson, reported that additional funds are on hand and more expected in April as a result of increased income. The WSRA funds are derived from severance taxes and disbursed on a 60/40 split to the CWCB and individual basin accounts. Projects are first approved with partial funding through the basin roundtables, then forwarded to the CWCB for final approval and full funding. Travis Smith, a member of both CWCB and RGRT, attributed the success of Rio Grande basin water projects to good designs and well-prepared applications but noted that the process is increasingly competitive and encouraged local members to attend the CWCB meeting in March.

In other business, the roundtable heard an update from Craig Cotten from the Division of Water Resources, indicating snowpack is about 60% of average and that 137% of normal snowfall will be needed through the winter to reach an average level of snowpack by spring. The forecast as of January 7 was for 66% of average flow on the Rio Grande and 74% on the Conejos, estimates that are close to 2012 levels.

The meeting closed with a summary of the recently completed hydrology study in Rio Grande County.



Male Gunnison Sage-grouse fight over a territory early in the morning during a snow storm at Woods Gulch BLM area in Gunnison, CO. photo by Noppadol Paothong

Gunnison Sage-grouse proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act

by Jenny Nehring

On Jan. 13, 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed the Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG) for listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The GUSG is only found in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah. There are a total of 7 separate populations of this species, two of which are in Saguache County. The western portion of Saguache County is part of the Gunnison Basin population. The Gunnison Basin population is the largest and most stable population of GUSG with approximately 5,000 birds. About 1/3 of the total population (1600) and 1/3 of the habitat for the Gunnison Basin population is in western Saguache County. At the northern end of Saguache County, one of the smallest populations of GUSG resides at Poncha Pass. The Poncha Pass population is currently estimated to be about 15 birds that occupy the sagebrush habitat from the summit of Poncha Pass south approximately 15 miles and on both sides of Hwy. 285.

In the FWS proposed rule, critical habitat was also identified and was mapped to include all currently occupied and suitable habitat. The proposed rule for endangered status and the critical habitat boundaries are not final. The FWS listing process allows for a 60-day comment period and a re-evaluation of the species status before making a final decision. Comments may be sent to the FWS

until March 12, 2013, and a final rule will be announced on September 30, 2013.

Jenny Nehring, Coordinator of the Poncha Pass Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group will be giving a presentation on GUSG on Thurs., Feb. 21 at 6:30pm at the Saguache County Road and Bridge meeting room. Jenny has been involved with the Poncha Pass Working Group and GUSG conservation efforts since 1998. The story of Gunnison Sage-grouse is a unique



Closeup of a Gunnison Sage-grouse. photo by Noppadol Paothong

one and the Poncha Pass population has an especially storied history that includes transplant efforts and accidental hunting seasons. Gunnison Sage-grouse are a unique species of bird and in 2000 became the first new North American bird species in over 100 years, as recognized by the American Ornithological Union. Come learn about this fascinating species and conservation efforts involved in protecting it.



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958 MEDITATION OL: 3 br, 2 bath. Close-in, private, meticulously maintained, energy-wise, bright, creative touches. Solar in-floor heat with electric backup. \$218,000



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4327 TRANQUIL WAY: Sweet custom 2-story hexagon log home, private greenbelt/creek location. Upstairs master, expansive views, adjacent lot. \$189,000



Great Value at \$119,000!

3510 ENCHANTED: 3 br, 2 bath, 1833 sf. Spacious rooms, large master br & two tankless water heaters for hot water & central heat. Nice location & lot. \$139,900 now \$119,000.



Cozy, Clean & Comfy

13 CAMINO DE LA PLATA: Legal duplex. Live in one half, rent the other, or a great income investment in Casita Park. Great deal and nice! \$49,000



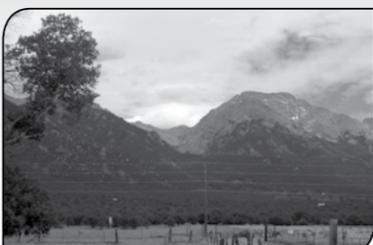
Grants Views!

1311C SPANISH CREEK RD: 3 br, 2 1/2 bath, 3060 sf on 7.5 acres. Fabulous finishes and care. 6 car finished, heated RV garage. Must See. \$750,000



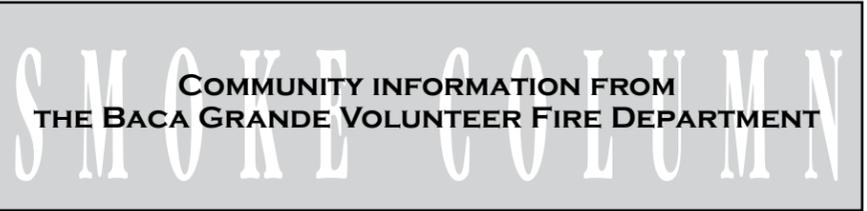
Opportunity in Pueblo

1525 E. 19TH, PUEBLO: 2 br, 1 bath, 1128 sf, great rental and investment property, and charming home on large lot. Two single car garages, many updates. \$79,000.



Many listings for vacant land available online at www.CrestoneRealEstate.net or call 480-9384 for details

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Extinguish that fire!

by Lisa Bodey,
Public Information Officer

Extinguish that fire? Don't worry . . . I'm not talking about those hot and heavy romances you are developing in front of your cozy fireplaces and woodstoves amidst the deep freeze that has descended upon us this Crestone winter. Cuddle up with your loved ones and keep cooking those warm delicious meals on the stoves, but just keep in mind that all of our indoor fires equate to more potential risk of house fires. At our last BGVFD training, we discussed fire extinguisher types, how to use them and which ones are appropriate for different fire types. It seemed like a good time to remind you to check on your own extinguisher, its type, location, and if it has been serviced recently.

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives, but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents or business customers is to get out safely. Make sure you have called 911 to dispatch the fire department as we can always stand down if you successfully extinguish the fire before our arrival. Fire extinguishers are appropriate when the fire is confined to a small area, there is no danger of rapid spread and the room is not filled with smoke.

While it may seem simple, if you have never operated an extinguisher, it may become a challenging task during an emergency situation. A good acronym for how to operate a fire extinguisher is to remember the word **PASS**:

Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Basically, there are five different types of extinguishing agents. Most fire extinguishers display symbols to show the kind of fire on which they are to be used. For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, such as those labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C"—that can be used on two or more of the fire types.

Finally, make sure to main-

tain your fire extinguisher on an annual basis.

Make sure the pressure is at the recommended level. Some extinguishers have gauges that indicate when the pressure is too high or too low.

Check that all hoses and nozzles are clean of insects and debris and are not damaged or rusted.

Shake dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling or packing. Check the manufacturer's recommendations.

Make sure the extinguisher is in a convenient, easy-to-access location.

Every year the BGVFD hosts a fire extinguisher drop-off for testing, refilling and/or replacement if necessary. If you missed this service in August, you can contact Dale Harrison at Valley Fire Protection in Saguache at 719-655-6543 in the meantime to have your extinguisher examined. Many of these safety tips were researched on the National Fire Protection Agency's website at www.nfpa.org. Please visit their website for more information.

Special thanks to volunteers Larry Koehler, Alberto Olivas, Craig Tomaski and Dan Wheeler who just completed S215- Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface course at the January Wildfire Academy in Colorado Springs. They trained and had access to many fire professionals who just went through the devastating Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado Springs. We appreciate their time and dedication to receive outside training and bring it back to share with our department and community.

Class A- ordinary combustible materials such as cloth, wood, rubber, paper, and many plastics.

Class B- fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.

Class C- fires involving appliances, tools, or other equipment that is electrically energized or plugged in.

Class D- use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These are typically found only in factories working with these metals.

Class K- intended for use on fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. These extinguishers are generally found in commercial kitchens, such as those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers.

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SLV Energy Foundation contributes to food bank

At the end of 2012, San Luis Valley Energy Foundation, a foundation established by San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, made a \$10,000 contribution to the Valley Food Bank Network. The Energy Foundation's Board made this choice because they felt taking care of families in need was a priority.

Lance Cheslock, La Puente director, said the contribution was cause for a huge celebration for the Food Bank Network. "I am proud to share in a community that includes companies like SLVREC. What SLVREC does—the way they help to take care of our communities—it's amazing," he said.

Cheslock offered some important facts about the work the Food Bank Network does within the valley. First, he pointed out that the valley encompasses a geographic area larger than the state of Connecticut. Moreover, it does so with only one paid staff position, Director Mel Huss. Everyone else volunteers.

Second, the network serves the entire valley. There are food banks in Creede, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Center, Saguache, Antonito, La Jara, Capuline and more. In total, there are 13 specific communities where people in need can obtain food. (See the complete list at www.lapuente.net.)

The need is huge. Last year,

12,200 individuals received assistance from valley food banks, obtaining food for more than 450,000 meals. About half of those helped were children. In a valley with a total population of approximately 46,000, that's over 25% of the population needing assistance for at least a portion of the year.

The Food Bank Network receives 92% of its funding from non-government entities such as individuals and corporations like the SLV Energy Foundation. The 8% of government funding for the Food Bank Network comes from sources such as the City of Alamosa or block grants. Last year, a \$30,000 Walmart grant came to a close, leaving the Food Bank Network Manager wondering where she would make up the shortfall. According to Huss, this made the contribution from SLV Energy Foundation invaluable to the Food Bank Network.

Cheslock said, "Food drives, especially those during winter months, bring in a lot of canned goods and very little protein. With contributions like the \$10,000 from the Energy Foundation, we can supplement contributions to round out our offerings to families. Our Food Bank Director, Mel Huss, knows all the food prices everywhere and she gets excellent prices for everything. She makes every dollar go incredi-

bly far. She is an amazing, compassionate person who came to us as a volunteer for over a year, and then began her work as Food Bank Network Director. She deserves credit for her incredible work in support of the valley."

Last year, the number of individuals contributing to the Food Bank Network was up; however, individual contributions were lower. The net contribution amount ended up being about the same. Corporate donations across the board were down. The state cut funding for every program, especially funding for children's programs.

SLVREC Energy Foundation was established to help the cooperative's poorest members make ends meet. Contributions from SLVREC members fund the SLV Energy Foundation. For this, SLVREC's CEO, directors and employees extend thanks to the members of the cooperative. "It's our members' generosity that makes our valley strong," said SLVREC CEO Loren Howard. "Like Lance, I am proud to share in a community that includes people like our members."

In addition to the contribution made by SLV Energy Foundation, SLVREC also contributes to valley food banks through cookbook sales. Last year, the cooperative published a cookbook featuring recipes from their newsletter, the *Newsboy*. Copies may be purchased for \$10 each with \$5 from each sale going directly to the food banks. Cookbooks are available for purchase at SLVREC in Monte Vista or they

may be ordered through the mail. A shipping charge will be added for cookbooks that are mailed.

SLVREC has provided electricity to the San Luis Valley since 1937. The company is member-owned and does not operate to earn a profit; rather, SLVREC serves members at cost and returns excess revenue to members in the form of capital credits.

The cooperative can be reached at 719-852-3538 or 800-332-7634. Alternatively, member services can be contacted via email: power@slvrec.com. The cooperative is open from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Thursday.



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<p>Under Contract</p>  <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>Townhouse 6, - \$199,000 Renovated & furnished 3bd/3ba 1622sf single-level townhouse w. granite tile counters, pantry, arch & walled courtyard.</p>	<p>Under Contract</p>  <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>3862 Cordial Way - \$169,000 CREEK SIDE in the trees, 1352sf 3bd/2ba bright home built in 2004. Upstairs Master Suite w/balcony. Quiet retreat setting in CH2.</p>	<p>Bank Owned</p>  <p>\$83/sf!</p> <p>Studio Apartment</p> <p>3486C Graceful Way - \$249,000 3000+sf, 5bd/2.75ba home w. separate studio apartment, sun-room, radiant floor heat, oversized garage, courtyard/garden, an AMAZING \$83/sf!</p>	<p>Off-Grid</p>  <p>364 E Birch Trail - \$115,000 1207sf + Greenhouse on 10+ acres (Lots 362-365). Horse property, strawbale, solar off-grid.</p>	<p>Retreat Properties</p>  <p>WAS \$1,170,000 NOW - \$669,000 Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!</p>	<p>23 Acres!</p>  <p>3926 Cordial Way NOW - \$689,000 4100sf, 4bd/3.5ba, architecturally designed palatial main home amid trees, and 550SF guest cottage. Over-sized 2-car garage. Beautiful!</p>	<p>Commercial Property</p>  <p>121 E. Galena - \$495,000 Premiere, newly renovated drntwn commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt. and 3 rentals 1st floor, one w/commercial kitchen. Great opportunity.</p>
<p>Bed & Breakfast</p>  <p>Willow Springs (Moffat) Was \$349,000 NOW \$299,000 9 Bd/3Ba 3600sf; includes everything for a turnkey operation. Great Well!</p>	<p>Baca Meadows</p>  <p>Townhouse 9 - \$159,000 2-story 2bd/2ba 1480sf corner townhouse with mountain views. Wrap around patio and balcony. Peaceful & relaxing. Immaculate condition.</p>	<p>Town of Crestone</p>  <p>Close to new Crestone School</p> <p>345 S. Cedar, Crestone - \$189,000 1434sf 3bd/2ba Cottage Neighborhoods. Downtown Crestone, walk to the grocery stores, Post Office, bank, shopping, restaurants & new school.</p>	<p>Single family OR Duplex</p>  <p>370 South Alder - \$187,500 Flexible space with 5 BD/2BA or two separate units. 1950sf. Part of Cottage Neighborhoods downtown Crestone.</p>	<p>Off-Grid Green Living</p>  <p>573C Cottonwood Creek Tr \$324,000 CUSTOM OFF-GRID STRAWBALE 1855sf 2bd/1.75 on 8.59acres. Garage 808sf. Fine finishes. Open floorplan. Views. Exquisite!</p>	<p>Off-Grid Green Living</p>  <p>1381 Saddlerock Trail - \$165,000 Cute 1100sf 2bd/1ba strawbale home. Solar hot water, radiant heat bamboo floors, sunroom, views, courtyard.</p>	<p>Baca Grande Properties</p>  <p>786C Panorama Way - \$459,000 This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/SR/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.</p>
<p>Baca Grande Properties</p>  <p>Was \$499,000</p> <p>1234C Brookview NOW - \$459,000 Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.</p>	<p>20 Acres in the Trees!</p>  <p>499C Willow Trail - \$450,000 Approx. 3700sf, Gracious 2-story 5bd/3ba w. green room, sun room, fenced yard, large deck & GREAT VIEWS!</p>	<p>HUGE DROP! Was \$499,000</p>  <p>1230C N Indian Bend - \$375,000 1950sf 3BD/2BA; 3.69 acres; 1450sf garage/workshop/studio w. full bath, landscaped Courtyard with trees.</p>	<p>Horse Property</p>  <p>1342 Badger Rd - \$349,000 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>Was \$349,000</p>  <p>4262C Serene Way - \$319,000 Immaculate 2500sf 3-level home on .98ac, 5bd/2.75ba. Walkout basement includes den/yoga room, radiant floor heat, bricked patio.</p>	<p>Detached Studio</p>  <p>1540C Willow Creek Way \$315,000 This classic farmhouse has 3bd/2.5ba, large deck w/hot tub, 2 screen porches, hardwood floors, large studio w/bath & kitchenette.</p>	<p>Livingroom Views</p>  <p>1202 Hilltop Way - \$295,000 Lee Mitchell custom-built, 3bd/2ba home on 3-Chalet 1 lots. Fine finishes, radiant floor heat & framed views. Close to Yeshe Rangsal Retreat.</p>
<p>New Construction</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>Close to Yeshe Rangsal Retreat</p>  <p>1647C Willow Creek Way - \$269,000 Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1780sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt. Views.</p>	<p>Was \$269,000</p>  <p>1142 East Badger Rd - \$254,000 Newer 3bd/2ba/carport 1460sf home exquisite Master Suite, high ceilings, many windows, open floor plan, patios & deck. Great kitchen, light & views!</p>	<p>Rooftop Deck Views!</p>  <p>451C Chaparral - \$239,000 1543-sf 2BD/1BA w/ sunroom, great room, patios, high balcony with views on 4 lots.</p>	<p>WAS \$260,000</p>  <p>3869C Jubilant Terrace - \$235,000 10 sided two story home on 2.08 acres on greenbelt w. creek. Private cul-de-sac. 360° views/large deck. Possible Owner Financing</p>	<p>4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$225,000</p>  <p>4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$225,000 Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available.</p>	<p>233CR Sweetgrass OL - \$219,000</p>  <p>233CR Sweetgrass OL - \$219,000 This strawbale 1792sf 2bd/1ba home plus loft built in 1995 on 2.24 acres close to town with lovely fenced garden area. Radiant floor heat + woodstove.</p>
<p>Sustainable!</p>  <p>2676C Happy Hollow Wy - \$215,000 Great value on this 2bd/2ba/office home on .927 acre w/sustainable systems, grow dome, yurt, orchards & watering systems. Very nice.</p>	<p>Was \$219,000</p>  <p>3435C W. Graceful Ct - \$184,999 Private 3bd/2ba, 1872sf 2-story newer frame home on 1.467 acres in CH2 w/ wood floors, wood stove, good views, & 436sf wrap-deck.</p>	<p>Was \$249,000</p>  <p>2681C Happy Hollow Wy \$179,000 Custom 2000sf home on 1.427 acres. 3bd/1.75ba/study or 4th bd w/separate entrance. Flexible open floor plan. Hot tub, gardens, carport.</p>	<p>Motivated Seller</p>  <p>1573C Kings Hill OL - \$169,000 Bright 3bd/2ba renovated 1480sf 1 1/2 level home with large south-facing windows & view deck on .84 acres. Easy access, paved roads.</p>	<p>Reduced-Was \$179,000</p>  <p>3485 E. Graceful Ct - \$159,000 Open floor plan - 2bd/1.75 ba w/lrg eastern deck Oversized kitchen, ETS heater, wood stove. Spacious ma bdrm/ba w/long soak tub. Views.</p>	<p>Price Drop! Was \$155,000</p>  <p>826C Ridgeview Way - \$140,000 Adorable 1bd+loft/1ba 1119sf (35'-diameter) monolithic dome on .904 acres, high in Chalet I. Flagstone patio.</p>	<p>3613C Splendid Ter. - \$219,000</p>  <p>3613C Splendid Ter. - \$219,000 Southwest pueblo style w/walled courtyard entry. 3bd/2ba on 1 ac. Maple floors & cabinets, aspen ceilings, kiva fireplace. Master bath w/ soak tub & separate shower.</p>



As the Worm Turns

Know your seed

by Leigh Mills

It's time now more than ever for our communities to use locally grown seed in their gardens and fields. In recent years, hundreds of seed companies have been swallowed up by



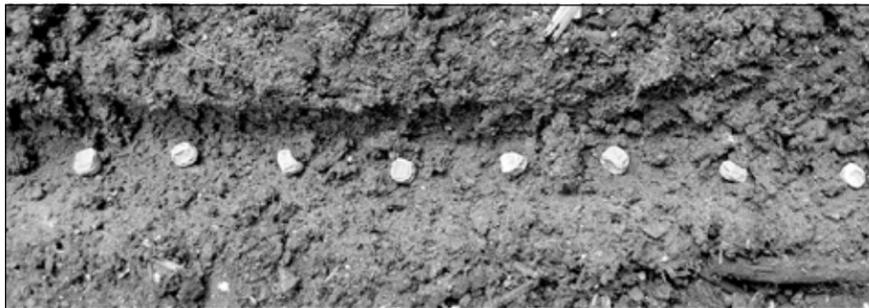
Burpee's Stringless Green Bush Beans drying on the plant. I got the original seeds from Seed Savers Exchange. This is the first year I grew out my seed and I am very happy to have a big bagful, enough to share!

large corporations intent on controlling our food supply. Seeds of Change is now owned by food giant Mars (www.librarianatlarge.net/2011/06/who-owns-ya-baby-seeds-of-change-company-info/). Since 2009, the Seed Savers Exchange board of directors has been regularly sending heirloom seeds to the Svalgard, Norway seed vault. Under contract, these seeds are allowed to be genetically patented and removed from access (www.alturl.com/ajm5w).

The San Luis Valley is a high altitude, high desert region with a very short outdoor growing season. Local seeds contain a genetic template of the area, are hardier and provide a deeper connection to the land. Gardeners are starting to grow out more of their seed and share it with others. These seeds have been tested and are proven to grow well in our local environment.

When exchanging seeds with other gardeners, here are a few things to know:

Many seeds easily cross pollinate. What kind of precautions did the seed saver make to ensure the seeds' purity? Squash, carrots, spinach, beets, and certain varieties of leafy greens cross pollinate very easily. If there is enough space between



Here is a broccoli seed pod. The seed will be ready when the pod is brown and dry, which took another month.

the plants or if screened cages are being used to isolate the plants, then seed purity is more assured. The Heyokah garden is very isolated, so the chance of cross pollination from other gardens is very slim. I rotate plants that cross pollinate within my garden: seeding out orange carrots, red beets, yellow squash and Bloomsdale spinach one year; purple carrots, golden beets, sweet dumpling squash and New Zealand spinach the next.

Make sure the seeds you get are organic, heirloom, and open-pollinated so they will grow out strong and pure year after year. Patented and hybrid seeds are unsuitable for saving since a patent means the seed is owned by another entity and hybrids won't grow out true-to-form the next year.

Ask how old the seeds are. While some seeds can be stored for over a year or more, even several

years and still be viable, it's best to use seeds that are one or two years old. They will have a higher germination rate and the plant, will be more vital. Seeds can be stored in paper or plastic bags, glass jars and plastic containers like prescription bottles. If the container is airtight, make sure the seeds are dry and mold-free.

Whether you're getting seeds from a local source, or starting to save them yourself, it is recommended that you study seed saving. Read books, visit internet sites, network with other gardeners and seed savers. Grow plants, observe their cycles and take notes. It took me several years of learning and experimenting with different plants to be able to confidently share my seeds with other people. There's a lot more to learn and I look forward to it.

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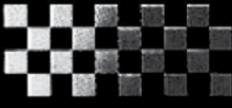




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1255 Eagle Overlook
 \$297,000



35 Camino Baca Grande
 \$188,500



1202 Wagon Wheel
 \$199,000



1679 Kings Hill Overlook
 \$287,000



Enchanted Forest B&B
 \$539,000



780 Palomino Overlook
 \$520,000



1453 Wagon Wheel Road
 \$319,000



31 Sunset Overlook
 \$139,000



3732 Cordial Way
 \$179,000



1297 Moonlight Way
 \$189,900



1279 Meadowlark Road
 \$350,000



1618 Willow Creek Way
 \$168,000



2800 Brook Overlook
 \$45,000



2684 Happy Hollow Way
 \$209,900



3528 Enchanted Way
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4408 Twinview Terrace
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1271 Sycamore Road
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In Search of Economic Reality

Debt ceiling battle: Tip of a dangerous iceberg

by Ed Lyell

The US Congress is again playing an extortion game against the American middle class. Why?

The US has borrowed trillions of dollars over the past decade, about half from foreign investors. At the end of President Clinton's second term we were running a federal budget surplus and thus paying down the national debt. Remember that the budget deficit or surplus refers to the annual budget when tax revenue is higher (surplus), or lower (deficit) compared to federal spending that year. The accumulation of annual deficits is the national debt.

This year the federal government spends 40% more than it takes in and borrows money to cover the difference. Without an increase in the debt ceiling the US Treasury won't be able to borrow the additional money needed to pay all its bills. This imbalance is caused by the Bush II era decision to go into two major wars while cutting taxes. That strategy has bankrupted countries for centuries. It has doubled the US federal debt. The federal government makes 80 million payments a month. Figuring out which to pay first could be a logistical and values nightmare. Of course in my

mind it would be simple. I would stop paying anything to do with those wars, especially paying people in other countries since that only stimulates their economy, not ours.

We reached our borrowing capacity of \$16.39 trillion in December 2012. This is \$51,000 per man, woman and child, or \$202,000 per US household. Now we need Congress to raise the ceiling. As President Obama keeps trying to explain, this is not a spending increase, but just paying for the spending already authorized by Congress. We have raised this debt ceiling law almost 40 times in the last 30 years, yet only in the Obama term has Congress made it political. We were cutting national debt in 2000, and have doubled it since then.

I always look at budget issues in terms of who wins and who loses. If we "fall off the cliff", then the interest rates that the Federal Reserve pays go up. So do all of our business and personal interest rates. Remember that the wealthy—corporations, individuals, and sovereign funds of other countries including Saudi, China and Japan—loan the money. If interest rates go up, then they make more money from our middle class

tax payers. This is another way to further shift income and wealth from the middle class to the upper class, and from the USA to other countries.

The Federal Reserve just reported that China is losing about 20 billion dollars a month in lowered purchasing of Chinese-made goods by Americans. Of course this is because Americans are out of work, earn less, and are out of credit. Is it just coincidence that raising the interest rates on federal debt would give China about the same amount of new profit from increased interest rates? In April of 2012 the Federal Reserve approved letting Chinese banks take over American banks. This scenario would suggest that the Republican-led millionaire Congress and the Goldman Sachs-controlled Federal Reserve is again doing the bidding of the wealthy, who gain from increased interest rates, and that they are helping other countries more than the USA.

The other result of "default" is that it will become easier to cut spending in all areas. Of course we have to do that, or raise taxes, with or without this "debt ceiling" crises. I would prefer that we cut the spending without the embarrassment and secondary impacts of defaulting on our payments and raising everyone's interest rates. Yes, we could balance the federal budget by just going back to our spending and taxing before 2000, before we doubled the defense budget and started spending billions for homeland security.

America is now a country with the middle class indebted to the world's wealthy. The freedom of the middle class started in 1776 has vanished and we now have another form of serfdom and slavery. The

web site nationalpriorities.org has a great tool to look at the trade-offs or opportunity cost of spending for one program over another. Look at the cost of war link. We could be providing free access to universities for almost every student if we were not spending \$121 billion for the 2012 Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Which expenditure is going to make Americans more economically prosperous in the future? Or we could be converting over 100 million households to renewable energy. Are we putting the needs of the Middle East wealthy above the US middle class? Is it about defense contractors making increased profit from overseas wars at the cost of investing in our children's long term economic productivity and prosperity?

Yes we need to balance our budget. Yet a better plan is using thoughtful zero-based budgeting of every agency using valid criteria and economic analysis focused on our long term productivity and prosperity. Yet today we just cater to self-serving political special interests.





Loren Howard
CEO San Luis Valley REC

While Motel 6 has long used the slogan "We'll keep the lights on for you," I think it is San Luis Valley REC that keeps the lights on for many of the residents of the Valley. Electricity and the quality of life it brings to families, farmers and ranchers was recognized more than 75 years ago when the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative was founded.

There are so many competing issues when it comes to providing electricity, it can be confusing. Keeping electricity affordable is very important particularly for people on a fixed income or with limited income, but that competes with managing how electricity is produced—fossil fuels, nuclear, solar, wind or biomass. Reliability competes with cost—replacing fifty-year-old lines and poles requires significant capital investment. Building new power lines, whether transmission or distribution, takes millions of dollars.

Still, of all the competing interests, reliability is the most important to virtually everyone. Without electricity, life can pretty much just stop. No heat, no entertainment, no planting, no harvesting—none of life's conveniences or necessities.

Over the past 10 years, SLVREC has made significant investments in replacing and improving the electric distribution system it owns, the system that brings the electricity down your road and to your house. However, there has not been a comparable investment in the electric transmission system which brings electricity in to the San Luis Valley. For more than 10 years, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association has pursued developing a new electric transmission line east over La Veta Pass and into

Keeping the Lights On

the Walsenburg area to provide a redundant, geographically diverse path for the delivery of electricity.

Land owners east of the Valley fought to prevent the new electric transmission line. With recent establishment of conservation easements over much of the land between the Valley and Walsenburg, construction of a new power line is all but precluded. Xcel Energy also withdrew from the proposed line over La Veta and this altered the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approval of the proposal enough that a new application would likely be required. In spite of these issues, both Tri-State and SLVREC are committed to increasing the reliability of electric delivery into the San Luis Valley.

Tri-State has conducted an extensive evaluation of all alternatives for building a new transmission line to provide the reliability that San Luis Valley residents deserve. Virtually every other area in Colorado has an electric transmission delivery

system with redundant services; we deserve the same reliable power supply. In fact, we need reliable transmission service if we are going to keep our communities alive, attract business and tourism and compete in a changing world. The new proposed electric transmission line would go south into New Mexico and connect with the existing Tri-State electric transmission system in New Mexico. This project will take several years to get through the necessary permitting and then construction.

I encourage you to contact your county commissioners, your state legislators and your federal legislators to express your support for this vital infrastructure improvement. Without it, one day we will all be "left in the dark."

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

We successfully changed from our former library automation system (Horizon) to the new one (AspenCat) last month. There are still a few glitches that we are trying to

fix, but when all is in place, we are sure you will be pleased with it. As we now belong to a union catalog, it is possible for you to renew your items and to search and place holds on items online. When the item is available, it will be brought to our library to be picked up. There will be many other libraries to check for the books you want, including our library. Also, you will be able to see exactly what items you have checked out and any fines that may be due. Please come into the library, and we can show you how to set up your account online. It is a simple process!

Another advantage to the AspenCat system is automated e-mail messages that alert you to items that are due soon or are overdue. With this service, you can prevent fines from accruing on your account. To receive these messages online, you will need to give us your e-mail address—the service is active immediately.

Our library received funding through the Saguache County Sales Tax grant for new computers in the library—about time to replace our seven-year-old computers! We have new staff computers, and there are four new desktop computers and

two laptops for public use. This means patrons can now stretch out and have some privacy in the computer lab or in an easy chair in the back room. Dennis and Kevin have worked diligently to get everything up to speed. Much gratitude is extended to them and to the county commissioners for approving this funding for our library.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 14 from 1-4pm to attend the Valentine's Day Open House at the library. We ♥ our patrons!

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

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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

In the 1890's, historian Frederick Jackson Turner defined the American frontier as any place where the population density was less than two people per square mile. A hundred years later in 1993, Dayton Duncan wrote a book called *Miles from Nowhere*, in which he said that there were still 132 counties in the USA that had a population density comparable to the frontier era. Most of them were out on the Great Plains, but one of the qualifying counties that he wrote about was our own.

In 1993, Saguache County still had a population density of 1.5 people per square mile. Our population may have grown since then, especially over here on the tie-dyed side of the valley, but our overall population density hasn't changed that much. We've still got plenty of nothing, as Saguache County Tourism literature once put it, and I'm glad that's the case.

Sometimes I think that what makes living in our valley such a delight is not so much what we have, but what we don't. Most people who have lived here for any length of time understand that. Reminders are easily found listening to traffic reports on Denver radio or looking at the pinprick clarity of the stars late at night.

Lately, I've been thinking about nothing. Better put, I've been thinking about living in a valley where there's still plenty of nothing and how that changes the way we see things. A while ago, I was talking to a friend who I guided trips with on the Arkansas River back in the late 1970's, when you could still feel a little bit of nothing on a trip through Browns Canyon. The summer population density on the river has changed since then—less space, more people. Anyhow, my friend Art, who was the boss at the Great Sand Dunes for a while and who more

recently took a Park Service job in Denver, appreciates Highway 17. He enjoys all those telephone poles stretching out toward the horizon headed south from Moffat because they give him a visceral sense of the earth's curvature. At the same time, he eats sunflower seeds to stay awake while driving what is clearly one of the straightest, emptiest, and most hypnotic roads around, along with the gunbarrel stretch of highway 285 on the other side of the valley. I once succumbed to the somnambulant powers of 17 and dozed off long enough to wake up headed through the chico on the wrong side of the road. I'm more careful now.

The other night, I was out on 17, bringing my daughter from a ballet class in Alamosa. We were looking north toward stacks of bright lights which, from a distance, looked like southbound sky trains, but which turned out to be the high beams of lone pick up truck. Yes, there are strange lights to be seen hereabouts, but many of them belong to Fords and Chevies.

It's been a cold winter full of busted pipes and rapidly disappearing woodpiles, but there are perks if, like I do, you enjoy seeing how each new day shapes the void of our valley. Temperature inversions and space and strangely present surface waters in our high desert alter our long distance perceptions, leaving us to wonder if San Antonio Mountain is really hovering above Antonito way off to the south, or if the contours of the Sand Dunes have been sheered off since the last time we saw them, or if Moffat has become an industrial metropolis overnight. This time of year, especially when the weather turns cold, our valley harbors many a mirage. I take them as daily invitations into the kind of wonder and awe that can lift us, if only momentarily, into a fresh way of seeing our world as it is, even when it isn't.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)



Aspen leaves.

by Dorje Root

Aspen in February, you might wonder? Well, yes. Believe it or not, spring is coming, and aspen bark is best harvested in the spring when the sap begins to flow upwards into the trunk. And the very best time to collect aspen bark is after a strong spring wind has blown down several large trees. The bark can be peeled freely from the downed trees before it gets dried and difficult to peel. If you're not peeling bark from a dead tree, pick a small branch and take the whole branch, sparing the entire tree from injury.

There are three parts of the aspen tree that are used medicinally: the inner bark, the leaf, and the bud. The inner green bark is a great medicine for pain and inflammation. It is used similarly to cottonwood and willow, the difference being that aspen does not irritate the stomach.

The inner bark should be dried before tincturing or decocting. It is very helpful for the pain of urinary tract infections, and osteoarthritis. It may take a few hours for the herb to take effect—don't lose heart! The

leaf is used as a milder version of the bark and is used as a tea. Aspen can be used as a poultice for sprains or muscle aches, using all plant parts, fresh or dried.

The bud can be used as an expectorant. It is good as a tincture or in cough syrup. It can also be made into an oil or salve and used topically for pain.

Aspen is not a single tree, but a colony, connected by the roots. Because of this the colony can survive forest fires. There have been colonies of aspen dated to be 80,000 years old!

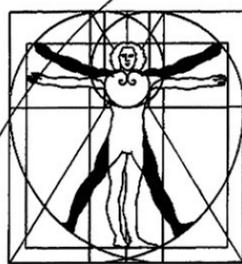
As a flower essence, aspen is used for fear and worries of unknown origin. According to Dr. Bach, "Aspen is used for people who are seized by sudden fear or worries for no specific reason, and who may therefore be generally nervy and anxious. A typical need for aspen is on wakening in fear from a bad dream, even when the dream itself is forgotten. Aspen is helpful for young children experiencing nightmares or night terrors. aspen fears can occur during the day or night; an inexplicable anxiety or sense of foreboding may strike when alone, or suddenly in the company of friends. These sudden unexplained attacks of terror may be accompanied by sweating or trembling" (Bach flower Essences for the Family).

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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Tuesday, November 12
Thursday, November 28
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Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

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Christmas

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Monday, May 27
Thursday, July 4
Monday, September 2
Monday, November 11
Thursday, November 28
Friday, November 29
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Recycle-Creede provides drop-off recycling services in Crestone the 3rd Saturday of every month in The Laughing Buddha parking lot. We take almost everything! For more details call 303-503-9975; visit us on Facebook and at www.creede.org.

Xplore Design

Your Website is an Investment. Ridiculously good customer service and seriously inspired design. 719-239-3300 or markt@xplore-design.com

Want Help Self-Publishing?

Want to self-publish a book? I can help with layout, design and uploading to the publisher. Reasonable rates. Call 256-5912.

Craig Electric Services

Craig Electric for all your electrical needs. Prompt, reliable, generous rates. Contact Steve at 256-5951, dossenback@gmail.com

Crestone Talks! Email Discussion Group

Crestone Talks! Email Discussion Group for Crestone. Events, perspectives, queries, and the uncategorizable. To subscribe, send a blank email: crestonetalks-subscribe@yahoo.com

Computer Service/Repairs

Computer Service/Repairs—22 years Computer Technician with full shop in the Baca. Windows, VIRUS fixes and prevention, networking. Call Dennis 256-4110

IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN!

David W. Walker, Accountant; 30 years experience, Personal & Business Income Tax Assistance. Call for appointment in your area: 719-379-2988.

Colormax House Painting

Colormax House Painting—many local references including Curt's Store and the Crestone Credit Union. Large color swatches for easy color selection. 25 years experience. Repairs. Excellent craftsmanship. Neat, fast & perfect. Chris Argenta 256-5243.

Help Wanted

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ELKHORN RANCH POA will receive Bids for ROAD NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE until March 1 at POB 105, VILLA GROVE, CO 81155. Contact Jessica, 719.530.1247 for more info.

HOUSEKEEPER/COMPANION WANTED in COSTA RICA

Room (loft) and board in beach/jungle home in Costa Rica in exchange for help with housekeeping and animals. Free time to do other things. Cleanliness, Honesty and Common Sense required. Contact: carolmeeds@yahoo.com

Misc. Wanted

Get rid of old exercise junk!!!

Looking for used exercise equipment—stationary bike, nordic track, rowing machine, x country skis (for 5'10 man with size 10 boots) non wax bottoms with scales. 719-480-5181

WANTED: Straw Bales – New or Old

Straw bales: New & golden or old & moldin', our garden needs 'em. Please call Janet at 4230 or stop by the Crestone Eagle office.

Misc. for Sale

Misc. For Sale

Never used 2011 hot tub \$3500 OBO. Direct vent LP heater \$400. 25 stoves and chimney in stock. Green house covering by Solexx. Service work by David Lindsey 256-4400. Call Nathan at Shangrilah Stove 256-4768.

Misc. Computer Equipment for Sale

Mac "Mini" Computer with CS2 Adobe Suite, \$200. Computer monitor: Apple Studio Display, 17" with ADC video adaptor (the ADC carries power, video, and USB all on one cable). \$30. Call the Eagle at 719-256-4956 or email janet@crestoneeagle.com

Go Solar

Solar Equipment: Panels, Inverters, Batteries, Charge Controllers, Wire, Racking. Future@NewGenEnergy.com or (719) 588-8276

Firewood | Sublers Nursery

~ Firewood Winter Sale ~ Pine \$145.00 per Cord for 2 or more Cords ~ 1 Cord \$165.00 ~ Free Delivery ~ Sale ends Feb. 28th ~ Cash Only | no checks or credit cards ~ Call or Text Sublers Nursery 719-395-6253 | Order Online @ SublersNursery.com

A Piece of Crestone

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

Vehicles for Sale

2001 Ford Focus

2001 Ford Focus, 4-door, 5-speed, air conditioning, 30-34 MPG highway, runs great, 101,000 miles. Blue book \$4,150, asking \$3,750. Call Mike 256-4901.

Community Service

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? 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.

Free Community Service: A List of Caregivers in Crestone

In an effort to connect caregivers with those in need I'm offering a Free Community Service: a Caregivers List of folks in the community who are willing to work and are available for in-home assistance for people in need; a variety of skills and experience is available for elderly care/ongoing illness or running errands, etc. Call Kris at 256-4786 LM—I'll return your call.

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.

Free

Free Manure

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

TOWN OF CRESTONE PUBLIC NOTICE

Ordinance #2013-002, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2006-005 (An Ordinance Prohibiting Owning or Keeping of Vicious or Dangerous Dogs within the Town of Crestone, Colorado)" was adopted, approved and signed on January 14, 2013. Approved: Kairina Danforth, Mayor



NOTICE OF POLLING PLACE ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF DISSOLUTION OF THE CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT doing business as CRESTONE EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ("District"):

DATE AND HOURS OF ELECTION: A polling place election will be held March 5, 2013, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

POLLING PLACE: The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place: The Community Building, 240 North Cottonwood Street, Crestone, CO.

BALLOT QUESTION: At said election, the eligible electors of the District shall vote on the following ballot question: "SHALL THE CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DOING BUSINESS AS THE CRESTONE EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT) BE DISSOLVED?"

ELIGIBLE ELECTORS: An eligible elector for the purpose of this special election is a person registered to vote pursuant to the "Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992;" and (i) who has been a resident of the District for not less than thirty (30) days, or (ii) who, or whose spouse, owns taxable real or personal property within the District, whether said person resides within the District. A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the District shall be considered an owner of taxable property for the purpose of qualifying as an eligible elector. If not already registered to vote, the last day to register to vote in this special dissolution election is February 4, 2013.

APPLICATION FOR MAIL-IN BALLOT: In addition to voting in person on election day, eligible electors living within the District, and non-resident eligible electors, may apply for a mail-in ballot from the Designated Election Official by filling out an application form or by sending an application letter requesting a mail-in ballot (include applicant's full printed name, date of birth, phone number and address of residency within Colorado or alternative address for where you want the ballot mailed, and signature). Mail the signed completed application form or signed application letter to: Linda Stagner, PO Box 1254, Crestone, CO 81131 or fax to (719)256-4517. The application form/letter shall be filed no later than 5:00 P.M. on March 1, 2013 except that if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business on February 26, 2013.

DELIVERY OF MAIL-IN BALLOT. Ballots may be returned by mail to the mailing address below (or physically delivered to the Designated Election Official at the delivery address below; please call 719 256-5165 to arrange delivery) prior to Election Day, or delivered to the polling place listed above on election day between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. All mail-in ballots (whether mailed or delivered) must be mailed or delivered using the return envelope provided, the affidavit on the return envelope must be signed, and the ballot received by the Designated Election Official no later than 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 (postmark dates do not count as received).

SUMMARY OF PLAN OF DISSOLUTION. The Plan of Dissolution calls for the provision of services by the existing service providers because the District has not, to date, provided any such services. The Plan further states that there are no financial obligations outstanding. A copy of the Plan may be obtained or reviewed by the public at the Saguache District Court, at the Baca Grande Library, 67581 County Road T, Crestone, CO, online at <http://www.crestoneemergencyservices.org/> or by calling (719) 256-5165.

CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

/s/ David Hillman, Secretary and Designated Election Official

Mailing address: Linda Stagner PO Box 1254, Crestone, CO 81131

Delivery address: 190 Cascade Overlook Crestone, CO

Call The Crestone Eagle at 256-4956

to sell your stuff, or to offer your services, or list what you need, or what you want to share, or what you like doing, or what you want to give away, or list a business opportunity, or talk about a yard sale, or entice someone to buy your home, or any other wonderful way to communicate with your community. Just go to www.crestoneeagle.com to submit your classified ad.

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Contact Sophia at 719-256-5825



Ask the Weatherman
by Keno
I understand it's getting warmer around the planet, but it seems here it's getting colder, going by all the broken record lows of late. Am I correct?

Sorry, but you're incorrect, although I can understand the confusion. Let me try to explain why we seem to have so many record lows set of late. There are three reasons for this. First, it's just been very cold lately. Second, official weather record keeping in Crestone was only started in March of 1983. With 30 years of data we can learn a lot of things, but there's more to the picture. If you compare most other locations to ours, on average, weather records have been kept in most of these other areas for well over 100 years.

Let's take Alamosa. Their records go back to 1905. They have



Hoar frost coats the landscape and this old abandoned cabin on a bitterly cold January day. photo taken on a back road near Hooper by Kate Steichen

a lot more records on file than our area. So, let's say we break a record high or low for Feb 15. As of this year, we only have 29 records taken on this one day to possibly break—whereas Alamosa for the same date has 107! So it's around 4 times more likely to break a weather record here than in Alamosa.

The final reason for what seems to be colder winter readings is a big change in the location of where we now take our official records. Crestone's late official observer, Hal Reinhart, took readings at his home, which was located only one mile away from my home where I now take the official read-

ing. One mile doesn't make that much of a difference normally with temperatures; however, Hal's elevation was around 800 feet higher. The lower the elevation, the colder the readings in the dead of winter. Why? Because of cold air drainage.

Most locals know that in the winter, the valley is always colder at night than the mountains, but during the day the mountains are normally colder. However, sometimes in the winter the cold air in the valley gets traps by warmer air aloft, causing an inversion in the valley, trapping the cold air even during the daytime. In this case, on average, the coldest air is trapped at around 8200 to 8500 feet; areas above will be warmer and areas below much colder. Hal's old station was located around 8900 feet, whereas our new station is below 8100 feet—and still in the cold air. This is the main reason for so many record lows in the last 5 years. Not because it's getting colder, but because of the elevation/location change. Overall year-round, it is getting warmer everywhere, including in Crestone. I'll note, outside of winter, the elevation factor doesn't make a difference. The fact is, Crestone actually set more record highs in 2012 than record lows.

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

Dec. 21 to Jan. 20

Total Precipitation for Period:

Liquid Precip: 0.30"

Snow: 7.6"

Measurable Precipitation fell on 7 days.

Measurable Snow fell on 7 days.

A trace of Snow fell on 3 days

No Rain, Hail or Thunderstorms occurred.

Total Precipitation Year to Date:

Since Jan 1, 2013: 0.02"

Total Precipitation for 2012:

Jan 1 thru Dec 31: 10.28"

Total Snow to Date:

Since Jan 1: 0.5"

Snow Season*: 21.6"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the Period:

High Temp: 31.9°F on December 24

Low Temp: -16.2°F on January 13 and -16.0°F on January 15

Ave. High: 20.7°F

Ave. Low: -3.8°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 32°: None

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 30°: 2

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: All 31

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 0°: 24

Winds for the Period:

Ave. Speed: 3.0 MPH

Highest Gust: 33 MPH on January 11

Main Direction: Out of the east.

Weather Summary:

Precipitation was slightly below normal. December's last 11 days were above normal for snowfall, but January saw little snow and was very much below normal.

Temperatures were well below normal. Not a single day saw temperatures above freezing and all but one morning out of the first 20 days of January saw temps below zero. 15 record lows were set (all but one were set in January), and from Jan 7 thru Jan 15, 94% of that time saw the thermometer at 12° or lower.

Outlook for February:

February is normally our third coldest month, and the driest month of the year. Precipitation wise we average only .49", and all of that falls as snow, with an average of 8.5" accumulating. The snowiest February on record was in 2003 when 23.4" fell.

Temperature wise, the average highs and lows for the first week of the month is 36° and 10°, and by the last week they warm up to an average 42° and 17°. The warmest ever reading for February was 63° in 1986, and the coldest was -26° in 1985.

The NWS's 30 day outlook is calling for well above normal temps, with below normal precip. But do keep in mind that the 30 day outlook which I reported here last month was calling for above normal temperatures, and that was dead wrong!

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

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