

The CRESTONE EAGLE

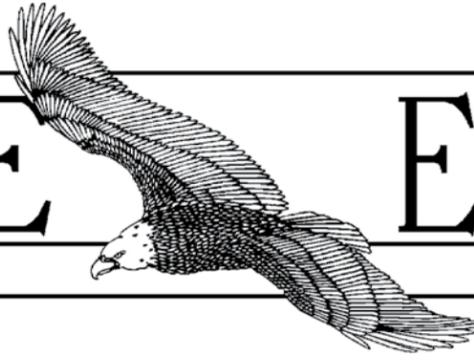
Crestone, Colorado Volume 24, Number 4

April, 2013 \$1

24 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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A sure sign of spring. Mule Deer Family, photo by Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski www.dancingpelican.com To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Structural deficiencies found in the Moffat Pk-12 School's foundation, among other concerns

by Kirk Banghart

Since September the Facilities Master Planning Committee, made up of parents, community members (Moffat and Crestone) and staff, has spent many hours reviewing the information from engineers and architects in the facilities audit of the Moffat School. The committee will provide feedback to the Moffat Board of Education (BOE) about the appropriate next steps for the Moffat PK-12 School.

Due to the poor condition of the school, in January, the committee submitted a recommendation to the BOE to apply for a grant from the Colorado Department of Education to help offset the cost of replacement

for the Moffat campus. The committee used information gathered from the building facilities audit and community meetings to help make their recommendation to the BOE.

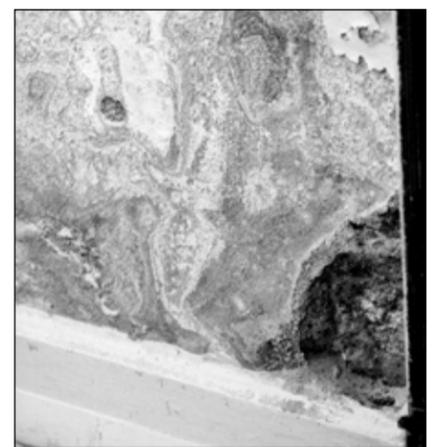
The district's contract master planning firm, Wold and A&P, completed a facilities audit last fall 2012. A facilities audit is a comprehensive review of a building's systems. Using a comprehensive data base of commercial and school construction costs over the last 3 years, it was determined that the school is in need of 9 million dollars worth of repairs and replacements.

What was discovered

Foundation: The 1921 build-

ing was found to have critical foundation concerns. The engineers discovered that due to the soil acidity and the type of concrete used in the original construction, the foundation is under a sulfate attack. The crystals that are created by ground water have, over many years, formed inside the foundation and have disintegrated the foundational walls by 25%. They are still structurally sound up to 33% but, there is no way of knowing how long it will take to erode the additional 8%.

Heating Systems: The Moffat School site has 14 different heating systems. Each of these are at the end of their life cycle or are way past their



Wall erosion behind the drywall in the 1921 building.

expected life. Due to the phased construction of the building it was also discovered that the systems are inefficient and ineffective in some areas

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SolarReserve asking for support for power-tower project

by Matie Belle Lakish

SolarReserve representative Adam Green is asking local government representatives and citizens to contact the governor's office and propose that Gov. Hickenlooper ask PUC directors to request that Xcel sign a 25-year contract to buy energy from SolarReserve (SR). This would help Xcel meet their 30% Renewable Energy Standard required by the State of Colorado, and allow

SolarReserve to begin construction on their proposed Power-Tower project that is slated to be built in Saguache County about 6 miles from Center.

The project, which was approved by Saguache County Commissioners last year, has been held up by the lack of a Power Purchase Agreement. Green said that Xcel had selected a competitor's CSP project in the San Luis Valley in

2009, but that negotiations over a contract had not succeeded, and that the other project appears to have fallen through. Green, the Project Developer, presented his request to representatives of local governments, water advocates, and interested citizens.

As approved by commissioners, the project would generate 100 Megawatts (MW) of power and cover an area approximately 1500 acres, or 1.6 miles in diameter. The tower, projected to be 656 feet high, would absorb heat from mirrors aimed at

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The Crestone Eagle

Publisher & Editor: Kizzen N. Laki

Copy Editor: Janet G. Woodman

Advertising: Dee Rudoff

Classifieds & Accounts: Daleth McCoy

Production & Tech Wizardry:

Erin Lakai, Mark Talbot

Contributing Writers:

David Nicholas	Matie Belle Lakish
Diane Bairstow	Kim Malville
Larry Calloway	Gussie Faunteroy
Ananur Forma	Ken Nelson
Keno Menechino	Sandia Belgrade
Lisa Cyriacks	Paul Shippee
William Alder Lakish	William Howell
Bea Ferrigno	Susan Pierce

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

Contributing Photographers:

Bill Ellzey, Matthew Crowley

Lori A. Nagel, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski

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Editor's Notes

Equal love

Nearly every night this past week we've watched the news about the US Supreme Court hearing the California Proposition 8 and DOMA (Defense of Marriage Amendment) cases. We've listened to the reporters with feelings of joy, disbelief, hope and anxiety.

I see the posts on Facebook of people supporting same sex marriage. Thousands of people in solidarity are posting the red equal symbol that represents "equality in love"—and I'm stunned.

It has been a long road. As a teenager I didn't have any positive examples of gay people. I wasn't taught in high school that this poet or athlete, first lady or teacher was in love with someone of the same sex. Instead I lived in fear, terror actually, that my own feelings would be found out and that I would be shunned by my friends and family. My own self-hate was like a stone in my heart. My first attempt at "coming out" at 17 was a disaster, and I retreated into "safe" heterosexuality until I was 40.

It is a terrible thing not to be true to yourself. Living a lie stops you from realizing your full potential. It is also terrible to deny other people the ability to fully love, to fully be.

Step by step, the times are changing. The next generation is growing up knowing gay/lesbian/bi and transgendered people. Some day everyone will have the same rights as everyone else and we'll put the "before times" into the history books alongside with slavery, women not having the vote, segregation and laws against interracial marriage.

Even if the Supreme Court strikes down DOMA, it will be a long road to full acceptance and civil rights. But for now, having gay rights come to the front of our national debate and seeing so much public support is a day I thought I'd never see.

With gratitude
Kizzen



Thank you

Dear community, friends & family,

Thank you for your many prayers, mantras, good wishes, visits, inquiries, & smiles.

I just had my last check-up with the doctors and everything is fine. I still need a bit of exercise & therapy to strengthen my leg & core muscles but I now have new knees and I can WALK!

My heart aches with gratitude.

Thank you my friends,

Sasha Lovelace

Fun trip to Denver

Dear Community,

We would like to thank everyone for their support of the CCC youth trip to Denver on March 1-3. We especially appreciate the Crestone Mercantile and Elephant Cloud for collecting food donations and for everyone who helped by buying items or making a financial contribution. We had an excellent time staying at a youth hostel, going to the 1st Friday Art Walk, playing at Jump Street, volunteering at the SAME Cafe, exploring the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, watching Mastadons & Mammoths at the IMAX Theater, shopping on 16th Street Mall and hanging out at the Denver Skate Park. Thank you for helping us make this trip a success!

Sincerely,

Crestone Creative Council

Riders injured in dog attack

Dear Editor and Community,

We are sorry to have to report that there has been another dog attack directed at horses with riders on their backs, this time with even more serious, life-threatening results. On Tuesday, March 19, three experienced riders who were riding on their own, longtime horses, were thrown from their mounts after a large, black dog with a red collar attacked the horses while riding on Willow Creek Trail. All three riders were transported to the hospital by ambulance; and one of the three was air-lifted to Denver on a "flight-for-life" with a serious head injury. The other two riders' injuries are not as serious, though they are in pain and will need time to heal. They were treated and released from the hospital.

This is the fourth incident in the last year-and-a-half of a dog attacking horses with riders on their backs. The riders have been on equestrian easements or on public roads at the time of these attacks. Otherwise human-friendly dogs often will attack if they are not familiar with horses and are loose. Nearly all of us at the stables are dog owners and/or dog lovers. This is not about being anti-dog. This is about being pro responsible dog ownership.

Even though this was not a stables-led trail ride, we are considering no longer offering trail rides at the Baca Grande Stables. We would

hate to do this, but until dog owners take responsibility for their loose dogs, we cannot take the risk of having children or inexperienced riders on trails or roads in the Baca. We will continue to offer boarding and lessons in our arenas, including the Children's Summer Riding Program.

Joanna and Eli Dokson

Baca Grande Stables

Horse accident help gratitude

Dear friends,

On March 19, my fellow riders and I were part of a nasty wreck on our horses. I want to express my sincere thanks for the caring response from our ambulance crew, firefighters, stables family, and passersby. There were so many people helping that I can't possibly name all of you. I'm one of your EMS providers and never dreamed that I'd be on the receiving end of our services. I learned so much that awful day. Everyone was incredible. I also want to shout a huge thank you to the man that stopped his car, called 911, and stayed until help arrived. I wish all good things come your way. To the four drivers that sped by me while I lay at the edge of the road . . . I've got nothing.

My gratitude is boundless to all of you that saved us. I'll make sure to pay it forward.

Cindy Hefty

Mountain biking impacts on trails

Dear bicyclists,

Use of bicycles on hiking trails causes rapid soil erosion especially during the spring mud season, which is already here. So, mountain bikers, please take pause to think about your impact. Although bicycles are clean and green, here's what happens to hiking trails when bicycles join the fray: the sharper curves in the trail can widen and become banked and gouged out. Sometimes when a rider is unable to maneuver over an obstacle, especially with our rocky outcrops, he (she) goes around it, often onto fresh ground. Early or late in the year, snow and ice may be present. To avoid the ice or sometimes deep mud there are more detours. In a relatively short time, and depending on how many bicycles pass through, a small footpath can become a small road. Deep tire marks and an eroded path are an enduring reminder, which touches more on aesthetics.

Mountain biking is a mixed bag with respect to environmental ethics. I have seen it in many places over the years, as I too am a cyclist. Most popular "singletrack" areas, places where bicycles can ride on hiking trails, I think of as sacrifice zones, or soon to become. Maybe this is one reason I am not such an avid mountain biker these days. In the summer, Crested Butte is a mountain biking mecca. In CB most local hikers avoid areas where off-road vehicles are allowed access, which on some trails also includes motorcycles. So far, Crestone is less attractive to these tourists. Being a bicycling enthusiast myself, I know that no matter what we do, there is an environmental impact. On the small scale, Crestone scale, hiking along a trail one notices the small changes to this special, natural place that is

our backyard. So, if you insist on riding your bike using the hiking/horse trails in the Baca, especially the South Crestone Creek trail, please stay tightly on the existing trail even if it is rocky and difficult to navigate. This is an outstanding, aesthetically beautiful trail which deserves to be taken care of.

Respectfully yours,
Wade Lockhart

Freebox etiquette & the zombie apocalypse

Dear Editor,

It's springtime at the Freebox.

It's that time again to remember and appreciate the Freebox. Thank you Freebox! But just as freedom isn't free neither is the Freebox. It takes volunteers and a general willingness to abide by the Freebox guidelines. Unfortunately, the Freebox has fallen once again to the lowest common denominator. Volunteerism continues to be low. The spring Freebox dumping season has already begun. Seems like some people are more interested in free dumpster service than the Freebox.

The Freebox dumpster is not free. It is paid for by the property owner and the Town of Crestone. It is not a public dumpster. Dumpster diving is emphatically not encouraged. How would you like someone coming onto your backyard and going through your dumpster or putting their trash there? Parking continues to be an issue. People are blocking the driveway of the residents and blasting their stereos. Not cool. Generally the Freebox looks like something out of the third world. A never ending supply of worn out shoes and dirty stained clothing, blank VHS, single chopsticks and burnt out candles. Lol. Of course the good stuff doesn't last long there, just the crap which is endless. The Freebox has its limits.

Where are the volunteers? The old timers say: been there, done that. It's someone else's turn. Newbies, please volunteer and consider adopting one of the clothing bins on a regular basis. This is karma yoga people. Please read the Freebox guidelines posted in the Freebox.

Roy Hecker

Let's thank them

Dear Editor,

There are many unsung heroes in this community. Three of them will be honored at a dinner hosted by the Democratic Party on Saturday, April 27 at 6:30pm at the Saguache Community Center.

Jackie Stephens has served 26 years as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Saguache County Democratic Party, Randy Arredondo has served nearly 16 years, and Pete Peterson has also served many years. They all have stepped down from these positions and we want to honor their years of dedication and service.

It will be a fun night with music, a dessert auction and some great guests to be announced. We're serving pulled pork, baked potatoes & cole slaw plus vegetarian lasagna.

It's a \$10 donation per person. Please RSVP by April 20 to Lynne Thompson at 754-9163 or email sheebalt@yahoo.com or btidd19@fairpoint.net. After April 20, RSVPs will be accepted if space is available. Naturally, additional donations are welcomed as the Saguache Demo-

cratic Party heads into the off year elections. For any donations please contact Judy Marold at 655-2320 or email jmarold@gmail.com.

Hope to see you and thanks for any and all support.

Mikela Tarlow

Library requests input

To the Community:

The purpose of Friends of the Library is to support the Crestone/Baca Library. With the intent of building on a long tradition of community efforts to establish and sustain our library, we started meeting about two years ago. At that same time, Northern Saguache County (which includes the communities of Crestone, Moffat, Villa Grove, and Saguache) voted to establish the Northern Saguache County Library District (NSCLD).

The library district is responsible for maintaining and enhancing library services in both Crestone/Baca and Saguache. Benefits of the new district for the Crestone/Baca library thus far have included access to interlibrary loan services and new computers.

Recently, Friends of the Library completed the application for a 501(c)3 non-profit exempt status, along with Articles-of-Incorporation, By-Laws pertaining to the Articles-of-Incorporation, and a memorandum of understanding with the Northern Saguache County Library District. We now intend to work with the NSCLD Board of Directors and Facilities Committee to pursue the idea of a new, more conveniently located library building for the Crestone/Baca area. We are also planning to raise funds for this exciting new endeavor.

Some suggestions to date are to relocate the present library to be more central to Crestone and the Crestone Community, which would allow increased accessibility for all residents.

We hope the library will have a conference-meeting room for residents to meet, share, teach, and discuss topics of importance to the community. There are lots of great ideas out there and we need you to share them with us! We respectfully request your input.

All suggestions are significant.

To offer your ideas or to become an active volunteer with Friends of the Library, please contact one of us or talk to staff out at the library.

Thank you,

Friends of the Library

Thom Ontko, President, Parvin Johnson, Vice President, Julia Voss, Secretary/Treasurer

PS: Don't miss the Friends of the Library Bake Sale in front of the post office on Monday April 15 from 10am to 3pm!

But . . . What does it mean?

Dear Editor,

Okay, we have a Fire District based on voter choice, but what does it mean? There is no money, so it is "Active, but NOT Operational". To be "operational", it must be funded . . . which means yet another mil levy.

Can we afford that with our property taxes going up, the Moffat School District demanding more tax money, and the POA Board crying for higher dues?

I called Alamosa Fire Chief

Don Campbell and was given this data. As chief he:

1. is paid \$20k/year from city \$4k/year from fire district vs. our POA chief is paid \$38K + stipends + housing + income from Crestone. Note: Average income for Saguache Co: \$14K/year.

2. averages 250 calls/year actual fires vs. POA's 6 brush fires/year

3. oversees 26 volunteers

4. is responsible for all inspections/training/reports (no secretary) does payroll records in/council meetings

5. manages 2 fire houses;

6. Territory covered: 12,000-15,000 population and 350 sq. miles vs. POA: 156 sq. mi and 1000 pop.

7. volunteers are paid per call plus Worker's Comp and training stipends, etc.

I contend that whatever problems we currently have with the emergency response can be corrected without implementing yet another mil levy for a "special fire district" that we don't need. Like the POA or not, the fire protection has been operational and functional for 30+ years.

After talking to Sheriff Norris, Saguache County Fire Marshall, he says that they now have the mhz necessary to route emergency calls to Crestone and to all needed fire departments. Our county taxes already pay for their 24/7 dispatcher, so it's free to us. Problem solved.

Now it is time for the POA board to compare our fire department budget with that of Alamosa's and Saguache's fire budget and make realistic changes.

Claudia B. Wolfe

Toward relevancy

Dear Editor and Community:

On March 5, and at a rate of nearly 2 to 1, the voters supported the basic concept of an Emergency Services District by voting No to the Crestone Emergency Services District's (CrESD) dissolution. The district's board of directors deeply appreciates what amounts to a significant expression of support for the emergency services volunteers. Although the support is gratifying and an impressive mandate, the district currently has no ability to become operational and implement the reasons that a district was proposed in the first place, namely:

- Solves the fire and ambulance liability problem of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) and its members.

- Provides the protection of governmental immunity to both the new fire district and its employees and volunteers.

- Provides communication consolidation and training compatibility with other emergency service providers within the region leading to potentially quicker and more effective emergency responses.

- Provides a local public board whose only focus is upon the safety of the people and their property.

- Provides for management according to Colorado law instead of POA by-laws.

- Is able to participate in inter-governmental agreements of mutual aid with other fire protection districts.

- Provides local control of costs. Only voters can increase the mill levy, whereas the 5-member board of the POA sets the Baca Grande dues.

- Most importantly, the district could provide emergency services in the areas currently without fire protection, and it has the near unanimous support of the emergency volunteers.

The CrESD board had its first meeting post-election on Thursday, March 14, and the main topic on the table was "Where do we go from here?" With no revenue stream except donations and a sales tax grant, CrESD, for the past year, could only pay to oppose a law suit filed by the opposition, and pay for elections, including, the Dissolution Election. In order to function, CrESD must be able to afford, at a minimum, legal representation and liability insurance. We propose to go back to the beginning, review and analyze the original service plan and proposed budget, and to seek funding from the areas currently without fire protection. In those areas, there has been some interest in establishing the infrastructure to ensure minimal fire protection.

We will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month to review our charter, and to seek interim funding. We welcome the community to help us achieve relevancy, and, finally become operational.

Board of Directors,

Crestone Fire Protection District, dba Crestone Emergency Services District

Constructive participation besought

To the voting majority,

I'm taking this moment to express my gratitude and that of the fire department volunteers for your decision on March 5 to retain the Crestone Emergency Services District. By a two-to-one margin, we have chosen wisely to maintain a viable option for resolving very real challenges that our community in triplicate faces in the provision of emergency services. The definitive decision from our public has given our emergency service personnel a clear indication of support for more unified and effective services.

I can honestly say that we are seeing the benefits of this decision already. Foremost, I witnessed healing occur between the community members and the volunteers on election day. The face-to-face interactions at the intersection were full of camaraderie, good will, smiles and thumbs up from both sides. Having been the target of misinformation for so long, it had become challenging for us as responders not to attribute the negative input we were receiving to our community. You have shown us better and I hold, for the wellbeing of our community, that the actions of a vocal few should never again render the rest of us into a role of the dumb (mute) public. Our best means of moving forward is to do so with openness, honesty and candor. The district, our emergency services, and emergency responders uphold these values and beseech our public to continue to participate constructively.

Although the district is unable, without funding, to become operational at this time, collaborative efforts for improving public safety are being investigated. I hope that the district can participate and assist with the efforts of the currently operating services to improve interoperability and provide a forum for pub-

lic education and interaction. Please keep an eye open for informational meetings and opportunities in the coming months.

In the face of a daunting wild-fire season, it is a critical time to put aside divisive politics and focus on basic preservation measures necessary for all of us living in an ecosystem prone to catastrophic wildfires. Please, access our knowledge to educate yourselves about home defensible space, emergency preparedness kits, and your personal evacuation procedures. We will continue to serve as we can, so thank you again for voting to retain a valuable community service organization and re-vitalizing the hearts and souls of those already serving.

Ever in service,

Chief Brack

A time for red tape

Dear Editor,

No matter how one feels about assault weapons, high capacity magazines, and such, I believe every person who deals with reality and rational thought is in favor of not allowing convicted felons and the dangerously mentally ill to continue purchasing firearms. As it stands now there is no federal requirement, nor any in many states as well, that a background check be made at gun shows and for individual sales. Only federally licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct such checks.

I could easily sell my guns to my new neighbor, not knowing his background. He could have just been released from prison after completing a sentence for murder and there is no requirement for me to find that out before I accept his cash.

It is easy to find all kinds of statistics—misleading quite often—from all sides of the argument; but if required universal background checks saved but one life, would they not be worth it?

I just got off the phone with the office of our representative in Washington D.C., Scott Tipton, and was told in no uncertain terms that Mr. Tipton does not support requiring universal background checks because they would create too much red tape for legitimate transactions.

At times red tape saves lives and in those situations it needs to be created.

Please contact Mr. Tipton's office and let him know that in this case a little red tape makes for common sense.

Tom McMurray

Dear Curt & Bernadette

Thank You

for all your years of service to our community. For giving so much to us all. For your support, your laughter, your sage advice, and help to those in need. Thank you for being there.

With love & appreciation from your customers, friends, & neighbors

Loose dog causes serious riding accident, 3 people injured

by Alder Lakish

Three people were seriously injured and transported to the hospital on March 19 in an incident caused by a loose dog.

On Tuesday afternoon March 19, three Crestone/Baca residents, all experienced horseback riders, went for a trail ride in the area near the Baca horse stables. One of the riders said they were riding on the gravel road when a large black dog suddenly ran out at the riders. Despite their efforts to prevent the horses from panicking, all three horses spun and ran, throwing their riders with significant force into the rocks and gravel.

All three individuals sustained significant injuries and were transported by ambulances to Alamosa. Two of the injured riders were treated for injuries and released. The

third suffered serious head trauma and was flown to Denver for treatment. This person has since been released from the hospital and is home recovering.

This incident was reported to the Sagauche County Sheriff's office.

Baca Grande covenants and restrictions state in Article XI, Section 11.7(a), "Dogs are not allowed off their owners' lots unless they are under their owners' control." Town of Crestone regulations are similar in wording.

Both in the Baca and in Crestone, it is never allowed for dogs to run loose in public areas without owners being directly present and in direct control of animals.

The importance of keeping dogs on a leash or on your private property is illustrated clearly by the events on March 19. Even if you think your dog is friendly and harmless, it may still follow its natural instincts when it sees wildlife or horses. Owners whose loose dogs cause injury could be held liable for the medical costs of injured parties. If dogs are chasing or harming wildlife, owners can be fined by the Division of Wildlife.

There have been many complaints in Crestone and the Baca of loose dogs chasing wildlife, horses, barking or being aggressive towards people. Children are especially vulnerable to aggressive dogs. For your own safety, as well as that of our community, please keep your dog on a leash, or penned, and encourage your friends to do the same.



Fire district supporters encouraged voters to "vote no" on dissolving the Crestone Emergency Services District. photo by Lori A. Nagel

Measure to dissolve CrESD defeated

In a strong show of support for the Crestone Emergency Services District, at the March 5 special election, voters decided against dissolving the district. After 11 provisional votes were vetted, the final vote was 404 NO and 215 YES. Two provisional votes were not counted.

The Crestone Emergency Services District was formed to unite the Baca Grande and Crestone Fire Departments as well as the Crestone Baca Ambulance Service and Search and Rescue. The mil levy to fund this district (CrESD) was defeated by a 2-vote margin last year. Private citizens petitioned to have an election to dissolve the district. In a vote of confidence for CrESD, this measure was soundly defeated by a 2-to-1 vote.

Sixty-five percent of the vote overall was in favor of the district. That percentage is up from the 52% that was pro-Crestone Emergency Services District in the initial formation vote. Of the local walk-in vote, 73% of the voters voted to keep the district.

The bears are back!

Several Crestone/Baca residents have reported seeing fresh bear tracks during March. Bears are now emerging from hibernation and are coming out hungry. Everyone is asked to take bear precautions: don't put trash out until the morning of pickup, take down bird feeders, don't feed your pets outside or leave food in your car. Close your windows at night and make sure livestock are kept in secure bear-proof pens. If bears find food at your home or business they will be back—again and again! Time again to be very bear aware!



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a place to gather, to browse, to explore, to reach out, to find great literature and good reads

in historic downtown Salida

In celebration of National Poetry Month, The Book Haven will present **Poetry For Every Ear** a poetry reading **Thursday, April 4, at 7pm** Free and open to the public!
 135 F Street

FACTS:
 Mother's Day is next month. Your mother reads The Crestone Eagle, cover to cover. Your mother will feel unappreciated, unloved and un-famous if you don't Call Dee right now to get a Mother's Day greeting in next month's issue! (256-4956)

Visiting Crestone?
 Get full of gas before coming to town
 [The gas station is temporarily closed]

इहार्ति इहारानाल
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Now offering:

- ♥ Ayurvedic oil treatments
- ♥ Community classes by donation
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- ♥ Yogic cooking
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Crestone End of Life Project
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Call 588-7415 or 256-4576 for information/materials
 Visit us at: www.crestone-end-of-life.org • email: crestoneendoflifeproject@yahoo.com

Listen to people's stories . . . they could all be entitled "Why I Cannot Be at Peace Now." The ego doesn't know that your only opportunity for being at peace IS now. - Eckhart Tolle

Attend our meeting Tuesday, April 9th at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left past the Century 21 office). Call Wayne at 256.4247 for directions/information.

Mark June 11 on Your Calendar!

An all new format, in a new location!

Plan to attend SLVREC's 2013 Annual Meeting to learn more about your electric cooperative in a new, streamlined meeting format.

Location: Carson Auditorium
 Adams State University Student Union Building
 June 11, registration starting at 6 pm
 Visit www.adams.edu/about/location.php for a map to the Student Union Building

A light snack will be served. Door prizes, including an iPad, iPods, bill credits, half beef and half a pig will be awarded. Additionally, a drawing will be held among all members who return election ballots and a special drawing will be held for digital Newsboy subscribers. Members need not be present to win in either of these drawings. Keep an eye on SLVREC's newsletter, the Newsboy to learn more about the 2013 Annual Meeting!

719-852-3538
800-332-7634
 P.O. Box 3625
 Monte Vista, CO 81144
www.slvrec.com
power@slvrec.com

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 Located 2 miles west of Monte Vista at 3625 Hwy. 160 W.

Saguache County News

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

For all those looking forward to Free Dump Day, which usually occurs around Earth Day, please be patient. Because the state is still reviewing requirements for the Saguache County Landfill, a new pit has not yet opened and space is very limited. Randal Arredondo, Road and Bridge Supervisor, who is in charge of the landfill, will schedule another weekend once the new pit is complete.

Free Dump Day has become an Earth Day tradition in Saguache County because commissioners have observed that allowing citizens to bring their non-household items to the dump for free one day a year reduces illegal and unsightly dumping around the county. Old appliances, construction debris, that old couch that's been sitting around—all these are candidates. Regular household trash is not. Please watch *The Crestone Eagle* for further announcements.

Saguache County, like most areas of the state, has much lower moisture levels than normal for this time of year. The commissioners, Sheriff Mike Norris (the county's chief fire officer), and National Forest and BLM personnel have agreed to coordinate their efforts regarding fire bans for 2013. Often the public lands officials have wetter conditions on the forest than exist at lower altitudes, so they will not declare a fire ban at the same time as counties. This has caused confusion in the past. With conditions as volatile as is expected for the coming season, all officials agreed that consistency is needed. They will discuss the matter on April 9.

Assessments

The assessor's office is a busy place, with state personnel continuing to direct the re-assessment, but with Saguache County Assessor Jacqueline Stephens providing the local context. Peter Peterson is now also inputting data into the state system, and it is anticipated he will move to full time for Saguache County in the near future. Having only one person who could enter data into the state system has slowed the process in the past. The state representative, Curtis Belcher, stated that, "Jackie has been as supportive as she possibly can be." To date 3782 properties have been inspected, with approximately 5000 to go. Many of these are empty lots that can be inspected by aerial photos, but approximately 1000 will require on-the-ground visits. The expected date of completion is now May 1.

Many homeowners are now receiving their new assessments. If there was a home on the property that was not previously assessed, or that was assessed at a much lower value than it should have been, homeowners are finding themselves with a large bill for back taxes. That is because the county must collect for the last two years, whether or not they wish too. This is a state mandate. Therefore, taxes are being collected for 2011 and 2012 as well as 2013. The Saguache County Treasurer, Connie Trujillo, has agreed to set up a payment plan

for anyone facing multiple years of taxes. If you receive such a tax bill, or any tax bill that is confusing, please call the assessor or treasurer to discuss payment. Non-payment will result in foreclosure. Bills should return to normal in 2014.

An appeals process is in place. According to the Special Notice of Valuation that is being sent to owners, "If you disagree with the Assessor's determination regarding your value or if you do not receive a Notice of Determination from the Assessor, you must file an abatement petition with the Assessor. The Assessor will make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, and the board will conduct a hearing on the petition."

Security

There are local implications for the school killing in Connecticut and on the front range of Colorado. Sheriff Mike Norris presented some suggestions for improving Saguache County Court House security, including blocking of the back door to the court house and having a security guard on duty at all times. He also recommended a metal detector or X-ray machine be installed by the one door that would remain in use, and suggested requiring patrons to deposit any knives and sharp objects in a tray for the duration of their visit, similar to the requirements in place in airports. This is a first introduction to the topic and discussion will continue.

SolarReserve

Adam Green of SolarReserve is asking local government officials, including Saguache County Commissioners, to write letters of support for the power-tower project that was approved by commissioners last year. In a phone conference, commissioners agreed to write such a letter to Gov. Hickenlooper encouraging him to tell the Public Utilities Commission to urge Xcel to contract to buy the power.

Eye on the county: An open letter from commissioners

"A few citizens, have expressed interest in the topic of the form of Commissioner meeting minutes, which began a discussion on the broader issues of providing good public information in all the ways the County does: through various County offices, on the website, and now in open letters to the papers on such topics of community interest.

"The Board of County Commissioners is in the process of working through all of the concerns that have been expressed to them about the recording of Commissioners' meetings. The Board and staff are engaging in a review of what information the public is most interested in, and will direct priority attention to improvements most effectively. As reported in the Commissioners meeting minutes of March 10, 2013:

• "Clerk Gomez's draft of new Agenda and Minutes format was dis-

tributed for comments and test implementation in March."

• "Clerk Gomez and Attorney Ben Gibbons are discussing written policy clarifications for Open Records and public access of information."

• "County Administration and Land Use are expanding the downloadable financial and permit documents."

• "The Eye on the County letter is a place to share a bit more of this background work, which takes place between meetings, with a much broader audience."

The report continues with information on the updates to the website and web communication, including a list serve for all commissioner communications. It also lists the appointments of commissioners to state and local committee appointments.

Commissioners invite, "If you have any questions or comments in any of these areas of our County/Valley/State work on behalf of Saguache County, please contact us! Call 719 655-2231, or, see County website at: saguachecounty.net/index.php/departments/commissioners".

Commissioner Jason Anderson reports that he is holding office hours on Mondays at the court house, to give residents an opportunity to discuss issues they may have that relate to the county. Please email Jason for times at commissioners@saguachecounty-co.gov.

Public health

As reported in February, the Public Health Department, headed by Della Vieira, applied for and received a large grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to research public health issues in rural areas and develop and implement solutions. The grant from RWJF will help Saguache County, working with other valley counties, to develop ways to implement Environmental Health programs. This grant also allows departments to meet with other grantees around the country to exchange strategies and learn from one another.

Kimberly Bryant, who has worked with the county in the field of emergency management for several years, has been hired to coordinate the program. She will be meeting with other departments around the valley and the nation, as well as developing web opportunities, to improve understanding of environmental health issues.

Julie Mach is the new ScSEED Coordinator, taking Kim Smoyer's position when she moved on to other opportunities. Julie is also the Coordinator of Southwest Conservation Corp. For many years, SWCC has provided employment opportunities to youth in the valley. There are two programs: The first offers day employment to youth 14 to 18, who work Mon.-Fri. on conservation programs in the county. This program is in coordination with the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department. Youth receive a salary for their work. The Second program is for youth 15 to 25, and is a camping crew that spends 2 to 5 months work-

ing with public lands projects, such as trail-building and campground upgrades. Both are great opportunities for young people. Look for announcements in local media.

Eric Karlstrom presented an appeal to commissioners to require the lot owner to un-block the contested utility easement sometimes known as Tranquil Way Bypass, that connects Tranquil Way with the Old Mine Road. This way is contested by the owners of the lot across which it passes. Owners have blocked the way with rocks and put up a gate to keep cars from going through to the Mine Road, Cottonwood Creek Trail, and the Stupa. This contested way has been the subject of several meetings over the last few months. Commissioners agreed to look further at the issue, and see if any records exist to support any of the claims made by Karlstrom. He cited CRS 432-201, Sag. Co. Resolution 96G7, and CRS 30-28-110 as relevant to his claim.

Commissioner appointments

Each commissioner serves on many others local and state boards, task forces and committees. Jason Anderson represents Saguache County on: America's Great Outdoors/SLV Trails Coalition; Courthouse Security Team; Saguache County Prevention Partners; Tourism Council Liaison. Jason also represents Saguache County in the statewide commissioners' forum for legislative issues, the Colorado Counties, Inc. Legislative Committee, meeting monthly in Denver when legislators are in session. In March, Jason applied for appointment to the BLM Front Range Resource Advisory Committee, and was appointed as Commissioner Liaison for Solar Reserve.

Commissioner Ken Anderson is serving on: the SLV Development Resource Group (DRG) Board; SLV Regional Transportation Commission / STAC Committee; South Central Senior citizens liaison; Willow Flycatcher/Yellow Billed Cuckoo Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee. Ken continues with the many agriculture and water-related boards he serves, such as: Rocky Mt. Farmer's Union and CO Ag Water Alliance.

Commissioner Linda Joseph, BOCC Chair, serves on: the Gunnison Sage Grouse Strategic Conservation Committee, with alternate Elinor Laurie; Carepoint Board (Valley Commissioners appointment); SLV All Hazards; Housing Authority (Chair); Local Board of Health (Chair); SLV Council of Governments (COG), Executive Board; SLV Regional Emergency & Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC); County Designated Health Officer/County Quarantine Officer; State Health Department designee; Tourism Council Liaison; Veterans Task Force (Valley Commissioners/Valley Veterans); State Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council (SEMTAC, Governor appointed).

Thanks to commissioners for all the work they do for county citizens.



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by **Leanna Bradbury**,
Deputy Clerk
Downtown Development contracts awarded

The second phase of Crestone's Downtown Development will expand on last year's work by the Refining the Vision Committee that developed a concept of how we, as a community, would like our downtown area to look and function. This year public meetings will be held for community members' input on details such as what kind of sidewalks and pathways, benches, lighting, plantings, community art, drainage, and landscape characteristics we would like. Last month the Town Trustees awarded a design development contract to Architect Burt Wadman for \$26,500. Five highly qualified proposals for design development had been submitted. The Trustees especially liked Burt's emphasis on use of local labor, local materials, and locally made amenities such as park benches. SGM, Inc. was awarded the companion downtown survey

contract for \$6,040. The design contract also includes estimations of construction costs and sufficient details to enable the town to seek major funding for construction. Funding for this year's contracts has been provided by a Colorado Department of Local Affairs planning grant, a Saguache County sales tax grant and Town matching funds.

Carmin Teeple rejoins planning commission

Mayor Kairina Danforth has appointed Carmin Teeple as an Alternate Planning Commissioner. Carmin previously served on the Planning Commission, and did photography and research on projects such as revising signage regulations and developing downtown parking. She resigned in 2010 to volunteer for the Crestone Historical Museum, and is now welcomed back. Current planning commissioners are Chair Cristina Cabeza, Vice-chair Renée Hill, Kairina Danforth, Lonny Roth and Russell Preister.



Bridge Warning: Town Manager Akai Tamara has announced that the Alder Street bridge in Crestone has been closed to pedestrian traffic due to a troll taking up residence underneath it. It is safe for cars to cross the bridge, but it is not recommended for pedestrians, especially children. The troll was discovered after two billy goats disappeared from that neighborhood and strange noises were heard by Jim Hollmar. Pedestrians are asked to please use the Cottonwood St. bridge instead until the troll can be relocated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Seren (foreground), Monet (in creekbed) and Merry Marion tempt fate while trying to catch a glimpse of the troll.

Water rights acquisition & water conservation project top Baca Water & San District's March board agenda

by **Cindy Reinhardt for the BGWSD Board & Staff**

Pursuing the acquisition of water rights from the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and kicking off planning for a multi-year water conservation plan were the highlights of the March BGWSD board meeting.

Directors Kyle Grote and Martin Macaulay, along with water attorney Marcus Lock and water resources engineer Eric Harmon, met with Fish & Wildlife officials on March 13 to continue negotiations and outline the next steps in the process of determining the feasibility of the district's purchase of water rights. The process, which seemed stalled for several months, appears to be back on track, and it

seems possible that a contract that serves the best interests of the district can be finalized this year.

The board also heard preliminary reports from engineer Brad Simons, District Manager AJ Beckman, and General Manager Steven Harrell on one of the district's top priorities, a water conservation plan to address loss of water and maintenance needs in the water distribution system. Key components of the plan are the development of a hydraulic model, leak detection and correction, and meter replacement. The district hopes to receive grant funds for much of the project and an application for a planning grant has been submitted to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

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POA tackling assessments, late fees, & finances

by Sandia Belgrade

During the March work session, Administrative Assistant Barbara Bateman discussed the process by which the Baca Grande Property Owners Association is actively trying to recoup overdue balances on assessment fees (POA membership dues). The report revealed that a huge amount of fees are past due, some on several properties by the same owner. A staggering total of \$679,000 of indebtedness is owed the POA, so the need to pursue collection and reduce this debt is paramount.

Assessments & late fee process

The association sends out notices to all property owners stating the fees and the dates due. Many homeowners send payments on time. Some mailings come back undeliverable, however. The office triple checks for new addresses using several means: the phone book, the internet, and the County Assessor to determine a correct address. A non-threatening second letter goes out saying that the POA has obtained

their new address and letting them know there's an amount due that is delinquent. Debt is being incurred not only by individual homeowners, but also by some companies who owe on their lots. Homeowners' associations are usually third in line to receive payment (after federal/state taxes, the bank, the county assessor). The time that the staff spends researching and following up, as well as the lawyers' fees, can be costly. The POA tries to avoid spending money; however, finding people can result in many thousands generated for the association considering the long list of accounts receivable. Some board members questioned the value of going after foreclosures, and if it is more expensive than it is worth. However, most felt reducing the \$679,000 is in the interest of all. Association fees that are collected from each owner cover operating and maintenance expenses, and finance amenities. Non-payment has consequences. If attorneys must be used to collect money past due, their fee goes on the resident's own account.

Bateman stressed that a payment plan is available for those in arrears which is typically reasonable and resident-friendly. It should be noted that use of a payment plan has been very productive for all parties. Please see details in the side bar.

EAC review of violation process

If the Environmental and Architectural Committee receives a complaint from a neighbor, the POA goes to the site, takes a picture and

records the statement of the person who is making the complaint. POA staff does not go onto the property and they keep names confidential. After the first visit, Bateman sends a nice letter with a response from manager Lonnie Nichols. After notifying the resident, Barb makes a site visit and Nichols receives a report. The resident has 20 days to reply. If there is no response, the POA checks to see if the violation is still occurring and takes another picture. After the 2nd letter the matter comes before the board and a hearing is scheduled. There's a period of 21 days after the 2nd letter and before a hearing. The hearing panel right now is made up of just board members because no residents have stepped forward to participate.

Many violations are settled before a hearing because the resident has made peace with the neighbors. The board is aware that residents have complained that hearings need to be done in a more timely fashion. Presently, about 4 or 5 violations have piled up and the board will set a date for a hearing perhaps as early the 3rd week in April. Manager Nichols will put out an email, post it on the website, and put it into the news letter.

Financial report

Nichols had several action items including a financial update on reserves, CD's, and notes. A money market account will be rolled over into a CD. They noted that Alamosa State bank allows the POA to put \$\$ in and out without penalty. Nichols recommended moving \$55,000 to reserves. He will put in a proposal to the board to shift accounts in the most fiscally prudent way.

Attorney status

Because a group of citizens has brought a lawsuit against three members of the prior POA board regarding the conducting of the November, 2012 election of directors, the board voted at a previous meeting to get a second opinion on whether it is proceeding correctly regarding article XIII of the Bylaws of the Association. Nichols contacted several lawyers who charge about the same rate, although some don't charge for initial information given over the phone. As background to this item, three members of the board didn't agree with Bob Garnet and Diana Moats about the interpretation of Article XIII, and whether the POA's insurance would cover the suit. The majority of the board had asked for a second opinion, which will cost about \$1,000. However, Director Russell Schreiber said that going forward with this expenditure would be like gambling with the association's money. Nichols agreed to bring the proposal to the board at the March business meeting.

Schreiber also gave an update on the election task force. They are diligently going through the voting guidelines, offering rewording and specific timelines when each step needs to be done, so the process runs easily. They're focusing on the nomination process for the next meeting since that's what happens first.

Maintenance

Several maintenance projects are being undertaken, especially now that warmer weather is ap-

proaching. The entry to the POA will have wood chips. A new POA sign is being constructed, and the idea is to have a consistent signage theme. Insulation will be added to the POA maintenance building to provide more R value. Improvements in Casita Park include estimates to put grasses around the volleyball court and railroad ties in the island. In all these areas the board is seeking low costs and maintenance with environmentally appropriate materials. The board will seek input from residents.

Leases

The board reviewed the leases. They noted that without the golf course watering expenses, the POA would be \$1,000 in the black each month. The lease for Just B, the Yak N Cracker, is not covering water expenses. There are also leases for the Kit Carson gun club, the stables, storage units, and the library (which is contemplating moving into town). The board debated whether there were 10 or 5 years maximum on leases. Schreiber suggested that POA Manager Nichols draw up a generic lease, leaving the details for a future discussion.

Yanni Drucker, owner of the building that the Crestone Charter School used for administration and classrooms for several years, has offered to donate the building to YES, Youth Empowerment Solutions. However, the land it sits on belongs to the POA. The previous lease to the school for the land was for \$100 a year. Judie Rose, who represents YES, is seeking a two-year lease of the land at the same rate. They will use the building as a resource center for young people. There are still questions about what happens if YES vacates the building, or if the use changes from a non-profit to a profit-making activity. The board felt it needs a more detailed plan from the group, and is interested in a lease with stipulations. Directors recommended Rose bring more details or a lease template with the requested information.

The asset disposal policy

The board is developing an asset disposal policy to enable the POA to dispose of items it no longer needs. An example of such items are the many old computers being stored. General discussion ensued as to whether the manager can authorize approving the transfer of an asset worth \$5,000, or whether that amount should be lowered to \$2500 before the manager would have to get board approval. What was emphasized was that the money from everything sold goes back into the association general fund.

Friendly payment plan available to members behind on dues

Baca residents, do you owe back dues and assessments to the POA? Many residents are not aware that the POA will offer a resident friendly payment plan, no matter what the level of debt is. A payment plan can be flexible and if necessary can be a low amount agreed to by you and the association. To initiate a payment plan, please contact Administrative Assistant Barb Bateman at 256-4171.

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The Crestone/Baca Planning Commission
 **is mailing a master plan survey to all** 
landowners, registered voters and box holders in the Crestone/Baca sub area.

We are conducting this survey in order to get updated information from everyone to update the survey we did in 2009.

Surveys are due back in the Saguache County Land Use Office by April 30, 2013.

You can mail your survey back to the Land Use Office or place them in the drop boxes that are located at:

- Crestone Town Hall
- Baca Grande Property Owners Association
- Aventa Credit Union (Crestone Branch)
- Baca Library
- Crestone Post Office

 Remember...
 ...surveys are due April 30th!

Crestone's oldest business to become its newest

The 'Gas & Glide' a fun new endeavor

Crestone has been dismayed with the closing of the landmark Kurt's County Store—the longest operating business in Crestone. People have missed all the great organic food and products. With the closing of the gas station, residents and visitors alike have also missed the gas pumps. But changes are happening at the store and a whole new endeavor is underway that will not only bring the gas station back, but will create some unique healthy fun and recreation for Crestone.

"As most of you know," said Kurt, "we have been looking at our options on what to do with the store. We could keep it, sell it, or do

something different. It's big,

with lots of square footage, and could be remodeled into any number of things." After a visit to Arizona this past winter and an outing with their grandchildren to a roller skating rink, Kurt & Bernadelle thought, "Hey, we could do this!"

So the idea for the "Crestone Gas & Glide" was born, and should be open this summer. Kurt explained that when the freezers and coolers are removed, the space will be plenty big enough for a regulation-size roller skating rink. "We need recreation in this town," said Kurt "and indoor skating rinks are having a big comeback." He pointed out that the wood floor in the store is perfect, and there's already an open floor plan. They are planning to have an all-organic concession

stand, kids skates on the weekends, teen skates in the evenings with afternoon times for adults and seniors. "We'll have music, invite local DJs to play, have contests, couple skates and family nights. We're going to deck it out with laser lights, a disco ball in the center and go with a retro 50's decor. It'll be fun!"

Once the rink takes off, they said they would be able to reopen the gas station—hopefully in time for summer business.

Both Kurt & Bernadelle were avid skaters in their younger years and took first place in the "Advanced Couples" category in the Southern California Disco Skate Out competition in 1972.

There is currently a popular roller rink in Salida that has its own roller derby team. Local derby fan and consultant Khris Boberack has volunteered to organize a Crestone team, the "Dharma Brats". Barry Monrow will be the skate master MC.

Advance memberships are available to help fund the project.

Kurt said that they have applied for recreation and business development grants. They have already been approved for a mental health grant. Which, Kurt says, they really need. They've also applied for grants from the Alzheimer Foundation, Michelle Obama's Physical Fitness for Juvenile Delinquents Foundation, and LEAP.

Surveys will be sent out to area residents and will also be available around town to see how much support there is for the Gas & Glide. People are asked to reply in a timely fashion. Janet and Kizzen Laki Woodman have already purchased their family memberships, saying they wanted to get them before April Fool's Day, because after that, they wouldn't be valid—just like this fanciful story. However, they think it's a great idea and would love to start practicing for the roller derby "Backwards Couples Skate."

(Thanks to our dear friends, for letting us pull their, and your rolling skating legs).

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New organization comes to town, BGDO

There is yet another new organization in town, BGDO, or Be Good, Don't Obnox, whose members are bound by karma to work together and bring joy and happiness, whatever the cause. The group was re-created to undo some of the damage that had been done earlier in this life and in previous existances.

"We're turning over a new leaf. We wish to expend our efforts to bring harmony, stability and prosperity to our new community," stated founders Abel and Felicity Worth on behalf of themselves and their followers.

BGDO recently moved to Crestone from a town (name withheld due to legal considerations) that, through their earlier *raison d'etre*, caused general discord and late night meetings. After 3 years, the population of the town was so fed up with BGDO's constant nay-saying, lack of a sense of humour and unwanted efforts to improve everybody and everything that everyone moved away. "Once we saw we were the only ones left, at first we were pleased with our handiwork," said Felicity, with tears in her eyes.

But once they realized that they were trapped in a realm spoken of in many spiritual traditions as a place that absorbs all light and gives none back, "We recognized our anger and 'it's all about me' obsessions, and were released from this realm of suffering. We've seen the error of our ways. We've learned to love and laugh."

BGDO is holding an event at the Sanskrit Aquifer facility April 1 to introduce themselves to the community and to demonstrate their generous and helpful *esprit de corps*. This event will include an open dialogue, asking people how BGDO can help and asking them how they feel. They hope to elicit suggestions that might utilize the group members' talents and resources. Free refreshments will be available for a small fee.

Abel is considering using his extensive legal background to establish a pro-bono conflict resolution service for small businesses and non-profits and plans to volunteer with the fire department. Felicity is currently establishing a fund that will provide scholarships for deserving students, free health insurance for anyone who needs it, round-the-clock no-charge elder care, and gratis ice cream every Wednesday afternoon.

Please attend the gathering to meet these folks and welcome them to our peaceful, "everyone gets along and works together just fine" community.

Crestone Gas & Glide
Opening Soon!



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The Soothing Way

Painter Stephen Futral to be featured artist at Shumei for April, Symposium to be held April 21

Local artist Stephen Futral's works will be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone for the month of April. A symposium with Stephen will be held on Sunday April 21 starting at 3pm. A reception will follow.



Angelfish, watercolor by Stephen Futral

Stephen Futral's journey in art is an interesting one. He states, "In the mid 60s I was painting 4-8 foot overlay mandalas on disco-

theque walls and floors that would appear moving via strobe lights, along with designing light shows and a Utica Club beer commercial with photographer, Bert Stern. It was also the time that I decaled a Rolls-Royce with artist Peter Max and in the early 70s I was assistant art director for a new film student fresh out of NYU doing his first Hollywood film, Martin Scorsese."

From jewelry to painting, Stephen's work has been experimental. He has etched precious metals and combined them with translucent plastic and used a medium called frisket as a resist to create layers in his acrylics and applied that concept to his encaustics. Stephen moved fairly recently to Crestone, and established Firstthought Studios where he works and teaches Crestone Charter School children and offers workshops for the general public.

Come meet Stephen and learn more about his work on Sunday April 21, 3-5pm. This event is free to the public.

Please visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 256-5284 for more information. The Shumei gallery is open every day 9am to 5pm.



Crestone Kaminari Taiko drummers.

Crestone Kaminari Taiko celebrates 10 years, invites new members

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Shumei Crestone Kaminari Taiko troupe. As we approach another spring of school performances and local concerts we find our member numbers have dwindled a bit over the winter. So we are inviting all who may be interested in learning more about these powerful drums to come join us for a new series of beginner and intermediate classes this spring. Those who begin practice this month may be eligible to play at the Crestone Music Fest in August.

Beginners play Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Food Service building at Shumei. Intermediates are meeting Tuesday and Thursdays from 3-5pm. For more information please call Moira at 256-5990 or Shumei at 256-5285.

Looking forward to seeing you there !

Shumei International Institute Anniversary Celebration Check out the changes to this year's event!

Saturday May 18th 2013

4pm

Come experience the power of Taiko at the Shumei Amphitheater

Guided Garden Tour

6:00

Sampai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary

Sunday May 19th 2013

9:30 am

10am Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Center

11:30am

Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

Garden Tour

5pm

An elegant night of delicious food from our friends at the Desert Sage

live music and dancing with "Snapshot" a new gypsy swing band from the members of Impromptu

in the Dharma Ocean-shrine room

Tickets are \$30, cash bar, advanced tickets required by May 10th, please call 256-5284

Spring it home! . . . and other news from the Crestone Artisans Gallery

by Patrick Moore

Welcome spring into your life, spirit and home with a visit to the Crestone Artisans' Gallery! This month we feature new beautiful, moving works of art inspired by the spirit of rebirth, new growth and beauty of spring. And if something in the gallery really moves you, bring that touch of spring home.

Featured artists

Jo Anne Kiser is a watercolor painter of extraordinary talent. She has painted here in the valley for over ten years. Her sublime natural landscapes are gorgeous, moving and yet gentle to the senses. They



"Chamisa Riot" watercolor painting by Jo Anne Kiser.

elicit soulful memories of solitary walks among the quiet beauty here in the valley. She uses subtle tones of greens, blues, browns, yellows, rose and sand with expert watercolor technique in images which convey the gentle, embracing terrain and foliage all around us.

Some of Jo Ann's recent paintings currently in the gallery of special note include her Chamisa Riot, a stunning landscape with spring flowers in bright gold and rose sand tones, evergreen trees, rolling light brown hills, blue mountains and vi-

brant blue sky; Ancient One, an endearing portrait of an ancient piñon in exquisite detail; and finally, Spanish Creek Wetland, is an awesome panoramic landscape encompassing marshes, fields, dry hills, trees, blue-hued mountains and a cloud-filled sky. You will immediately recognize it as a loving rendition of our home here in the valley. It's wonderful!

Jodi Price is a well recognized stained glass artist here in Crestone with a unique ability; she is able to convey her beautiful, kind, generous and positive personality in her completely abstract works of stained glass art. I don't think I've ever seen an artist, in any medium, able to convey his or her personality in their art as well as Jodi does.

Jodi uses whimsical motifs of her own unique style and personality, yet some reminiscent of Piet Mondrain's strong graphic lines, Gustav Klimt's rich free-hand shapes and Alexander Calder's undefinable shapes cast into space, made famous by his mobiles. She uses colored and textured glass, antique "water" glass, milk glass and many types of handmade glass which convey a richness of texture and depth. Most pieces contain beveled glass and other cuts to enhance light capture. Jodi uses brass and copper filigree wire to connect and suspend the delicate designs and often accents with handmade glass beads. It's amazing how much light of varying colors her pieces capture and distribute in a room. Jodi's pieces are De-Light-Full, just like her.

Art quote of the month: "Behold, my friends, the spring has come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!" —Sitting Bull

It is nice to be known as a community of art. Please support your artists and shop locally.

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Shanti and Scott Medina will offering an evening of Kirtan in Crestone, April 25.

Kirtan with Scott & Shanti Medina April 25

Scott and Shanti Medina will offer an evening of ecstatic devotional chanting—"Kirtan"—in Crestone on Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm at The Enchanted Forest. The night begins with meditation and silence, from which the chants slowly build speed, often culminating in ecstatic dancing, clapping and singing. Elianna Krakauer will be supporting on percussion. The evening is open to all—no experience is necessary.

Scott and Shanti are a dynamic husband/wife duo from Boulder, CO. Scott has been leading kirtan for the past 12 years, chanting with thousands of people and recording 3 CDs of original chants during that time. Shanti is a yoga therapist and personal trainer/wellness coach. She is the creator of Body Current™ healing modality, supporting her clients in releasing trauma and chronic pain through their own innate wisdom, specific mindfulness techniques and authentic movement exercises.

Shanti is also on the teaching staff for both 200 and 500hr Yoga Alliance yoga teacher trainings, and serves on the faculty of the Neurosculpting® Institute in Boulder, CO. Together they share their love of kirtan across the Front Range and beyond, including their extremely popular StarHouse Kirtans in the foothills outside of Boulder. They also share their YogaKirtan Infusion™ workshops at variety of studios and festivals around the globe. Eight years ago they founded and created the Rocky Mountain Kirtan Summit, an annual festival bringing together a dozen local leaders of devotional chanting for a high energy collaboration in the Front Range area. Please join them for a spirited evening of kirtan chanting in Crestone! You can find out more about Shanti and Scott at www.EnergizeShanti.com.

For directions or more information, call Elianna at 303-589-0418.

"Kirtan" in Crestone

Scott and Shanti Medina of Boulder will offering an evening of ecstatic devotional chanting on Thursday, April 25th @ 7pm

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~ \$10 Suggested Donation ~

For information, call Elianna at 303.589.0418

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Loretta Covert is turning 60!

Come help her celebrate.
Friday, April 19, 7:00-midnight
at the Desert Sage.

❖

Dance to Two Weeks in Fiji
(and friends).
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The Desert Sage will be open for dinner at the regular hours.

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Storyteller Julie Moss Herrera.

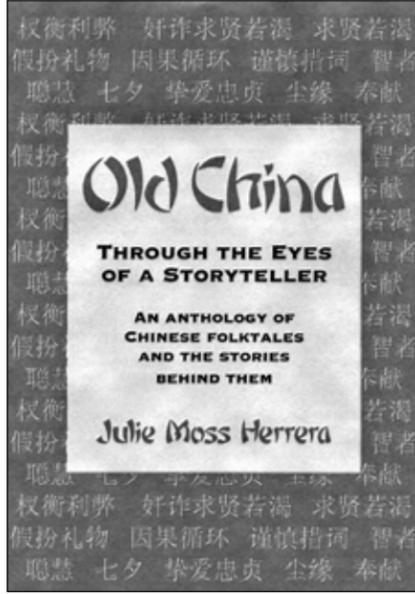


photo by Sandy Smalley

Visiting Old China Through the Eyes of a Storyteller Storyteller & author to share stories in Crestone April 13

by Gussie Fauntleroy

When Julie Moss Herrera was five years old she was in charge of watching over her two younger sisters during their afternoon naps. With no intention of sleeping, the sisters had to be quietly entertained. So Julie told them stories, remembering and retelling folktales their mother had read to them. To practice, she would sit on a rock near a ravine on the family's rural Ohio property and rehearse lively versions out loud to her imaginary brother, who lived in the ravine. "I'd yell at him to come on up and listen," she laughs.

Many years later, Julie is still telling tales. On Saturday, April 13, from 2 to 3pm, the Alamosa-area resident, retired librarian and award-winning storyteller will recount traditional Chinese folktales from her recently published collection, *Old China Through the Eyes of a Storyteller: An Anthology of Chinese Folktales and the Stories Behind Them*. The storytelling and book-signing event is free of charge and takes place at Birch Street Studio (formerly Jillian's Studio).

Old China Through the Eyes of a Storyteller is based on material Julie gathered during a two-week visit to China with a group of storytellers in 2008. The group met with folklorists, school groups and storytellers in Beijing, Shanghai and rural villages. As with all

the tales she collects and recounts, Julie drew on various versions of the same stories. She gathered as many details as possible and later authenticated the final versions. Love stories, ancient fables of war and peace and tales explaining the origins of old Chinese proverbs and common expressions are included in the book, along with practical storytelling tips.

Julie grew up listening to stories told by her grandmothers and mother. Then as a mother herself and a teacher and librarian for more than 40 years, she learned to engage, entertain and educate through the time-honored craft of sharing spoken tales. She currently is featured on KRZA radio's Children's Hour at 5pm on the second Saturday of each month.

Recent brain research confirms the educational value of storytelling, Julie notes. "We're finding out that people are hard-wired to learn through story." But for wide-eyed kids and smiling adults listening as she spins a tale, it's simply an absorbing, enjoyable experience that almost feels like one-on-one, no matter how many listeners there are. All ages are invited to this storytelling "visit" to old China. "It's great for families," Julie says. "It can be their Saturday afternoon entertainment for the day!" See more at storiesbyjulie.com.

Sunday Open Mic is rockin' it!

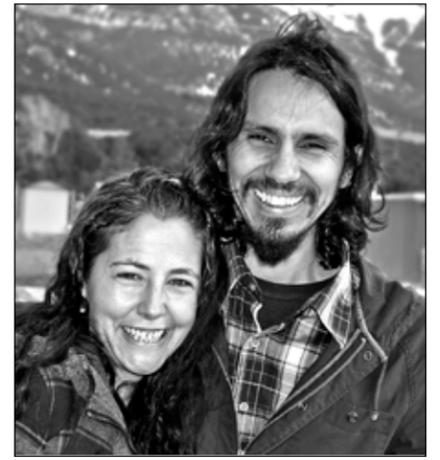
by Lori Nagel

I know that more than one of us, more than once, has found ourselves wandering the streets of Crestone on a Sunday afternoon, desperately seeking some type of jubilant activity to engage in, only to be disappointed and left feeling a wee bit bored. This was the case for Benny Roman, so he did something about it.

Roman has a history of starting Open Mic events, as he put 3 of them together out in California, before moving here with his partner, Jennifer Daveler, and their son, Jedi, last July. This Sunday Open Mic at the Secret Garden is a little different, though, because anyone can jump in and play whenever they're inspired and everyone is cool with that. It's just Open Mic after all, so people don't take it quite so seriously. There are people playing instruments of all kinds, sitting in a circle, while one or two people at a time usually sit up front and take the lead. People of ALL ages attend—some playing, some dancing, some just taking it all in.

Currently, it does have to be all original music, due to copyright infringement laws. As of 2/19, they've raised \$35 towards the purchase of a blanket license, so that anyone can play any music, original or not.

This weekly event definitely adds a bit of spice to an otherwise humdrum Sunday afternoon around here. Whether you play an instrument, sing, dance, or just like to chill to some uplifting jams, c'mon out and get your groove on!



Jennifer Daveler and Benny Roman. Benny started the Sunday Open Mics at the Secret Garden, and both of them currently work there. photo by Lori Nagel

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Dr. Deb Irizarry with her laser equipment.

any chemicals.

As an “introductory special” a full face and neck treatment will be only \$1000 for a limited number of clients that schedule an appointment this spring.

9 News Free Health Fair comes to SLV

The annual free health fair is coming to the Mountain Valley High School in Saguache from 7:30-11:30am on Saturday April 13. The 9 News Health Fairs have been offered to Colorado residents as a service of Channel 9 in Denver for over 25 years.

Many free screenings are available and include Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Cardiac Risk Assessment and Body Mass Index. Health care providers and others volunteer make these screenings available to people in our area.

Other services at the fair will include a comprehensive blood analysis, available for \$30 and a PSA test for men for \$25 (prostate cancer screening.) For an accurate blood analysis you should fast for 12 hours (diabetics SHOULD NOT FAST), drink plenty of water and continue taking all medications as prescribed. For an accurate PSA result you should not have any strenuous physical activity for 48 hours prior to the test. Exercise such as bicycling or weight lifting may influence your test results.

For more information see www.9healthfair.org or call 800-332-3078. Take advantage of this great health screening opportunity!

Saguache Thrift opening April 6

The BEBOP Thrift & Mercantile at 406 4th St. in Saguache, next door to the Welcome Center, will hold a Grand Opening Celebration from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, April 6. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

The new store, a project of Blue Earth Business Opportunities (BEBOP) and Saguache Works (nonprofit status pending) will feature gently used clothing, furniture, housewares and books, plus brand new Saguache signature T-shirts, caps, western art and a limited selection of locally produced food and body care products.

An expanded local foods section, featuring frozen meats, produce and other organic products, is planned for later this spring. Proceeds from the store will benefit the local food bank and Saguache Works’ job training program.

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, please call 655-0216.



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Crestone Gospel Choir to start

The Crestone Christian Mystics are planning soon to start a Christian Gospel Choir. They expect to be practicing within a month. One of the foundational principles for Christian Mysticism is joyful positive singing about the Christ. Gospel singing means “good news singing.”

The choir will be led by Gary Noyes, manager of Casa del Soul rental apartments. His musical background includes solo and group Gospel singing since his early teen years. He has sung solo parts for various choirs for over 50 years. As a Methodist pastor for 20 years he led “good news” choirs.

They will be singing Christian chants, gospel songs, old time worship songs, and various modern pieces. All of them are good news based.

The choir will practice weekly and expects to sing for meditation groups, retreat centers, and special community gatherings. They would also like to occasionally travel and sing in the area. They are looking for volunteer singers and instrumentalists.

If you would like more information about the choir or Christian Mysticism please call Gary Noyes at 970-443-0914.



The art opening at Shambala on 3/15, featuring the calligraphy art of Stephen (Ish) Futral and Harriet Campbell. photo by Lori Nagel

Free training in conflict resolution offered in Salida

Full Circle Restorative Justice is inviting all individuals interested in a free training covering conflict resolution, mediation skills and restorative justice!

Learn the skills to contribute in making the world a more peaceful place. Please spread the word near & far.

The training will be held Friday April 19 and Saturday April 20, 9:30am-4pm at the Kesner building next to Salida High School, East 9th & D Sts. Lunch is included.

Please pre-register by April 15. To sign up online for the free RJ training: fullcirclelj.net/restor-

ative-justice-training.

This is a FREE training sponsored by FCRJ and the Community of Excellence grant funds. Donations to FCRJ are always welcome to support our community conflict resolution programs, but are not required. Donations are tax-deductible. FCRJ is a 501c3 organization.

At this time CEU credits are not guaranteed, yet the trainers are researching this, as the training has been eligible for credit in the past.

CRESTONE GOSPEL CHOIR



We are starting a Gospel Choir in Crestone! We need singers and instrumentalists. If you'd like to find out more, call Gary Noyes at 970.443.0914 or email garynoyes1@gmail.com

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**Workshop series
"Seed Saving with Altitude"**

The Infinite Bee, Leigh Mills, is hosting a series of workshops called "Seed Saving with Altitude". Join her at the Heyokah Homestead and learn how to grow and save seeds in a high altitude, high desert garden. The first workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 9am until 1pm. The main topics will be planning your garden for saving seeds, and transplanting strawberries. Other topics include Biodynamic planting and garden mindfulness. There will be handouts and strawberry plants to take home. Lunch is provided. Cost is \$45.00 and bartering will be considered in lieu of cash. Registration is necessary. For more info and/or to register, visit TheInfiniteBee.com or call 719-655-2011.

Saguache County Republicans announce 2013 Spring Fling Fund Raiser Event

The Saguache County Republicans are holding their Spring Fling fund raiser at 1pm on Saturday April 27 at The Old Cow Town Colorado Resort located 14 miles west of Saguache on Hwy. 114 and then 1 mile south on County Road CC-36.

The event features live entertainment, invited speakers, live auction and an old fashioned-style beef or pork main course meal with all the fixins' to go with it.

Tickets are \$25 each for adults and \$10 each for kids 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. RSVP to: Richard Drake 719-256-4215; Steve Carlson 719-850-2920; Ed Nielsen 719-655-2255; Mike Cowan 719-655-6202; Randy Glover 719-850-9282 or Rock Finley 719-754-9458. www.saguachegop.com www.oldcowtowncolorado.com.

Crestone Fruit Tree Project

The Crestone Fruit Tree Project will again be helping to coordinate the purchase of fruit trees, shrubs and fruits with Brady's West in Salida with delivery in Crestone. Brady's is offering a 10% discount and free delivery through this group purchase. Brady's offers a wide variety of fruits that do well in our climate. Please contact Kizzen, who is coordinating this year's purchase, at kizzen@crestoneeagle.com for more information and lists of trees, fruits and prices. Orders need to be placed by May 15 (sooner is always better to reserve trees/fruits as there may be a limited supply of certain varieties) with delivery in mid-June to Kizzen's home. Over 500 trees have been brought to the Crestone area by this project. The time to plant trees is now!

Saguache County Tourism Council Meeting April 10

The Saguache County Tourism Council will meet on April 10 at the POA Hall at 6:00 p.m. Members will be considering spring grant requests. The Tourism Council rarely meets in the Crestone/Baca area, so it's a good opportunity to meet the council members and learn about the work to promote tourism in the county.

Orient Land Trust quarterly board meeting

Orient Land Trust will hold its quarterly board meeting on Saturday, April 20 beginning at 9am at OLT/Valley View Hot Springs. Join us to learn more about our conservation planning and programs. Come see how you can get involved in helping to preserve the many treasured resources of the northern San Luis Valley. Please check in at the Welcome Center when you arrive.

OLT is dedicated to the preservation of natural and biological resources, agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, open space, and historic and geologic features of the northern San Luis Valley for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations.

See www.olt.org or call 719-256-5212 for more information.

Restorative Justice on The Rise every Thursday at 6pm

Restorative Justice on The Rise is an ongoing free telecouncil series every Thursday at 6pm featuring our world's pioneers engaging with community in a virtual platform accessible by phone, webcast, and skype. It is brought to you by the Peace Alliance and hosted by Molly Rowan Leach. Upcoming guests include Dr. Howard Zehr, Rep. Pete Lee (CO), Brenda Morrison of Simon Fraser University, Sunny Schwartz, and many others. More info, resources, schedule, and related national events are available at dopeace.us/page/restorative-justice.

Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable meeting

The Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable, a forum of diverse stakeholders collaborating to conserve natural resources and local heritage, will hold its next meeting on Thurs., April 25, 9am-1pm at Saguache Road & Bridge meeting room, 305 3rd St., Saguache. Join us to learn what's new with our partner organizations, discuss the Roundtable's first grant proposal, and to get more information about our upcoming summer tour and education series. Also, hear a special update from Colorado Parks & Wildlife on new projects in the valley. For more information call 719-256-5436 or email barb@olt.org

Yak N' Cracker opens for breakfast

Cho Ku Rei Farm Store & Yak N' Cracker is now open for breakfast! Come enjoy some original or gluten-free pancakes or a fresh Cho Ku Rei omelette. Open from 10am-8pm

There is also live music with good-for-you food every Saturday night 6-8:30pm.

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Grazing in the northern SLV, historically and today

The Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable will sponsor a presentation on grazing on Wed. April 24 at 7pm at the Saguache Road & Bridge meeting room, 305 3rd St., Saguache. Peter Clark, Range Specialist (ACES) with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, along with long-time ranchers Marty Shellabarger and Ed Nielsen, will be speaking on a number of topics related to grazing in our region. How has grazing management evolved over the years? How does proper grazing management benefit the land? What techniques are currently being used? What programs are available to support ranchers? What are northern SLV ranchers doing to meet the challenges facing them today? What is the outlook for the future? Join us to learn the answers to these questions and more. Q&A following the presentation. Light refreshments will be served. For more information: 719-256-5436 barb@olt.org

Tuesdays are special at the CYP Thrift Store

Tuesdays are Senior (60+) Appreciation Day! Seniors receive 20% off their purchase every Tuesday! The spring CYP Thrift Store hours are 11am-6pm beginning in April.

Earth Day celebration

Please join KTTG at the Tashi Gomang Stupa on April 22 at 11am for a fire offering and sadhana honoring the earth followed by light refreshments. For more information call Zoe de Bray at 707-336-0777.

Democrats appreciation fundraiser dinner April 27

Join us for an evening of camaraderie, good food, dessert auction and local entertainment on Saturday, April 27 at 6:30pm at the Saguache Community Center. \$10 per person includes dinner of pulled pork sandwiches, baked potato, and cole slaw. Come early if you want vegetarian lasagna - first come, first served. Enjoy a sumptuous dessert from the auction!

Please RSVP by April 20 to Lynne Thompson at 754-9163, sheebalt@yahoo.com or Barbara Tidd at 256-5436 btidd19@fairpoint.net. After April 20, we will still accept RSVPs if space is available.

For donations, contact Judy Marold 655-2320 jmarold@gmail.com. See you there!

Crestone Creative Council
Youth Work Force

Hire a local youth to help with your home or work project.

Insurance & worker's compensation are provided through the Town of Crestone.

719-480-5925
bodeycrestone@gmail.com



Birth Announcement: Saoirse Kelly Tate

Aoife and Chad are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Saoirse Kelly Tate on March 22 at 7:44am, weighing a healthy 7lbs 15ozs.

They are thrilled with their new beautiful bundle of joy and are very excited to have her home. They extend their gratitude for all the love and support of friends and community in Crestone.

A call for volunteers for Crestone Dragon & Fairie Fest & Parade

The Crestone Dragon & Fairie Fest & Parade is planned for May 11. Help create parade puppets and props, organize, set up and clean up, and supply any ideas for festive contributions. Please email littlerusty-worksgirl@yahoo.com or contact Allison Wonderland 508-237-8915.

Notice: No Free Dump Day

The Saguache County Landfill and Recycling Center will not be holding a Free Dump Day this spring. The Saguache Board of County Commissioners will revisit the topic at a later date for a possible free dump day in the fall.

2nd annual WaterFest May 4

The Crestone-Baca Watershed Council presents the second annual WaterFest celebration on Saturday, May 4 beginning at 10am at the Elephant Cloud/Birch Street Studio and the adjacent park.

There will be a field trip along the creek, a kids' water art show, brown bag lunch in the park, water-snake and other dances, educational presentations in the studio, a forum on our local streams and regional water issues, and information about how community teams can restore our riparian areas. Crestone-Baca Watershed Council is a pro-active team open to all relevant agencies and citizens' concerns and catalyzes local, political, and conservation initiatives.

National Library Week, April 15

The Friends of the Baca/Crestone Library will be holding a bake sale in front of the post office from 10am-3pm on Monday, April 15. Come satisfy your sweet tooth and support your local library.

"Seed Saving with Altitude"

Learn How to Grow and Save Seeds in a High Altitude Garden

Saturday, April 20, 2013 9am - 1pm

- ~ Plan your garden for growing seeds ~
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Community Calendar—April 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.

Friday, March 29

- Good Friday Stations/Services – Nada Carmelite Hermitage 3:00 pm 256-4778
- Eric Karlstrom Banjo/Guitar playin & singin @ Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-9:00 pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Saturday, March 30

- Elisha Mc Arthur Fiddler and Vocal @ Yak N Cracker 6:00 pm-9:00 pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Sunday, March 31

- Easter Vigil mass – Nada Carmelite Hermitage 5:00 am 256-4778
- All Community Easter Potluck Dinner – Earth Knack School Site / Blankenship Residence 1:00 pm 719 256 4909

Monday, April 1

- Diane Bairstow's birthday
- Crestone Psychics' Conclave, you know where, you know when, RSVP required
- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-9:00 pm townofcrestone.org 256-4313

Tuesday, April 2

- Tri-County senior (60+) van round trip to Salida— Reservations required – All Day \$10 719-256-4320

Wednesday, April 3

- Time to take a break

Thursday, April 4

- Rumi Study Circle All welcome Tower Tekke. – 3:45 pm-6:00 pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Saturday, April 6

- BEBOP Thrift & Mercantile Grand Opening – BEBOP Thrift & Mercantile 10:00 am-3:00 pm free 655-0216
- Grateful Dead Night Steve Storm & Scott Schwartz @ Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

- Crestone End of Life Project Open meeting – The Topping House 7:00 pm-9:00 pm www.crestoneendoflifeproject.org

Wednesday, April 10

- New Moon – All Day
- Spring Navratri - Divine Mother Festival with 10am Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram All Day www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- Sag. Co. Tourism considers spring grant requests – BGPOA office 6:00 pm saguachetourism.com 719-655-0263

Thursday, April 11

- Rahasya-An evening of Mantra Beat Kirtan The Secret Garden 7-9pm \$10 Donation www.rahasya.org 516-660-9677

Friday, April 12

- Free Health Fair, Alamosa Co. Health Dept. 7-11am free www.9healthfair.org 800-332-3078
- CCS Middle School Romeo & Juliet performance, Crestone Charter School 6pm 256-4907

Saturday, April 13

- Free Health Fair – Mountain Valley High School 7:30 am-11:30 am free www.9healthfair.org 800-332-3078
- Storytelling & Book Signing – Birch St. Studio 2-3pm free

Sunday, April 14

- Monthly Sampai at Shumei – Shumei Sanctuary 10:30 am-12:00 pm www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284
- Children's Day – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 11:00 am free babajashram.org 719-256-4108

Monday, April 15

- Friends of the Library Bake Sale – Crestone Post Office parking lot 10:00 am-3:00 pm 256-5653

Tuesday, April 16

- Tri-County senior (60+) van round trip to Alamosa— Reservations required – All Day \$10 719-256-4320
- CrestoneArtists April Meeting – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm www.crestoneartists.com 719-256-4182

Wednesday, April 17

- Call your mother

Thursday, April 18

- Rumi Study Circle All welcome. 3:45-6pm. Tower Tekke. – Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, April 19

- Free Conflict Resolution Training in Salida – Kesner Building 9:30am-4:00pm free fullcirclerj.net/restorative-justice-training
- April Free Movie Night – Shumei International Institute 7:00 pm-9:00 pm www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, April 20

- Orient Land Trust Board meeting – Orient Land Trust/Valley View Hot Springs 9:00 am-12:00 pm 256.4315
- Seed Saving with Altitude – 9:00 am-1:00 pm \$45.00 <http://theinfinitebee.com/> 719.655.2011
- Ecological electronic waste recycling – Salida Recycle Center 10:00 am-2:30 pm 719-539-6738, 256-4135
- SLV Small Business Expo – Monte Vista Ski-Hi Arena 10:00 am-6:00 pm 719-852-2731
- Elemental Deva Council – Sacred Space 3:00 pm-5:00 pm free 719 256-5439
- CB Jazz @ Yak N Cracker – Yak N Cracker Cafe 6:00 pm-8:30 pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Sunday, April 21

- April Art Symposium at Shumei – Shumei Gallery 3:00 pm-5:00 pm www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, April 22

- Earth Day – All Day
- Earth day celebration Tashi Gomang Stupa – 11:00 am-12:00 pm www.kttg.org 707-336-0777

Tuesday, April 23

- Absolutely nothing happen on this day

Wednesday, April 24

- Grazing in the Northern SLV, Historically and Today – Saguache County Rd. & Bridge Building 7-9pm 256-5436

Thursday, April 25

- Full Moon – All Day
- Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable meeting – Saguache County Rd. & Bridge Building 9am-1pm 256-5436

Friday, April 26

- Open House for YES! Old Crestone Charter School Admin. Building next to Baca Grande Library noon 719-937-3515

Saturday, April 27

- Sag. Co. Republicans Spring Fundraiser, Old Cow Town 1pm \$25 adults, \$10 kids www.saguachegop.com 256-4215,655-2255
- Steve Storm & Eli Dokson Music @ Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30 pm free www.chokureiranch.com 719-256-4700
- Democrats Appreciation Fundraiser – Saguache Community Building 6:30 pm 655-2320

Sunday, April 28

- Call your local monthly newspaper and tell them what a good job they're doing
- Spontaneous potluck picnic, Baca Park, noon

Monday, April 29

- Dentist appointment, 10:15am

Tuesday, April 30

- Check air pressure in your tires 7:45am
- Last day of April

Wednesday, May 1

- Clean Free Box

Friday, May 3

- Deadline for Crestone Music Festival T-shirt design – Crestone Performances Inc. free crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Deadline to apply for scholarship from CPI & Aventa – Crestone Performances Inc. free crestfest.org 719-256-4533

Saturday, May 4

- Second Annual WaterFest – Elephant Cloud Studio 10am

Sunday, May 5

- ALMA & friends benefit concert – Bistro Rialto 7:00 pm \$10 almaonline.org 719-588-5224

Tuesday, May 7

- Tri-County senior (60+) van round trip to Salida— Reservations required – All Day \$10 719-256-4320

Friday, May 10

- Deadline for Crestone Music Festival local performers' applications, Baca Prof. Bldg crestfest.org 719-256-4533

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.

—Marshall McLuhan

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am 719-256-4778
- Dorje Trolo practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge whitejewelmountain.org 719-256-5773
- 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 am-10:15 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- Get ready for Tuesday

Tuesday

- Gentle Yoga class with Joann Connington Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10:30 am-12:00 pm 719-256-5129
- Savitri Reading Circle - Potluck, reading and meditation Savatri House 6:00 pm 937-7687 or 256-6010
- Tri-County Van Service to Salida, Reservations Friday before. 256-5084 All Day \$10 RT cbvillage.org 256-5084
- Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department weekly trainings & meetings Baca Fire House 5:30 pm-7:30 pm Free 7192564781
- Tri-County Seniore Van to Alamosa, Reservations by Fri. before, 256-5084 All Day \$10 RT cbvillage.org 256-5084
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710
- Senior (over age 60) Day at CYP Thrift Store CYP Thrift Store 11:00 am-6:00 pm
- Crestone Kaminari Taiko beginner rehearsal Food Service, Shumei 6:30pm 256-5990, 256-5285

Wednesday

- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.coda.org 7203522078
- Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (from prerecorded lessors). 5:30 pm-6:30 pm n/a 7192564480
- Open Meditation Group, Dharma Ocean 6-7:30pm kathyg@dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210
- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Zumba Fitness Birch street studio 9:15 am-10:15 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

Thursday

- Gentle Yoga class with Joann Connington Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10:30 am-12:00 pm 719-256-5129
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation 719-256-5668

Friday

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

Crestone Music Festival announces 2013 headliners! Tab Benoit, Vieux Farka Touré & the Haunted Wind Chimes *Festival dates are August 2, 3 & 4*

by Tom Dessain

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival will be held at Challenger Golf Club in Crestone Colorado August 2, 3, & 4. The festival is a three-day, two-stage, multi-genre, multi-cultural event with family activities, contests, arts & crafts, international cuisine and great libations. The Friday night headliner will be the eclectic Haunted Wind Chimes. Saturday features our first repeat

they lie in a nowhere land between distinct styles: it's not quite bluegrass or blues or country. Still, there are elements of all those in songs that paint pictures of empty train stations and nights of passing a jug of moonshine around. These three guys and two gals have appeared on "Prairie Home Companion" and are just plain fun!

Our first repeat headliner! Why? Why not! He was such a



The Haunted Wind Chimes on Prairie Home Companion.

headliner, Tab Benoit. Sunday's headliner is the World Beat artist Vieux Farka Touré.

Haunted Wind Chimes draw from traditional folk and American roots music. The songs have a vintage quality as if they might have been written 75 years ago. Grounded in honeyed harmonies that really set them apart, and spirited pickin',

Attention vendors

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival wants local vendors. If you have arts and crafts, food, information or something else, please apply. Applications are available online at crestfest.org, at our office call (719-256-4533) or locally at Crestone Creative Trade, the Bliss, the Farm Table and Crestone Mercantile. Vendor spaces are limited so please apply!

T-Shirt design wanted

T-shirt designs are now being accepted for the 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival. We pay \$200 for the accepted entry plus one weekend pass to this year's festival and an article on the artist in the festival program. The design is usually used for the program cover also. It does not have to be fully completed for us to review it. The general idea and look will be enough to start with. Entries should be post-marked by May 3. For more information please call 719-256-4533 or drop by our office at the Professional Center, which is the first house in the Baca.

huge hit that folks are still talking about it. His first appearance was on a Sunday, but he's our Saturday headliner this time around. Tab is the real deal. Born and raised on the Louisiana bayou, this self-proclaimed "new kid from the old school" has been the standard bearer for a new generation of Cajun blues musicians. Tab is a traditionalist and an innovator at the same time, grafting elements of rock and soul to the indigenous sounds of the bayou. And if dedicating his life to his musical roots weren't enough, Benoit has also been a tireless crusader for the preservation of the rapidly vanishing wetlands of his native Louisiana and surrounding region. Maybe this time around, he'll want a summer home here to beat the heat. Spread the word and spread the blankets for this hot act!

Our Sunday night headliner is "The Hendrix of the Sahara", Vieux Farka Touré. He is the son of the late legendary Malian guitar player Ali Farka Touré. When Vieux declared that he also wanted to be a musician, his father disapproved but eventually gave Vieux his blessing shortly before he passed. Vieux has continued his father's work in tackling the problem of malaria in Mali by donating 10% of proceeds from his shows to the cause. Vieux gives new versions of the West African music that is echoed in the American blues. While he remains true to the roots of his father's music, he adds elements of rock, Latin music and other African influences. His live performances are highly energized and Vieux is known for dazzling crowds with his speed and dexterity on the guitar. He has a palpable charisma



Tab Benoit, Crestone Music Festival's 2013 Saturday night headliner.



Vieux Farka Touré will be the Sunday evening headliner for the 2013 Crestone Music Festival.

and luminous smile, both of which captivate audiences from all audiences in spite of any language barriers (though Vieux does speak 8 languages). Vieux Farka Touré has clearly established himself as one of the world's rare musical talents and guitar virtuosos with a distinct style that always pays homage to the past while looking towards the future.

For information about tickets to this year's festival, visit crestfest.org or call our office at 719-256-4533.

Crestone Performances and Aventa team-up for youth!

CPI and Aventa Credit Union are offering scholarships to Saguache County students who want to further their education in the performing arts. This includes music, theater, voice, dance, etc. Scholarship must be used for performing arts costs and expenses for instruments, lessons, camps, workshops, etc. The scholarship value is up to \$500 and applications are available online at crestfest.org, at our office (256-4533) or locally at Crestone Creative Trade, the Bliss, the Farm Table and Crestone Mercantile. Each school has also received applications for students.

The deadline to apply is Friday, May 3. Incomplete applica-

CMF wants you!

It's that time again! We are gearing up for another exciting year for the Crestone Music Festival. If you would like to participate in this year's festival as a performer, a vendor or a sponsor, please let us know!

Notice to performing artists

All local artists must fill out a local artists' submission form.

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival is now accepting entries from local Saguache County performing artists for this year's festival. Local means 50% of the group must live or have a home in Saguache County. All local artists must fill out a local artists' submission form. These are available online at crestfest.org, at our office (256-4533), or locally at Crestone Creative Trade, the Bliss, the Farm Table and Crestone Mercantile.

Deadline Tuesday, May 10

If your entry is musical, the demo should have at least two songs on it. If your entry is dance then you should submit a video and/or music with a description. If your act is poetry or comedy a demo tape or document is fine. Anything else, we are interested so please submit what it takes to get the point across. While we appreciate the artist's desire to put on the best show possible, your submission is budgeted based on the application information we receive. It is your responsibility to provide wages for additional artists/musicians added after applying. All entries must be postmarked by May 10, 2013. It is recommended that some of you combine your talents, as there will be more applicants than openings.

Send info to: CMF Local 2013, P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131, or drop it by the office at the first house in the Baca, upstairs in the Professional Building, Suite 204.

tions will not be reviewed. For a copy of the guidelines and requirements contact CPI. at 719-256-4533 or e-mail us at crestfest@crestfest.org or visit www.crestfest.org. Mail application to Crestone Performances Inc., PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131.

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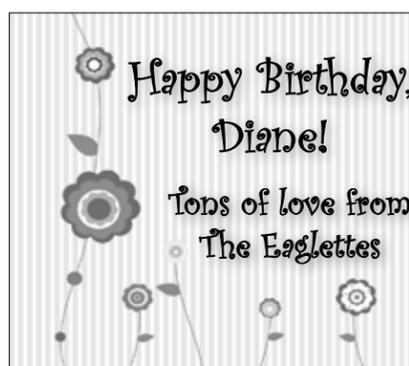


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Tom Whitehead (right) stops to talk JT Williams after JT bid & donated \$80 to NHN in exchange for that gigantic yummy dessert. And then to help raise more money, JT turned around and gave it back to NHN so they could sell it by the scoop! photo by Lori Nagel



Eli Dokson, Bill Smith and Ted Brumm perform their lil' hearts out at the NHN Cabin Fever event on 3/9. photo by Lori Nagel

Annual NHN Cabin Fever Event

by Lori Nagel & Robin Rosenberg

The annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Cabin Fever event on March 9 turned out to be just that! People bundled up in their hats & boots, got out of their "cabins," braved the all-day-and-night snow storm & accumulation, and got to see an amazing group of people perform all different kinds of acts.

One of the traditions at this event is the baked goods auction. This year, JT Williams bid \$80 for Tom Whitehead's bigger-than-life-delicious-trifle dessert. Then he realized it probably wouldn't hold out until he'd have time to have a party, so he could get enough people together to share all that! And since NHN was over \$1000 short of previous years' donations—definitely due to the weather and low attendance—he donated it back to NHN to sell for \$1 per scoop. Malina then offered her Flan back to NHN as well, and together the 2 desserts raised about \$200 more.

NHN would like to thank the Crestone Charter School for hosting them, Tom Dessain and Crestone Performances for providing sound equipment and technical support, all the fabulous performers who gave of their time and expertise, along with the 60 people who braved the snow storm to at-

tend. People commented that the talent this year was extraordinary!

NHN would also like to announce they have a new web-site, www.neighborshelpingneighborscrestone.com, thanks to Rodney Volkmer. Please check it out and you can see plans for upcoming fundraisers and also make donations online using PayPal.

Anyone who didn't make the show and would like to donate to NHN, please send a check to: NHN, PO 822, Crestone, CO 81131. All donations are tax deductible!



Bon Dellagar serves up a fabulous lattice-top pie.



Lyndsay Rose, Laura Enzer, and Harley Wharton perform exotic Belly Dance at the NHN Cabin Fever event on 3/9. photo by Lori Nagel

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Mati Fuller's life has not been typical. Unless, of course, you're a Crestonian!

by M. Diane Bairstow

"My life has never been typical," Mati Fuller laughed, "unless it's typical for a Crestonian."

Born in Bergen, Norway, Mati learned to be creative at an early age. "It was cold, wet and dark. There were no Ipods, only one channel on TV and six months of darkness. Everybody knitted. You had to keep busy or go crazy."



Mati Fuller.

I had good grades and studied chemistry and math at the university, but it was so horrible and boring that I dropped out and went to sewing school for a year, and then went back to the university and studied psychology for another couple of years, but again, I got bored and kept bringing my knitting to class because I didn't want to miss out any creative ideas."

A mission to make the world a less toxic place

She finally dropped out of the university for good and got a job as a lab technician in a hospital in Bergen. There, Mati realized they didn't have any venting system for the chemicals.

"My friends were coming down with cancer and I ended up calling the labor union." As a result, the hospital put in a venting system, and ever since, Mati has been "on a mission to make the world a less toxic place."

After traveling around the world a couple of times, Mati came to Os-ho's commune in Portland where she met Shahid, now Daniel Johnson. They moved to Santa Fe where Mati started a house cleaning business. After four automobile accidents each in three years, they decided it was time to move to a safer place, so they headed for Crestone.

"As soon as I hit Rd T and saw the mountains I felt totally at home here." Mati said. She soon met a girl who had a knitting business and was doing craft shows. That inspired Mati's creativity and she bought a knitting machine and began booking shows. After eight years and two babies, she decided she couldn't fly all over the country any longer, so she looked around for another source of revenue.

By this time, she and Nigel Fuller were married, and they began selling books on Amazon. "It was a great business for about three years until everybody started doing it," she explained.

At the time, Mati was also studying homeopathy, and she became so interested in the psychological side of the remedies that she wrote a book called *Beyond the Veil of Delusions, Understanding Relationships through Homeopathy*.

The long way home

When Mati hit menopause, she decided she wanted a bigger town and a regular paycheck, so she and Nigel sold their house, packed up the family and headed to Oregon. "I discovered that I didn't have any references or qualifications that counted, so nobody was going to give me a job. It was a real wake-up call." Mati said, but then someone gave her the inspirational video *The Secret*, and it hit her "like a ton of bricks. I realized it was my attitude that needed to change, and not the place that I lived. Once I learned that, I just wanted to go back to Crestone. When we came back after three months, everything seemed different, probably because I was no longer the same person," She laughed, "it was a bit embarrassing to return so quickly, but now I just love it here. This is where I belong and where my creativity flows the best."

Inspired by silence

"I love the silence in this place. Here, I can hear all the ideas coming through my mind, every little whisper. I always have several projects going on, it's like I have unlimited streams of creativity flowing through me and if I don't express them, I'm not just unhappy, it's like there's a pressure inside not being released."



Mati and daughter Holly take time out of their busy schedules to pose for a picture. "My family is full of unique individuals," Mati says, "and we're all going different directions all the time."

Her main projects now are Green Beauty Cosmetics, a line of natural cosmetics products, Akashic soul readings, where she reads a person's Akashic Records, and of course, knitting.

Before she left Norway, Mati almost died on a skiing trip. It was "a terribly cold and blizzardy day," and Mati wasn't a strong skier. She lagged behind, developed hypothermia and lay down in the snow. When



Mati makes all of her products from scratch.

they found her, her face had frostbite and her cheeks "looked like red sand paper." "She couldn't find any natural products that worked well, and she has been disappointed in skin care products ever since until she began making her own. Finding good natural cosmetics has been a lifelong quest, and her decision to make her own has become the fulfillment of her desire to make the world less toxic."

"Most products work well enough for young skin," Mati explained, "but once we hit menopause, our skin quits producing oil and has no protection, water evaporates and wrinkles come. So I developed a new concept: products that you can layer depending on your skin needs, so you can mix and match my products for every skin type."

A one-woman business

Mati created all her own formulas. "I didn't know how much experimenting I would have to do," Mati laughed, "or I would never have started." She does every aspect of the business. She makes her products from scratch, and she labels, packages and sends them off all over the world. She created her website, designed her labels, started a blog and is going to be getting up at 5am on Saturdays this summer to sell at the Salida Farmer's Market.

Creating a blog inspired her to write a book for other "technically challenged" individuals, about how to use Wordpress. "I was having to do all this research so after a couple of months, I realized I had enough information to write a book." The result was, *A step by step Wordpress Tutorial for Beginners*. You can find the current, updated "Version 3.4.2" on Amazon.

To balance her spiritual needs with her material needs, Mati has also been studying how to do Akashic soul readings, and now offers a combination of numerology and Akashic readings online.

"My life has been exciting," Mati concluded. "It's all about living your dreams and walking your path, wherever it takes you. I have always allowed my inner voice to guide me, and I encourage others to do the same."

To find out more about Mati's enterprises, check out these websites: Greenbeautycosmetics.com, akashicsoulreading.com (blog), and fabulouslycheeky.com (blog).



"You have to be very exact with these formulas," Mati said, "it's a lot harder than making a cake."

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Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

March has been a busy month with Shivaratri and all-night chanting and my trip to India. Shivaratri was very well attended with over 75 people throughout the festivities.

The big celebration for April is Spring Navratri. It begins on Wednesday, April 10 and runs through Thursday, April 18. There will be daily fire ceremonies, pujas, and discourses. The children's day will be at 11am on Sunday, April 14.

Our new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, April 10 (Navratri) and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Thursday, April 25. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 6:30am 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



Spring Navratri (Divine Mother festival) will be celebrated at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram from Wednesday, April 10 through Thursday, April 18.

open every day from 10am until 5pm. I will be bringing back many new items for the shop from India, and they will be available by April 1. 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, excluding sale items. We are continually receiving new supplies in the shop and we deeply appreciate your support. You can view most of our shop inventory on the website at mahalakshmiashram.com in its inviting new format.

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. Please note that this is the only telephone number for the ashram now as we have let go of our toll-free number and our dedicated shop number.



Welcome Piper!



Vicki Matthews 719/256-5020

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Mahalakshmi

August on her seat in the inner world of Mind,

The Mother of Might looked down on passing things...

I am Durga, goddess of the proud and strong,

And Lakshmi, queen of the fair and fortunate....

I am charged by God to do his mighty work . . .

—Sri Aurobindo, *Savitri*

Hinduism in India has four great seasonal celebrations called Navaratri. The spring ceremonies are dedicated to Mahalakshmi and the Goddess Durga. A beautiful temple to Mahalakshmi rests high above Crestone at the Haidakhandi Ashram, where we worship the Divine Mother.

"In *Savitri*, Sri Aurobindo completes his prophetic picture of a new world order. It shows how this new system could be accomplished on earth through the simple soul forces of the Mother. Actually, this is nothing more than ancient Indian dharma brought up to date but with emphasis on the great new power of the spirit in our times, the woman, the Divine Mother." (Nettle).

Sri Aurobindo writes, in *The Mother*:

"Above Wisdom and Force is the miracle of eternal beauty, an unseizable secret of divine harmonies,

the compelling magic of an irresistible universal charm and attraction that draws and holds things and forces and beings together and obliges them to meet and unite that a hidden Ananda may play from behind the veil and make of them its rhythms and its figures.

"This is the power of Mahalakshmi and there is no aspect of the Divine Shakti more attractive to the heart of embodied beings. For she throws the spell of the intoxicating sweetness of the Divine: to be close to her is a profound happiness and to feel her within the heart is to make existence a rapture and a marvel; grace and charm and tenderness flow out from her like light from the sun and wherever she fixes her wonderful gaze or lets fall the loveliness of her smile, the soul is seized and made captive and plunged into the depths of an unfathomable bliss.

"Magnetic is the touch of her hands and their occult and delicate influence refines mind and life and the body and where she presses her feet course miraculous streams of an entrancing Ananda.

"Ascetic bareness and harshness are not pleasing to her nor the suppression of the heart's deeper emotions and the rigid repression of the soul's and the life's parts of beauty. For it is through love and beauty that she lays on men the yoke of the Divine."



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Communion across spiritual boundaries

by Dr. Reginald A. Ray

In East Tibet, during the late 18th and 19th centuries, men and women practitioners who were discouraged by the politics of Tibetan Buddhism and the destructive competitiveness between the different sects and monasteries developed an important teaching they called Rimé. These practitioners believed that the dharma should be Rimé—"non-territorial"—that we should all come from our different lineages, each with our own teachers, our own tradition, and our own responsibility to carry on our own lineage with integrity, but we should share openly with each other at the deepest possible levels. We should enter into deep communion with each other. As spiritual practitioners, the lineage we carry lays bare our fundamental essence, and when we share that with each other we're sharing who we most fundamentally are. In this way Rimé is a teaching about intimacy, about communion, how to truly meet each other. As spiritual practitioners, we have so much to learn from each other, and when we hide out in our traditions and put up strong barriers against other traditions, when we think, "I have the best lineage and I'm not really interested in you or what you're doing," it's not really dharma anymore. It's just samsara all over again.

Surprisingly enough, recent genetic research has indirectly confirmed the historical depth and the legitimacy of the Rimé approach. Genetic science has discovered that at the origins of our species, hundreds of thousands of years ago, we were one community in North Africa and we practiced some form of spirituality. It is believed that there were no more than 1,000-

2,000 of us in that original, human group—a community about the size of Crestone. When we eventually left North Africa, and started spreading throughout the world, we took with us that original spirituality; over time, it morphed and developed into all of the indigenous traditions, and then all of the world's so called "great" religions. We now know that despite their differences, there's a great deal that we all share; the basic predisposition to language and many other aspects of culture, including our human spirituality, and even specific forms and patterns of that original spirituality still exist and live in all of us. We have specific genes in us that are connected with our spiritual lives as humans, and we all share them. For example, we all share a very deep yearning to open ourselves to our own depths, to other people, to nature, to the universe, and to love in a selfless way. In modern people it's often covered over, but it's still there. It cannot be destroyed and it never completely disappears, because it is at the very basis of who we are as humans. And it is most beautifully expressed in our various spiritual traditions.

Over the past 30 years, there's been a lot of dialogue among the religions, of course, but most of these dialogues have focused on talking and have remained somewhat superficial. We have an incredibly unique opportunity here in Crestone, with its beautiful and intense spiritual energy, where we can explore each other's spiritual traditions in a much more open way than is often the case elsewhere. We can engage each other at a depth of experience that is just not very common. Let us learn from



Bridge in the woods outside Dharma Ocean's Blazing Mountain Retreat Center.

photo by Anke Perkert

each other how our traditions see the goodness of the human person. I would like to know how you access the wisdom, the openness, the infinite depth, and the love that we all have underneath the apparent surface of who we are. I want to learn from you, so that my experience of my own life and even of my own tradition may be more profound and true. And I want to share what I've seen and experienced with you.

All of the different religions have something to contribute, and we need each other, like children in a family who've gone their separate ways and taken this or that part of their upbringing, but only part of the whole picture. Perhaps in this day and age, it is only by joining in true, intimate community with people of other faiths and other ways of practice that we can regain our original wholeness, because none of our traditions are whole

or complete in and of themselves. Our traditions are all profound and wonderful, but they are all no more than partial.

So what I would like to offer on behalf of Dharma Ocean is a place to meet once a week and practice together, from now into the indefinite future. For now we're meeting Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm at the Blazing Mountain Retreat Center, the Dharma Ocean space, and for now I'll be offering some teachings, but over time I want to invite the other wonderful teachers in this valley to come and teach. I want to come and learn from the different native, Zen, Theravadin, Tibetan, Sufi, Hindu, Carmelite teachers and others—all the people here.

That's my idea. Over time, we'll see what happens—we don't really know yet. But we do know this hasn't really been done before.

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For current information about location & teachers go to:
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Dharma Ocean



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 Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche and the practice lineage he embodied.

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Find peace & joy by living the simple life



Joyce Meyer

Do you ever feel like life is too complicated? Or have you ever found yourself saying things like, "I just can't take this. It's all too much!"

In the world we live in today, it's easy to get to this point. And I've discovered that many times, we feel this way because we're not free to be who God created us to be and do what He's calling us to do.

Many people feel so pressured by the expectations of others that it causes them to be frustrated, miserable and confused about what they should do. But there is a way to live a simple, joy-filled, peaceful life, and the key is learning how to be led by the Holy Spirit, not the traditions or expectations of man.

The trappings of tradition

Traditions are a common part of our lives. They can be good, and not all traditions are wrong, but sometimes they can take the joy out of life.

Traditions can be defined as manmade rituals or ceremonies or a way of doing a certain thing; they are done repeatedly over a long period of time and are handed down from generation to generation. The problem occurs when we feel obligated to do them to be right with God or other people.

In Matthew 15:6 (AMP), Jesus said to the Pharisees, "For the sake of your traditions (the rules handed

down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God." Now, I think it's interesting to note here that while God gave Moses the 10 Commandments, by this time, religious people had taken those 10 and turned them into 2,000 rules and regulations. No wonder we need to hear about grace!

What we need to understand is that when traditions become laws, rules, obligations and expectations others put on us that we don't want to fulfill, then they lose real meaning and steal the joy from our lives. And if we're too religious, we won't be able to be led by the Holy Spirit and enjoy an intimate relationship with Him.

Learning to be free from legalism

God's plan is for us to be free to be led by the Holy Spirit—in every part of our lives. Because if we're not led by the Holy Spirit, we'll get sucked up into what I call the "system" of doing what we think we are supposed to do based on people's expectations and requirements. In the process, we won't do what God has put in our hearts to do.

I remember a time when God spoke to my heart and told me not to do anything for Him out of obligation. See, whatever we do during our daily time with God, it needs to mean something to us; otherwise we are being legalistic, and there is no life in religious traditions that we do based on obligation or what others expect.

Be led & follow your heart

It's so important for us to learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit and follow the desires God puts in our heart. Second Corinthi-

ans 3:6 (AMP) says, "The code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive." In other words, the letter of the law (or legalism) ministers death to us, but the Spirit makes us alive!

When I follow my heart, I'm not praying or reading the Bible to keep God happy with me—I'm doing it because I love spending time with Him and it has meaning for me. Sometimes I just sit still and enjoy God's presence. Other times I will intercede for someone or read a particular book that's on my heart. Once while I was exercising, I listened to a good message and spent time praying. My time with God is meaningful when my heart is in it. And I want to do whatever will lead me into the presence of God.

In the world, life is complicated. But I want to encourage you to seek the Lord with all of your heart, and do what He's calling you to do. Enjoy your relationship with Him and discover more about who you are in Christ. You will have peace and joy as you are simply led by the Holy Spirit.

For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Moffat School deterioration

continued from page 1

of the building. Current code requires that schools use 1/3 fresh air when heating a building in order to keep a high concentration of fresh air and to avoid recirculating germs. The current heating system does not meet this requirement.

Plumbing: Though the building was remodeled in 1993-1997, most of the plumbing was carried over from the 1950s and 1980s systems. These systems have been affected by the same sulfate attack as the foundation mentioned earlier. Many of the internal pipes have been found to have eroded or are breaking due to exceeding their life cycle. During the 2011-2012 school year, the school lost four days of instruction due to old pipes breaking.

Security: With the tragedy in New Town, CT, schools across the country have reviewed their safety procedures, Moffat is no different. In the review of the facility, many deficiencies were discovered that were created due to design flaws of the building. An example of this is the ability to control the entrances and exits of the building.

They are compromised due to the fact the building was designed in 4 different phases.

At the January special Board of Education meeting, Wold and district administration were instructed to submit a grant application for the March 2013 cycle of Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program. The district has submitted the grant to CDE and will present the application to the BEST board in May 28-30 of 2013. Funding determination will then be released in June-July of 2013. A key part of the grant is that the district will be asked to match a portion of the grant with local funds. If the district is awarded the grant, the BOE will then ask the members of the community to fund a matching portion of the total cost through a mil levy.

With the district receiving the "Accredited with Distinction" award for being in the top 10% of districts in the state and the Moffat Middle School receiving the "Governor's Distinguished Improvement" award, it is the BOE's and the Facilities Master Planning Committee's hope that students of today and of tomorrow will have a facility that can continue to provide them an educational space to thrive.



Sulfate crystals growing and disintegrating the foundation of the 1921 building.



Foundation deterioration ranges from 25% to 33% in the 1921 building.



Example of wall erosion behind remodeled drywall in the 1921 building.

SolarReserve

continued from page 1

a receiver atop the tower and store the energy in molten potassium and sodium nitrate salts. The salts could hold enough heat to run a generator for up to 12 hours after the sun goes down, making the storage feature important to farms and homes that require power after dark.

The proposed project would displace 39 irrigation circles and save 8800 acre-feet of well-water, 6300 of which is "consumptive". This could make a significant dent in the number of irrigation circles that are mandated to be taken out of production in the valley to help preserve groundwater. Commissioner Ken Anderson estimates this project alone would meet one-quarter of the acreage requirement. Only 150 acre-feet of water are projected to be used by the project, and SR has made arrangements to purchase surface water and convey it to the project, where it will be stored underground for use as needed.

A positive for Saguache County would be jobs. A similar project by SR is currently being constructed near Tonopah, Nevada. Currently there are 460 workers on the project with a projected 600 to 700 at peak. Green states that there will be 50 long-term jobs created in Saguache County, with skill levels ranging from top managers to mirror washers. SR has pledged \$200,000 to provide training to local workers to improve their skills. In the 1041 Permit with Saguache County, SR committed to hiring 40% of the 50 long-term jobs from Saguache County, as well as making commercially reasonable efforts to hire San Luis Valley residents during the construction phase. Mike Gibson of the Rio Grande Conservation Roundtable expressed a concern that SR might not find an adequate number of workers who could pass a drug and alcohol test, to which Adam Green responded that passing such a test could be a requirement.

As agricultural land, the site now brings in \$30,000 in taxes to the county. As industrial property, it would bring in \$425,000 annually to county coffers.

Questions remain, however, about the projects' impacts to birds. The application does not specifically address birds that fly into the field of mirrors, nor provide specific mitigations for such. Green says, "What we did is commit to work with the relevant agencies to produce such a plan in advance of construction, which is the same step we've taken on federal land in Nevada and on private land in California." In many respects, this is unknown territory, since there have been no projects of this size built in areas known to be significant flyways, such as the San Luis Valley. Attendees also expressed concern with the chemical-laden evaporation ponds as attractants to birds, especially as many traditional wetlands have dried up in the drought.

Construction at the Tonopah facility is being directed by ACS Cobra, a Spanish firm that built multiple facilities in Spain, including over 50 megawatts of power towers and hundreds of megawatts of other solar projects. ACS Cobra is providing both expertise as a contractor and investors for the project. While the cost of construction makes the cost of the power seem prohibitive at the moment, Green said that once the project is constructed the power plant can be run at a very low cost for the next 30 years, the expected life of the facility, because the fuel source is free. This "insures against volatility" of power prices over that 30-year period. At the end of the 30 years, the facility could be renovated and continue working, if it is desirable.

Asked if a new power line was necessary to carry power to market, Green said there is adequate transmission capacity for the first 100 MW project. If a second tower and array is to be built, it would need new transmission lines, which would take at least 10 years to complete.

Green is asking local elected officials and representatives to send letters to the governor and PUC in support of the project. He is stressing that the project provides energy security, jobs for valley residents, greater protection for the environment than coal- or gas-fired plants, and insulation from rises in fuel prices. SolarReserve can provide energy storage, a reduction in risk since it has already been permitted, and significant water conservation. No new transmission lines are needed at the moment, as transmission is available next to the site.

Letters can be sent to Governor John Hickenlooper at 136 State Capital, Denver, CO. 80203-1792. Adam Green can be contacted at adam.green@solar-reserve.com.



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Company of Players interviews Dean Lloyd

This interview with Dean Lloyd (DL) is one of a series of interviews with members of the Company of Players. Dean premiered with the Company in Storyville III's production at Shumei last year. Ammi Kohn (AK) is the interviewer. Dean is a Doctor of Oriental Medicine.

AK What was the formative influence in your life that led to your interest in storytelling?

DL When I was mute because of a very serious hockey accident [Ammi's Note: this incident was the basis of Dean's vignette in The Company of Player's Storyville III production], I related to the world by telling stories in my head. I created an inner life of what I wanted to speak or experience if my speech returned. I would also talk to animals psychically.

AK You've had storytelling experience in different settings, correct?

DL I've told stories as living history, starting as a 16th century friar speaking to children. I told stories recently at the Crestone Charter School, dressing up in costumes and telling stories of the old west mostly. I have told stories of different historical periods and cultures. In California about 30 years ago, I worked in the court system where I interviewed convicted felons who told their story of past drug experiences as part of the rehabilitation process ordered by the court.

AK What was different about

telling a story with the Company of Players?

DL More freedom and space to move and be animated. I enjoy physical movement and expression. Being directed was difficult for me at first. I had always had complete freedom alone.

AK And working with other people as a member of the Company of Players?

DL That definitely was different. I had always worked by myself. I enjoyed and learned a lot by seeing how other members of the company developed their stories. I picked up on different styles and mannerisms than my own.

AK Do you have other stories like your hockey accident and its effect on your life?

DL I have lots of stories from my experiences as a process server and working for a private investigator. I have doctor stories about how people treat and mistreat themselves and touching stories about how they overcome difficulties. Also, stories about doctors talking about their patients and how they perceive themselves.

AK Any final comments?

DL The story of our highs and lows seem to be best handed down by the word of mouth; the personal touch. I aim to improve others' quality of life (and myself) by sharing my stories. FYI: My new radio show (as of July, 2012) can be heard live and is archived for free by going to www.acutone.com.



Dean Lloyd.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ The Con Artist: A fun movie with adventure, creativity and a dash of romance.

An ex-con trying to go straight (Rossif Sutherland) is forced back into stealing cars by his former boss (Donald Sutherland). He vents via welding sculptures from discarded auto parts . . . enter a seductive art dealer (Rebecca Romijn) who discovers his talents and the rest has an edge of "art", conmanship, adventure and fun.

2/ Prometheus: Here's a sci-fi film that starts out with great hope and of course turns quite "noir" from there. They unearth an artifact that gives indications of the origins of humankind but may well turn into a threat to the species altogether. Stars Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender and Carlize Theron.

3/ Immortals: Based on, perhaps a version of, Greek mythology,

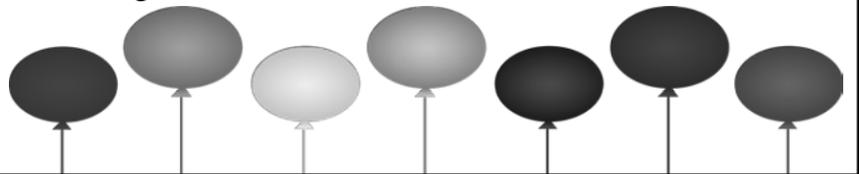
King Hyperion searches for a mythical weapon that can free the blood-thirsty Titans to overpower the gods and enslave humanity. The gods are unable to interfere directly so they choose Theseus, a mortal to defend them. Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Stephen Dorff and John Hurt.

4/ Larry Crowne: Fun, sweet romantic comedy . . . after he's laid off from his long-time job from a big box retail giant he goes through changes about his life and decides to go back to college where he finds a new perspective and a new romance. Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Cedric the Entertainer and Pam Grier.

5/ The Young Americans: There's an unusual crime mob in London made up of young criminals dealing drugs in the streets and led by an American, so Scotland Yard decides to recruit a DEA agent with a strong reputation to take them on . . . and he does. Harvey Keitel, Viggo Mortensen and others.

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Moffat School news



The students are now engaged in creating a village, referred to as "Cahokia" by local native tribes. photo by Dale Smith

Mr. Smith's explorers

by Dale Smith

This month Moffat 2nd/3rd graders have been exploring North America's distant past. The students have been discovering the earliest Americans, including the Inuit of the northernmost parts of North America (Canada, which they still call home), The Anasazi of the southwest, and most recently the Mound Builder culture of North America's midwest region, from nearly a thousand years ago.

The students are now engaged in creating a village, referred to as "Cahokia" by local native tribes. People in the 1800's discovered the mounds that represented this village. Archeologists found evidence that Cahokia was a bustling village, of over 20,000 people. The 2nd/3rd graders of Moffat School are finding out about the many characteristics of the Mound Builder society and how these people of long, long ago organized their villages for efficiency. They've found that within the Mound Builders society, the members each played a role from the youngest to the oldest. By bartering, creating, and collaborating their communities thrived.



Moffat human pyramid: bottom row(l-r) Megan Black, Marquis Baker, Brandon Garcia, Shaulin Rinaldis; next row (l-r) Rebecca Drake, Sierra Swartz, Nick Marlette; next row (l-r) Stohry Rinaldis, Renee Freeli; top-Marlon Jacobi. photo by Kaley VanArsdale



Pictured here are the First Annual Chili Cook Off sponsors, Joel and Amber Johnson. photo by Michelle Hashbarger

100th day of school celebration

by Sarah Fox

Kindergarten and first grade celebrated the 100th day of school. We had many activities that celebrated the number 100. We read 100 books as a class, we built a tower with 100 cups, we found out how many frames we could fill with 100 googly eyes, and students shared projects they did with the number 100. One student collected 100 pine needles; another built a house with 100 craft sticks and one made a necklace with 100 beans! Overall, we had a wonderful time celebrating 100 days of learning!



Moffat students work out some physics by trying to create a whirlpool together in the pool. photo by Lyndal Smith

District Science Fair winners

by Ginger Stringer

On February 28, 2013 Moffat Consolidated School District hosted the 2013 District Science Fair. Over 30 middle school students and 6 high school students presented projects for the judges to consider. Middle school winners Felix Roberts and Maori Baca (Moffat Middle School) represented the district at the SLV Regional Science Fair March 7 & 8, 2013.

Winners of the District Science Fair

High School

1. Marquis Baker and Elaine Wellman (Moffat High School), Best Angle to Pull a Tablecloth from Under a Place Setting

2. Ellyon Williamson (Moffat High School), Horse Creme Genetics Middle School

1. Felix Roberts and Maori

Baca (Moffat Middle School), Potato vs. Lemon

2. Rio Kane and Alexis Brewer (Crestone Charter School), Art of Pain

3. Avery Chambers (Creston Charter School), Biogas Scrubbing tied with Taleb Nelson and Desity Rude (Crestone Charter School), Vibration Sensation

Honorable mentions

Alyssa Chavez and Holly Fuller (Moffat Middle School), Keep your cash, smash your trash

Max Ewy (Moffat Middle School), Which leavening works best in biscuits

Ella Jepson (Crestone Charter School), Mirror, Mirror

Sophia Baker and Elizabeth Derkum (Crestone Charter School), GMO and Rats

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Crestone Charter School students earn science honors

CCS middle school students earned honors at the District Science Fair, including:

Second Place to Alexis Brewer and Rio Kane for "The Art of Pain" which examined pain tolerance and the use of music and video games. Students learned that the more interactive the "sedative" the more pain tolerance it provided to subjects who kept their feet in a tub of ice water. Third Place was a tie between Taleb

Nelson and Destiny Brewer for "Vibration Monster" and Avery Chambers for his project "Anaerobic Bio-Gas". Honorable mentions were earned by Sophie Dillo and Lizzy Dercum for "GMO Testing Preferences of Rats" and Ella Jepsen for "Mirror Mirror." At the heart of these students' success is their teacher, Chris Sartain, who is completing his first year as Crestone Charter School's Science and Math middle school instructor.



Teacher Chris Sartain with students Rio Kane and Alexis Brewer at this year's Moffat District Science Fair.

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New director named for Crestone Charter School



Michael Hayes, the new Director at the Crestone Charter School.

After an intensive interview process involving nearly thirty stakeholders including parents, staff and district employees, the Crestone Charter School Governing Council has chosen its next leader, Mr. Michael Hayes. Michael has lived his passion for alternative education through a variety of public and private educational programs including Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbon-

dale, where he designed and taught Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Statistics and led intensive week-long courses in sea kayaking, marine ecology, biodiesel and blacksmithing. He served as the environmental education instructor at the Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island, and is currently teaching at the Horizons Exploratory Academy in Salida.

Mr. Hayes has accumulated fifteen years of experience in public and private school settings and says this about his experience, "Currently, I work alongside one other teacher serving a student body of twenty-five students who have had difficulty in traditional academic settings. As an educator, I value developing strong relationships and collaboration throughout the school community. I believe that intentional experiential curriculum can lead students to realize their potential and become thoughtful and engaged human beings."

Mr. Hayes begins official service July 1 as the Director of the Crestone Charter School. The Governing Council would like to thank the following community members who were invited and/or participated in the pre-screening and to those who participated in the interview process, including Steve Storm, Angela Anderson, Vesper Gers, Josefina Gordh, Michelle Beelendorf, Karen Potter, Marie-Louise Baker, Gayatri Devi, Merry Marion, John Michael Wickett, Grace Anderson, Maria LiPuma, Chris Sartain, Daya Scheide, Karen Acker, Mark Mikow, Scott Teider, Lyndsay Duebber, Alison Ramadei, Laura Karnes, Deb Morley, Carolina Sartain, Kirk Banghart and Sage Godfrey.

CCS middle school presents Romeo and Juliet



Liam Off gives Destiny Rude a whirl at the revels in Romeo and Juliet.

After reading the great work, Daya Schiede took his eighth grade Language Arts students to Denver this winter to see a live production of *Romeo and Juliet*. The action leapt from the page and into the imaginations of these inspired students and they decided to take on their own class production of *R & J*. With direction from their teacher, beautiful choreography by para-professional Caroline Root, and simple but hardy stage-combat scenes, the middle school students will offer their production to the public on Friday April 12 at 6pm in the Rainbow Hall at CCS. The students' teachers, Daya Scheide and Chris Sartain, will also take on roles as the Lords Capulet and Montague. This precious production is not to be missed. Proceeds will benefit the middle school expeditionary travel program. For more information contact CCS at 256-4907.

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The Washington Beat

Obama in Israel: Not an opera

by David Nicholas

It's been another busy month, and this article ends as President Obama goes to Israel. It's not Nixon in China, which became an opera of the same name years after President Nixon's foreign policy triumph, opening up US/China relations in 1972. But Mr. Obama fronting Binyamin Netanyahu in his home turf is about timing. After a particularly punishing election, where Mr. Netanyahu's power was quite diminished and where, by contrast, the President won re-election with a solid majority, this visit could be a test of wills.

The personal dislike of the Prime Minister among poor and middle-class Israelis has had him negotiating right up to the day before the President's visit to form a coalition with people who think they could do a better job of governing Israel than he could. In my opinion, they could do no worse and probably much better. For more on this, read below under War with Iran. The real news follows.

Sequester in place

At 10pm on February 27, President Obama signed the order to implement the across-the-board budgets cuts that were to begin at midnight. The sequester cuts come because of the Budget Control Act of 2011, a deal hashed out between the House of Representatives and

the White House in order to get the debt ceiling increase approved in that year.

The agreement was cited as a deal that would never come to pass, but it did.

What will happen is that the first of \$1.2 trillion in cuts will take place over 10 years. This year's allocation is \$85.4bn. Most mandatory programs, like Medicaid and Social Security, and in particular low-income programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF, or welfare) and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps) were exempt from the sequester. However some low-income programs, most notably aid for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), are subject to cuts.

How the sequester cuts play out this year are as follows:

- \$42.7 billion in defense cuts (a 7.9% cut).
- \$28.7 billion in domestic discretionary cuts (a 5.3% cut).
- \$9.9 billion in Medicare cuts (a 2% cut).
- \$4 billion in other manda-



tory cuts (a 5.8% cut to nondefense programs, and a 7.8% cut to mandatory defense programs).

More will be cut in 2014 and later; from 2014 to 2021, the sequester will cut \$87 to \$92 billion from the discretionary budget every year, and \$109 billion total.

The finger pointing has been going on by both sides as to who would be blamed for the cuts when the pain is finally felt, probably beginning in mid April. Both sides were dug in on their positions. President Obama, while agreeing to cuts in some entitlements, also wanted permanent revenue increases by closing tax loopholes to the wealthy 1%, so they would actually pay their fair share of taxes.

House Republicans led by the House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), a mere puppet for the real GOP power broker Eric Cantor (R-VA), insisted on cuts to entitlement programs only, no revenue increases. They all thought the President would cave and that if he didn't that he would get the blame. The President spent of lot of time in late February using his bully pulpit to dump on the Republicans for holding the nation for ransom.

Of the two sides, the most nervous are the Republicans, and if you go to the first bullet above, you see \$42.7bn in defense cuts. It just so happens most defense spending occurs in Republican-held seats around the country and it will be clear that when the cuts start kicking in, phones will be ringing off the hook in GOP House members' local offices.

So that's clear, right. Read on.

Congress waves white flag, mostly

At the time of writing, the Senate 73-26 approved legislation that would fund the government through the end of September and avoid a partial federal shutdown, as well as

soften the blow of sweeping spending cuts. With bipartisan consent, it puts off the tricky bit, which was part of the deal approving the extension of the debt ceiling last December. Then, the proviso was that Congress had to draw up a budget by April 15, or be denied salary payments until they did. Both House GOP and Senate Democrats agreed that is what should happen. Marvelous thing bipartisan when it needs to be.

What the vote doesn't change is that the debt ceiling negotiation is back on the docket to be hashed out and approved by May 17, and it remains to be seen whether GOP House members will dig in and be obstructive on this issue once again. My opinion is that they are not looking for a rancorous fight over this, which has happened previously, as President Obama has nothing to lose, whatever they do. He will just keep on being reasonable. In politics, reasonableness is a politician's nightmare, if you are the one not being seen as such. So, by May 1 we will have a better sense of how this will play out.

Cabinet appointments

Despite the ruckus in February, Chuck Hagel's appointment as Secretary of Defense passed a vote on the floor of the Senate 58-40 on Feb. 26. The confirmation was a along party lines. Confirmation only came after a filibuster by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-TN), when Democrats tried to close debate on Hagel's nomination and failed 58-40 with one present and one not voting. This filibuster marks the first time a cabinet nominee was successfully filibustered.

Just for added spite CIA Director John Brennan's nomination was also confirmed after another filibuster, this one by Kentucky Senator Rand Paul who filibustered for 12 hours until the US Attorney General Holder has reassured him that citizens in the United States could

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not be taken out by a drone attack. There is more on that below. The other issue, which received minimal attention, was Brennan's oversight of CIA rendition/torture of captured terrorists, when the policy was at its height circa 2006. Director Brennan was confirmed in the Senate March 8, the vote 63-34.

The other major Cabinet appointment was Jacob "Jack" Lew as Treasury Secretary. Mr. Lew was President Obama's Chief of Staff prior to his appointment as Treasury Secretary. Mr. Lew was President Bill Clinton's Director at the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Lew is considered someone who can liaise with Congress with a degree of ease. Of course, that remains to be seen. He has a full plate with the upcoming budget and debt ceiling negotiations. He was confirmed by the Senate 71-26.

In summary, his confirmation was particularly hostile with votes mostly along party lines. It sends the signal that Republicans hate the President with as much loathing as they did in his first term. So nothing in terms of money and budget, foreign affairs and defense happens without the GOP looking for and finding fault.

Drone attacks

It's a delicate question: assassinating identified citizens hostile to US foreign policy, siding with known terrorist organizations and living outside the US. Take for example the case of Anwar al-Aulaqi who was assassinated in Yemen Sept. 30, 2011 by a drone strike, followed by the assassination of his 16-year-old son, Abdulrahman al-Aulaqi two weeks later. Mr. al-Aulaqi was born in Las Cruces, NM and his son was born in Denver.

Killing US citizens for political reasons is both a touchy and a serious issue. It has to do with rights of free speech, the rights of each citizen to receive the protection of the US government both within and outside our borders.

In Mr. al-Aulaqi's case he was known to have extensive email contact with Nidal Malik Hassan, the Ft. Hood shooter in Texas, and guided the so-called "Underpants" bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. Both acts were carried out on US soil. Major Hassan was successful in killing soldiers on post; while Mr. Abdulmutallab was stopped in his attempt to blow up a plane over Detroit.

Drone attacks are still a hot button issue and will be for some

time, as it is President Obama's preferred way of eliminating America's enemies, particularly in remote regions of Pakistan. This will be subject to further hearings throughout this year.

Assault weapon ban dropped

In the swirl around the gun control debate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said on Tuesday, March 19 that he could not get the mandated 60 votes required for the Senate bill to beat a filibuster if the assault weapon ban was left in.

The ban's sponsor, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), was the first woman President of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1977 when she found the body of Mayor George Moscone in his office shot by disgruntled Supervisor Dan White, just after he shot SF's first gay supervisor, Harvey Milk. So the assault weapons ban has been a personal issue for her.

Mr. Reid said that support for this part of a comprehensive bill had less than 40 Senate votes, using the most optimistic numbers. He said members would still be able to vote for the assault weapons ban as an amendment. However, as it wouldn't get the 60 votes, the amendment would fail to pass. A vote for the amendment puts supporters on the record, which is useful to show voters in their state where they stand on the issue.

Senator Reid said, "I have to get something on the floor so we can have votes on that issue and the other issues."

What Senator Reid is optimistic about are mandatory background checks and registering firearms at time of purchase. We will see. The majority leader hopes to hold votes in gun control when the Senate returns from the Easter break.

CPAC

The conservative right wing of the Republican Party showed up at the Conservative Political Action Conference held in DC March 14-16. These were all the GOP losers in presidential races for the last five years, as well as 2016 presidential hopefuls. From what I saw (and I saw a lot), they still don't get it. They still vent hatred at President Obama for all the usual reasons but mainly that a black man whopped their backsides twice.

Failed vice presidential candidate and recently fired-from-Fox-commentator, Sarah Palin, mixed anti gun-control remarks with at-

tacking the President personally, calling him a liar and insinuating that he had not verification of his background. Obviously hoping someone would hire her on for her conservative political savvy, Mrs. Palin had a big gulp moment, slurping on a 64oz soda long enough to make it the highlight of this meeting where conservatives love to hear themselves talk. As Mrs. Palin had more time than the other speaker to put forward the homilies, this "Hockey mom from Wasilla" was probably the keynote speaker.

Failed presidential candidate Mitt Romney turned up and said conservatives could learn from his mistakes but never really said what they were. Did "47%" ring a bell? Who knows?

The main point after hearing all the speakers, including the biggest gaff-maker of 2012 Karl Rove, was that none could agree why they lost, and so it indicates that 2014 mid-terms promise to be as incoherent as CPAC reflected. They did Democrats a great service. CPAC was a shambles and embarrassing, and the indication is that there will be more of it.

Lastly and with hindsight, CPAC organizers probably committed a hostage to fortune when they scheduled a session called "Trump the Race Card: Are You Sick and Tired of Being Called a Racist and You Know You're Not One".

The session was derailed by two white supremacists, who, in essence, said the GOP had sold out whites on the issue of race and issued a startling defense of slavery.

War with Iran

President Obama arrived in Israel and was greeted by the full court in Israeli politics. Israeli president Shimon Peres was on hand, as was Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu who was all sweetness and light. Sort of like a puppy anxious to please.

President Obama arrived at noon Tel Aviv time and headed straight into long business sessions with Mr. Netanyahu & President Peres. At the end during the joint statements and press conference. It was

all joy and joshing, with everybody being great friends for public show. Rule of thumb, the more public expressions of joy and joshing the more intense the private discussions.

However, at the press conference, President Obama stressed Israel as the US's closest ally and upheld the right of Israel to defend itself, but backed off intervention in Syria when pressed on it by an Israeli journalist.

The President stressed he would apply further pressure on Iran through diplomacy and sanctions for the next year. While he didn't give Mr. Netanyahu the go-ahead to act alone to attack the Islamic Republic, which the US Senate did in mid-March, he laid out that he is committed to prevent, not just contain, Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Mr. Netanyahu didn't like the answer, but he has no choice.

On the Two State Solution, President Obama gave the usual lip service and left it to the Israeli prime minister to articulate his policy. Mr. Netanyahu sounded like he was trying to please his new coalition partner, Year Lipid, who supports a two-state solution, rather than articulate a clear continuation of the Mideast Peace process. This was stuff which sticks in Mr. Netanyahu's craw, as he supports a Greater Israel—bigger than just Israel's 1948 borders—and would continue to ignore the Palestinians except his political survival now depends on being nice to them.

The point I caught, which should give Palestinians cause to resume hostilities, was the "Let us put aside all preconditions." This means forget previous discussions on borders for the Palestinian state, which insists Israel withdraw to its 1948 borders, and reparations to Palestinians who lost their land with formation of Israel in 1948.

As President Osama is not set on personally following through with the two-state solution, leaving it up to Secretary of State John Kerry who for some strange reason has a passion about it, I expect no progress at all. But that's this month. We shall see.

And the Beat goes on.

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Civil unions signed into law in Colorado

A historic step towards marriage equality

By Lisa Cyriacks

Colorado lawmakers took a historic vote to approve civil unions for gay couples. Governor Hickenlooper signed the law on March 21. Senate Bill 11 gives same-sex couples many but not all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage. It goes into effect May 1.

The signing of the bill capped a three-year fight. Senator Pat Steadman of Denver and another gay Democrat Representative, Mark Ferrandino, had sponsored gay civil unions bills for three years, but the bills failed in the previous two sessions when Republicans controlled the state house. Last year's bill died a dramatic death when Republicans used their one-vote majority in the House to prevent the measure from

being debated in the waning hours of the session, thus killing the bill.

Despite the heavy applause at the History Colorado Center on March 21, not everyone was pleased with the outcome. The measure came under heavy criticism from religiously-affiliated adoption agencies after its sponsors dropped exemptions to religious institutions wishing to withhold adoptions based on sexual orientation.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Denver expressed "disappointment" at the bill's passage, saying that if signed into law, civil unions "may threaten the policies which guide us in the vital work to find families for Colorado's children in need."

Republicans have also claimed

that the measure could face legal challenges. State Representative Lori Saine, a Republican from Dacota, was quoted by *The Denver Post* as saying the bill will get a second debate in a court of law. "We won't get to debate this again here, but we will debate this in a court of law," Saine said, a reference to the state's constitutional amendment defining marriage as a heterosexual union.

Colorado joins Hawaii, New Jersey, Illinois, Rhode Island and Delaware in legalizing civil unions.

In 2006, Colorado voters approved a gay-marriage ban—meaning civil unions are the only option for gay couples in the state for now. That could change with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage bans in the coming months.

The act will become effective May 1, 2013, with certain provisions specific to health and life insurance policies not effective until January 1, 2014. The act provides that civil unions between same-sex or opposite-sex couples provide the same rights, protections and benefits of marriage, but acknowledges that the union is not a marriage. Colorado's constitution limits marriage to a union of one man and one woman.

Colorado's measure grants gay couples rights similar to marriage, including enhanced inheritance and parental rights. People in civil unions also would have the ability to make medical decisions for their partners.

The act is clear that, until other action is taken by the legislature, Colorado will continue to follow the federal tax rules. In other words, same-sex civil union partners cannot file joint tax returns.

Sen. Udall introduces grassroots bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park

Proposal would protect nine historic, cultural sites in San Luis Valley, southern Colorado

Mark Udall, who chairs the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee, introduced legislation on March 7 to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park to preserve historically significant cultural resources and to foster heritage tourism and job creation in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range-San Luis Valley region of southern Colorado. Udall's bill is based on a lengthy comment period he led starting in July 2012 and underscores his commitment to a bottom-up approach on public-lands legislation.

"Southern Colorado and the San Luis Valley are home to some of the most important Latino and

Hispano heritage sites in the region. That's why I am proud to stand with the residents of the San Luis Valley and southern Colorado and introduce legislation to protect and preserve these sites and boost the local economy," Udall said. "This proposal, developed during a months-long public comment period, ensures that future generations of Coloradans will be better able to understand our roots and what makes Colorado special."

Udall recently toured Fort Garland, one of the proposal's historic park sites, and hosted a public comment session in the San Luis Valley.

"The proposed Sangre de

Cristo National Historical Park is an important component of the National Park Service strategy to more actively celebrate the culture of Colorado and the nation," Ed Nichols, President of History Colorado, said. "The proposed bill provides a framework to honor and preserve this often unrecognized aspect of our country's heritage while bringing much needed economic development to the San Luis Valley."

Udall has been a vocal advocate for the role Colorado's public lands and open spaces play in creating jobs and supporting the state's outdoor recreation industry. He also recently introduced the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act to permanently protect more than 61,000 acres of pristine public lands in San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties.

Udall's legislation to create the Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park would protect a series of historically and culturally significant sites, including: The Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, Costilla County; The Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos building, Conejos County; The Fort Garland Museum, Costilla County; The Denver & Rio Grande Antonito Depot, Conejos County; The Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway; Dario Gallegos House, San Luis, Costilla County; Trujillo Homesteads, Alamosa County; Pike's Stockade, Conejos County; and Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Coloradans can continue to submit questions and comments on Udall's legislation by going to markudall.senate.gov/sangredecristo.

Showing up.

When you volunteer for public service, the only motive you can realistically claim is your love and caring for others. When you are a member of the public and you show up to support the volunteers, you have demonstrated a similar love and caring. I am deeply gratified to see that our community spoke loudly recently to affirm that our right and genuine spirit is still here. In a few ways, shadows linger, but the light is coming.



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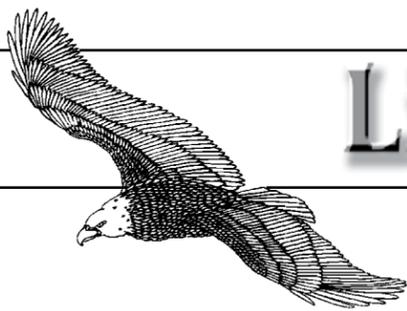
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Living on the Earth

Building raised garden beds— Heyokah Homestead style

by Leigh Mills

I learned the value of raised beds when I first started high-desert gardening in the Arkansas Valley over 20 years ago. My next garden in the Baca Grande subdivision near Crestone had beautiful, sandy ground that was easily worked and I made short raised beds there to



Here's the old garden bed hole, prepped and ready for the new wooden frames.

keep the amended soil in place. The Crestone Conglomerate rocks made wonderful borders and looked great in the garden. After moving across the Valley and into a volcanic caldera, my husband and I built our current garden on a south-facing hill in pinon and juniper country. What a big difference! The soil is volcanic clay and filled with rocks. I've had to build our garden bed by bed, and bring in amendments like sand and



In our garden, having a screen is very important to be able to remove the rocks and other chunky stuff from our hard-packed soil. This screen is hand-built and fits right over the wheelbarrow. I use a second wheelbarrow for the rocks.

compost to create a balanced growing medium. This article describes what I've done to make our raised garden beds and gives you an idea of what you can do in your garden.

There are several reasons why raised beds are good for growing plants. Better drainage, a height that reduces the amount of bending and kneeling, esthetic appeal, and "workability" name a few. The Saguache Community Garden at the Mountain Valley School also uses raised beds and it helps keep the students from walking on the growing areas. Different materials like cinder blocks and old tires can be used to build raised beds. We started with slab wood here at the Heyokah, but switched to 2"x 8" rough-cut wood from our local mill, (Mountain Valley Lumber), after seeing how durable and pleasing it was at the school.

Since our ground is so hard to work, I have to use a pick to break up the soil. My husband built a screen which fits over a wheelbarrow and I screen the dirt to remove the rocks and other organic material I don't want in the beds. I make separate piles of the soil and rock to use later. As mentioned before, our garden sits on a hill and our beds need to be dug into the earth so they are level. Some of our beds are dug in over a foot deep on the up-hill side and are flush to the earth on the down-hill end. It translates into a lot of picking, digging and screening. Each bed can take almost a day to dig out and hours to build back, depending on the bed's size. In addition to digging out the basic bed area, I also pick, dig down and screen at least another foot of soil to ensure the ground is broken up enough to provide adequate drainage for the beets, carrots, garlic, onions or other crops with long roots like broccoli and asparagus.

We have a variety of garden bed sizes, 5'x 8' big rectangles, 4ft x 4ft squares, 3ft x 5ft "skinny" beds and a couple of other sizes in-between. Some of the squares are layered with



This picture shows the new bed (right) and the old, crumbling bed and how they sit in our hilly garden. It's a good "before and after" look. The gussets and the layer of organic material that I added are visible in the new bed. I will fill the new garden bed with dirt from the adjacent bed and water generously as it fills.

another small bed on top and are great for the strawberries. We use two layers of frames so most of the beds are at least 16 inches high on the exposed ends. The board's 2" top width makes a good platform for resting feet or tired bums.

After digging out the new bed area, the frames are placed and attached together with small wooden gussets that are screwed together in each corner and middle of the bed. This keeps the beds from separating over the years or shifting when using a wheelbarrow or shovel to fill or turn the dirt.

Once the frames are in place, then it's time to fill the beds. First I'll put in some of the original screened dirt, a few inches or so and rake it over the bottom of the bed. I then hose it with water to get it real wet. I want the beds to be moist from the bottom up so the plant roots have nourishment from the top down. Next, I'll fill a wheelbarrow or two with organic



The first bed is filled and ready for the final layer of compost and water. The one next to it is ready to take apart and be rebuilt. The process repeats itself from here.

material provided by our rabbits and goats, (straw, hay and lots of their poop). I'll spread that on top of the first layer and water that, too. Then I take a hoe and mix those two layers up a bit and water it again. The next layer is more dirt, usually something not so dense and clayey. I brought over van-loads of sandy dirt from the Baca Grants, (Thank you!), and mix that in with other dirt I've dug up somewhere and transported to our homestead. I did mention that building our Heyokah beds was a huge chore, right? I'll continue layering dirt, compost and wetting those down until the bed is full. I've learned to leave a little bit of headspace and not fill the beds all the way to the top. This provides new seedlings with protection from the winds.

As eager as I am to plant, I like to get the beds filled and let them set for a while. This allows the new dirt and compost mixtures to cure and set-



The two layers of frames are in place and secured with gussets, one in each corner and in the middle of each side. The bottom layer of dirt is being spread out and will be soaked with water.

tle a bit. Building new beds in the fall is preferable; however, I'm usually too busy doing other garden chores and end up getting any new beds in by early spring. I like to wait at least two weeks to a month before I plant any seeds in the newly mixed soil.

Some schools of thought will recommend lining wooden beds with plastic to protect them from the water and make them last longer. We did this technique in our greenhouse beds and the very first two beds around its perimeter. It really does work, as I found out when working those 6-year-old beds this past winter. The plastic is another building cost though, and when you're building a hundred square feet of beds every year, it can add up and actually be a hassle to install. By using the thick rough cut wood, we know that our beds will last for probably 15 or more years without showing a lot of wear and tear and not have to worry about the plastic deteriorating before the wood does. It's a lot of work to make new beds here at the Heyokah Homestead and it's worth it!

Check out the "As the Worm Turns" column this month for an addendum to this story. For more pictures of "Building Raised Beds—Heyokah Homestead Style", visit Leigh's new gardening blog: TheInfiniteBee.com.

Inside:

See our special gardening section pages B-5 thru B-7

Ten tips for high altitude gardening.....B-6



Astrologically Speaking

... with Ananur

(mountain time zone calculated)

April 1 the Sun is nicely aspecting Jupiter. This has been going on for the last 2 days and ends tonight. It's an upbeat time; you're feeling expansive and wanting to celebrate humanity. We're finding a better way to live collectively on this generous, lovely planet.

April 2-20 Saturn in Scorpio is in an awkward aspect with Uranus in Aries. It's time to make some big changes. It's time to allow innovative ways of getting away from fossil fuel, rather than waiting another minute or year. The technology is here. Labeling GMO products, this issue will remain in the foreground. The old ways are causing destruction on our planet and that affects our physical bodies.

April 4-6 Venus and Mars are conjunct at 19° of Aries. Anyone who was born from April 9-12 of any year will be feeling Venus and Mars most personally which usually brings about a magnetic romantic attraction. Desire and temptation are increased. Even married people get attractions, but don't necessarily act on it. At this time the temptation is propelling you. You're forewarned.

April 5 Mercury is in a positive aspect with Mars until tonight. You're a mentally astute and are enjoying stimulating conversations. You're ready to put some of these ideas into action. Mars is in Aries and doesn't want to wait a minute more to get things moving. Mars is awkwardly aspecting Neptune, bringing about confusion due to concern about your actions will affect others. You're in a hurry.

April 6 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Neptune testing your faith. Feelings of disillusionment crop up with this aspect.

April 8 more disillusionment taking place today with the Sun in an awkward aspect to Neptune. You're feeling kind of fuzzy about the world. Not a good time to make an important decision. You may need some rest and some fresh wheat grass juice to clear your mind.

April 9 Mercury is in a chal-

lenging aspect with Saturn which suggests worry and doubt are getting front stage attention internally. You could use this energy constructively by doing research or detailed focused work requiring all your attention.

April 10 the New Moon is at 3:35am with the Sun and Moon in Aries close to Venus and Mars. If you were to meditate starting 10 minutes before the New Moon takes place you would be gifted with incredible insight. It will come in a flash. That's due to the fact that "the part of fortune," a mathematical point, is going to be exactly on the rising in Aquarius, at this time. The month ahead is all about taking changes, being spontaneous, and allowing your heart to lead the way. No mistakes. We learn from mistakes. All is well.

April 12 Pluto turns retrograde. Pluto will turn direct on September 20, 2013. While Pluto is retrograde we become more and more aware of how much power our thoughts have. We can make a concerted effort to shift our thoughts to become more positive by recognizing when we are out of balance there are things we can do to transform our thoughts. We can raise our consciousness just by being aware of the thoughts that persist that are blocking heartfelt truth to lead the way. Old insecurities which have been haunting us for lifetimes can be released by sitting in silence and noticing what goes on inside. It's the collective stream of consciousness we're working at changing now. We are indeed truly affected by our collective thoughts.

April 13-May 1 Mercury enters Aries and remains until May 1. You will find that your thoughts are racing from one thing to the next at rapid speed. Try not to blurt out the first thing that comes to mind. The Aries influence on Mercury makes us blunt and outspoken.

April 14 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Jupiter, not a difficult aspect unless you have a food addic-

tion or sensitivity to flour and sugar & refined foods which stimulate cravings. Temptations run high.

April 15-May 9 Venus will be in Taurus bringing out sensuality and desire for attention and affection.

April 15-17 the Sun in Aries is conjunct Mars in Aries. Huge amounts of energy are dispersed. How will you harness it and use it constructively? Want to start a new business? Run in a marathon? Mercury is NOT retrograde and the New Moon just took place on April 10, the planets are helping you to start a new project. Aries people are feeling hyper, that is unless they're focused on a single goal.

April 16 Mercury nicely aspects Neptune, increasing psychic sensitivity and faith in your own inner guidance.

April 16-18 Venus is sextile Neptune which is spiritually uplifting and inspiring for artists, poets and musicians.

April 17-20 Mercury is conjunct Uranus in Aries which is known to increase intuition offering flashes of genius that are unique and ahead of the times. It might be hard for others to follow what you're talking about, and make fun of you. But you know that you're onto something important, so keep at it. In fact don't talk about it, yet.

April 19 the Sun will enter Taurus at 4:04pm. Those Taurus-born individuals who were born between April 29-May 3 are receiving positive vibrations from Pluto in Capricorn. These folks will have all kinds of opportunities presented to them for their personal evolution. This could be one of the best times for them, in their entire life.

April 19-21 Venus in Taurus is opposition Saturn in Scorpio suggesting financial issues causing a relationship to fall apart, there's a hint of jealousy in there too. This is not the time to end the relationship, but to step away for awhile and give it some space. Mercury is harshly aspecting Pluto which finds you obsessing, wondering and worried about what others are thinking of you.

April 21-23 Mercury is nicely aspecting Jupiter stimulating ideas that would be good to jot down. You have information to share that will be inspiring to others. Your humor is top notch, especially if you were born between June 3-6, of any year.

April 22 Venus is in a positive aspect with Uranus. A strong magnetic romantic attraction could come along. With Uranus it's something unusual that gets you two together. This is extra strong for anyone who was born between March

27-30 or April 28-30 of any year. It's also a fine time to meet new people.

April 22-24 Venus is in a fine aspect with Pluto, deepening intimate relationships. Your heart is expanding with joy and love. The Sun is in a beautiful aspect with Neptune which is perfect for meditation and retreat time. Let go of the world and your responsibilities. Relax and allow yourself to be inspired by a spiritual teacher or your own inner guide.

April 24-26 Mars is nicely aspecting Neptune finding you drawn naturally to helping those in need. You don't even have to think about it. You are greatly appreciated, but this is not why you helped out.

April 25 Full Moon Lunar Eclipse at 1:58pm, Moon in Scorpio and Sun in Taurus. This is a complex Full Moon because Saturn is close to the Moon while opposite that is the Sun conjunct Mars. This is a traffic jam emotionally. There's a holding back of action which needs to take place. Seems like frustration is inevitable. There is a positive presence involved and that's Pluto, offering transformation for those who choose to look courageously at their fears in order to let them go. Improving communication skills which includes listening skills will help mend old wounds. Religious fanaticism divides rather than unites us. Untangling the knots of loyalty to "being right" will be a good start. Listening with an open heart is recommended by this eclipse.

April 25-28 the Sun in Taurus is opposite Saturn in Scorpio finding us frustrated with delays and obstacles and financial concerns. If you've borrowed money you might find yourself in a bind. Blaming others does not help your situation. This energy is connected to the Lunar Eclipse. The thought of something "bad" happening to you could be creating just that. Find ways to change your thinking, now.

April 29-30 the Sun is favorably aspecting Uranus, reminding us all to allow our individuality to shine, trusting our higher intuitive guidance, no matter what others think or say. By taking time out to be in stillness, and letting thoughts float on by, there is inner peace and calm. The Sun in Taurus wants more than anything to have the experience of peace and relaxation. The energy of Uranus is all about moving out of stagnation and into freedom from thought by trusting intuition.

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by Kim Malville
Almanac

Jupiter, in the constellation of Taurus, dominates the evening skies. Later in the month Saturn will be easily visible, moving retrograde toward Spica.

April 12-14: Watch the crescent moon move through the sky, past the Pleiades, Aldebaran, and finally Jupiter

April 22: Lyrid Meteor Shower: This collection of meteors coming out of the sky near Vega is pretty unpredictable. In 1982 there were 90 per hour; last year there were 25, and some years only 10 per hour. In 687 BC, Chinese reported meteors dropping out of the sky like rain. The best time this year will be just before dawn on April 22, after the moon has set and the sky is still dark.

April 24: Spica is close to the nearly full moon.

April 25: Full moon. Saturn lies to the upper left of the moon.

April 27-28: Saturn is in opposition to the sun, moving rapidly retrograde, rising at dusk, and setting at dawn.

Aliens amongst us ?



Comet PanSTARRS over Hohenzollern Castle on August 15. photo by Stefan Sap



The tiny Tardigrade is the best candidate for a visitor from space. Tardigrades are able to live for decades without food or water, to survive temperatures from near absolute zero to well above the boiling point of water, to survive pressures from near zero to well above that on ocean floors, and to survive direct exposure to dangerous radiations. In September 2007, tardigrades were taken into low Earth orbit and for 10 days were exposed to the vacuum of space. After being rehydrated back on Earth, over 68% of the subjects protected from high-energy UV radiation survived and many of these produced viable embryos. In May 2011, Italian scientists sent tardigrades into space along with other extremophiles on STS-134, the final flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour. Their conclusion was that microgravity and cosmic radiation did not significantly affect survival of tardigrades, confirming that tardigrades represent a useful animal for space research, whatever that means.

In probably one of the dumbest space missions imaginable, some of these miniature water-bears almost became extraterrestrials recently when they were launched toward the Martian moon Phobos on board the Russian mission Fobos-Grunt. Fortunately, the launch failed. If it had succeeded when folks visit Mars in the future and discover these creatures, they wouldn't know if they were terrestrial contamination or indigenous. These hardy creatures could survive beneath the soils of Mars for some time.

Since tardigrades can survive being heated for only a few minutes to 304°F, Venus would be too hot. They couldn't survive in the 900°F surface temperature of that planet. They could, however, survive a voyage through interplanetary space, because some survived chilled for days at -328°F. They could be hanging out in stony meteorites

or even asteroids. Water bears can withstand pressures of 6,000 atmospheres, which is nearly six times the pressure of water in the Mariana trench. Some could be floating in the dense atmospheres of Jupiter and other gas giants.

The oldest light in the universe

On March 21, the results of 15 months of measurements by the Planck Space Telescope of the European Space Agency were released. Their primary result was the most precise measurement yet of the radiation from the Big Bang (otherwise known as the Fireball of Creation). To appreciate fully the picture of the ancient light of the universe taken by the Planck space telescope, imagine wrapping it entirely around yourself. We are inside it. Like those sometimes embarrassing pictures in a dusty family photo album, this is a snapshot of the baby universe when it was much smaller, only 380,000 years old, and not very cute.

Since the time picture was taken, the universe has continued to expand and the irregularities in the figure have grown into all the cockroaches, whales, planets, stars, and galaxies that we see around us. The universe is now some 40 billion light years across. However, because light can travel only at a finite speed, we can see only to a distance of 13.8 billion light years. Beyond that horizon there is an immense unknowable universe, invisible and totally unreachable. Because light only gives us pictures of the universe that was, we and future generations shall never know the fullness the space in which we live. Note that the fluctuations are not uniformly distributed across the sky. There is a large cold spot in the southern part of the sky. One fascinating and luscious possibility is that this unexpected irregularity may be the remnant of the earlier universe out of which ours was born.

The new measurements from the Planck space telescope should give the immodest ones among us reason to pause. Not only are we humans small in stature, but also the matter out of which we, the earth, our sun and all the stars and galax-

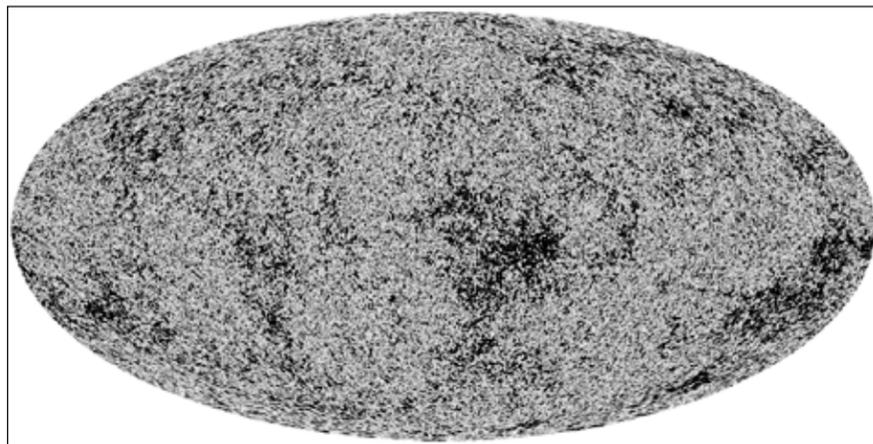


Water bear (*Macrobiotus sapiens*) in moss. Color enhanced scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of a water bear in its active state. Water bears (or tardigrades) are tiny invertebrates that live in aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats such as lichen and damp moss. They require water to obtain oxygen by gas exchange. In dry conditions, they can enter a cryptobiotic state of desiccation, known as a tun, to survive. In this state, water bears can survive for up to a decade. This species was found in moss samples from Croatia. It feeds on plant and animal cells. Water bears are found throughout the world, including regions of extreme temperature, such as hot springs, and extreme pressure, such as deep underwater. They can also survive high levels of radiation and the vacuum of space. Magnification: x250 when printed 10cm wide. Eye of Science

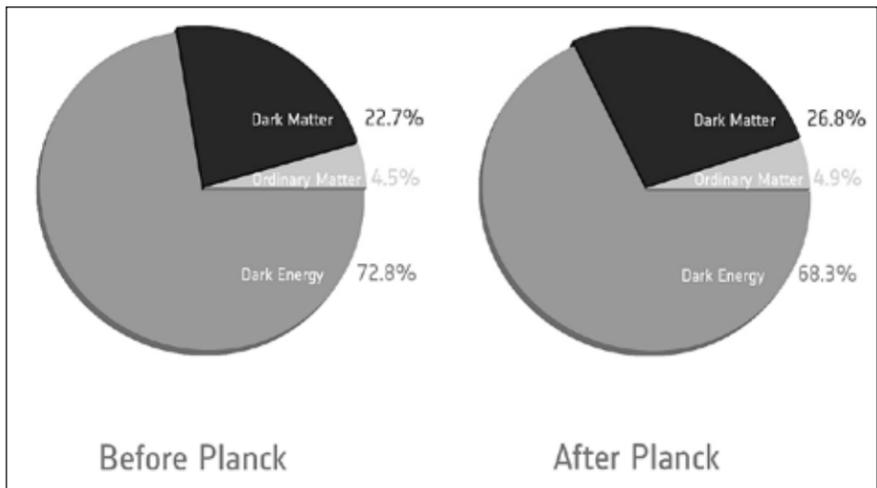
ies are formed makes up only 4.9% of the total mass-energy of the universe. Dark matter, which has thus far only been detected indirectly by ability to hold galaxies together through its gravitational influence, makes up 26.8%. What it is exactly remains a mystery. Dark energy, equally mysterious and inscrutable, is the force that pushes galaxies apart, causing the accelerating expansion of the universe. For better or worse, it accounts for the majority of the stuff of the universe. Considering how long humans have pondered the mysteries of the universe, it is stunning how little we know!

Comet PanSTAARS

For the last two weeks of March we were treated to views of the new comet PanSTAARS, which appeared in the western sky soon after sunset. It reached its brightest about March 20, and then it began to fade. This photograph was taken on March 15 with a powerful telephoto lens from Stuttgart at a distance of 80 km.



Our universe 380,000 years after the Big Bang. photo courtesy of European Space Agency



Planck pie chart.

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3615C Splendid Terrace
\$239,000
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This spacious & bright 1938sf, 3bd/2.5ba, southwestern style home sits on 1.79acres. Guest house w/full bath + kitchenette.

SOLD!



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.



600 Heatherbrae - \$99,900
2bd, 1.5 Ba, on over 2 acres. Custom woodwork, porches, decks Attached sun room with outdoor shower.



826C Ridgeview Way - \$140,000
Adorable 1bd+loft/1ba 1119sf (35'-diameter) monolithic dome on .904 acres, high in Chalet I. Flagstone patio.

UNDER CONTRACT!



62 E Horsetooth Trail - \$399,950
Single OR dual (2000sf, 2bd/2ba & 1550sf, 2bd/1ba) living space, 10' ceilings, fine finishes, courtyard on 3.21 acres.



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.

NEW LISTING



733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$295,000
This 1972sf 2bd/1.75ba/large studio/office Southwestern style strawbale home is located on 1.14 acres at end of secluded cul-de-sac. Adjacent lots avail.

Bank Owned



3486C Graceful Way - \$179,900
3000+sf, 5bd/2.75ba home w. separate studio apartment, sun-room, radiant floor heat, oversized garage, courtyard/garden, an AMAZING \$83/sf!

Off-Grid - New Price



364 E Birch Trail - \$89,900
Was \$115,000
1207sf + Greenhouse on 10+ acres (Lots 362-365). Horse property, strawbale, solar off-grid.

Retreat Properties



WAS \$1,170,000 NOW - \$669,000
Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!

23 Acres!



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!

Commercial Properties



200 Cottonwood - \$575,000
Curt's Olde Country Store. 6,320sf retail property w/ fixtures included and gas pumps. Prime Downtown Crestone Real Estate - GREAT VALUE!



121 E. Galena - \$495,000
Premiere, newly renovated dntwn commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt. and 3 rentals 1st floor, one w/commercial kitchen. Great opportunity.

Bed & Breakfast



Willow Springs (Moffat)
Was \$349,000 NOW \$299,000
9 Bd/3Ba 3600sf; includes everything for a turnkey operation. Great Well!

Baca Meadows



Townhouse 6, - \$199,000
Renovated & furnished 3bd/3ba 1622sf single-level townhouse w. granite tile counters, pantry, arch & walled courtyard.



Townhouse 9 - \$159,000
2-story 2bd/2ba 1480sf corner townhouse with mountain views. Wrap around patio and balcony. Peaceful & relaxing. Immaculate condition.

Town of Crestone



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.



370 South Alder - \$187,500
Flexible space with 5 BD/2BA or two separate units. 1950sf. Part of Cottage Neighborhoods downtown Crestone.



375 S. Cedar - \$149,000
Charming 2-story home filled with light, 1100sf, 2bd/1ba Conveniently located in downtown Crestone. Easy walk to stores, restaurants, bank, post office and Charter School.

Off-Grid Green Living



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!

Off-Grid Green Living



1381 Saddlerock Trail - \$165,000
Cute 1100sf 2bd/1ba strawbale home. Solar hot water, radiant heat bamboo floors, sunroom, views, courtyard.

Baca Grande Properties



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.



1234C Brookview NOW - \$459,000
Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.



1230C N Indian Bend - \$375,000
1950sf 3BD/2BA; 3.69 acres; 1450sf garage/workshop/studio w. full bath, landscaped Courtyard with trees.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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!



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.



1216C Chaparral Way - \$259,000
Immaculate 3bd/2.5ba custom home built by Keith Teahen on 1.132acres. Beautiful master suite w/ elegant master bath. Located on quiet street.



1142 East Badger Rd - \$239,000
Newer 3bd/2ba/carport 1460sf home exquisite Master Suite, high ceilings, many windows, open floor plan, patios & deck. Great kitchen, light & views!



451C Chaparral - \$239,000
1543-sf 2BD/1BA w/ sunroom, great room, patios, high balcony with views on 4 lots.



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



4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$225,000
Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM
THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

RGRT approves funding for subsurface irrigation demo

by Bea Ferrigno

At the March 12 meeting of the Rio Grande Water Conservation Roundtable in Alamosa, Jim Ehrlich of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee presented a funding request for a demonstration of subsurface drip irrigation on 47 acres of potatoes near Hooper. The project will be conducted on two separate farms with different soil conditions. It will be closely monitored to determine the effects on water usage, which is expected to decrease, and crop production, which should increase. One subsurface-irrigated plot will be compared to a similar one watered by a center-pivot sprinkler. Results will be analyzed by Colorado State University as an in-kind contribution to the project.

Similar systems are in use worldwide and have been shown to reduce water consumption while increasing yields. A subsurface system delivers water directly to the root area, so less herbicide and fertilizer are required. Loss of water by evaporation and transpiration is also greatly reduced. The typical cost of installation, between \$1,800 and \$2,200 per acre, can be recovered within six years. While banks were initially reluctant to finance subsurface systems, now that results are available from a number of installations, financing is more readily available.

The project, which will cost just under \$150,000, was unanimously approved for \$40,000 from the Roundtable's basin account. Both plots on the Beiriger and Christensen farms will be open for anyone interested to view the installation, planned for March or April, and operation of the project.

In other business, the Roundtable heard from Kip Canty of the Colorado Water Conservation Board that groundwater models for Division 3 are expected this month. These long-awaited models will go to an advisory committee for drafting of rules and regulations for well

operations in subdistrict 1.

Snowpack and river levels continue to be well below normal for the season, with curtailments set at 12% and 8% on the Rio Grande and Conejos respectively. The weather outlook is again for warmer-than-usual temperatures and average precipitation.

Steve Vandiver reported that 86 pivots in subdistrict 1 will be fallowed, though they will be allowed to draw a maximum of 7" of water to establish cover crops. There is a possibility of additional fallowing for 15 years under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) program.

Adam Green of Solar Reserve gave a brief presentation on the plan of the two solar towers near Center. The water use of the project would be only 150 acre-feet each year, so of the 69 pivots on the tract, 39 would be retired.

Baca Burn Site Inspections

by Lisa Bodey
BGFDF Public
Education Officer

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their Baca Burn Site Inspections as they expired on March 1, 2013. Inspections are required for all homeowners and renters in the Baca Grande POA subdivision who plan to have outdoor fires which include, but may not be limited to: campfires, chimineas, sweat lodges, fire-spinning and slash burning.

Baca Burn Site Inspections are provided as a courtesy to residents and are a great way for you to meet one of our local firefighters. We are not an enforcement agency. We simply offer this service to provide recommendations and guidelines for the following:

- campfire ring locations
- safe storage of excess firewood & fuel
- suggestions for creating defensible space around your home
- finding the best spot for your sweat lodge or fire spinning
- fire awareness to encourage safer burning practices

If you want or need to burn larger amounts of slash or organic material we can also assist you with submitting the proper permits to the Colorado Department of Public Health per state smoke control laws.

Prior to your inspection, it's be helpful if you spend some time preparing the site where you plan to burn. Here are some tips:

- A 20'-30' circle needs to be cleared of most vegetation—no bushes, trees or tall grasses
- Firewood should be stored in a clear area 20'-30' away from your burn site and any other improvements/buildings on your land
- Please have two ways to extinguish your fire readily available: garden hose, buckets of water with a wet towel, shovels for sand, or a fire extinguisher.

Once you are ready to burn outside, it is your responsibility to call Alamosa Dispatch at 719-589-5807 in the hour before you start your outdoor fire and also call them to let them know when your fire is extinguished. This does three main things:

1. The BGFDF is notified of the location of your fire but your name remains anonymous. This allows us to be prepared and aware of your location in the event of an emergency.

2. The fire department often receives your neighbors' calls for signs of smoke. Notifying dispatch of your burn will reduce the chances of the fire department having to respond emergent (lights and sirens) to your house for a smoke report that interrupts your cozy night roasting marshmallows with the kids or your peaceful sweat lodge.

3. Having an inspection on file and calling Alamosa Dispatch lets your neighbors and emergency responders know that you are

burning more responsibly by following our local protocols.

We live in an actively engaged community and often times we may not feel comfortable with the way our neighbors are burning. Maybe the weather conditions are not conducive to burning (high winds, drought) or they are burning in an area that is not properly mitigated.

The BGFDF recommends the following steps:

1. Talk to your neighbor & express your concern in a friendly way. They may just be unaware of the conditions or do not have the same amount of fire education.
2. Call the Baca Grande Fire Department to ask for our advice: 719-256-4781.
3. Call 911 to engage our emergency dispatch system if necessary.

Finally, be aware that many of the spiritual centers have outdoor fires as part of their practice, so it is not uncommon to see large amounts of smoke coming from their land at any time of the year. Not all smoke is created equal. White smoke that doesn't change color or expand significantly is far less of a concern than darker colored smoke that expands at the ground level. Visible flames that are unattended should inspire concern and an immediate 911 call.

We are a very small group of dedicated volunteers who welcome your engagement in our community's fire safety. If you have any questions about controlled burning or what your role may be during emergency situations, please contact the fire department at 719-256-4781 or the chief's e-mail bgvfd@bacapoa.org. If you would like to schedule your annual burn site inspection, please call Lisa Bodey at 719-480-5925 or email bodeycrestone@gmail.com.

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New to high-altitude gardening?

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

“High and Dry.” “300 days of sunny skies.” The best ways to describe the San Luis Valley also describe our challenges and assets when it comes to growing our own food. If you are new to gardening at 8000 feet, here are ten steps to making your first year a success.

1. Choose a sunny site: A southern exposure is best, but east or west can be used. A site on the north side of your house, or with trees close to the east or west sides will limit the sunlight the plants receive, but you may still be able to grow some crops. A site with shade all day is not suitable.

2. Fence your garden: Deer are a threat to gardens in the Crestone area. Smaller critters like rabbits also love your plants, so fencing your garden area is almost essential to success. Fences should be five to six feet high for deer and the mesh no more than two inches wide at the bottom to keep out rabbits.

3. Decide how you will water: Our natural precipitation is too low to sustain food growing, although, for an aesthetic landscape, xeriscaping may be successful. Even drought-tolerant plants will require water until they are established. You may choose to hand water holding a hose or watering can. In most cases, the best choice is a drip irrigation system, of which there are a number of types. Check with a hardware or garden center for options.

4. Clear and till your site or install raised beds: Most of us will do this by hand, probably digging out rocks from beds to allow a soil depth of at least six inches, or building up the sides of beds and filling the boxes in with soil. Some will combine a slightly raised bed with digging a few inches of the original soil.

5. Add soil amendments:

Our sandy soil on the eastern side of the valley has some good minerals that have broken down from the mountain rock over the eons, but it needs help to provide nutrients to plants. A soil test is helpful, but not essential the first year, as most of our soils are similar. They tend to be alkaline and lack nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, potassium and humus. Select natural minerals to make the soil neutral and add missing nutrients, and a source of natural nitrogen and humus, such as compost. Garden stores or experienced gardeners can help with this.

6. Select and acquire mulch: A mulch helps hold in precious moisture and keep weeds from competing with your plants. There are many good choices, and most gardeners combine them. Straw is easily available in the valley. Leaves from Cottonwood and Aspen trees work well. Avoid Juniper, as it has a growth inhibitor. Pine needles work for berries. Placing non-colored newspaper or cardboard under the mulch helps keep weeds down, but only if you have a drip irrigation system under the paper. Overhead watering will not usually soak through the cardboard.

7. Select short-season seeds and cold-tolerant plants: If planting perennials, that is, plants that come back year after year, look for plants that grow in zones 3 and 4. Several fruiting trees and shrubs will grow in our area and make good landscape plants. Local nurseries and other gardeners can help with selection. Select vegetables with short maturity days listed. Crestone has about 90 guaranteed frost-free days be-



Visitors during 2012 Garden Tour.

tween June 1 and August 30.

8. Water deeply, less often: Plants that depend on humans to water them will adapt to the human's behavior. If watered often and shallowly, their roots will be shallow and more susceptible to drying out. Watering gardens six to eight inches deep twice a week is a better strategy for strong root systems. Young trees and shrubs need deep watering once a week.

9. Watch for pests: High, cold ecosystems discourage many insects, but some invariably show up. Grasshoppers are rampant in summer. Aphids were a problem last year. Rock Squirrels (large

grey squirrels with a snowy mane) will devour tender vegetation. Each requires special treatment, but please use organics. Consult with experienced gardeners or garden centers for their recommendations.

10. Enjoy your harvest: This, of course, is the best part. We all love eating the first green peas or picking a colorful bouquet. Sharing with friends makes this part even more enjoyable. Get together with fellow gardeners to learn more and share successes. For more information on gardening in Zones 3 and 4, check our local library, which has several volumes to help you.



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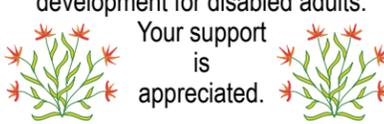
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As the Worm Turns

Garden karma—Lessons learned

by Leigh Mills

I use my life as practice and my garden is just one big meditation cushion. I'm always watching my thoughts while I work and take care to move my 52-year-old body in balanced ways so I don't wear it out. I bend my knees when I lift, change sides when I dig, and use the wheelbarrow efficiently when it's full of heavy stuff. On the day of this story, I was practicing all of those techniques, up until the last hour.

Last month I refurbished some

raised garden beds, (check out the cover story on page B-1 to learn how). I had one "new" garden bed already filled, taken another old one apart, prepped it for the new frames and was ready to set them when I realized the old hole wasn't deep enough on the up-hill side to get the new frame level with the down-hill side. I had to dig down an inch or two halfway around the whole bed for this to work. By now though, I had been working for several hours and was getting a bit tired. My sweet husband even suggested I call it quits and finish the next day. Being a stubborn Aries, I wanted to get this last part done and at least set the new frames in place. I decided to keep going.

The ground here at the Heyokah Homestead is volcanic clay filled with rocks. I can't even get a shovel in one inch before hitting a rock. I thought the bed was dug down deep enough for me to just hoe out the extra inches, but I was mistaken. I had to take a pick and break up the hard, rocky ground. I was frustrated by this point for several reasons I won't write about, but the main point is that I was angry. I even caught myself shouting at the dirt with the pick raised above my head, "I hate this ground!" WHAM, BAM!—instant karma. It took me about an hour to finish the job and get the new wood-



Here's a good picture of what the ground is like at the Heyokah. This hole is a little over a foot deep and filled with rocks, surrounded by hard, clay soil. The bottom of the hole is what I had to pick out and is made of even harder clay. Ouch.

en bed frames set evenly in place. I was tired and sore, but this is usual after a hard day's work.

The next morning proved different. I woke up stiff and very sore. I could only work an hour or two before I realized I had really strained my lower back. I couldn't finish the job I so badly wanted to finish. I couldn't really do anything at all except sit and contemplate my situation. The sacrum is related to "loss of power and old stubborn anger" to quote Louise Hay in her little blue book, *Heal Your Body*. I was feeling the results of my ego, thoughts, and actions, (karma literally means "action").

Luckily, I have a loving husband who rubbed "Flexigility Balm" from the Green Earth Farm on my

lower back that night. Two days later, I enjoyed a long, hot soak and wonderful therapeutic massage by Nic at Joyful Journey. I've also made a promise to not overdo myself in the future, listen to my wise husband and not to get angry while hefting a 20 pound pick-axe over my head.

Leigh Mills has lived, gardened and saved seeds in the San Luis Valley for over 10 years. She's written the "As the Worm Turns" column for three years and has started a gardening blog called *The Infinite Bee*. If you enjoy reading her monthly, visit her daily at TheInfiniteBee.com, where she welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions about gardening, saving seeds, and practicing life.



Here I am, early in the day, fresh and smiling. I'm using a cordless drill to screw the beds together with wooden gussets.

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Chaffee Home & Garden Show April 20 & 21

The Salida Sunrise Rotary Club is putting together the first ever Chaffee Home and Garden Show, to be held April 20 and 21 at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds. Hours are 9-5 on Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday.

The 2-day event is an excellent opportunity for businesses in the upper Arkansas Valley to demonstrate the value of shopping locally for home maintenance and improvements.

The show is intended to be a marketing opportunity for businesses and for shoppers just a lot of fun and a chance to get to know the community. There are already a varied group of eager exhibitors—you can check them out on our website—chaffeehomeandgarden.com. And we are still growing!

There will be a Kid's Zone, food vendors, participation by some of the non-profit community, a schedule of demonstrations/seminars. Everyone is invited. Admission tickets are \$1—no charge for kids—and are available free from any of our exhibitors or sponsors.



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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)



Ah! Dandelion! The quintessential weed! This much maligned vegetable has more nutritional value than any cultivated vegetable. High in vitamins and minerals, dandelion is a great food as a spring tonic after a long winter of eating heavily. All parts of the plant are edible and the root and leaf are medicinal. It's rather ironic that elimination of dandelions is the reason that large quantities of toxic pesticides are used on American lawns, and dandelion is an herb that can help heal the liver from just such toxic exposures.

Although most people recognize dandelions, there are a few look-alikes in early spring. Dandelions have a smooth leaf and no central stalk. The leaf grows in a rosette pattern, coming out of a central tap root. The leaf is mild and tender before the plant flowers. Spring dandelion leaves are wonderful as steamed greens or in salads, adding just the right amount of bitterness. After the plant blooms the leaves become bitter, however cooking them with potatoes absorbs a lot of that bitterness, making them very nice in soups. The root can be added to soups or stews, cooked with onions and lamb's quarters, or dried and slow roasted as a coffee substitute. The flower can be used in fritters, deserts, jelly, and wine. Even the flower buds can be pickled and used like capers!



Taraxacum officinale.

Dandelion leaf is a kidney tonic and diuretic. Pharmaceutical diuretics can leach potassium from the body, adversely affecting the heart. Dandelion leaf contains a significant amount of potassium, making it perfect for use as a safe diuretic. Use the leaves fresh or dry in infusions (tea), with longer steeping to get the benefit of the mineral content.

Dandelion root works primarily on the liver and gall bladder, detoxifying, strengthening and toning. In the process it promotes blood cleansing and healing of skin diseases.

A few cautions when gathering dandelions for food or medicine—be very careful not to harvest in pesticed areas or near roads. Dandelion is a survivor; it can reemerge days after an area has had pesticides applied, but is not then safe to eat. Also, people who have allergies to plants in the composite family should be cautious about eating the flowers.

*Pickled Dandelion Buds

- 1 quart young dandelion flower buds, still tightly closed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 cup vinegar
- ¼ cup brown sugar or other sweetener
- 1 cup water
- 2 Tbsp. dill seed
- Pinch cloves

Remove the stems from dandelion buds, cover with water. Boil for 5 minutes. Pack the buds in a sterilized canning jar. In a saucepan, combine the vinegar, sugar, water, salt, dill seed, garlic, and cloves. Boil 10 minutes and pour over the dandelion buds. Seal and store for one month before using.

**The Dandelion Celebration, by Peter Gail*

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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3rd Annual SLV Seed Exchange a great success!

The day was beautiful and the venue perfect for the 3rd Annual SLV Seed Exchange. Over 200 people attended the event on Saturday, February 16 at the Joyful Journey Hot Springs with many coming from Salida, Colorado Springs, and Alamosa, with a few from Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico.

The spacious conference room at Joyful Journey was filled the first two hours with eager gardeners selecting their seeds from several local sources, including the Cho Ku Rei Ranch. Several spots on the giving end of the seed tables turned over as early supplies quickly ran out. More seeds arrived with new faces and there was always enough seed to share. A center table, dubbed the 'community table', filled with free seeds that needed packaging. People stepped in, made up hundreds of packages and all found homes.

After getting their seeds, participants then had a chance to visit the information tables. The SLV Wanna Beekeepers brought a top bar hive and many honeybee books. Alamosa Community Greenhouse had skin balms made from herbs grown in the greenhouse. Don and Scott of Blue Water Alchemy talked about their ORMUS products and gave out free samples. The Alamosa Greenspot displayed many of their organic gardening amendments. Judy at SLVjunction.com brought information about vermiculture, (worms), with the squiggly garden treasures in a small cooler to inspect. Penny Bruce with the Saguache County Library had the library's gardening book section available for on-the-spot research or checking-out. Another table had free information like past-issue

gardening and homesteading magazines, Local Foods Guides, and colorful, new brochures on Natural Agriculture from the Shumei Institute.

Refreshments were available in the dining area and event-goers enjoyed tasty 21 Bean Soup from the Farm Table Restaurant, fresh baked goods from the Saguache 4th Street Diner, and sinfully good eclairs from Ashli. It was such a nice day that most folks choose the organic apple juice and lemonade from the Salida Ploughboy while the event organizers drank the excellent coffee from the Mirage Roasting Co.

Once the pleasures of the main room were taken, attendees then strolled over to the 42' geodesic growing dome. Jeffrey WishMer, the master gardener, was on hand to answer questions about the dome and give personal tours of the spacious dome, which was filled with baby greens and beautiful perennials. A discounted soak finished up the day and everyone who went had a great time.

More and more gardeners are recognizing the need to learn and practice seed saving. A community's strength relies on its ability to feed itself. Growing food, learning preservation and seed saving techniques can ensure our good health and self-sufficiency. The SLV Seed Exchange has the potential to grow and provide deeper connections within our community year after year.

The Infinite Bee, Leigh Mills, would like to thank everyone for participating in the success of the SLV Seed Exchange. Special thanks go to all the great volunteers who helped throughout the day and to all the supportive sponsors of the event, especially the Crestone Mercantile, who donated goodies for the "Sprout Café".

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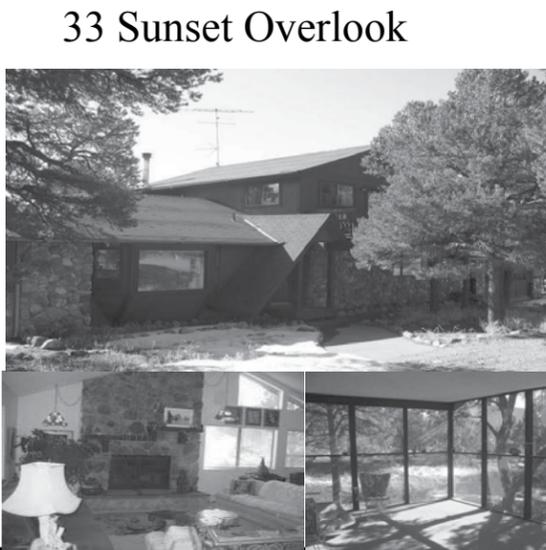
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Charming 5 bedroom 3.75 bath home with additional room off Master suite. Nice open living room with cozy fireplace. Kitchen has great pantry, and plenty of cabinet space. Attached 2 car garage with storage and extra bathroom. Screened porch for watching the deer that roam through, and the many birds in the area. Conveniently located within walking distance of Town of Crestone, New state of the art Charter School, several parks, and hiking trails. Wonderful large family home.

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1202 Wagon Wheel
 \$199,000



Seller Motivated!
 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



400 W Galena
 \$275,000



4179 Rarity Way
 \$347,400



Creek Property!
 1279 Meadowlark Road
 \$350,000



Under Contract
 1618 Willow Creek Way
 \$168,000



356 Chaparral Way
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Price Reduced
 3528 Enchanted Way
 \$177,000



Motivated Seller!
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In Search of Economic Reality

Economic Mortar

by Ed Lyell

Losing a generation of youth and economic prosperity

America has made higher education so expensive that many students and their families no longer attend. Often these are students with some of the best potential to succeed in universities, create new inventions and help America turn around its declining economic prospects. Over the decades we have shifted the cost of university away from general tax payers and onto students.

My generation had a better opportunity to use college to improve my life compared to my current Adams State students. My parents were waiter and waitress their whole lives. They had a second and fourth grade education. When I worked on homework from elementary school I helped

them become literate, while they instilled in me a love and respect for learning and its ability to help me move up socially and economically. We appreciated the value of free public education, and low cost universities.

In the 1960's at San Francisco State my first semester tuition was \$47, my books less. My wife and I had subsidized on-campus housing for us and our son. The taxpayers of California invested in us and that investment paid off, for me, my family, and society. That was the great bargain of post-WWII America. Taxpayers would invest in capital formation, human and physical, including education, college, roads, bridges, airports, etc. A better educated workforce would grow the economy, raise incomes, and with that era's progressive tax system raise more tax revenue thus

helping the next generation. That great bargain no longer exists.

While I was working for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and legislature in 1973, higher education received 25% of the state's general fund. Last year it received less than 10%. Most of the shift was caused by state-funded medical care rising to over 24% when back then it was 1%. That shift was driven primarily by corporations being able to shed the burden of employee health care. Thus Medicaid and other taxpayer-subsidized health care goes up, and other state programs go down, especially higher education spending. To replace lost taxpayer money, tuition goes up and state and federal governments create over a trillion dollars in student loan programs. Big banks, and their wealthy owner/investors, start getting large interest payments on government-backed, high interest, no-risk loans.

To make things worse both health care and higher education have been increasing their costs by over 10% a year. At research universities, faculty now teach half as many courses for twice the inflation-adjusted money, to have more time for research. State and community colleges have not reduced teaching loads but have expanded student support services, increasing their costs and tuition for decades. These additional costs are driven by students needing remedial education.

State taxpayers have continued to spend more on elementary-secondary education for these fifty years. In the 1950s we spent less than one half as much per student on elementary and secondary education as we do today—in inflation-adjusted dollars. More and more spending for little or less student achievement. Another big shift was Colorado, and many other states, reducing local property taxes, shifting public school funding from 65% local, 35% state to the reverse, now 64% state funding. The public did not see a reduction in local property taxes since city and county governments used the reduction in school taxes to expand police, fire, and other local services.

Students in America now pay more for college and university than any other developed nation. Other nations provide free tuition through doctorates, and some pay students to go to university, and provide free housing for students studying high need areas like science, technology, math and engineering. Other nations also do not spend any money on university remedial education since their high school graduates must prove competency to get a high school degree and acceptance to a university.

Thus we have too many students who either are not ready for university or choose majors that have little contribution to our future economic prosperity in this globally competitive world. Remedial education subsidies sound good, but really just over-protect non-performing high schools. In the 1980s when on the Colorado State Board of Education I wanted the bill for remedial education to be paid by the high school that gave the diploma. Instead American taxpayers and students pay several times for the same level of learning—a wasteful and inefficient way to educate our future work force.

In total, these are major mistakes that hurt students, families, taxpayers, and our overall economic prosperity, especially for the future.

More awareness of higher education costs and benefits will come from new reports in Colorado and other states as they begin to show the return on investment of various programs and universities. These measures are still primitive but do focus attention on the need for smarter decision-making about college by students, parents and policy makers. Whether paid by students, subsidized loans, or taxpayers, universities offer many degrees that will not result in higher income and are thus poor investments for all involved. In Colorado you can go to a new website, collegemeasures.org/esm/colorado, and find information about the relative economic value of different universities and programs. We need to look at cost versus economic gain to make better decisions.

A later column will discuss these return-on-investment studies.

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Loren Howard
CEO San Luis Valley REC

Renewable energy has been front and center in the social consciousness for more than a decade. Without getting into the debate on the strategy and tactics of organizations like the Sierra Club or Greenpeace, I think prudent investment in renewable energy sources makes a lot of sense where it is practical and affordable.

Two sources of renewable energy that have had significant development in recent years are wind and solar sources. Here in the San Luis Valley, solar has taken the dominant spot for electric generation from a renewable source. Other places in Colorado, such as the eastern plains, wind is the big player. In both these areas, projects

succeed when doing what makes sense prevails.

It is sunny most days here in the SLV and the elevation helps with solar intensity while the wind is too problematic—too windy in the spring and not enough the rest of the year. Out on the plains, the wind often comes up in the early morning, remains steady through the day and dies at night. Perfect. Most renewable projects need to adhere to two words—speed and scale. Do them big and do them fast. I would be remiss though to not mention the small scale-hydro project right here in the SLV that supplies cost-effective renewable energy to SLVREC. So, with the right circumstances, small scale projects can be effective.

While renewable energy sourced electric generation can be a great diversification to the electric resource portfolio, these renewable resources present challenges to the electric transmission system reliability and to traditional gen-

Renewable Energy

eration resource reliability. Wind and solar photovoltaic generation is not a controllable resource, meaning simply you cannot control when the wind blows or when the next cloud passes by.

When tens or hundreds of megawatts for wind generation suddenly stops, it can wreak havoc on a transmission system which has physical limitations on electric flows. Sudden loss of a large renewable generation source can also cause the other generation resources to respond erratically and even trip off line. Integrating large renewable electric resources takes planning, coordination and constant monitoring.

In addition to managing the reliability issues of renewable resources, there is also a cost to managing the unpredictability of these resources. Since wind and solar generation is not controllable and can be unpredictable, base load generation such as coal, natural gas or nuclear genera-

tion resources are often not operated at their most efficient or cost effective. So this adds additional cost to effectively implementing many renewable energy resources.

Just to reiterate my stance, I support smart, affordable, efficient renewable electric generating resources. The best way to do this is to let the entrepreneurial, free market do its job. Mandates, however implemented, seldom produce results that are lasting and effective. Global pressure on energy sources will likely drive supplies down and prices up. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydropower can play an important role in SLVREC's future electric supply. Let's do it right.

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Participate in the observance of National Library Week, April 14-20, by making use of your library, one of the most valuable resources available to our community members. We are continually adding to our collection with new books and

videos, including current bestsellers, children's books, non-fiction, reference materials and magazines. We are able to get books you want through interlibrary loan if they are not available here. There is a computer center with six new public computers, and fax, copy and lamination services are available. Or just come in and relax and read in a comfortable easy chair!

National Volunteer Week (April 21-27) is another celebration this month, and the library extends much gratitude to our Friends of the Library group. This dedicated group of volunteers has made great strides in getting a non-profit status for the FOL, enabling them

to write grants for our ultimate vision—a new library building in town. They are planning fundraisers, and we encourage community members to support these efforts. Also, consider joining this group—if you want a new library, then work to get it by adding your strength to their numbers! Ask at the library for contact information.

Since the Crestone Charter School moved into town, we have missed regular visits from the young people. However, thanks to Scott Tieder, teacher's aide at the school, we see some of them on a weekly basis when he brings the 4th and 5th grade Empowerment Class to the library. These 12

youngsters have a goal to read 30 books during the year, and many are well on their way to reaching that goal. In Scott's words, "I believe that literacy is the key to freedom. It allows us to have the ability to make informed decisions in our lives." These words fit right in with National Library Week—come check us out!

"What the world of tomorrow will be like is greatly dependent on the power of imagination in those who are learning to read today."

—Astrid Lindgren

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

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Houses & Property for Sale

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Lots for Sale – Priced to SELL

Priced to sell: Grant, 2.62 acres, lot 78, Laurel Road, \$2,500. Chalet II, lot 3268, No. Carefree Way, power and utilities available, \$2,000. Call 662-549-2276

New Classifieds online daily. Check www.crestoneeagle.com!

Commercial Property at the front door of Baca Grande

For Sale by Owner, Camino Baca Grande Professional Center – Income producing. Serious inquiries only. (719)256-5798, (719)480-9929 or (808)255-4046.

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2010 price was \$345,000, final reduced price: \$249,000. For sale by owner 2 story, 207 Moonlight/foothills, Chalet 1, Views, 4Bd, 3 Bath, R40-R60, non toxic, dbl carport, trex dek, Owner financing w/ large down, 7% Call 505-753-5853

An acre and a half. Make an offer

Three 1/2 acre lots. Baca chalet 2. Tap fees paid taxes and poa fees up to date. Yes, it will cost to bring water to lot, but these lots can be a steal for someone with future plans...Call us and make a LOW reasonable offer to consider...7074590725...

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Lot #873 Baca Grants. Incredible views of Sangre de Cristos, Sand Dunes and Mt. Blanca. 3.38 acres. All taxes & dues current. \$5000. woodmandesign@fairpoint.net; 719-937-3767.

“Crestone Sphere” Amazing place/ business venture

1190 Beaver rd the sphere. 2800 sq/ft nice lot views Final status outside approved. Inside unfinished unframed. No cracks or movement in 10 years, very solid and well built. All Pella doors and windows. Would make an amazing healing spiritual center. Search future spaces for videos and history of this unique and successful design. 719 352 9065 keith

Creek Lots

2 Lots for sale on Spanish Creek greenbelt, lot 2833 & 2834 on Carefree Way, all fees and dues are up to date. Water and sewer on street. 30K or best offer. (608)347-5030

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Classifieds...

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Crestone Charter School Class Size and Enrollment Policy

Class Size and Enrollment Policy
Revised and Adopted March 19, 2013
Crestone Charter School

Due to the specialized mission of the Crestone Charter School, the program's goal to offer highly individualized instruction, and the size of our facility, Crestone Charter School sets a limit on class enrollments.

Class size will be determined by the Director (or her Designee) in consultation with Teachers, by June 1st each year for the following school year.

Early Elementary, Primary and Intermediate classrooms will contain no more than 16 students per classroom. These classrooms will limit grade levels to eight (8) seats.

Middle School and LINK high school classrooms will contain no more than 24 students per program. These classrooms will not limit grade levels to a specific number of seats.

For students enrolled and matriculating as 1st to 2nd graders in 2012-2013, the school will make allowance for the extended class size of ten current students as these students were enrolled prior to the development of this policy. Should students dis-enroll from this group their seats will not be filled. In this way the School will attempt to equalize the numbers in this cluster to 8.

Teachers will be consulted before the final enrollment is confirmed and/or closed for the year. Class size can be limited to fewer than sixteen students K-5 or fewer than twenty-four students each in Middle and High School when the need to account for a density of high-needs or special needs students may

arise. Such limits shall have the same effect on all applicants for enrollment (in priority order, as stated below), not just students with high needs or special needs.

Class placement and enrollment will be determined by the following priorities, students in each category will be enrolled before moving to the next priority category until the classroom have meet its yearly determined class size. If any priority category exceeds the remaining seats a lottery will take place to determine placement for students in that priority category:

1. Currently Enrolled students.
2. Children of Contracted Employees: Children who have one or more parents who are currently employed full-time on contract at CCS will receive priority in the admission process.
3. Siblings of currently enrolled students. Note: In the event that a twin obtains the last available seat in a class, CCS will give reasonable consideration to enrolling both twins by increasing class size by one student.
4. Students who live within Moffat District 2 will be given priority placement over students enrolling from out-of-district.
5. Waiting list: Students come off the waiting list based on the above priorities and then by a First-Come First-Serve basis. Students will be placed on the waiting list with the student who has applied for enrollment earliest being in the first spot on this this, and so on, ending with the student who has applied for enrollment most recently.

Enrollment Timelines: For the 2013-2014 school year, applications will only be accepted for new students between 8:00 AM March 20th 2013, through 3:00 PM May 15th 2013, for enrollment the following school year. If families submitted prior to that date the school with contact them

to confirm submission of the enrollment packet.

Beginning in 2014, applications will only be accepted for new students between 8:00 AM March 1st through 3:00 PM May 15th for enrollment the following school year. (If these two dates fall on a weekend, the enrollment date will fall on the first business day afterwards.)

Re-enrollment for returning students will be accepted from April 15-May 15 of the current school year, for the next year's enrollment. By June 1 class sizes for the following year will be determined.

Families will be notified of placement by June 15. The school will continue to accept applications for the current school year in non-closed classrooms from June 15 through September 30.

New students in special education will be admitted conditioned upon review of their IEP. Such IEP review must be carried out by an IEP team. The IEP team may determine, consistently with state and federal law, whether the student can receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) at CCS. If so, the student's enrollment shall be final. Students in special education may be placed on the waiting list for the same reasons, and under the same conditions, as student in regular education.

Admissions notification: Parents of students who are accepted for admission will be notified in writing. Parents have 10 days from the date of the offer of admission to accept or decline.

The School's Governing Council may move to change or adjust this policy to suit enrollment and programming needs.

New Classifieds online daily. Check www.crestoneeagle.com!

...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-13



Beautiful Home For Rent

Beautiful Home for Rent. 1 BD + Office/2nd BD, 2 BA. Radiant floor heat w/ETS + wood stove. Hard wood floors, stunning views, covered balcony. Private & quiet location near Cottonwood Creek. No smoking, pets negotiable. \$775/month + utilities, deposit. Unfurnished or partially furnished. Call 588-8727. Available April 1st.

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Single Female Clean Nonsmoker/drinker, no pets/kids, w/local references. Work at Sage. Prefer work trade for homes on market. Will house sit 719-239-1559.

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WANTED TO RENT cottage/apt. for immaculate, mature woman with no pets - 1-bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, livingroom, unfurnished, in town preferred, clean, no carpeting, quiet, long-term, \$350-\$450 including utilities/heat. Contact Sandra 588-9595.

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Seeking Utility Maintenance Worker

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District is accepting applications to fill a full time position for a Utility Maintenance Worker. Under general supervision the Utility Maintenance worker performs duties to sustain the operation, maintenance, and servicing of water and waste water treatment facilities. Duties include: monitoring plant operations; performing and assisting with construction projects; performing preventive and corrective maintenance; conducting periodic inspections; record keeping and customer service. Utility Maintenance Workers must participate in on-call duty schedule rotation. Applications can be picked up at 57 Baca Grant Way S, Crestone, CO 81131 or on our web site at www.bacawater.com/forms. Submit a completed application and resume to: Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District; PO Box 520, Crestone, CO 81131. Application deadline is 04-12-2013.

Office Help Wanted

Part Time, office assistant for local professional practitioners. Must have training and experience. Submit resume, with education & references to: CHC, P.O. Box 461, Crestone, CO 81131

Housekeeper Wanted

We are looking for a part time housekeeper for Casa Del Soul in Crestone. Call Gary at 256-5788.

Misc. Wanted

Driving to California?

WANTED: Ride to Sebastopol, CA, \$300.- towards gas. About 4 suitcases, some boxes, bicycle frame, my cat (with her cage) etc. I can share driving, truehome@gmail.com

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

All in great shape:

Epiphone DR acoustic guitar – ex. condition-\$55. Dresser/night stand – heavy wood. \$75. CD player – 5 discs – like new/\$65. Black/Decker paper shredder – \$25. Drafting table/wood top. \$80. 256-5614.

For Sale

New or never used: Champion 4000 watt generator; Cobra 2500 watt inverter w/ remote; HP designjet plotter; Chrome gas 2-burner hot plate; Twin head propane radiant heater 719-588-2746

Need a Break?

April 15th ~ the dreaded "Tax Day" ~ the CYP Thrift Store will be having a 25% OFF SALE because "You deserve a break today" (but it ain't McDonald's!)

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 Shangrillah Stove 256-4768.

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New store in Sangre de Cristo Inn. Off the central hallway, next to the pottery shop. Open Wed – Sat 11-3. Will special order books. For more info call Carmin at 256-4511.

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

Community Service

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.

Emotional and Spiritual Counseling

Change your life for free. "Change your mind/change your reality/expand consciousness through grace." Alice Blaszk provides free emotional and spiritual counseling to local residents. Privacy maintained. Phone Alice at 256-5670 for appointment; will resume May 7th.

Need a Caregiver?

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

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

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

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.

SHARE YOUR PAIN:

Recently neutered dog looking to form a support group for grief therapy, mutual counseling or maybe just a good cry. No cats! Studs need not attend.

Free

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

Free Manure

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

Free: used mattress.

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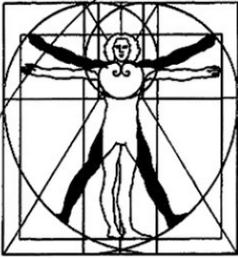


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by Keno

What is a squall line?

A squall line is a system of thunderstorms that have formed into a line ahead of a cold front, where wind shear combined with unusually widespread lifting of the lower atmosphere causes convection. The line itself is relatively narrow, but it can produce heavy rain, hail, lightning, and dangerous straight-line winds. Tornadoes can also form among squall lines; however, they are more commonly associated with isolated thunderstorms, not squall lines.

In our area during the early spring, it isn't uncommon to see heavy snow squalls form in these lines, and we will normally see weather events like squall lines from late March till around early September.

What is graupel?

Graupel, which is also called "snow pellets", is precipitation that forms when snow in the atmosphere encounters super-cooled droplets of water. In a process known as accretion, ice crystals form instantly on the outside of the snow and accumulate until the original snowflake is



March saw a series of light snowfalls. This one on March 9 of 6.4" set a record for the date. It is good to see snow on the peaks! photo by Lori A. Nagel

no longer visible or distinguishable. Although also called "soft hail", it isn't hail at all and is considered a form of snow.

To tell the difference between graupel and hail, you simply have to touch a graupel ball. Graupel pellets usually fall apart when touched or when they hit the ground. Hail, which consists of layers of ice, are very hard and will not break when touched. Although we do sometimes see graupel on very cold winter days, it's more likely to occur in the early spring around our neck of the woods, and it can accumulate on the ground even with the temperature a few degrees above freezing, unlike normal snowflakes which usually melt instantly under the same conditions.

Is there weather in space?

Well yes . . . but not the kind we see on Earth. Outer space has none of the ingredients we usually think of for producing weather (like moisture), but space can still be a stormy place. The storminess is caused by the sun. As is the case with all active stars, our sun is constantly in motion and often produces eruptions of gas and high energy particles that shoot out into space.

Right now our sun is in a very active stage and is producing a high volume of solar flares. Although solar particles continuously bombard the earth, during high solar eruptions like what we are seeing at the present time, these eruptions sometimes become very intense. Such storms can disrupt communication satellites, and power grids on the ground. These charged particles are also what causes the Northern Lights (aka Aurora Borealis) and cause them to be seen much farther south than normal. The National Weather Service, along with NOAA, now has a Space Weather Prediction Center Website (swpc.noaa.gov), which monitors and forecasts solar activity. Very interesting indeed; I do suggest if you have an interest in space weather, that you check out this site!

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

February 21 to March 20

Total precipitation for period

Liquid precip: 0.98"

Snow: 12.3"

Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days.

Measurable snow fell on 9 days.

Measurable rain fell on 1 day.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

No thunderstorms or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date

Since Jan 1: 1.46"

Total snow to date

Since Jan 1: 17.7"

Snow season 7/1-6/30: 38.8"

Temperatures for the period

High temp: 64.0°F on March 15

Low temp: 2.4°F on February 27

Avg. high: 43.7°F

Avg. low: 17.1°F

Days with high temp ≥ 60°: 2

Days with high temp > 50°: 7

Days with high temp ≤ 32°: 7

Days with low temp ≤ 32°: All 28

Days with low temp ≤ 10°: 7

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 4mph

Highest gust: 37mph on March 17

Main direction: Out of the east

Weather summary

Temperatures were above normal, with precipitation also slightly above normal. On Saturday, March 9, 6.4" of snow fell along with .57" of precipitation, both records for the date. The old snowfall record was 5.0", and the old precipitation mark was .30"; both records were set in 1992.

Outlook for April

April is normally our fourth wettest month of the year, averaging 1.23" of precipitation, with 10.2" of snow. The wettest April ever was in 1990, when 3.41" of precip was reported, and the snowiest April was in 2009 when 47.3" of snow fell.

Temperature-wise, the average high and low is 52° and 24° on the first of the month and rises up to 61° and 31° by the last day of the month. The warmest temp ever in April was 80°, set first on April 30, 1992, and then reached again on April 27, 2000. The coldest reading was 6°, first set on April 6, 1983, and then again on April 12, 1997.

The 30-day outlook for April, put out by the National Weather Service, is calling for well-above-normal-temperatures, with below normal precipitation—not good news at all. However, the 30-day outlook this year has been incorrect for the first 3 months so far, so time will tell what actually takes place!

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