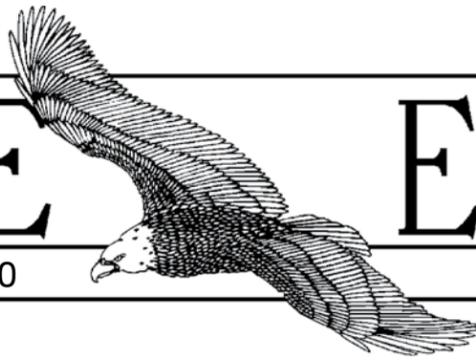


The CRESTONE EAGLE

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October, 2014 \$1

25 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley



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Late afternoon sun rays sweep the Great Sand Dunes and San Luis Valley.

photo by Martin Witt

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BLM takes new approach to solar development in the San Luis Valley—held tours & workshops

by **Bea Ferrigno**

Last month the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held tours and workshops at three San Luis Valley (SLV) sites proposed for solar development. On September 8 at the De Tilla Gulch site near Saguache, project manager Joe Vieira explained that while the BLM has not done much mitigation of development impacts in the past, under the direction of former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, all Interior agencies now conduct landscape-scale assess-

ments and plan regional mitigation strategies. There are currently 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZ) in six western states undergoing public examinations. In Colorado, the area under consideration for solar power generation includes the entire SLV, from Poncha Pass to Española in New Mexico. Three sites have been selected for possible solar development: one southeast of Antonito, another west of Romeo, and one near the landfill in Saguache County, northwest of the intersection of County Roads

AA and 55 and south of Hwy. 285.

The site is 1000 acres of a BLM grazing allotment that has not been in use for 20 to 30 years; at first glance, it looks like the chico-dominated range that covers the northern SLV. The BLM's detailed assessment, however, delivered by several staff members with the support of solar experts from Argonne National Laboratory, revealed the terrain holds much more than meets the eye. There are actually numerous resident

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Looking across North Crestone Lake. Photo taken by Peter May during the 2014 Essence of the Elements Retreat. See story and more photos on page 25

Important issues on the ballot for Colo. general election ***Labeling of GMOs, personhood (again), gambling & open meetings***

by **Lisa Cyriacks**

The 2014 election ballot has shaped up to be a "below-average" year for ballot initiatives. There are currently four ballot questions approved to be voted on by Colorado voters. An average number of six measures have appeared annually on the ballot since 1996.

Currently on the ballot is Amendment 67, "Colorado Definition of Person and Child Initiative". If approved by the voters,

the measure would include unborn human beings under the definition of person and child in the Colorado criminal code including fetuses in all areas of law. Personhood Colorado, which sponsored the initiative, turned in over 140,000 signatures, surpassing the 86,105 required signatures by a significant margin.

The second measure on the ballot is the "Colorado Horse Racetrack Limited Gaming Proceeds for K-12 Education Amendment".

The measure, if approved, would establish an education fund to address local educational needs. The fund would be capitalized through additional revenues generated by expanded gaming such as slot machines, card games, roulette and craps at horse racetracks in Arapahoe, Mesa, and Pueblo Counties.

Gambling revenue taxes are not currently allocated specifically to K-12 education. Instead, these

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



Items stolen from Baca Library

Dear Editor,

Baca Grande Library has been a valuable asset in our community for almost forty years. The majority of community residents are library patrons and regularly come in to check out books, videos, magazines and to use the computers. Since we became part of a union catalog two years ago, library members have been able to easily access the holdings of over fifty other libraries across Colorado to find the items they want. The value of this system is that we are able to share resources, quite a great benefit in a small, isolated area such as ours.

Libraries are all about *sharing* items so that many people can take advantage of them—for free! Yet we have recently discovered that a number of our materials, mostly DVDs, have been stolen from the library. The latest theft was of the entire collection of our Breaking Bad series, all five seasons. It was very popular with patrons and cost the library (your money) over \$200. Folks were on a waiting list to view the series and were shocked to hear about the selfish act that occurred in our library. We ask that if you have information about the missing discs (or see any of our items in the Free Box), please let us know. All library items are clearly marked with library bar codes, numbers, date due slips and stamps. Just a note—we have a drop slot at the front door, and items can be returned after hours (for those with a guilty conscience, perhaps).

Suzanne, Barry and Sandia

'Crestonehenge' closed to the public

Dear Editor,

Please note that the labyrinth on Cottonwood/Allott Trail in the Baca known as Crestonehenge is on private land. Visits by appointment only. Contact owner at 719-937-7762.

I also would like to have "Crestonehenge" taken out of any tourist guide/map.

Thank you very much!

Verena Schwarz

Thank you Saguache County voters!

Dear voters,

It's hard to believe that another four years have passed since the last election for Saguache County government officials.

I just wanted to take a couple of moments of your time to thank you. I want to thank you for taking the time each election cycle to vote, whether it is for local, county, state or federal elections. Thank you for believing in me and the job that I do as your Saguache County Treasurer and Public Trustee.

The past four years have been

eventful county-wide, with new schools being built, districts being formed, recalls taking place, and new assessments being done. Through it all, we have all been able to voice our concerns, find solutions, and come out at the end hopefully with a better understanding of how our county government works.

I would encourage all who have internet service to please take a tour of our website at www.saguachecounty-co.gov. All tax information is updated daily, so information posted on this site is accurate and easy to navigate. We offer online payments for your convenience as well. You will be able to see if and when your payments have been made.

It is my hope that each one of you would feel comfortable coming into my office, calling, or emailing me with any questions or concerns you might have. If I am unavailable, I have a staff that is quite knowledgeable and I am grateful for each one of them.

I hope that each of you is planning on voting in the General Election on November 4, 2014. This will be an excellent time to get out, meet the officials who are governing our county, ask questions that need to be asked, and meet those who have stepped forward with an interest to lead in a county position.

Again, I would like to thank each one of you for your vote of confidence. It will be an honor to serve you as the Saguache County Treasurer and Public Trustee for the next four years.

Sincerely,

Connie Trujillo

Peterson endorsement

Dear Editor,

I would urge people to vote for Peter Peterson for Saguache County Assessor. I have known Peter for many years and he is honest and diligent and has done the work to prepare for this position. I believe that everyone in the county will benefit from having an assessor who is fair and up to the task at hand.

Thank you,

Sam Pace

Gomez intention to seek re-election

Dear Editor,

I would like to announce my intention to run for re-election to the office of County Clerk and Recorder. I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained in the two years since being elected to the office in January of 2012 have well prepared me to serve a full four-year term as clerk and recorder and would like the opportunity to do so. During the past two years we have addressed many issues, including resolving lawsuits, cleaning and reorganizing two vaults of records dating to the late 1800s, recovering and scanning scores of old books for electronic recording, adjusted to the sweeping changes to election laws, assisted with the substantial Board of Equalization and abatement processes. I have also moved our Center office to a more secure location and am in the process of developing written policies and procedures for many of the

daily functions of the office.

The staff, who all stayed with me, has been very committed and supportive as we continue to improve the operations of the office. Their loyalty and work ethic is admirable. I could not have done this without them.

I would like the opportunity to continue to serve the voters and residents of this county as clerk and recorder. I remain committed to the office and to the citizens of this County and would be honored to serve another term.

Respectfully,
Carla Gomez

Wilson, candidate for Saguache County Clerk

Dear Editor,

I have lived in Saguache County with my family for 15yrs. My Husband Joey and I have raised three sons. Our oldest is a retired Marine Corp Sergeant, and now lives & works in Grand Junction with his wife and 2 sons. Our middle son lives in Parachute & works at a petroleum plant. Our youngest son is a Senior at Mountain Valley High School.

I currently work for Saguache County Department of Social Services, as a Food Assistance & Medical Technician.

I have worked in both Saguache and Rio Grande County Clerks Offices, both for 4 years each. While working here in the Saguache Clerks Office I worked in all departments and received my first taste of elections, and found that to be the most intriguing to me, along with serving the citizens of Saguache County.

I applied for the job in Rio Grande because the job description was for an election clerk, along with general office clerk duties when elections were not a priority. My first week of working in Rio Grande was to perform a mock election using the newly designed SCORE election software, to prepare for one of our nation's largest presidential elections in November of 2008. I felt it was a new and exciting adventure for our country to move forward in the election process. I attended classes and training and became a certified election clerk. The experience I received while working in Rio Grande County not only in elections, but the recording of documents, liquor licenses, titling and plating of vehicles, is invaluable.

During all of my years of work experience I have always served the public and enjoy serving the public to this day.

As the County Clerk of Saguache County I will be a working clerk, available to assist all the citizens of Saguache County.

With your support I will be a clerk for the citizens of Saguache County. I will stay informed, be fair, honest, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for your support.
Christina Wilson

Tim N. Lovato for county commissioner

Fellow voters and citizens of Saguache County,

As many of you know this is an all mail in election on November 4.

The mail in ballots will be sent out on October 14. I would like to thank everyone who supported me in the recent primary election—both those of you who voted for me and those of you who wrote letters of endorsement, and I thank you for your continued support. I have talked to many of you and have noted your comments. I will continue to visit with voters and listen to your concerns. Please feel free to contact me.

Tim N. Lovato

POA change needed

Dear Editor,

I believe the present POA board has created a rent in the fabric of our community. Rather than positive leadership which values the residents they serve as well as our property, we've been under siege, marked by months of animosity, breaches of public trust, lawsuits, lack of an ethical code of conduct with disregard for democratic procedure and Robert's Rules of order.

It must be disheartening to out-of-town property owners to hear this—but there is a remedy. A large majority of the community are supporting three people running for the board who have the managerial skills as well as respect for the community at heart: Brooks, Lakish and Theriault.

With this election we can turn things around and breathe a collective sigh of relief that order and good will have been restored.

Sandia Belgrade

Smilak runs for POA

Dear Editor,

My name is Stephen Smilack and I am a candidate for the upcoming Baca Grande POA board election. I hold to the view that the primary responsibility of a director of the board is fiduciary duty. Adhering to that principle is first and foremost, and it is particularly important to serve without a personal agenda. I seek to create dialogue and consensus without the rancor, contention, and distrust which has plagued the past boards. Bottom line issues such as creating new revenue streams and reaching out to absentee owners to achieve a super-majority willing and able to constructively change deficiencies in the rules and regulations of the subdivision, these are very important issues that most owners do agree upon. Thank you for your support and your votes.

Sincerely,

Stephen Smilack

Democracy & POA board candidates

Dear Editor,

I have been thinking a lot about democracy lately.

It's a long story that I won't get into now.

But one thing that I have been thinking about is that elected leaders are not there to solely serve their own interests. They are there to represent the people who elected them. To do this they must be good listeners and ask questions. It also helps if they are truly interested in other people's opinions, treat them with respect and have skills for fos-

tering deep dialogue.

What does this have to do with our POA election?

I have had the opportunity to get to know 3 of our candidates for the POA board: Sugandha Brooks, Matie Belle Lakish and Joanne Theriault.

All three are deep listeners. They are curious and interested in other people's views. I am blown away with their patience and respect for others. I have seen direct evidence of all 3 candidates helping to guide conversation to a deeper level, each in their own way. They are also fun and know how to lighten the mood, another key element of deep dialogue.

Democracy also requires voters.

This is an important election.

Please take the time to vote. I hope you support these 3 candidates and take the time to understand who you think is best able to represent the interests of everyone and foster deep, informed dialogue.

Sincerely,

Mikela Tarlow

Dr. Karlstrom & Mr. Hyde

Dear Editor,

Eric Karlstrom, candidate for the POA board in the forthcoming election, may present himself well as an articulate, reasonable person. However, his public persona shields a quite different person in the blogosphere. A website of his, "9/11 New World Order" (<http://911nwo.com>), reveals the visage of an acolyte of most of the current conspiracy theories. These include: 9/11 was a hoax; Holocaust denial; man-caused climate change denial; and the threat of Agenda 21. Underlying many of these conspiracies are, Karlstrom claims, the forces of Jews acting covertly to enslave us ("I believe that behind the Buddhocracy in Crestone . . . and well, the world.") See 12.September 22,2013: <http://911nwo.com/?p=2124>

Karlstrom in a blog writes about modern Judaism ritual blood sacrifice of humans and animals. See Part 9: From UFO Cults to 9/11: <http://911nwo.com/?p=2154>

Please check out these websites. This is not the stuff of someone we'd like to think of as our leader.

In shame,

Martin C Macaulay

Baca POA more trouble than it's worth

Dear Editor,

Why does the Baca need a "Property Owners Association"? All people in the Baca need is the roads kept up, fire protection, and ambulance service. For the totally outrageous taxation levied against property in the Baca, the county should be more than able to meet these obligations as it does in most states. From what I have seen, the Baca POA has been little more than a stage for stupid, expensive ideas (a putt putt golf course now?) and power struggles among neurotic individuals determined to control the lives of their neighbors. Every property owner in the Baca has to constantly watch their back to make sure someone in

Commentary: That was not a 'news' letter, We need a new POA board majority

Dear fellow Baca Grande property owners,

Letter's purpose: To persuade property owners that their interests will be better enhanced and protected by a new majority on the five-member Baca Grande POA Board.

Authors' motivation: We are part-time residents/property owners whose primary residence is in Denver. Bonnie is a past president of an HOA in Denver.

We have listened to the community frustration with the current board and are appalled at the lack of professional behavior on the part of the current board majority as evidenced by the current "official" POA "newsletter's" unprofessional approach to annual reports. We are also concerned about the impact that such discord at the board and community levels will have on our property values.

We have no formal connection to any of the spiritual centers here. We came to Crestone to enjoy the natural wonders of the area. Now retired, we are hikers, bikers, and swimmers.

The evidence: What all property owners have in hand by now is the "newsletter" mailed in early September, 2014. It contains no financial statements, no committee reports, and no management reports. Instead we received a meandering and often polemical monologue purporting to be a board report when, in fact, it is the reflection of an individual or individuals who would rather sue than negotiate, legislate, or collaborate.

The current board majority attained power by default: No one dared to run against them in the last election for fear of being sued. This situation is threatening the very health of this community and therefore the ability to attract people to the community. A sick administrative culture affects everything it touches. Fortunately, three people have finally stepped forward to challenge that majority. They are Brooks, Lakish, and Theriault. (Think BLT)

One of the issues cited in the "newsletter" is lot consolidation. Even though lot consolidation was found, through a committee established by the board, to be of little consequence to the dues rates as compared to the delinquent dues

issue, the current board majority has highlighted consolidation as the central issue. It is clearly not. The statistics show that. In effect, the board majority ignored the findings of the very committee it appointed and told a misleading story in the "newsletter" hoping to control the message to serve their own interests, whatever they may be. We can only guess.

Another example of misplaced focus is the innuendo that Hammersmith, the management company hired by the POA board 6 years ago, has been dipping into the till. The current majority has dismissed or is planning to dismiss Hammersmith and intends to hire local folks to manage the books and operation. There is no evidence of misconduct by Hammersmith. There is only innuendo.

Finally, the "newsletter" mentions Russell Schreiber, a former POA member who was sued by the majority and suffered untold mental anguish because of it on top of his bout with terminal cancer which ended his life earlier this year. The "newsletter" offers no mention of Russell's service or his unfortunate end. It just mentions him as a former board member gotten out of the way of the majority's intentions through a settled lawsuit. This begs the question: What kind of people would treat a dying man in this manner?

The solution: Today we have three candidates that the greater Baca Grande community must elect if we are to restore sanity and accountability to the board. They are Brooks, Lakish, and Theriault. These three women will constitute a new majority that will take the POA in the positive direction of accountability, collaboration, and real transparency.

However, the people who own property in the Baca Grande must be vigilant in assuring that board members represent the greater good of the larger community, not simply their own parochial or peculiar interests. Property owners need to know what is *really* going on by reading *The Crestone Eagle* regularly and asking questions of Baca Grande residents they know or should come to know and respect.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A. Blodgett

Bonnie M. Orkow

the POA leadership is not scheming to screw them over, commit to some expensive boondoggle with their dues money, or slap a lien on their property for some "violation". You've read the horror stories about how abusive POAs can get and it's a no-brainer where this one is now headed. Enough is enough. The Baca POA is a total ripoff. Who needs it? I say disband the Baca POA and sleep easier at night. I know I would.

John Powers

What if?

Dear Editor,

My sister, Evie Hirschberger, lives in Chelan, WA. Her surround-

ing community suffered a horrific fire storm and I asked her if she would share some of her thoughts to educate us, Crestone. She has the perspective of having a professional firefighter daughter and knowing people who lost their houses from the fire. She writes:

"I don't exactly know what light I can shed on this, but let me start this way. What if . . .

"You were in a level three evacuation zone and you didn't even know it.

"You were trying to keep your house from burning and there was no power, no water and nobody would stop and help. Even fire trucks passed you by while there

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Letters

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was still a way to keep your house from burning, only to show up after your house is fully engulfed.

"The DOT was keeping the water tenders from coming up the highway when you really need them for fire protection, even though the drivers are wearing Fire Protection clothing, and are trained. Safety first.

"The local volunteer fire fighters are busy with protecting their own homes, and can't help you with yours.

"While trying to decide who is in charge because of what district, county, or government body should be in control you lose precious time for containment.

"You don't realize the danger until it is at your door, and you escape only with your life.

"After the fire storm came through, there was an incredible amount of help and community support. It was what happened before that hopefully we can learn from and improve upon. Many people had only minutes to save a few things, most importantly their lives. Some were in disbelief of the severity of the situation, and wasted precious time to prepare. It would help emergency personnel if the public understood better what to do in case of an event such as this. How are you going to notify everyone? Where do you go to be safe? What are the chains of command? How to you keep clear, concise communication and information flowing? Knowing ahead of time what you would do in the event something happens is really important, and that includes the emergency personnel."

I think "What if . . ." should be examined and thought through the many case scenarios that could happen to help to be better prepared.

—Jo Anne Kiser

Seed exchange hand-off sought

Dear Editor,

I believe that growing, saving and sharing our garden seeds connects us with the earth and each other. Locally grown seeds adapt to the area's growing season, altitude, and soil. A community creates more food security for itself when it grows food and saves seed for the next planting. There are a lot of gardeners in our area who are learning how to save seeds and a seed exchange is a great way for gardening enthusiasts and beginners to meet, exchange knowledge and heirloom seeds.

I'm writing this letter to let you and my San Luis Valley community know that I will not be organizing next year's seed exchange. I have enjoyed organizing this event and would love to see it continue—even grow. If you are interested and would like more information about organizing the 2015 San Luis Valley Seed Exchange, please contact Leigh Mills at slvseedexchange@gmail.com or 719-655-2011.

Thank you,
Leigh Mills

Increased air traffic

Dear Everyone,

This year has brought on an alarming amount of air traffic and increased noise to the Crestone area and the eastern SLV. It has been particularly disturbing to me not to be able to discern the source of this traffic, and to receive no response from local governmental and environmental agencies (you know who you are!)

So, after months of research including head scratching, frustration, and brick walls, I am happy to have received some helpful information.

The 104th Wing from Buckley field conducts training with F-16s Tuesday thru Friday between 9am and 3:30pm, for 1 1/2 hour intervals. This is likely the source of what we have been experiencing the last few weeks. Comments can now be sent to 140wg.noisecomment@ang.af.mil (This email has been inactive for many months, and now has someone actually checking it). If you experience low flying Army helicopters, they do not train in the SLV but are likely on a search and rescue mission. Other sources of military air traffic could be coming from Peterson 21st Space Wing, contact 719-556-5185 or 719-556-6208; or Centennial Airport, 303-790-4709, centennialairport.com/index.php/en/community/noise/beta-noise-page.

Another interesting site that was passed on to me by the Chief of Public Affairs at Buckley is skyvector.com, where you can highlight Military Operation Areas and low level flight routes (ours likely Le Veta).

If anyone else out there finds this activity disturbing, (does anyone even notice!?), even if we cannot make it go away (or can we?)—these are some contacts to track down the sources. Any comments or correspondence should include exact timings and locations. Also, if you have additional related information please share with me!

Thank You.
Namaste,
Annie Pace



Search & rescue landing zone at Cottonwood Lake.

photo by Talmath Lakai

Search & Rescue called out twice to assist stranded hikers

by Mary Lowers

Over the first weekend of September three men found themselves stranded while hiking the peaks above Crestone. Saguache County Deputy Tyler Harford was the spokesman for the rescue efforts which included local search and rescue crew members, a helicopter and the Western State College Mtn. Rescue Team. This volunteer team is trained to help people who find themselves trapped in the mountains and need to rappel down to get out. Approximately seven people were involved in the two rescue missions.

The first man, age 26, called 911 on his cell phone to inform rescue personnel he was trapped on a high ledge and could not find a way down. Harford told me the call came in so late that the man needed to spend the night on the ledge. "It was an eight- to ten-hour hike to the remote location where the man was stuck. Choppers will not fly at night. So we waited until morning to go in." When the rescue crew got up there they got a call from the victim saying that he'd been able to get down with the help of some hikers. The young man walked out on his own.

Before the crew could turn around and head for home they received the report of two men in their seventies stuck on an inaccessible ledge within a mile of the first trapped hiker. The trapped hikers were in Saguache County but on the eastern side of the mountains. The Saguache County rescue crew met up with the Western State College Mtn. Rescue Team and headed off to rescue the stuck men. The team of rappellers was led by Brian Larson and consisted of four people. Their combined efforts helped the seventy-five and seventy-nine-year-old men rappel down the cliff face safely. The men were hiked out on the Custer County side of the range.

Deputy Harford told me only one of the men had a Colorado Hiker's Card which help to fund rescues and searches statewide. He told me, "The main problem that seems to cause people to get stuck on ledges high in the mountains is not following the established trail. They look down and think they have found a quicker way down and wind up trapped."

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Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

Crimes of a personal nature made up a number of the arrests and bookings for the Saguache County Sheriff's Office in the past month. A 40-year-old Moffat carpenter was held on \$1000 bail for failure to appear and fugitive from justice charges. The same man was ticketed for driving under a suspended license and driving with false plates. A woman, 26, and a man, 24, both from Grand Junction, appeared on three counts each of being fugitives from justice and one count each for failure to appear. Neither was given bail.

A Saguache man, 49 was held with no bail for domestic violence and harassment. The charges of domestic violence, harassment and obstructing phone service were leveled against a Moffat man, 54, taken into custody in the unincorporated county. A Center man, 35, was arrested in Saguache on charges including third degree assault and child abuse. His bail was set at \$50,000. A Crestone woman, 26, was arrested on four domestic violence charges including third degree assault and harassment. No bail amount was listed for her. A 25-year-old man from Cuba, NM but employed in the valley was arrested in Center for disorderly conduct, menacing, possession of a dangerous or illegal weapon and resisting arrest. No bail amount was listed for him. A 25-year-old Broomfield man is being held on a cash only \$1000 bail for violation of a restraining order.

A Trinidad man, 39, is being held in the county jail on a cash only bond of \$2,500 for first degree criminal trespass, criminal attempt and theft. A Crestone man was ticketed for driving a low power scooter without a valid license. A woman from San Francisco, CA was ticketed for failure to yield as posted on Alder St. and Silver Ave. in Crestone. A few speeding citations were issued on County Road T and on Hwy 17. Approximately 20 tickets a week are issued by Saguache County Sheriff's Dept., mainly for speeding on Hwy. 285 through Saguache or between mile marker 80 and mile marker 110 on Hwy. 285.

Three separate auto accidents, with one fatality happen near Villa Grove on Hwy. 285

by Mary Lowers

Three two-vehicle accidents occurred within a three-week period on Hwy. 285 on either side of Villa Grove. The first accident on August 28 at mile marker 101 involved a pickup driven by a Saguache man, 73, and an SUV driven by a Crestone woman, 62. On September 14 a second collision occurred just north of Villa Grove near the cemetery, at mile marker 105. A woman, 74, from Saguache and a Lakewood woman, 19, were involved in this accident. The third crash on September 19, at mile marker 106, sadly included the death of a Moffat woman, Heather Lara, age 20. The car she was in was driven by a Salida man, 21, and was struck by a Mesa, Arizona woman, 68. According to the Colorado State Patrol, three people injured in the accident were airlifted from the scene to Heart of the Rockies Hospital in Salida and Penrose Hospital on the eastern slope. Hwy. 285 was closed to traffic for several hours due to the accident.

The accident reports for all three crashes indicate drugs and/or alcohol are not thought to be factors. In the August accident the truck driven by the Saguache man, while turning onto the highway from the shoulder hit the Crestone woman's SUV. The Saguache man was cited on a failure to yield right of way upon entering a highway. The Crestone woman's vehicle rolled twice after impact. The Crestone woman was transported by ambulance to Heart of the Rockies Hospital in

Salida where she was treated and released. All parties in this accident were wearing seat belts. Neither the man in the truck or his passenger reported any injuries.

The crash of September 14, according to official accident reports, happened when a car driven by a Lakewood woman travelling south veered into the north-bound lane causing her vehicle to impact the car traveling north. The primary violation in this case was for careless driving causing injury. The report from the CO State Patrol indicates cell phone use while driving may have been a factor in the accident. Both drivers suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to hospital in Salida. Both drivers in this accident were wearing seat belts.

The accident on September 19, involving the untimely death of the young Moffat woman, was by far the worst of the three accidents. The car driven by the Arizona woman travelling south crossed into the north-bound lane striking the car of the Salida man and separating it into two pieces. It appears not everyone was wearing seat belts. The Moffat woman who was killed was ejected from the car and died at the scene as a result of her injuries. All other parties in this accident were transported to hospitals with serious injuries, two by flight for life helicopter. Hwy 285 was closed for several hours due to this crash.

The lessons here for others traveling on Hwy. 285 are familiar ones. First, wear seat belts—they prevent injury and save lives. Second, pull over for that important cell phone call. Hwy. 285 is one of the longest north/south highways in the western US; it is always busy. My weekly reports of arrests bookings and citations from the Saguache County Sheriff indicate that most of the tickets issued in a week are for violations, mostly speeding, between mile marker 80 and mile marker 110 on Hwy 285. We all need to pay close attention while driving this deceptively innocuous stretch of road.



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Saguache County Planning Commission concerned about large greenhouses in the Baca subdivision

by Bea Ferrigno

At a September 11 meeting of the Saguache County Board of Commissioners (BoCC) with the County Planning Commission (CPC), discussion focused on large greenhouses recently built in the Grants area of the Baca Grande subdivision. Some of the greenhouses are believed to be illegally growing marijuana and taking water from the creeks. Charles Sommers, Baca subdivision representative on the CPC, said the POA Environment and Architecture committee would like to limit the size of greenhouses to 500 square feet, as it should take only 366 square feet of greenhouse space to supply a family of four. For greenhouses with legitimate requirements for more than 500 square feet, conditional use permits could be granted.

Sommers hoped to avoid disa-

greement with the county as it was not clear what regulations were in place and whether the POA or the county should enforce them. It appeared that greenhouses of 1800 square feet, or a pair at 1500 square feet each, would have to be commercial operations. The county maintained it could not enforce POA covenants, although it could enforce county land use regulations.

When commissioner Jason Anderson asked what the problem is with large greenhouses, Sommers responded that they don't fit with the natural surroundings. He mentioned a 3500-square-foot grow operation with no house: "That's all they have, a tent." Also noted were use of creek water for many more than 21 plants, and use of greenbelts as bathrooms.

At the September 16 meeting of the BoCC, we were able to clarify that although most of Saguache county is not zoned, the Baca Grande subdivision was in fact

zoned, mostly residential, in 1996 when the county master plan was put in place. This was confirmed by Wendi Maez, county land use director and Ben Gibbons, county attorney. The record is in Article 16 of the county Land Development Code. Under the residential zoning in the Baca, home businesses are allowed when there are no more than three employees including the owner and if the business space is smaller than the residence. And Atty. Gibbons noted that any commercial enterprise must have an approved water source.

The commercial zone within the Baca subdivision is an area known as Elk Park, east of the POA office and north of County Road T, where the only development has been an unfinished insulated concrete-form building. Under county regulations, there is no allowance within the residential areas of the Baca subdivision for freestanding, commercial businesses, including greenhouses; and under POA covenants, greenhouses must be attached to residences.

After considerable discussion at the September 11 meeting, it emerged that because the Baca subdivision is zoned, the county could revise the land use code to limit greenhouses in residential zones to 500 square feet. This would not affect production greenhouses in the unzoned, largely agricultural remainder of the county. And at a subsequent BOCC meeting on September 16, it was also agreed to increase all land use violation fines from \$100 to \$1000, primarily to deter relocation of structures without required permits, but also to recover the expenses of enforcement.

On Sept. 16 we also followed up with Undersheriff Tristan Van Zalinge about the challenges of enforcing both marijuana and land use laws: Legal marijuana growers must comply with state tracking requirements and must hold permits, but those permits are not required to be displayed on their properties. Thus it becomes difficult for anyone to determine, without "probable cause", whether a marijuana growing site is legal.

Eye on the county

What will it take to have a permanent landfill and to create a real recycling center?

by Saguache County Commissioners

Our county landfill was closed from June 30, 2013 thru October 16, 2013, creating a hardship for many of our residents. It took that time to meet requirements placed by the CO Dept. of Public Health & Environment, to protect the water, land, and ensure your health and safety.

Significant Administrative/Professional costs were incurred for outside engineering studies, strategies development and updating of the county's regulatory Engineering Design and Operations Plan (EDOP). New monitoring requirements including personnel and equipment, and new requirements for construction of the "cells" into which trash goes, have brought the landfill up to a new standard, at very great cost.

Recycling is something many citizens in this County are passionate about, or at least would like to see working. But, with low volume, lack of buyers, and no funds for improvements—recyclables cannot be managed. Barriers like lack of proper facilities and equipment—such as a baler that can process recyclables to the standards of buyer, have prevented recyclable revenues, and cause recyclables to accumulate, triggering new requirements and special handling. Use of recyclable materials as raw materials for local businesses has been a county goal, but has not taken

off. Proper facilities to receive, process and recycle the materials our communities generate could open opportunities. This month the county began contracting for tires to be baled, for use by the County or for sale to support the landfill. This was in response to the state requirement of a disposal plan and action this month for the many tires the landfill has taken in. A recycling program can work in this county, but it needs the proper infrastructure to support it.

Tourism in and through our county is a mainstay of many local businesses; many are attracted to our vast public lands (76%+ of land in Saguache County), and unique communities. And, they leave their trash! When the landfill is not available, dumping on private property and public lands increases as we saw with just the 3.5 months' closure last year. Visitors can help local citizens pay for landfill and recycling operations and facilities, in the proposed 1% sales tax that will be coming up on the November ballot.

Financial details of the key activities in the landfill for each of the years 2010-2014 are available on the Saguache County website: saguachecounty.net/landfill-a-recyclingcenter.

In summary, over a 4½-year-period the landfill and recycling center has seen a significant decline in revenue and an increase in operating costs. The general fund, on average, spends approximately \$90,374.95 yearly over the annual revenues received and must maintain approximately \$357,880.16 in a reserve fund for costs related to closing and reclaiming the landfill site. The increasing regulations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have also had a significant impact on the overall cost of running and maintaining the landfill. Future expenditures for equipment

will be approximately \$1,100,000, which will include a loader, trash compactor, recycling bailer and recycling operations building.

Expenditures related to expansion at the landfill and mandated procedures (designed to protect the public) will continue for the life of the landfill. Overall, the county has expended \$696,186.48 over actual received revenues over a 4½ year period (an average of \$154,708.11 per year) to keep the landfill open and operating under mandated rules and regulations.

The landfill, running at a loss every year, cannot be sustained, and a proper recycling center has been out of reach. Two boards of county commissioners and landfill staff have studied the issues and options, and made every effort to meet all the health, safety and environment requirements, to keep this valuable landfill service available at our end of the valley. And still believe recycla-

bles can be managed properly, conveniently for customers, and making reusable resources available for business purposes by local and out-of-area buyers.

The only other landfill in the valley—the Regional Landfill in Rio Grande County—is now facing the same process and challenges to meet requirements and costs. Here, with a minimal contribution by Saguache County residents and every visitor who would pay a 1% sales tax as they support our local businesses—the landfill services and improved recycling operations will be maintained for the long-term, and avoid the possibility of the landfill having to close.

BoCC hears from Wildlife Refuge

On September 2 at the Saguache County Board of Commissioners (BoCC), Ron Garcia, Interim Director of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, discussed the recently-issued Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), pointing out there are four options under consideration, two of which include public access. Until the CCP is approved, the Baca Refuge remains officially closed. Public meetings, including one at Mofat, October 1, 6:30pm at the Mofat School, have been scheduled; comments on the CCP can be submitted until November 3. Later, Peggy Godfrey expressed concern that monitoring wells along the east side of the Baca Refuge were not being maintained. That situation and the effect on the refuge of the Closed Basin Project were scheduled for a commissioners' tour on September 25.

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County commissioners & Crestone Trustees meet regarding property values

by Lisa Cyriacks

Mid-September the Saguache County Commissioners and Crestone Trustees met to discuss and identify issues that arose during recent re-evaluations of town properties in the Board of Equalization hearings.

The county commissioners, seated as the Board of Equalization, in the past few weeks have heard and rendered decisions on 2014 protests on valuations of property and 2013/2012 abatements on taxes—for many of the same properties.

A lawsuit was filed after the 2013 property tax valuation protests claiming that the valuations made in 2013 were in violation of Colorado statutes. The lawsuit was settled with the county in February 2014 in favor of changing valuations to those proposed by the landowners named in the lawsuit. By agreeing to settle the lawsuit, the assessor, the Colorado State Property Tax Division and the Saguache County Commissioners accepted the valuations established in the lawsuit as valid.

Valuation protests for 2014 and abatement requests for 2013 and 2012 were filed using the comparables established in the lawsuit as applicable to all properties in Crestone/Baca.

In earlier communications, Crestone Trustees had requested that the county honor the methods and processes used to derive valuations in the recent settlement of the lawsuit—methods and processes that should have been used in the 2013 valuations rather than state-directed valuations.

The September meeting was to create a common understanding of how local property values could be derived and how Crestone valuations are distinct from other areas of the county.

The commissioners presented two tables: one presented options available to the town such as zoning, lot consolidation, etc. to differentiate lots and values; the second listed possible strategies including legislative review to defend the county's actions to date.

Trustee Kizzen Laki at the meeting stressed the importance, looking to the future, of having a really good system in place. "Not only to justify what you [the Board of County Commissioners] did, but is workable and sustainable for our town."

Commissioner Linda Joseph pointed to the "obvious problem" of individuals investing amounts in commercial buildings and improvements that are businesses unable to be supported by the local population.

Mayor Kairina Danforth asked the question of why actual sales data is not used for the valuations rather than the price of construction. "After all, does the statute not point to fair market values?"

The commissioners spoke to the legislative requirements and equations used in appraisals that will show the county out of compliance given recent decisions. And, the frustration that legislation does not factor in insufficient comparable sales, disparate prices due to peo-

ple buying for other reasons than market value, and resulting higher prices that skew statistics up. Not to mention the two years of market analysis required to catch up to current realities.

The meeting adjourned with a commitment on both sides to meet again in October to explore options and measures that can be considered to avoid problems in the future.

2014 Audit

The most recent audit by state appraisers Wildrose Appraisal Inc. shows Saguache County as compliant in both the Single Family and Vacant Land property classes. The Commercial/Industrial property class was exempted from ratio analysis and instead a procedural audit was performed.

The report concludes: "After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Saguache County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner."

According to JoAnn Grof, State Property Tax Administrator, when Wildrose Appraisals Inc. included the new numbers from the recent changes approved by the Saguache County Commissioners, it did not sufficiently affect the valuations for the total county and did not throw the whole county out of compliance with the required statistics. Therefore, Wildrose Appraisals Inc is not making a recommendation to the State Board of Equalization for a re-appraisal.

Elaine Johnson, plaintiff in the lawsuit, said "This is good news. But it does not discount that moving forward assessments need to be done right. What it means is that we can start fresh in 2015 with a newly elected assessor who will do a thorough job and get the values where they need to be. And, the money into the county and other taxing entities to adequately support the services they provide."

The Final Report of the Saguache County Property Assessment Study does not factor in the recent decisions made in August and September by the Saguache County Board of Equalization on 2014 valuations or earlier years tax abatements.

The Saguache County Commissioners and the County Assessor currently anticipate that these decisions will be audited by the state and may require a reappraisal. The commissioners have requested that the 2015 reappraisal (already required by statute) serve, especially since a new assessor elected in November will conduct the 2015 reappraisal. Current Assessor Jackie Stephens has elected not to run for another term.

Stephens also affirmed that not meeting the statistical requirements defined by the audit could result in another reappraisal being triggered for 2014 valuations—similar to the earlier reappraisals required by the state for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

It is anticipated that the Colorado State Board of Equalization will conduct a hearing in October or November to determine whether or not the county's recent decisions are to be overturned.



Beautiful late afternoon light and cloud formations on the mountain Sept. 28.

photo by Lori Nagel



by Deputy Clerk
Gretchen Nelson
Celebrate with us!

The Town of Crestone invites you to be part of a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration for the new Alder Street Bridge. The ribbon cutting will take place on the bridge Friday, October 10 at 2pm. Following the ceremony there will be coffee, tea and cake at the Community Building, 240 N. Cottonwood Street. Please join us for this event and celebrate the heroes who helped accomplish this project.

Thank you for shopping locally

Community members who have increased their local shopping not only reduce fossil fuel use, but create local jobs and keep businesses open, particularly through the winter. Please purchase everything you can locally before driving to a city, and ask the local merchants

about special orders. Thank you for supporting our local merchants by shopping locally. The sales tax collected from local sales translates into increased services from the town, such as improved roads, more programs and longer hours of assistance at Town Hall.

Get ready for winter

It's time to get prepared at home because winter is on the way. Don't forget to drain your garden hoses! You don't want water to freeze and crack your hoses and water pipes. Have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually by a licensed professional. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your house and make sure to change the batteries twice a year. Firewood should be stacked at least 30 feet away from your home or other structures and uphill if possible, to reduce fire danger.

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The Baca Grande POA Board of Directors have moved the previously stated date of the Annual Members Meeting from Friday October 10, 2014 to Wednesday November 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. We discovered errors in the printed election materials making it necessary to re-print them, causing the delay. We look forward to your participation either by mail or in person on November 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the POA hall.

If you have any questions contact the POA office at 719-256-4171.

Changing the definition of 'Election Day' in Colorado

by Lisa Cyriacks

The 2014 mid-term elections are the first statewide contests since the Colorado legislature voted last year to make it easier to cast a ballot. The law allows residents who neglect to register in advance to register on Election Day itself. And it instituted all-mail elections, with ballots going out statewide 22 days before Election Day.

The law was passed in 2013 and a "reform" bill to address flaws in the first bill were passed by the Democrat-controlled Colorado legislature—without a single GOP vote.

Republicans say the new measures redefine Election Day as the first day voters receive mail ballots, weeks before November 4.

So Election Day has become Election Month?

Colorado campaign strategists are configuring their approach to factor in a total reliance on mail-in voting. The all-mail election format provides the tools to monitor who's voting and who hasn't voted, and allows for focus on both persuasion and getting out the vote by both parties. Registered voters identified as likely supporters of a given candidate will hear from that candidate's campaign—endlessly, incessantly, by phone and in person—until they send back their ballots. Once a county elections office reports receiving a voter's ballot, the door knocks will stop, and the phone will fall silent.

The total number of active

voters has increased by about 21,000 voters overall this year, most of whom have registered as unaffiliated with either party.

Historically Colorado voters have decided many of the state's most controversial issues, some of which are called wedge issues because of how adamantly people take sides. When people take sides, they're more likely to vote.

If the logic is that voters support a particular ballot issue, they also support a like-minded party and its candidates, then Colorado has bucked the logic of partisan issues benefiting their partisan allies on the ballot this November. In this fall's closest races, when turnout matters most, the ballot includes four issues, three that appeal most to the right and one to the left:

- Amendment 67, "Colorado Definition of Person and Child Initiative"
- Amendment 68, "Colorado Horse Racetrack Limited Gaming Proceeds for K-12 Education"
- Colorado School Board Open Meetings Initiative
- Colorado Mandatory Labeling of GMOs

Prior to the change to all mail ballot elections, Colorado's voter turnout is already among the highest in the nation. In 2010, 73.5% of voters showed up, a better performance than many states record in presidential election years. In 2012, Colorado was third in the nation for voter turnout with 71.1% of voters.

Capital improvements highlight September board meeting; budget workshop scheduled in October



by Cindy Reinhardt, President BGWSD Board of Directors

Capital projects, including water system improvements approved by the district board in July, and meter transmitter replacements continue to have much of the Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District's focus. Additionally, in preparation for adopting the 2015 annual budget in November, the board will hold a special "budget workshop/planning" meeting in early October.

Water system improvements in Chalet II underway

Work on the water distribution system improvements project to reduce potable water losses began in early September and is scheduled to be completed in mid-October. Minimal service interruptions have been experienced so far, and district staff will communicate anticipated interruptions to affected customers as the project progresses. Detours are likely in the area, including South Carefree Way, Jubilant Way and Ridgcrest Way as the work moves to these areas. A detailed project schedule is posted on the district's website (www.bacawater.com) and updates are being posted as work progresses.

Water meter transmitter replacement project approved

Funded in part by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the board awarded a contract to Gardner Excavating of Alamosa in the amount of \$48,130 for the replacement of 420 meter transmitters which are not operating properly. The project is important to fully implement the district's tiered billing structure and is scheduled for completion in late October.

As we suggested last month, when you're out and about in the district, slow down, be alert to those bright construction vests and hardhats, follow directions, and

give our hard working staff and construction crews a friendly smile.

Budget workshop and planning retreat scheduled

The BGWSD board will hold a special meeting, including staff and consultants, to discuss long range projects and deferred maintenance projects needing attention, as well as to work on the 2015 budget. A committee of staff, consultants and one board member has met to review current year expenses and prepare preliminary projections that will form the foundation for the budget discussion. With the possibility that rates and/or the mill levy may need to be increased, notice was included in August bills, as required by law.

"We are clear that there are areas where our entire team must be more efficient," noted District Manager Lisa Johnson of SDMS, "and, the district has maintenance needs that have been deferred that also need to be addressed." Board and staff have a long list of projects that will benefit the district and each will be reviewed in terms of the benefit to customers and the long term viability of the district's water and sanitary sewer systems.

The special meeting will be held at the district office, 57 Baca Grant Way South, beginning at 1:30pm on Wednesday, October 8, and the public is encouraged to attend.

In other business, the board adopted a resolution certifying 261 delinquent water and sewer fee accounts in the amount of \$80,949.68 to the Saguache County Treasurer for collection. The vast majority of these are Availability of Service (AOS) fees. These fees are used solely toward payment of the district's bonds and help distribute costs across a larger customer base, thus are an important part of keeping rates at reasonable levels.

Election Day & voting reminder

by Carla Gomez, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

Saguache County Clerk & Recorder, Carla Gomez, reminds citizens of the Coordinated General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Ballots will be mailed to all active, registered voters beginning October 14, to the address we have on your voter registration. Please fill out your ballot, following the instructions included, sign the envelope where indicated and get it back to the clerk's office, known as the Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) by 7pm on November 4. You can mail it, bring it to the VSPC, or deposit it into the new ballot drop box located on the south side of the courthouse. If you prefer to vote in person or need assistance in voting, please come to the VSPC through 7pm on Election Day. We will be open on Saturday, October 25 from 6:30 until 10am and on November 1 from 2 until 6pm as well for your convenience. Please keep in mind that ballots received after 7pm on Election Day will not be counted.

You can check or update your voter registration information at www.GoVoteColorado.com or at the Colorado County Clerk's Association website, www.MyColoradoVote.com. Both of these sites have complete information and are very easy to navigate.

And, certainly, you can always contact our office with any questions or concerns you may have, at 719-655-2512.

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A reader's guide to a long-delayed 'newsletter' from the POA

by Earl W. Sutherland

It's been over two years since the POA has published its periodic Newsletter. Perhaps this hiatus is due to the frequent turnover of Community Managers. In the past it's had a colored heading and each article has a signed author. The recently distributed one is black and white, corresponding to its Manichaeian views of the issues it addresses and no authors are identified. Although anonymous in the published form of the newsletter, the authorship of the original and its revision were acknowledged by Director Bruce McDonald in July meetings of the Board.

The vote to approve sending out the newsletter in its present form was opposed by Matie Belle Lakish, favored by McDonald himself and confederate Nigel Fuller and inexplicably not voted on by Janie Thomas, who abstained. Director Garnett was absent. "News" is generally considered to be (at least somewhat) objective and is intended to accurately inform the reader. Many would find this current *Newsletter* a one-sided distortion of the facts and an unfair representation of this community's views. Since the subject of this article is not really a newsletter, it will be abbreviated "NL" (pronounced, "nil").

Lot consolidation

In which the 'newsletter' decries hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost income to the POA and severely unfair conditions for those who've not consolidated lots.

The lot consolidation issue had been referred to a committee for thorough evaluation in the context of the overall consideration of POA membership dues structure. This committee has since been dissolved by the board at the instigation of Director McDonald before it had concluded its evaluation of the complex issues involved, and without McDonald utilizing any of the extensive findings of that committee.

The rhetoric of this part of NL conceals the historic basis of the present one lot/one fee dues structure (or perhaps the writer chose not to investigate that history). The amendments codifying the present system were established in 2002, but the principle of one lot/one fee (meaning the consolidated lot pays the same fee as any other lot) is much older. In conformity with the original governing documents, the board had a practice of assessing consolidated lots as one lot. Board Resolutions in 1996 served to confirm the policy of one lot/one fee. A survey of members in 1998 strongly supported these policies to preserve the natural environment and to reduce density.

When a board sought to reverse that policy, it was taken to court and ensuing mediation in 1999 resulted in a Stipulated Agreement that "now and henceforth" there shall be only one fee per consolidated lot and that the agreement "runs with the land". Thus, the history shows that the lot consolidation amendments to the governing documents followed a long and thorough assessment by members. Also, the right to one consolidated lot/one fee preceded

these 2002 amendments and is vested in the land.

The rule of uniform assessment for each lot certainly does mean that more consolidation means fewer billable lots. Since 1989 (when easily accessible records were initiated), the number of dues-paying lots has been reduced by 1177. If none of those lots had been "lost" the POA dues for 2014 could have been \$5 less per month. Of course, none of these "lost" dues were ever owed, for reasons noted above. McDonald says that the "majority of the Board believes . . . that enough benefit has already been achieved with 1177 lots being consolidated." There is no record of the board ever having expressed itself on this matter, let alone having sought the opinion of the members, who in past surveys have always favored more open space, even if it costs more. To say the "cost burden to other property owners who do not have consolidated lots is now demonstrably unfair and unsustainable" sounds like a campaign ploy for the votes of land speculators who own multiple single lots that aren't contiguous.

Local versus absentee owners

In which a nefarious plot by a cabal of local residents to steal the rights of non-residents has been discovered.

This seems another effort to "buy" votes by suggesting that the minority of POA owners who actually live in the Baca are conspiring against the majority who don't live here. Allegations of voting fraud and violation of both POA regulations as well as state law are raised. The section is filled with innuendos: Does anyone know of any past violators of voting requirements described in POA newsletters as McDonald asserts? Does anyone on the board not support the governing documents or state laws as McDonald implies? This has no place in newsletter.

Lawsuit settlement

In which McDonald revisits his lawsuit of 2013, accusing people of acts never confirmed legally and threatening others.

This section is filled with distortions. There are repeated citations of matters that were merely the claims by McDonald and his confederates in the lawsuit (Nigel Fuller, Janie Thomas, and Diane Dunlap), e.g., "efforts to divest the membership of millions of dollars in emergency services assets" and "improperly conducted 2012 election", neither of which was acknowledged in the Stipulated Agreement concluding the lawsuit. The terms of the Stipulated Agreement are on the POA website. McDonald is wrong when he claims that his lawsuit raised "significant and legitimate issues". There is no such finding and there is no finding of fault . . . McDonald and his fellow plaintiffs did not "win". Nor did the agreement have any mention of waiving personal liability of defendants for wanting to carry out the desire of the previous board to find a way for the Crestone Fire Protection District to use the fire equipment. Two long paragraphs are included which restate the

policies regarding insuring board members found in the governing documents, but which are couched in such a way as to make them seem threatening. Then follows the assertion that it's everyone's right to go to court and sue without explaining that this lawsuit was actually settled by mediation, a less toxic and less expensive means of dispute resolution. The section ends with a threat, although it's legally empty. The further harm of the lawsuit, however satisfying it was to the plaintiffs, is that now the deductible that we members have to pay our new insurer (the old one dropped us) has risen from \$5000 to \$20,000. Was it worth it, folks?

Fraud risk

In which little is said.

There is no information revealed about fraud, only the recommendation that Hammersmith be fired and one of the examining auditors be hired. Sound a little fishy? Some sort of sneaky technique to get rid of Hammersmith without the membership's input?

Parting ways with Hammersmith

In which McDonald tries again to vanquish the dark forces of a management company

In contrast with the current group, the POA board in August 2009 in its assessment of their management company, was "very satisfied with the way Hammersmith had performed for the POA". In that third year of their contract, that board carried out an extensive review seeking comments from the membership and staff, both in special public meetings and via the website. How different from now when we have no clear idea of what are the failings of Hammersmith and what their response to the allegations are and what the membership thinks. If this is news and not mere ideology where's the rest of the story?

CrESD

In which McDonald's unfathomable strong dislike of a Special Fire District resurfaces.

While McDonald says it's the entire POA which no longer supports CrESD, the Crestone Fire District, it's mostly just this POA board which feels that way. The last time the POA public was asked, in May, 2013, it voted 2 to 1 in favor of CrESD, so this board must not feel it needs to represent the expressed interests of those it represents. Questions of liability and leasing of non-residential assets are resolvable issues in the view of the previous POA board and those who have actual fire management experience.

The previous POA Board in expressing its desire to work with the Crestone Fire District, based

on the detailed evaluations of two separate consultants they'd hired, was seeking a way to avail the fire equipment for local use. What if the district did have its own equipment? The POA board would then be stuck with a bunch of elderly fire trucks with much less market value than they imagine. Would out-of-state owners of Baca property be penalized by higher taxes? Undeveloped land would be taxed at a lower rate, but if it had a house on it, it would cost more depending on the assessed value of the real estate. This shift in the pattern of tax liability reflects the fact that POA assessments transfer less tax liability to home owners and more to the owners of vacant land, in contrast to the more equitable situation with county property taxes. Of course, this would mean they were also "penalized" by the water district, by the school district, by the library district, etc. Taxes happen. There are no plans to separate the fire and ambulance services: so much for this desperate need for misinformation.

Baca Fire Department

In which McDonald writes endlessly about his new job.

Irony abounds. POA Directors McDonald and Fuller sued Director Matie Belle Lakish, "accusing" her of having two sons who worked with the POA emergency services, who had not agreed to resign if their mother were elected to the board, thereby creating a "conflict of interest". Directors McDonald and Fuller now proudly announce that they themselves work for the POA fire department, so maybe that's not a conflict of interest. What am I missing about these plaintiffs? In that same lawsuit McDonald and Fuller (with confederates Janie Thomas and Diane Dunlap) "accused" Lakish of "divided loyalty" because she supported the Crestone Fire District, thereby accurately representing the wishes of the community and board members who had preceded her.

Insurance/liability issues

In which McDonald, though not licensed to do so, opines as if he were an insurance expert and a lawyer and guarantees we're covered for fire.

Do not bet the house on this information. Apparently it's hearsay, is undocumented and much of it almost certainly not correct. Hope for rain.

On a lighter note, a POA newsletter is a good idea. You can see some good ones on the POA website, bacapoa.org. McDonald has claimed that they were all filled with biased information: see for yourself. Also, you can submit articles yourself for inclusion in the next issue.



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POA news: Agenda wrangling, bikes, finances & the Baca Fire Chief resigns

by Earl W. Sutherland

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) was held on September 25. The meeting, attended at its high point by 17 people, began at about 4:40pm and ran about three hours. Insofar as Director Lakish's job prevents her arrival any earlier, it was later agreed to start no meeting before 5pm.

The initial step of approving the agenda proved contentious. Director Janie Thomas wanted to add two items (setting up a time to meet with Hammersmith Management [HMI] to discuss a new contract, and to set up a time to work on the 2015 budget), but this effort failed by a 2 to 2 vote (Director Lakish not arriving until after 5pm). Then the same 2 to 2 vote failed to approve the existing agenda (Directors Fuller and McDonald for, Directors Garnett and Thomas against). Responding to a complaint from Director Garnett, Director McDonald proposed withdrawing two items on the agenda (which agenda McDonald had fashioned himself, citing the failure of President Garnett to have done so) which had each already been voted down more than once. This maneuver proved successful and the meeting was ready to begin. It began with an executive session concerning personnel issues.

In the Members' Forum it was re-stated that the Candidates Forum would be held the next night, September 26, at 7pm. This information was in the material provided candidates and in the September *Eagle*. One of the candidates, Eric Karlstrom, present at this meeting, said he had not been made aware of the Forum and did not read the *Eagle*, but would plan to attend. Candidates Sugandha Brooks, Matie Belle Lakish, and Joanna Theriault, all also present, indicated their desire to participate in the forum. Candidate Steve Smilack was not present but will be reminded. Chair of the Nominating Committee Ken Nelson has offered to moderate the event.

The minutes of Sept. 16 were approved, but those of August 14 remain problematic for the board and were tabled again.

Noah Baen of The Committee for Natural Surroundings proposed Margaret Vrana as a new member of that committee and she was approved. Mr. Baen and Ms. Vrana reported on a meeting on Sept. 18 of persons interested in the usage of mountain bikes in our greenbelt areas. An outcome was to urge collaborative efforts to develop well built and safe trails which work for everyone. The group plans a follow-up meeting on October 2; contact Ms. Vrana at maggyjv@gmail.com. A recent project of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge was to map invasive plant species in nearby private lands and the results will be available in digital form at the POA offices.

Finance Committee

Although an earlier recommendation was to sever our rela-

tionship with Hammersmith, one of the principals in that recommendation, Nelson Fleming, CPA, now says not to leave HMI. His chief argument seems to be the lateness of the hour, feeling we need more time to establish a replacement. So, Director Thomas contacted high officials at the management company and they expressed willingness to meet and try to work things out. Director McDonald reiterated his opinion that HMI is unwilling to negotiate on some key issues, but other directors felt it was worth pursuing. Director Lakish urged the board to talk together about the Hammersmith contract so as to develop a negotiating strategy.

The continuing lack of closure on the Financial Risk Assessment had a new hearing. In addition to a rather bland-seeming checklist of procedural do's and don'ts distributed publicly, Certified Risk Examiner Dennis Crown had also supplied members of the Finance Committee (Directors Garnett and Thomas and Lisa Cyriacks) with an exhibit linking accounting procedural malefactions with the names of the perpetrators. Since the larger context of these actions was not available to Mr. Crown, it has been left to the Finance Committee to dig up the data which could identify the significance of the findings. There is reportedly no evidence of criminal wrongdoing to have come to light, but the existing data might easily be misinterpreted, according to Ms. Cyriacks. She cited regulations in the Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act requiring the defense of the privacy of individuals included in studies of the type of concern here. Ms. Cyriacks also implied that "leaks" of confidential information can and do occur in our POA board, which would run afoul of that law. Director Lakish moved that the full report (names named) of the fraud examiner be immediately released to the entire board of directors, who would promise not to reveal the contents to anyone else unless approved by the board. This was approved (Directors Garnett and Thomas opposed).

Fire Chief

In response to a question from the audience as people were leaving (and certainly not on the agenda) it was confirmed by Bob Garnett that Fire Chief Todd Ryker had resigned effective Sept. 22. There was no discussion. He had not yet reached the 90-day stage of continued employment.

This meeting felt gray. It ended almost silently.



Bureau of Land Management holding a tour at the De Tilla Gulch site near Saguache.

BLM solar sites

continued from page 1

and transient animals, plant communities and other ecological conditions that could be affected by development. These include wildlife—Gunnison prairie dogs, bats, pronghorn, burrowing owls and others; cultural artifacts—remnants of a trail used between 1829 and 1848; watercourses, soil conditions, groundwater, and viewsheds—the area is visible from the higher elevations at Great Sand Dunes National Park.

All these and other factors add up to some 250 conditions that would have to be mitigated by any solar developer. The eventual developer or operator would also have to obtain sufficient water for operations: while the amount required for solar energy production would be less than crops of alfalfa or potatoes, there is only one stock well on the site. A solar plant at this location could ultimately supply 170 megawatts of power, or enough for 56,000 homes. There is clearly not that large a market in the valley, so power would be exported on upgraded Excel lines.

Some members of the public in attendance expressed concern that income from an eventual solar plant would all go to the federal government, an issue recently addressed by county commissioner Jason Anderson at meetings in Washington. Also noted was the practice in Germany and elsewhere of utilizing smaller, community-based solar projects that cause less ecological disruption. Vieira responded that the United States has decided large solar operations are a valid use of public lands that can provide clean power to those who can't afford to install solar panels on their homes. This is also an effort for the next 20 years, with mitigation plans worked out ahead of development in order to streamline the process. Notwithstanding, the Romeo and Saguache sites were unsuccessfully put out for bid last October. Apparently developers realize the market won't yet support such large undertakings where 50 megawatt facilities might be suitable.



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Global music & Irish brogue with Four Shillings Short Oct 3 at Shumei International Institute

Four Shillings Short returns to Shumei with a fantastic array of instruments from around the world on Friday October 3 at 7pm. North Indian sitar, hammered dulcimer, mandolins, banjo, whistles, recorders, Medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, charango, bowed psaltery, guitar, and even a krumhorn.

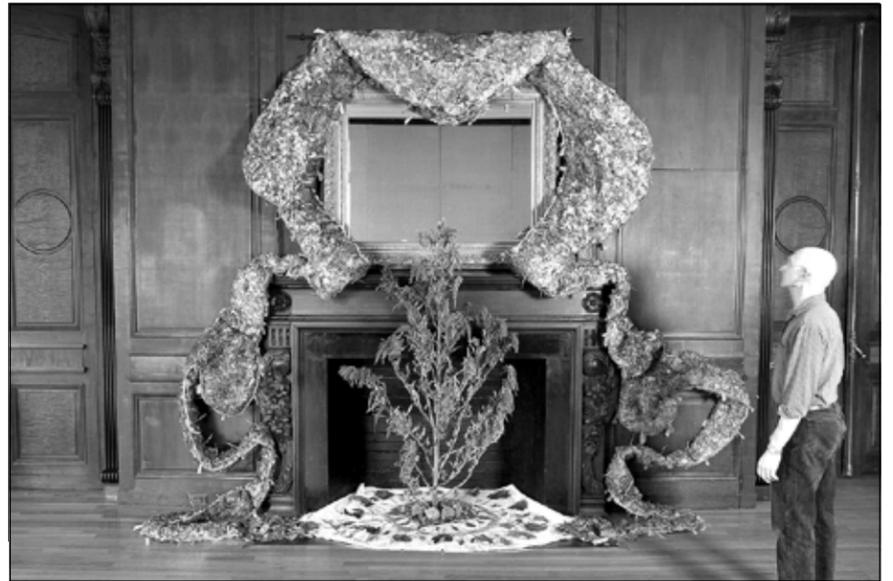
The husband/wife duo of Aodh Og O'Tuama from Cork, Ireland, and Christy Martin from California, tour in the US and Ireland and live as the bardic minstrels of old. They have taken

their one-of-a-kind eclectic blend of world music around the country since 1995. Spectators have described the duo as charismatic. In one show you'll hear songs that span cultures and centuries, which makes for a riveting complex sound. Come out for Irish humor and instruments from around the globe!

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 and all proceeds benefit the artists. Call 256-5284 or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for further information.



4 Shillings Short returns to Shumei with music from around the globe.



Noah Baen will be creating a unique installation at Shumei's gallery for the month of October.

Noah Baen creates Shumei art installation for October

Local installation artist Noah Baen will be the featured artist at Shumei for the month of October, creating a piece unique to Shumei. His art symposium will be Sunday October 19 from 3 to 5pm. A reception will follow.

Noah shares, "Through a dialog with Nature, Place and Space, I try to give visible form to the energy of a particular site and season. After years as a landscape painter my work evolved to working directly with the landscape. As much as possible, I use materials collected on site: both natural materials and the residue of human presence. Time, manifested in the cycles of Nature, in the energy of growth and ever-presence of decay is also important to me."

"At Shumei, I set out to make

what the earthwork artist Robert Smithson called a 'non-site', a gallery art work that references or parallels an outdoor site. I was particularly drawn to the remains of the historic gold mine and settlement, now mostly overtaken by resilient nature and the inroads of time; to the mounded forms of tailings piles, their slopes, like those of the mountains around them, resting at an 'angle of repose'; all in the brilliant clarity of mountain light amid the vast spaciousness of the valley below."

Noah has created installation pieces across the country. Come meet Noah and learn more about his process on October 19 from 3 to 5pm. Contact Shumei at 719-256-5284 for more information or visit www.shumeicrestone.org.

Peter Peterson for Saguache County Assessor

Buying and owning property is usually the largest and most important investment in one's life.

As a property owner myself, and as the county assessor, I will always respect the importance of your investments to you.

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- Intimate knowledge of all corners of Saguache County
- Commitment to a friendly, understanding, helpful and efficient office environment
- 18 year Saguache County resident and lifelong Colorado resident



I have trained nearly 3 years now for this vitally important position, covering everything from accurate field assessment technique to final input into the Assessor system, including over 135 hours of classroom time learning Appraisal Principles and Procedures. I will be obtaining my Colorado Mass Appraisal License just after the first of the coming year.

From Silver Creek Lakes to Old Woman Creek and from Gold Basin Ranch to Crestone, we will cover it all!



Thank you for your vote, with gratitude, Peter

Watch for our fundraiser at Elephant Cloud!

"My mission is to provide consistent, timely and fair assessments of all Saguache County real property."

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Contact Peter at: slypeter@hotmail.com



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Cloud Station features new instruments & captivating music October 4

San Francisco-based composer debuts rare Swiss-made "sound-sculptures"

Award-winning composer, singer and masterful instrumentalist Matt Venuti will be performing at the Cloud Station singing his heart-inspiring songs while playing the hang, a new acoustic instrument that has become a YouTube phenomena but is rare to hear live. Matt is one of the world's premier players of the instrument. He will also be debuting a brand new acoustic instrument from the hang-makers called a Gubal, which Venuti says gives him the ability to "create the sounds and rhythms of an entire ensemble on my lap". The

concert promises to be a rare and memorable event.

Matt's compositions and performances have been praised worldwide by fans of his original music. He has a history of performing at happenings like the TED conferences and special events worldwide, either as a soloist or with his California-based ensemble, The Venusians.

He tours throughout much of the year performing solo concerts. Matt's videos and music can be found by visiting www.mattvenuti.com.

The Cloud Station, 200 Cottonwood St. Crestone, 8pm; doors open at 7. Admission is \$10. info@thecloudstation.com.

Mountain Poets to perform October 4

by Gussie Fauntleroy

What better way to help preserve and improve the place we love than to celebrate it through the beauty, glory, humor, and surprise punch of nimbly written and masterfully delivered poetry? Celebrating Wilderness: A Gathering of Mountain Poets will showcase some of our best regional and local poets in spoken word performance Saturday, Oct. 4 beginning at 7pm in the Old Crestone Schoolhouse. Proceeds from the event—there's a \$10 suggested donation—will benefit Crestone Friends of the Library and the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council.

Headlining the gathering are San Juan Mountain poets Art Goodtimes and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, along with the River City Nomads, a longstanding Colorado poetry troupe that includes Crestone's own Peter Anderson. Art describes himself as a deep ecologist, bioregionalist, Colorado Green Party co-chair, performance poet, Western Slope Poet Laureate, newspaper columnist, spud farmer, fungophile, chanter and basketweaver. He's also Colorado's only elected (five terms) Green Party county commissioner.

Art describes Rosemerry as a "chanteuse of the heart." Author/editor of 13 books, Rosemerry leads poetry workshops and teaches poetry in schools, performs with a poetry troupe, sings with an *a cappella* group and is San Miguel County's first poet laureate. Her words interweave the personal, intimate, transcendent, wild and ordinary in extraordinary ways.

The River City Nomads bring together five distinctive poetic/theatrical voices in spoken performance firmly rooted in storytelling filled with richly defined characters and landscapes. Along with Peter Anderson the troupe includes poets from Salida and Twin Lakes.

Also during the evening the mic will be offered to others wanting to share prose or poetry (maximum of two minutes each) on the theme of wilderness. Contact Peter at pilgrimage@fairpoint.net to be added to the roster. If you love wilderness, wildness, humanness and words, don't miss this evening of fun.

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Exploring the contemplative art community in Crestone

Crestone's 3rd Annual CrestoneArtists Open Studio Tour, October 4-5

Crestone's 3rd Annual CrestoneArtists Open Studio Tour is October 4-5 from 1-6pm each day. On this self-guided tour you'll enter artists' studios and be swept into their worlds. CrestoneArtists open the doors to their studios for the general public by inviting close-up viewing,

conversation, questions and dialogue giving further insight into the background, training, philosophy and driving forces of each artist.

You'll experience a wide range of visual arts in the form of fine craft to fine art, from small and large work painted in watercolor or acrylic or oil or encaustics or pastels, from knitwear to handwoven items, from photography to stone to environmental installations, from leatherwork to copper sculpture to artist books.

This year's tour

has an interactive treasure hunt! The artist stops marked with a red "TH" designate that the artist in that studio is participating in the treasure hunt. Those studios will have a keycard to the hunt, providing close-up images of what you might find in them. This event is a project of www.CrestoneArtists.com.

Look for brochures with detailed maps and images identifying each artist and their locale, available at Yak n' Cracker and in the town of Crestone and throughout the valley.

To plan your stops, get more

info and find downloadable maps go to www.crestoneartists.com/studio-tour-2014.html or call 256-4182.



Emmy Savage, "Road to Bear Valley", oil on canvas, 18"x26".



David Woodward, CLEARING ICE FOG, digital photo, dimensions variable.



Stephen Futral, The Negation and Yearning of Xoh, acrylic on canvas, 60"x48".

Crestone Conglomerate

LarryCalloway.com

a reporter's blog...

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Shumei venue for Death Cafe & screening of Griefwalker

The Death Cafe and screening of the Canadian Film Board documentary, *Griefwalker* will be held on Saturday, October 25 at Shumei. These events are free and sponsored by Informed Final Choices (IFC). Seating is limited, so please RSVP by calling Malina at 256-4211, Stephanie, 588-7415 or Lynda, 256-5458 or by emailing informedfinalchoices@gmail.com. The Death Cafe event begins at 2pm, the film at 4:30. Look for our posters announcing the events at various sites in town. The artwork for the Death Cafe was done by local resident, Zienna Stewart.

Death Cafes are being planned for November in Saguache (tentatively at the Ute Theatre on Saturday, November 1) and in Sali-

da, Del Norte/Alamosa. Look for dates on the online *Crestone Eagle* calendar.

Colorado Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) forms are available by calling CEOLP Registrar, Lorraine Cazier at 937-7802. These forms are recognized by all medical facilities/EMT services. The form is simple to complete and should be posted in an obvious location, i.e. refrigerator door (it's bright green!) Insure that your medical wishes are fulfilled by completing the MOST.

The next CEOLP/IFC open meeting is on Tuesday, October 14 at 7pm, 33 Sunset Overlook. Call Wayne at 256-4247 for information and directions.



Ringu Tulku Rinpoche.

Ringu Tulku to lead retreat

Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, representative of His Holiness Karmapa, will lead a retreat on Zingthale (Mahamudra) in Crestone, October 10-12. Ringu Tulku is renowned for his humor, understanding of the western mind, and insights into the essential nature. For more information, call 719-299-1912 (see <http://BNorthAmerica.org>).

A benefit concert: An evening of reggae

Please join us for a fundraising concert at the SteamPlant Event Center in Salida at 7pm on Saturday, October 11. Kofi Alexander, recording artist and founder of the band Jah Kings, will be performing. His *Love* CD was nominated "Best Reggae CD" and "Best Reggae Performer" at the 2002 Chicago Music Awards.

The SteamPlant is one of the most enjoyable venues for hearing music in our area—right on the Arkansas River. Have a great night out with a special meal at a local restaurant before or after the concert. The SteamPlant is at the end of "G" Street at Sackett in Salida (near the Boathouse Restaurant). Parking is available in a city lot across the street, or on the boat ramp, on the street and in the city parking lot less than a block away.

This benefit is to raise donations for the Windhorse School, a project of Native Ways Institute/Dharma Institute (EIN number 93-1039984) founded by Bhikshuni Tenzin Yeshe in 1989. You can read more about this project by visiting TheNativeWays.net and clicking on "Windhorse School."

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and are available online at SalidaSteamPlant.com, by phone at 719-530-0933, or at the box office.

Sacred Activism Synergy Circle

We (CarolAnne, Charity and Swaha) are initiating a weekly Sacred Activism Synergy Circle beginning Monday, Sept. 29 from 4-6pm at 1234 Laredo Trail in the Grants. We will hold space as we delve into Andrew Harvey's wonderful book, *The Hope, A Guide to Sacred Activism*, as an initial source of inspiration and guidance. One of our goals is to create space for an organic unfolding of collaboration within our circle on projects/initiatives for our beloved community and the world. If you already have a passion, or would like to ignite one, please join us as we explore sacred activism and its foundations, and discover how we can integrate a spiritually fulfilling life with an active engagement in creating and sustaining life-enhancing changes as local and global citizens.

Swaha has an extra book in new condition which the first person requesting it can have for \$10. They are also available on ThriftBooks & Amazon. Feel free to come even if you don't have a book yet. We trust the energy will build over time. Call 719-937-4470 or 719-256-4119 for more info or directions. Namaste!

Local women win national transformation challenge

by Moira M. Forsythe

Crestone residents Dorje Root, ChiChi Chu and Moira Forsythe were recently selected as top winners in a national wellness challenge sponsored by GIA Wellness to transform their levels of fitness, health and vitality in some major way over the summer months. The 3 ladies, led by team coach Dr. Moira, called their experience "Trimming without Trying" as they incorporated lifestyle and dietary changes into their routines while still maintaining all their normal commitments. Together they shed over 40 lbs collectively and went down about 3 sizes each in their clothing.

They each considered their participation and results as a victory for women over 55 and

a statement of taking a visible stand for healthy aging. In addition to the rewards of more energy, increased stamina and mental clarity, the women will share in the \$1000 prize awarded for the most motivating story of transformation from among participating teams nationwide.

The next GIATrim Transformation Challenge is an individual challenge with awards ranging from \$250 up to \$1000. To learn more about this health-based process contact one of the ladies listed above or go to www.giatrim.com for more info.



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Death Cafe, to be followed by a screening of GRIEFWALKER
Saturday, October 25 at 2pm; film at 4:30, at Shumei
Event is Free, Seating Limited, RSVP: informedfinalchoices@gmail.com

Attend our meeting **Tuesday, October 14th** at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left behind former Century 21 office). Call 256.4247 for information/directions.

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Saguache County Chocolate Festival October 11

Yes, it's that time of year again, time for the much anticipated 4th annual Saguache County Chocolate Festival. How can you go wrong with chocolate?

We're waiting for you on October 11, 6-9pm at the Saguache Community Building. Bring in that award-winning chocolate recipe that Grandma gave you, judge others on their tasty creations, and remember, it's all for a good cause, the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley.

Look for more details to come, but be assured, this will be an even bigger, chocolatier event than last year.

See you all there!

Help little ones read

Reading Buddies wanted for the Crestone Charter School Primary (2nd/3rd) Class. 8:45-10:15am, Monday-Friday. Please call Jennifer at 256-4907 if you would like to help.

Marciniak study group

Barbara Marciniak's first book, *Bringers of the Dawn*, was published in 1992. Since then Barbara has published 3 additional books, including *Earth, Family of Light* and *Path of Empowerment*. She has conducted workshops, channelings and guided tours all over the world.

The study group will read her books and listen to the recorded channelings of the Pleiadian teachings. This will be followed by a discussion of how this information can be applied in a practical way here in Crestone to provide a positive alternative to the insanity we see everywhere in the world, as the corrupt, decadent established power structure self-destructs. Crestone has the potential to be one of the seeds of a new enlightened civilization, if we think clearly and act constructively.

Attendance is free. People can bring healthy food to share if they like, but this is not required.

Meetings will be held on Thursday nights at 7:30 at the home of Louis Acker. Call 719-256-4057 for further info and directions.

Commissioner Anderson to hold office hours in Crestone

Jason Anderson, Saguache County Commissioner from District 1 (Baca/Crestone) will hold office hours in the town of Crestone at the Painted sky/Farm Table building on the NE corner of E. Galena Ave. and Alder St. (121 E. Galena) on the second and fourth Mondays of the month beginning October 13 at 8am. Office hours will be 8am to noon on the second Monday, and 3 to 7pm on the fourth Monday to try and accommodate those who work all day. Refreshments will be available on the 13th; please feel free to drop by and chat.

Crestone Chamber Choir rehearsals have begun

The Crestone Chamber Choir, under the artistic direction of Sue Vaughan, is open to all community members ages 11 and up. No auditions are required and all voices are welcome. The choir meets on Fridays at 1:30pm in the YES building next to the Baca Library.

Alamosa welcomes 2nd Annual American Red Cross Academy

The following classes are among those scheduled for the Nov. 7-9 academy, hosted by the SLV Medical Training Center: Psychological First Aid, Disaster Action Team Introduction/Workshop, Basic Shelter Ops, Disaster Instructor Specialty Training, and more. For more information or to register, please visit www.ColoradoRedCross.org, email vilate.thacker@redcross.org or phone 719-588-6931.

Salida art sale & reception to benefit Orient Land Trust

An extended art sale to benefit Orient Land Trust (OLT) is taking place at The Fritz restaurant and Wood's Distillery in Salida starting with an opening reception and cash bar on Saturday, October 4 from 4 to 6 pm. San Luis Valley- and OLT-inspired photographs will be featured by long-time OLT supporter and board member, John Lorenz, at The Fritz during the month of October, along with works by local artist Martin Jolley and a few others. Following the opening reception at The Fritz on Sackett Street, the party will move over to Wood's Distillery on First Street where over additional 12 artists will also have paintings, photographs and sculptures available for purchase. The show and sale at Wood's Distillery will only be available from October 3 through that weekend. A minimum of 30% of sales has been promised for OLT's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrades campaign.

Questions about OLT or this event can be directed to Pamela Nelson, OLT Director of Development at 719-298-2289 or email pamelanelson@olt.org.

Featuring
San Luis Valley
Striped Bass!

.....
 Brunch Sun 9am - 2pm
 Lunch 11am - 2pm
 Dinner starts at 5pm
 Closed Tues/Wed

128 W. 1st Street
 Salida, CO 81201
 719-539-6209



Members of the Crestone Tribal Belly Dancers enthralled the Saguache Fall Festival audience with their beautiful moves.

Fall foliage information

The National Forest website offers current information on fall colors viewing. Where and when the colors are at prime and tips on scenic drives. Visit: <http://bit.ly/1tTHmKT>

Sylvia Hazlerig world premier

Crestone music lovers familiar with the long-running series of concerts at the Hazlerig Music house will be interested to hear of a world premier for music composed by Sylvia.

Classically Alive presented her Cello and Piano Sonata, composed in 2006, in Colorado Springs on September 28, in a program of three pieces for piano and cello.

For health reasons, Sylvia moved to the state of Washington a couple of years ago. Over a long career, much of it teaching music in Texas, she composed many pieces—scores of scores—for a wide variety of instruments. The introduction to the September concert notes that she “writes music that listeners grasp immediately upon first hearing . . . music [that] is direct with clear melodies and harmonies and at the same time has real depth to it.” Her four-movement cello-piano sonata ends with “a high-spirited romp” in which the pyrotechnics “make this an intimidating work for the cellist, and perhaps explains why this world premiere has taken almost a decade.”

Kids' Crane Festival

Join us Saturday, October 11 at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at the 9th annual Kids' Crane Festival.

Lunch will be served from noon-12:30pm before the fun begins. Activities for all ages will start after lunch and continue through the afternoon. Activities will include a puppet show, games, making origami critters, learning about animals that live on our local refuges, wagon rides, and a scavenger hunt.

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately seven miles south of Monte Vista, CO on Route 15.

Migrating Sandhill Cranes should be visible before, during, and after the festival.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

For more information call 719-589-4021.

Hey everyone - now's your chance, to celebrate dear sister Nance. Her birthday is soon, just beyond the new moon. Let's all hoot & holler & dance!

Love, J&K

CRAZY HEIFER RANCH

Healthy beef raised in a responsible organic pasture Available for sale Contact Amber Felmlee 303-886-9436

Community Calendar—October 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Date	Events
Wednesday, October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alla Prima Westcliffe – 3rd St Gallery All Day \$35 SangresArtGuild.org 719-783-0886 Fall 2014 Faculty Lecture Series – Adams State University 7:00 pm 719-587-7767
Thursday, October 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Planetarium Show – Zacheis Planetarium 6:45 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis POA Natural Surroundings Forum – POA Meeting Hall 7:00 pm-9:00 pm 719 298 3027 Saguache Co. Local Candidate Forums – Kiwanis Club 7:00 pm-9:00 pm 754.9163
Friday, October 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Free Friday Movies – Zacheis Planetarium 4:15 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis 4 Shillings Short at Shumei 7-9pm \$10 Suggested www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284 "Songwriters in the Round", Bistro Rialto 7:30-9:30pm \$12-\$10-\$5 www.almaonline.org 719-937-1255 Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde at ASU – ASU Theatre 7:30 pm 719-587-8499 Kol Nidre Yom Kippur Services, YES Bldg 7:30-8:30pm, 256-4890
Saturday, October 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibn Arabi & Grammar of Cosmos, 9:30am-5pm \$20-40 suggested nurashkijerrahi.org 256-4290 CrestoneArtists Studio Tour – 1:00 pm-6:00 pm free www.CrestoneArtists.com 719-256-4182 Yom Kippur Afternoon, Memorial & Concluding Services, YES Bldg 4-5:30pm, 256-4890 Gathering of Mountain Poets – Old Crestone Schoolhouse 7:00 pm \$10 suggested donation Matt Venuti at Cloud Station – 7pm \$10 Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde at ASU – ASU Theatre 7:30 pm 719-587-8499
Sunday, October 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shumei's Monthly Sampai, 10:30am-noon Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284 CrestoneArtists Open Studio Tour 2014 – 1-6pm free www.CrestoneArtists.com 719-256-4182
Monday, October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 6-8:00 pm
Tuesday, October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saguache Co. Local Candidate Forums – Baca Grande POA Hall 7:00 pm-9:00 pm 754.9163
Wednesday, October 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Moon Fire Ceremony f& Meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am Free www.babajashram.org 256-4108 Film 'MicroBirth', Creative Birth Choices 4-7pm free http://microbirth.com/about/ 719-256-4544
Thursday, October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Planetarium Show – Zacheis Planetarium 6:45 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis
Friday, October 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BGPOA Board of Directors election, Baca Grande POA office All Day bacapoa.org 719-256-4171 Retreat with Ringu Tulku – All Day 719-299-1912 ASU Free Friday Movies – Zacheis Planetarium 4:15 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde at ASU – ASU Theatre 7:30 pm 719-587-8499 Movie Night – CCS 7:30 pm \$15/couples, \$10/person, \$5 teens, under 12 free 719-256-4533
Saturday, October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alferd Packer Festival – Historic Downtown Saguache All Day www.alferdpackerfest.com Kids' Crane Festival – Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge 12:00 pm 719-589-4021 Saguache County Chocolate Festival – Saguache Community Building 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde at ASU – ASU Theatre 7:30 pm 719-587-8499
Sunday, October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessing of the animals – Little Shepherd Church 2:00 pm-3:00 pm Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde at ASU – ASU Theatre 2 pm 719-587-8499
Monday, October 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Anderson office hours in Crestone – Painted sky/Farm Table building 8am-noon Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 1:30-6:30 pm
Tuesday, October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crestone End of Life/Informed Final Choices Monthly Meeting, Topping House 7-9pm 719-588-7415
Thursday, October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rumi Study Circle. All welcome, 4-6pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
Saturday, October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Ute Theatre, Saguache 4:30-9:30pm \$12 advance, \$15 door 719-347-5269
Sunday, October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instillation Artist Noah Baen at Shumei Gallery 3-5pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
Thursday, October 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Moon Fire Ceremony (morning) & Diwali- Festival of Lights (evening), Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free www.babajashram.org 256-4108 ASU Planetarium Show – Zacheis Planetarium 6:45 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis
Friday, October 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of Red Garuda & Ocean of Milk Offerings to Nagas w/Geshe Nyima Kunchap – Dharma Ocean All Day www.colorado.ligmincha.org ASU Free Friday Movies – Zacheis Planetarium 4:15 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis Film "Bon in Dolpo" – CO College auditorium 7:00 pm \$10 www.colorado.ligmincha.org
Saturday, October 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Annual Crestone Death Cafe – Shumei 2-4pm Malina at 256.4211 or Lynda at 256.5458 Free screening of Greifwalker – Shumei International Institute 4:30 pm-6:00 pm
Monday, October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Anderson office hours in Crestone – Painted Skye/Farm Table building 3pm-7pm
Thursday, October 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufi Dhikr + Potluck. All Welcome – 4pm-6pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 256-4290 ASU Planetarium Show – Zacheis Planetarium 6:45 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis
Friday, October 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASU Free Friday Movies – Zacheis Planetarium 4:15 pm Free blogs.adams.edu/zacheis Halloween Ball, Desert Sage 7:30-10pm Couples \$15, Adults \$10, 12-19 \$5, <12 free 256-4533
Saturday, November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween party for youth 13-24 – Crestone Community Building 7-11pm, \$5, 719-480-5925
Tuesday, November 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General election – All Day
Thursday, November 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free www.babajashram.org 256-4108
Friday, November 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grief and Gratitude Ritual – Downtown Crestone 7:00 pm-10:00 pm 508-237-8915

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7am, 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 	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorje Trolo practice White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge 719-256-5773 Alcoholics Anonymous Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm 	Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm Donation 719-256-5668 Marciniac discussion group 7:30pm Free 256-4057
		Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga w/Cynthia Crestone Old Schoolhouse 10-11:30am 719-298-0360 Crestone Chamber Choir rehearsal YES Building 1:30 pm Free
		Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crestone Saturday Market Crestone Parking Lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm 719-588-9020
		Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668 Little Ones Story Time Baca Grande Library 10:00 am-10:45 am Free 256-4100 Stories for Little Ones Baca Grande Library 11:00 am-11:45 am free 655-2551 Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710



Noah Baen stands next to the "Dream Medicine Energy Catcher Wheel" interactive sculpture he created for the Energy Fair along with fellow artists Beatris Burgoin, Jane Kwan, David Nelson and Emmy Savage. *photo by Lori Nagel*



Hands-on demonstrations at the Crestone Energy Fair. *photo by Lori Nagel*



Almost everyone is happy hangin' out learning about solar ovens at the Crestone Energy Fair. *photo by Lori Nagel*

Dr. Ashley L. O'Hara



will be available to see patients in the
Saguache Clinic
on Friday afternoons beginning in August
Please call to schedule an appointment 719-655-2531

A new day
 for the Baca Grande
 starts with a
 new POA Board

Vote

- **Brooks**
- **Lakish**
- **Theriault**

to restore clear,
 honest and positive
 communication
 with members.

We are committed
 to community input,
 open dialogue and
 creating consensus.

This is a very
 important election.

Please get your
 ballots in by Nov. 5

The Slate for a Better Baca
 BROOKS – THERIAULT – LAKISH

Political Advertisement paid for by Friends of BLT

Halloween party for youth, Nov. 1

by Lisa Bodey

Crestone Creative Council (CCC) will be hosting a Halloween Party for youth 13-24 years on Saturday, November 1 from 7-11pm. The party will include a costume contest, games, food and fire spinning. We would like to extend an invitation to all teens and young adults throughout the San Luis Valley, Alamosa and Salida to join us for this new event at the Crestone Community Building. This is a fundraiser for CCC, so there is a \$5 admission charge.

Dress up in your best costumes and join us on the dance floor. We will have snacks and beverages to share but are also looking for donations from parents and the community to help us with our fundraising. Prepared items such as cupcakes, cookies, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks would make wonderful contributions.

If you are a young person interested in joining us for our fire spinning performance at the Halloween Party, we will host practices at our regular Council meetings after dinner. Practices will start on October 2 and run from 7-8pm every Thursday. Come out and play!

Our deepest apologies to the parents and younger children of the community who have attended

and enjoyed our Haunted House over the last three years. It takes a full month for us to clear out our meeting space, set up, decorate and then clean up so we can get back to our regular activities. We voted and chose to focus on the older group this year which will allow us to more fully participate in the following weekend's Day of the Dead activities. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you understand.

If you would like more information about CCC, please contact Lisa Bodey at 719-480-5925 or bodeycrestone@gmail.com.

Crestone Creative Council

Halloween Party

For 13-24 year olds

Saturday, November 1

7-11pm

Community Building

DJ Dance, spooky activities,
ghoulish goodies, costume contest,
bonfire & fire spinning!

\$5 Donation



Intuit will be playing at this year's Halloween Ball.

Annual Halloween Ball to feature the popular band Intuit —come on out Oct. 31

Yes, the most talked about band at the Crestone Music Festival was "Intuit" and we're bringing them back for the Annual Crestone Halloween Ball. The ball will be Halloween night, Friday, October 31 from 7:30 to 10pm at the Desert Sage Restaurant. We will have a costume contest with 4 winners in the following categories: best "Youth", best "Couple", best "Crossed Dressed" and best "Other"! Each winner will receive a ribbon, their picture taken and 2 day passes to the 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival August 7-9, 2015.

Intuit consists of Naropa Institute students and graduates. They draw on different influences for an eclectic sound, but the core of the Boulder band's music is pretty straightforward. "We're really into the environment and want our songs to inspire love for the earth." They have a blend of world beat, jazz, blues, hip hop and, most prominently, reggae. A unique feature of the band is the rock 'n' roll cello that is both bowed and plucked. That combined with drums, congas, bongos,

bass and electric guitar make for a very original, danceable and exciting sound.

We will also have another fabulous silent auction at the Desert Sage that starts October 1 and ends at 9:15 during the party. You can donate items at the Desert Sage or through our office at 719-256-4533. We are also having a "Door Prize Drawing" with 5 winners. Each winner will receive 2 day passes to Joyful Journey Hot springs and 2 day passes to the 2014 Crestone Music Festival. The price of admission will be \$15 for couples, \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 12 to 19 with kids under 12 free. Paid adult admission will include one free door prize ticket. Extra tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5 each. We need cool Silent Auction items to make this work, so sign up at the Desert Sage display or call our office at 719-256-4533.

Get creative, scrounge around in your closets, your neighbors' closets and the Free Box. Whatever you dream-up, bring it on down to the Crestone Halloween Ball!

Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit community service organization that annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, produces and subsidizes San Luis Valley school presentations and provides free consulting and technical assistance to other community endeavors. For more information please call 719-256-4533 or visit www.crestfest.org.

Come on down and have a blast!

CYP (Crestone Youth Plaza)

Wishes You a Happy Halloween!



Bon in Dolpo

Sneak film showing

Colorado College Auditorium

24 October at 7 PM \$10



"Bon In Dolpo" explores the story of the Ancient Zhang Zhung kingdom in this region and Bon traditions, persisting for centuries in Dolpo where texts and oral teachings continue an unbroken lineage from ancient times to present day.

For further information: www.colorado.ligmincha.org

CRESTONE ARTISANS GALLERY



Corner of Cottonwood & Galena
in Downtown Crestone
719-256-5280

October Hours

Wednesday - Monday 11 - 4

Closed Tuesday

Crestone Artisans Gallery
represents 24 local artists & craftspersons
Thank You for shopping locally!

Adams State Theatre presents *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

The Adams State University Theatre Program opens its 2014-2015 season with *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, directed by Dr. Paul S. Newman, professor of theatre. The play begins at 7:30pm, October 3, 4, 10, and 11. There will be a Sunday matinee at 2pm, October 12. Tickets go on sale Monday, September 22.

The theatre production features a new and thrilling version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of depravity, lust, love and horror. On the fog-bound streets of Victorian-era London, Henry Jekyll's experiments with exotic "powders and tinctures" have created an alter ego—Edward Hyde, a villain free to commit the sins Jekyll is too civilized to comprehend. When Hyde meets a woman who stirs his interest, Jekyll fears for her life and decides to end his experiments. But Hyde has other ideas, and so the two sides battle each other in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse to determine who shall be the master and who his slave.

"Our production of this classic horror story is a psychological thriller mixed with moments of dark humor," said Newman. "Even if you are familiar with Stevenson's original story, this play version has enough surprises that will keep you on the edge of your seat waiting to see what will happen next."

With *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Adams State University Theatre kicks off its 88th year of theatre

followed by a fall semester of works that offers something for everyone including a Main Stage holiday season production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. In the Xperimental Theatre, student directed one-act plays will feature a powerful drama about driving under the influence and a one-act thriller about a zombie apocalypse.

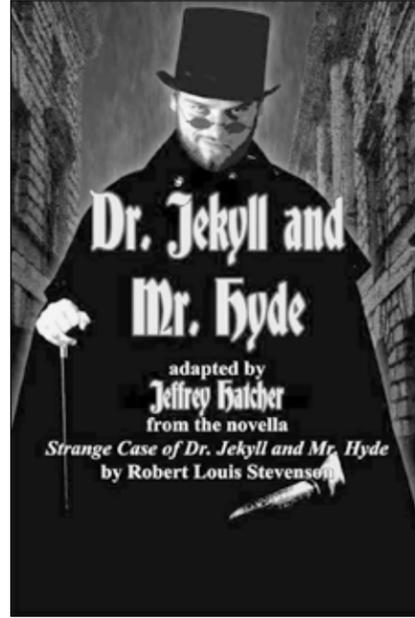
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is rated "PG-13" for mature content. Individual tickets are \$10 for general public, \$8 for seniors and students, and free to Associated Students and Faculty with current ASU identification.

To reserve tickets for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, call 719-587-8499.

Adams State Faculty Lecture Series continues on October 1

The Adams State University Fall 2014 Faculty Lecture Series continues with "The Black Legend and Hispanic History: Then and Now," by Nick Saenz, assistant professor of history. The lecture begins at 7pm, Wednesday, Oct. 1, in Porter Hall room 130.

Religious conflict and the early history of Spanish conquests in the Americas defined English views of Spain in the sixteenth century. In the context of ongoing imperial competition, a "Black Legend" of Spanish bigotry, cruelty, and ignorance circulated about the English-speaking world. Dur-



The Adams State University Theatre Program opens its 2014-2015 season with *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

ing the nineteenth century this narrative was broadened to include an account of Spanish backwardness amid Spain's loss of colonies in the Americas and defeat to the United States in 1898. Well into the twentieth century these narratives continued to define English-speaking America's view of the Spanish-speaking world. This lecture will explore the ways in which the Black Legend has influenced the history of the San Luis Valley and continues to influence the politics of immigration at the national level.

All talks are free and the public is invited. Complimentary light refreshments will be offered. For further information on the series of lectures, contact Dr. Kristy Duran, assistant professor of biology, at 719-587-7767, or by email: klduran@adams.edu.

Free planetarium shows continue through October

The Adams State University Zacheis Planetarium schedule through October includes free Thursday programming. Shows are 7 and 7:45pm. Doors open at 6:45pm.

Sept. 25 – "Bad Astronomy"
Oct. 2 – "Escher's Universe"
Oct. 9 – "Dynamic Earth"
Oct. 23 – "Star of the Pharaohs"

Oct. 30 – Live Astronomy Program

Free Friday movies start at 4:30 and 5:15pm; doors open at 4:15. Schedule includes:

Sept. 26 – "Earthquake"
Oct. 3 – "Experience the Aurora"

Oct. 10 – "Into the Deep"
Oct. 24 – "Supervolcanoes"
Oct. 31 – "Undiscovered Worlds"

All programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check in at the front desk when you arrive. For more information, visit blogs.adams.edu/zacheis.

Addante Chiropractic, PC

Addante Chiropractic / Crestone

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

GRASS HAY

BARN STORED

HORSE HAY / COW HAY

3' X 3' X 8' BALES

**101 LAND & CATTLE
SAGUACHE, CO**

**SCOTT ALEXANDER
719-221-0159**

Tim N. Lovato for Saguache County Commissioner, District 3

Experience that Counts

Platform

- **Honesty with the Citizens of Saguache County**

I am committed to accountability and transparency in all County Commission dealings.

- **Representation for All**

Your concerns will be listened to and respected. Call me. I want to hear from you.

- **Return of Control of the Decision-Making Process to our Individual Communities**

I believe our local communities know best what is right for their particular area.

- **Fiscal Responsibility**

I believe in maintaining fiscal accountability—if it's not in the budget, it shouldn't be spent.

- **Economic Development in Conjunction with Environmentally-Conscious, Smart Growth**

We need to encourage commerce, recreation and tourism, and support for our local small businesses.

- **Promotion of Alternative Energy Development in Saguache County**

I am committed to exploring a harmonious blend of alternative energy development projects of differing scales with respect for the values of the communities and in keeping with their environmental concerns.



LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF SAGUACHE COUNTY

Married for 40 years to Lori Lovato (teacher, Saguache and Moffat schools)
Retired from the Division of Water Resources, State of Colorado, Sep 2003 after 28.5 years of service

1972 graduate of Mountain Valley School, Saguache, Colorado

AGRICULTURE/BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Rancher (1978-present), first leasing then purchased ranch in 1990
General Contractor (1979-present), working for local, state and federal governments as well as the private sector
Ranch Manager (1982-1987)
Ranch Hand (1968-1976)

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

San Luis Valley Well Commissioner (Mar 2000-Sep 2003)

Duties included:

Evaluation of exempt and non-exempt well applications pursuant to state statutes, ground water policies, court decrees, and county land use regulations
Issuance of well permits

Saguache Creek Water Commissioner (Apr 1976-Mar 2000)

Daily administration of surface water pursuant to state statutes, policies and court decrees
Served on board for hiring of water commissioners and an assistant division engineer

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE

Representative for the Saguache Creek Water Users Association, serving on the San Luis Valley Rules and Regulations Committee (2009-present)

Mountain Valley School Board (2005-2008)

Volunteer at Moffat Consolidated Schools and Mountain Valley Schools (2000-2006)

Saguache Town Council (1980-1984)

Saguache Volunteer Fire Department (1977-1982)

Kiwanis (1976-1982)

timnlovato@yahoo.com

719-655-2563

Who We Are

Nancy Onizuka: Dancing spirit, artful hands

by Gussie Fauntleroy

On a bright, late fall day in the mid-1990s, Dearing and I pulled up to a small homestead at the end of a dirt road on a flat, windswept expanse. Our longtime friend Nancy Onizuka stepped out of a tiny, round-sided, handmade house, smiling. She welcomed us into the dirt courtyard encircled and protected from the wind by dozens of wooden enclosures and containers in which lived chickens, ducks, geese, peacocks, rabbits, and an assortment of other animals. Inside the house, built by Nancy's then-partner, we sat in the warmth of sun streaming through south-facing windows and drank

someone with a gentle, refined, artistic spirit and ready laugh. It was an incongruous experience to imagine her living in this extreme landscape in a labor-intensive, primal relationship with the elements and the animals that surrounded her. But then again, at the time I was unfamiliar with Crestone and its many dimensions and gifts that have profoundly shaped Nancy's life over the past 22 years. And of course, I didn't yet know the gifts she would give this community in return.

The joy of dance

Nancy was raised just south of San Francisco in San Mateo, the daughter of a Japanese-American man who worked for Japan Airlines and a mother who in the 1960s managed a woman-owned vitamin business. As a child, Nancy expressed her joy in movement. By age 7 she was enrolled in classes for ballet, tap dance, acrobatics and baton, but soon she began funneling all her energy into ballet. While still in high school she earned a Ford Foundation scholarship for a summer of study in New York with the

New York City Ballet. She returned to New York City after high school for another year and a half on a scholarship with the Joffrey Ballet School. She remembers it as a time of "amazing experiences," including watching performances by such world-renowned dancers as Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

At 19 Nancy auditioned for and was accepted into the Houston Ballet, where she danced for four seasons, including two years as a soloist. In 1976 she joined the Chicago Ballet. Three years later she hung up her pointe shoes and shift-



Nancy has been making bags and jewelry with soft leather and beautiful stones for more than 20 years.

photo by Audi Joe Zinn

tea and caught up on each other's lives. She talked about raising, sacrificing, and living with animals, selling eggs, and making art. We admired the fine craftsmanship of beautiful leather medicine bags, adorned with stones, that Nancy had taught herself to create.

It was a world apart from the one in which we'd met Nancy 10 years earlier in Santa Fe. There, she had been a professional dancer performing with the Santa Fe Opera and running the Santa Fe Dance Foundation, through which I took lessons from her in a Quonset hut studio. I'd known her as



Nancy Onizuka. photo by Audi Joe Zinn

ed into modern dance, performing with the Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble and individual choreographers and teaching dance. She moved to Santa Fe in 1983, the same year Dearing and I did, and we met shortly afterward. A few years later Crestone called and Nancy answered. Soon she was working with deer, elk, and buffalo hide, making medicine pouches and later expanding into jewelry incorporating deerskin-wrapped stones. The venture became a business called Lightwings in 1992.

Art & community

As one of the founding members of the cooperative Crestone Artisans Gallery, established in 2004, Nancy keeps the gallery's books, does payroll, and handles other essential tasks. "For me, Nancy is the heart of the gallery,"



Nancy (third from left on steps) enjoys sunshine and the company of fellow artists during a reception at Crestone Artisans Gallery. photo by Lori Nagel

says painter and fellow founding member Jo Anne Kiser. "I'm not sure it would still be in existence if not for her graciousness and the way she runs it and how she deals with people." Today the downtown Crestone gallery has 20-some artist members and shows the works of a few others on a consignment basis. Nancy's wrapped-rock necklaces, handbags, wallets, and other leather and stone creations are consistently among the top selling items.

Sitting in the studio of her current home in the foothills outside town, Nancy picks up a piece of grey-speckled granite with patches of intense blue. It's a newly discovered type of stone from Pakistan known as K2 blue jasper, and is among the exciting specimens she's found at gem and mineral shows in recent months. A piece of sage-green, meteorite-formed moldavite and a cluster of gorgeous tiny amethyst crystals from Uruguay are among other treasures that soon

will become part of her art, along with such stones as labradorite, opal fluorite ("Tiffany stone"), rare Colorado blue topaz, and Cripple Creek turquoise that she hand-polishes. Watch for her updated website, lightwingsleather.com.

Pivotal points

For the first time this year, Nancy will open her own studio for the Crestone Artists Studio Tour (a separate group of which she is also a member) Oct. 4 and 5, sharing the space with fine art landscape photography by her husband, Audie Joe Zinn. In early September Nancy and Joe consecrated their relationship with vows at the Medicine Wheel in Wyoming. It's one of the many ways her life has been transformed in the time she has lived here. Another pivotal event took place in late 2009. After



Nancy finds rare and lovely stones at gem and mineral shows and elsewhere to incorporate in her wrapped-stone necklaces and other leather and stone creations.

photo by Audi Joe Zinn

decades of professional dancing—and for a time, leading an improvisational dance class in Crestone and mentoring Crestone Charter School students in dance—chronic hip pain was making it difficult for her to even walk. Then Neighbors Helping Neighbors hosted a gala fund-raising event to assist with medical expenses for hip replacement surgery. The procedure resulted in immense relief—and deepened Nancy's appreciation for her life in this place. "The community stepped up and came together for me and showed me what a community can truly mean," she reflects. Following that experience she served on the NHN board for two years, and currently is involved in the effort to establish Crestone as an official Colorado Creative District. "Living here has taught me what's truly important: friends, community, natural beauty," Nancy says. "There's something about living at 8,000 feet. It creates that sense of expansion, and I'm looking, in my life, in all ways, to expand."

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

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The People's Climate March: Speaking truth to power

by Lee Temple

An estimated 310,000+ participants gathered in Manhattan, New York on Sunday, September 21 for the largest climate change demonstration in history. They were joined in solidarity by hundreds of thousands of other participants in approximately 2460 gatherings in 159 countries around the world, a show of intention and force that clearly places grassroots activism and concern about the growing global climate crisis front and cent-

brought up the rear.

Several months of pre-event negotiations with the NYPD resulted in a march that was well-organized, orderly and effective yet monstrously large, even by New York standards. Organizers made sure that everyone realized it was to be non-violent, non-destructive, respectful, honest, transparent, accountable, and weapon-, alcohol-, and drug-free. PCM security volunteers and NYPD officers lined the well-barricaded route along 8th Ave., east on 59th St., down 6th Ave., west on 42nd St. and down 11th Ave. to 34th Street.

12:58pm brought a moment of complete silence when all hands were in the air for those who have already been impacted. Then a great roar of humanity started in the back and moved like a human wave of power down the several miles to the front, with a roaring that continued for a minute or more. Heady stuff!

The fall equinox timing for the event was no coincidence, as the U.N. Climate Summit was scheduled to kick off at UNHQ just two days later. Interestingly, the march already had an effect well before it happened. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has chosen to recognize rather than ignore the march's people power, by orienting the tone of UN pre-summit communications toward catalyzing constructive, achievable action, particularly in eight action areas of agriculture, cities, energy, finances, forests, industry, resilience and transportation.

I had a chance to visit with friends and long-time environmental activists Bill McKibben, Terry Tempest Williams and Rebecca Solnick during the march. I asked Bill if he was attending the UN events. He shrugged "That's just a side-show. This is the main event," and marched on.

For more information, please visit: peoplesclimate.org, and/or www.un.org/climatechange/climate-summit-2014.



One of the best floats in the march. photo by Lee Temple

er in the collective mainstream.

Chanting slogans like "Hey, hey, Obama, We don't want no climate drama!" and carrying signs messaging "look ma, no future" and "Don't Frack With Us," and more, demonstrators came from as far away as Rome, Italy to participate. From gays to straights, from Tibetans to Lakotas, from toddlers to elders, from individuals to large organizations, we all showed up to participate.

It all started at 11:30am on a muggy, hazy New York day, and was organized in several different categories that all assembled on 8th Avenue (the west side of Central Park). Leading the parade down by Columbus Circle (59th street at the southwest corner of the park), were those on the front line of the crisis and in the forefront of change, including those most impacted by climate change: indigenous, environmental and other frontline communities. Next came those oriented toward building a better future, followed by groups with specific solutions, such as renewable energy, water justice, and many environmental groups. Groups holding responsible parties accountable (anti-corporate campaigns, peace and justice movements, etc.), followed by those proving the debate is over (scientists, interfaith religious groups) and a large and vocal contingent of local activists/groups



A playful group of cranes and their nest.

photo by Lee Temple



Above:
Lots of good signs and slogans brought our attention right to the point. photo by Lee Temple

Right:
Lee Temple (center) sharing a moment with Bill McKibben and Orion Magazine's Madeline Cantwell. photo by Chip Blake



The vibrant sea of humanity gathered for miles along 8th Avenue. photo by Lee Temple

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Big screens showed us our solidarity throughout the crowd and with other marches happening simultaneously all around the world. photo by Lee Temple

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

What a glorious September, weather-wise and also with the first six days of the Divine Mother Festival with so many wonderful people attending from far and wide. Fall Navratri will continue for three more days and complete on Friday, October 3. There is a fire ceremony at 10am each day followed by a discourse on the Divine Mother and a meal.

The big event coming toward the end of the month, Thursday, October 23, is Diwali the Festival of Lights. Begin-



The Divine Mother aglow in candles. Diwali, Festival of Lights on Thursday, October 23 at 7pm followed by dinner.

ning at 10am with the new-moon fire ceremony followed by lunch, the rest of the day is full of preparations for the gala celebration that night. The temple grounds, temple, and earthship are aglow with candles, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness. At 7pm we gather in the temple to share songs of peace and light. Often many of our spiritual centers and neighbors join us sharing their songs. It is a magical time. At 8pm we come to the earthship and enjoy a light dinner and lots of special desserts. We invite you all to join us.

We are excited to announce

a different and fun fundraiser for the ashram at the Movie Manor Hotel in Monte Vista, which includes a drive-in theater that you can view and hear from your hotel room. It is owned by a couple of Indian families that frequent the Ashram and they are donating 45 rooms to us for the weekend of Nov. 8 and 9. It will be a weekend of kirtan, aarati, classic Indian movies, Indian feast, and breakfast.

The donation for the room, dinner, breakfast, movies, chai, snacks, and to support the Ashram is only \$151 per room. You may want to book your room soon, so you get your first choice of a king, two queens, or a queen-size room. Call 719-256-4108 or email at info@babajiashram.org

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, October 8 and the new-moon fire ceremony (Diwali) is on Thursday, October 23. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has received a shipment from India with rose, saffron, tulsi, jasmine, and neem oil as well as handmade paper journals. We also just received a huge Weleda order of creams, lotions, washes, and oils. We have a very full shop. It is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your non-sale purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has been updated and you may view many items on-line at <http://mahalakshmiashop.wazala.com>.

Please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org to find out more about the ashram and its schedule. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.



Lakshmi Puja by Santosh, Savitri Solar Dome.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

Local, national, & international events

This year's Savitri Immersion Workshop in the Solar Dome in August was well-attended, including 12 visitors from out of state or country and 10 Colorado residents. There were daily teachings by Rod Hemsell, pranayama instruction and a Lakshmi Puja performed on the birthday of Sri Aurobindo by Santosh (a priest at the Mount Madonna temple in Santa Cruz), and an art workshop facilitated by several of our local artists—Mae Green, Jo Anne Kiser, and Marika Popovits.

This event has become important over the past several years to many practitioners of the Integral Yoga. An exhibition of Marika's paintings, titled *The Golden Overmind*, will be held at the Nicholas Roerich Museum in New York until October 12, "Celebrating the Evolution of Consciousness and Honoring the 2014 International Day of Peace".

In addition Auroville has recently published an auro-ebook by Rod. The book is titled *The Philosophy of Religion*: "With broad brush strokes highlighted with interesting and intricate detail, Rod paints a rich historical portrait illustrating the evolution of philosophical thought and its impact on religious doctrine which extends over a twenty-four hundred year span. The underlying theme, of course, is the slow and steady evolution of human consciousness flowing along many separate streams of thought springing forth from the fount of human experience while growing in knowledge. Rod's treks along ancient pathways draw us along to discover the great, underlying similarities between the major religions of today that might otherwise go unnoticed and he convinces us that such was always inevitable since we have been dealing with universal truths all along."

Print Length: 172 pages, Publisher: Auro e-Books, Original source: University of Human Unity, Book format: PDF, ePub, Kindle. www.auro-ebooks.com/philosophy-of-religion.

For information about activities of the center please contact Brian at 719-256-6010.



Teaching in the Solar Dome.

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Moving Up Higher

Learning to love like Jesus



by Joyce Meyer

I did it all wrong for years. And I was miserable! I'm talking about my attitude and my stinkin' thinkin' that was focused on the thought "What about me?!" And it came out in my behavior: If I didn't get my way all the time, I tried to control other people through my temper.

I honestly didn't know what my problem was until God spoke to my heart one day and said, "You're selfish. You've studied My Word about spiritual warfare, prosperity, healing, having power and authority as a believer in Christ . . . but how much time have you studied about My love?"

That was the beginning of discovering that I would never be happy and have peace until I learned to love like Jesus loves.

One of the first messages God put on my heart to teach was titled "Tell Them I Love Them." At first, I didn't want to do it. I thought, People already know You love them, God. I want to teach a really powerful message . . . something they haven't heard before. But God showed me that if people really knew He loved them and what that means, then they would live much differently than they do.

When we know and experience God's love, we can share it with others. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone who calls themselves a Christian would really love each other with His love. Think about it. There would be no gossip, no judgment or criticism, no exclusive attitudes that make others feel rejected, and people's needs would be met much more than they are.

Thankfully, Jesus gave us very real, practical examples of how we can love the way God loves us.

Loving others "to the highest degree"

John 13:1 says Jesus "loved them to the last and to the highest degree" (AMP). In the following verses, He demonstrates what it means to love others like this. And it shocked the disciples.

In those days, there were servants who washed people's feet when they came to visit. It's likely they were considered the lowliest servants in the household. Now Jesus, the Son of God Himself, got up from supper, took the servant's towel, and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. His message to them was to love one another by being a servant. Because God wants His love to flow through us and touch other people's lives.

Love is not just a feeling or a theory; it's a decision we make and

an action we take. It's so important for us to study what the Bible teaches about God's love so we can learn to love like Jesus. And we have to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in love—to be a servant who "washes feet" by helping others.

It's all about washing others' feet

Matthew 7:12 (NIV) says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . ." This is so critical because if we want to have meaningful relationships with others, then we need to invest in their lives by giving them support, encouraging them, helping to meet their needs—serving them as we're able to do it.

It's easy to want to help people you like or those you want to impress. But when it comes to doing something for someone you don't know or someone you don't have a natural interest in, it can be a different story. And sometimes we don't feel like serving our family. I know from personal experience that people can be willing to help others at church or work, but they aren't willing to do the same things for their family.

I've learned that what I do in front of people publicly won't really mean anything if I'm not living a life that pleases God at home, too. I thought I would die of frustration before I finally got this, so I know it's not easy. We have to realize we're naturally selfish, and we must make a conscious decision to think of others on purpose or we'll miss many opportunities to serve them.

I want to encourage you to read John 13 and pay close attention to what Jesus did and what He said. Spend some time studying scriptures about God's love and pray for Him to show you ways you can serve the people in your life. See how many creative ways God puts in your heart to "wash feet." You'll probably find it's easier and more simple than you thought it would be to help make someone's life better.

God wants us to have success and enjoy our lives. But He wants us to die to self, get over being the center of our world, and begin to focus on looking for someone who needs our help every day. When you do this, you'll discover you're actually more satisfied, content, peaceful and happy than you've ever been in your life!

SLV senior wants & needs assessed

What do San Luis Valley seniors think they will need and want to remain independent and able to stay at home? The San Luis Valley Healthy Aging Research Network Community Team, with its strategic vision of "a healthier more active senior population, with an improved quality of life that includes remaining independent and being able to stay at home longer," developed and administered a survey in 2010 and 2011 to find out.

The survey asked respondents to identify (1) services and programs wanted and needed by community members, (2) changes that would encourage older adults to walk more, and (3) features and services desired at senior centers. A total of 242 adults age 50 or older from across the San Luis Valley responded to the survey. The Community Team, working with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Healthy Aging Research Network researchers at the Colorado School of Public Health, analyzed the findings and compared them with existing resources to identify potentially remediable gaps.

Respondents across the region expressed common concerns such as transportation, home repair, grocery delivery, infrastructure to support walking, a desire for social interaction while walk-

ing, and a menu of desired services and activities at senior centers or other locations. The team continues to identify and engage relevant community leaders and stakeholders, form collaborations to address the gaps, and devise creative solutions to resolve these gaps.

Community Team members include Sue Davis, community member; Dr. Reginaldo Garcia, Rocky Mountain Prevention Center; Charlotte Ledonne, SLV Area Health Education Center; Joyce Lopez, community member; Patt Morgan Lloyd, Retired Senior Volunteer Programs; Frances Valdez, Area Agency on Aging and Dr. Lucinda Bryant, Colorado School of Public Health.

For more information about the survey findings please contact Dr. Lucinda Bryant at the University of Colorado | Anschutz Medical Campus: lucinda.bryant@ucdenver.edu or 720-982-1192 or Charlotte Ledonne at the SLV Area Health Education Center: charlotte@slv-ahc.org or 719-589-4977.

Research supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Cooperative Agreement U48-DP001938. The findings and conclusions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Joyce Meyer Article

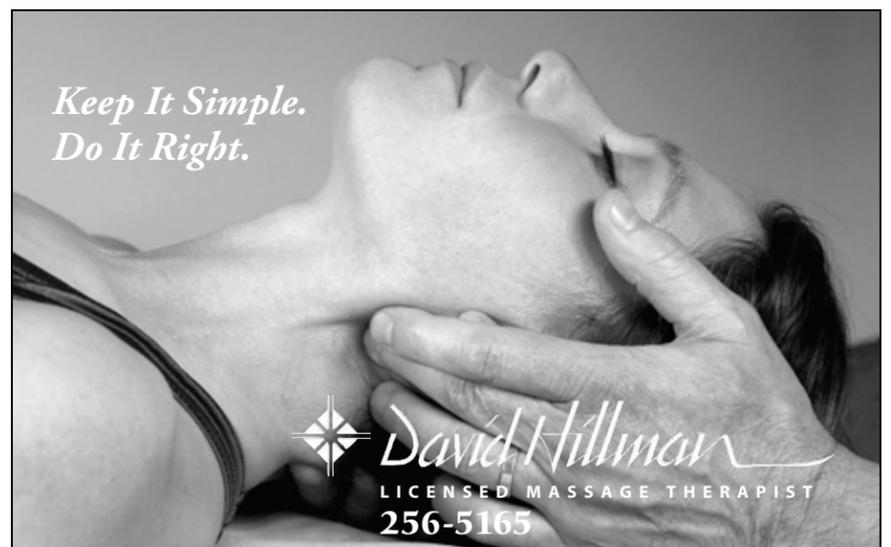
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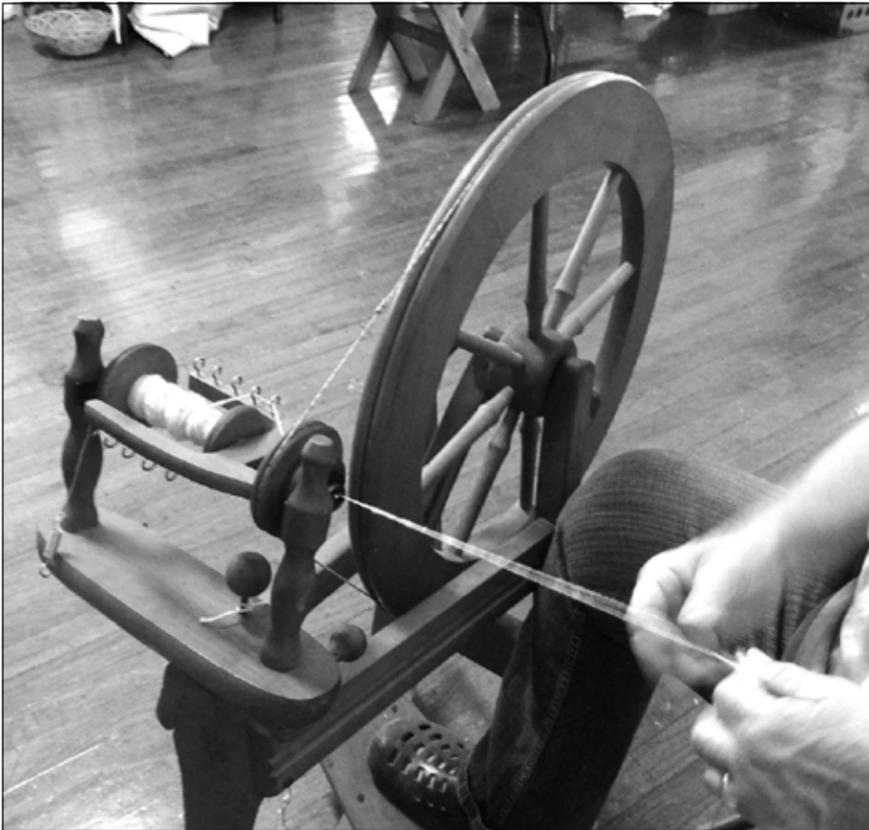


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Mary Robbins has been spinning for over 30 years. She set up her spinning wheel inside the community building to demonstrate her skill and loves being a part of the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters.

Magic in the air at Saguache Fall Festival & Quilt Show

by Leigh Mills

The weather was spectacular for the 21st Annual Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt Show. The bright blue skies and warm, comfortable temperatures made it a beautiful day to enjoy the fun-filled events in and around the Otto Mears Park and Saguache Community Building. The scent of roasting chilies flavored the air while crisp yellow leaves drifted from the trees and decorated vendors' tables. The park had many booths that offered a variety of arts & crafts, local honey, baked goods, face painting, and food. Musicians played from an outdoor stage, and bellydancers on the lawn entranced the audience. A wandering rodeo clown delighted the kids with balloon animals and a deft magician from the Salida Circus made scarves disappear and re-joined cut ropes.

A quilt show sponsored by the Sagebrush Quilters decorated the interior walls of the Saguache Community Building. Several beautiful large quilts and many smaller ones were on display to show the talent of local quilters and invite show at-

tendees to sign up for a raffle where they could win a handmade quilt or bid on a hand-stitched quilt, circa 1930s or '40s, titled "Around the World" that was auctioned later in the day. Marge Hoglin won the raffled quilt, which consisted of red and blue squares in a multi-block pattern. The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters first gathered 5 years ago, meet monthly in Saguache, and in October will have a quilting retreat at Joyful Journey called "Soak and Sew". New members are always welcome; just call Caroline Irwin at 719-850-0051.

Other activities held in Saguache on September 20 included lots of fun and games for kids, a fall color walk/run, pancake breakfast, the 2nd anniversary of the Saguache Welcome Center, and a playful melodrama called *The Treasure of Shriver River* held at the Ute Theatre. The 21st Annual Saguache Fall Festival was hosted by the Saguache Chamber of Commerce and Saguache Recreation Board. What a great way to end the summer, celebrating in Saguache.



This 80-year-old quilt, called "Around the World", was donated by an antique dealer and auctioned off to raise money for the Saguache Chamber of Commerce. There were many beautiful quilts made by local quilters on display and several craft vendors filled the community building.

Pinyon harvest!

by Margot Williams

In mid-September, pinyon trees all around the San Luis Valley are filled with the raucous calls of flocks of pinyon jays and Clark's nutcrackers, in a good harvest year. And while this year is not what I would call a bumper crop, there are enough trees in the forest loaded with cones to make harvesting the nuts worthwhile.

The use of pinyon nuts as a food source dates back to this area's early prehistory. Indigenous peoples valued them for their high protein and fat content. You will occasionally find items they left behind as you wander through the trees, things like projectile points, scrapers, or manos and metates. Today, the delicate flavor of roasted pinyon nuts has made them a popular ingredient in southwestern cooking, as well as in various cuisines of the Mediterranean area, where a pine that yields a similar nut is found.

One often hears that a pinyon harvest occurs every seven years. I have not found this to be true. Instead, a good harvest depends on a series of environmental factors, all of which must be present for good cone maturation. Pinyon cones take two years to mature. In the first year, there must be a dry, sunny and windy period while the pollen is being shed, to assure good pollination. The trees are wind-pollinated, as anyone who has lived here during pinyon bloom can verify. You'll see large clouds of yellow-green pollen blowing through the trees in spring during a good pollination year. Fertilization of the cones must be followed by an adequate monsoon season, to allow the young cones to develop. Drought during this period will cause them to dry and abort. Good snowfall during the first year's winter provides early moisture to the trees, also important for a good crop. A long and early monsoon season, such as the one we had this year,



Open pinyon cone displaying nuts. photo by Margot Williams

then allows the cones to mature. If any of these factors are missing, only a few cones will produce nuts.

What is the best way to harvest? People have different techniques. Some pick the cones before they split, cart them home, and then dry them by a heat source until they split and the nuts can be removed. I find this method sticky and laborious. A traditional method of harvesting that I prefer involves spreading sheets or tarps under the tree, then striking the cone-bearing branches with a stick to encourage the nuts to release from the cones. This means you must select trees where the cones have already started to split. Whatever method you employ, you'll come home with some pinyon sap on your hands. The easiest way to remove it is with any kind of cooking oil.

Removing the shells from the nuts is another labor-intensive job. It works best when the nuts have been roasted a little, as this makes the shell more brittle and easier to separate from the kernel. Make it a family job, and the work will go more quickly, particularly if storytelling or music are part of the process.

Have a pinyon harvest picnic this fall, and you'll come home with memories as well as nuts. You will be part of a harvest tradition that dates back many thousands of years, a true celebration of nature's abundance.



Pinyon cones.

photo by Margot Williams

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Nourishing Ourselves with the Essence of the Elements

by Peter May

This year's Nourishing Ourselves with the Essence of the Elements Retreat up at North Crestone Lake encountered mostly sunny days and cool nights. It sprinkled and graupel snowed a few times, and rained for most of one afternoon. This weather was in stark contrast to last year's retreat, where it rained, snowed, and stormed with high winds for most of the days and nights. Thus, the participants were able to practice in nature this year in a much more gentle way.

"Practicing in nature is not all that common for many people, though I have personally found it to be quite supportive. We are fortunate to have a teacher and teachings, as well as a spectacular mountain setting, that provide us with the needed guidance and support to effectively integrate the natural elements into our own being," were

the comments from retreat leader Peter May when asked about why to do practice in nature. All of the participants backpacked gear up to and down from the Lake. For all of them, it was worth the long hike carrying heavy backpacks and camping up at about 12,000 feet.

Participants came from around the country, including locals. One of the locals, Cathy Amenta, has this to say: "Chamma Ling's Five Elements Retreat with Peter May up at North Crestone Lake was one of the most magical and transformational experiences I have ever had. What a magnificent way to directly experience the five elements of Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space, in the pristine high country we are so blessed to have right here in Crestone. I would highly recommend participating in this retreat next year. I have found the teachings are easily applied to my daily life, and the practice has

been truly life changing for me."

This Elements Retreat was offered through the Chamma Ling Retreat Center, which was started by Geshe Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche, of the Bon Buddhist tradition. This indigenous tradition from Tibet includes practices of sutra, shamanism, tantra, and dzogchen. As

Colorado and Tibet both have spectacular mountain areas, these Bon Buddhist practices seem to be right at home here in the Sangre de Cristos, supporting the practitioner to realize a powerful connection with nature and with elevated states of body, energy, and mind.



Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space



Looking down on North Crestone Lake from high on the mountains.



High mountain meadow.



Looking across North Crestone Lake.



North Crestone Lake surrounded by Sangre de Cristo peaks.

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CCC wilderness adventure

by Lisa Bodey & Zya Hollyer

Lisa, Director of CCC, says:

Crestone Creative Council wrapped up summer vacation with a four-day wilderness backpacking adventure up San Isabel Trail to Rito Alto Trail and back down the North Crestone Trail. The scenery was absolutely spectacular and plants were teeming with life from all of the abundant rain. We munched on strawberries, huckleberries and chokecherries, drank pure mountain water and delighted in our dehydrated meals and snacks. We lost trails, found trails, pulled each other up hills, fell in mud bogs, carried each other's gear, and gave piggyback rides when they were in need.

Mother nature has a profound and natural way of bringing people together. We took care of each other's physical and emotional wounds and cultivated compassion for those

who are not as able as we might be and recognized that "ability" and "stability" can change for each of us in any moment. We shared stories, laughed, listened and pushed ourselves to dig deeper into our reservoirs of strength and patience for each other.

I am humbled by the wisdom of our local youth and honored to have spent this quality time with you: Imanuel Baca, Maori Baca, Demetrius Bayes, Shannen Beelendorf, Zya Hollyer, Nick Meisman, Quincy Meisman and Layla Tolian. Special thanks to Carrie Allen, Chris Roberts and Dan Wheeler for your food and logistics help and to Elephant Cloud for your delicious snack donations. My deepest gratitude to Paul Grice and Benny Ummer (my co-guides) for your energy, commitment, friendship, and support of empowering and engaging youth. Higher levels of respect, gratitude and awareness were gained through this experience and will resonate in our hearts for a lifetime.

Zya, a 16-year-old CCS student, shares the experience from her perspective:

Many people spend their lives in search of purpose. They believe that their actions must have some higher meaning and reach to outward sources for fulfillment. I feel the truth to be a little simpler. Our purpose as entities of the universe is to just exist, breathe and revel in knowing that everything we've ever experienced has led to our existence in this moment, in the present . . . and that whatever you are doing or thinking or feeling is exactly the



Nick Meisman & Zya Hollyer on the San Isabel Trail. photo by Lisa Bodey



Nick Meisman, Imanuel Baca, Maori Baca and Demetrius Bayes packing up camp. photo by Lisa Bodey



CCC group photo at saddle above Groundhog Basin. photo by Lisa Bodey

way you were meant to be.

I was struck by this strange, circular epiphany while summiting a mountain. My heart beat too loud in my ears, my legs trembled, and when I got to the top, I felt what I was made of so acutely that it became my whole existence. I knew that "The World" and all of time had collaborated so that I could have this second of awareness. The best part though, was that we all felt it. We were just facets of the universe reflecting a beautiful moment, filling up the space in between mountains and sky; and that was our purpose. So we needed nothing else.

Afterwards, I felt a profound gratitude that I'm alive, for the circumstances and people that brought me here, and for the people I got to experience this with. What it all boils down to is our own infinite potential, that we are here right now, that life can lead to anywhere and it is something to be exalted in. Thank you to our guides for taking us on such an epic journey! Your time and

guidance are worth far more than words will ever be able to express. Lastly, thank you for reading this . . . you were there with all of us for just a moment and that makes it even more beautiful.



Quincy Meisman helps Shannen Beelendorf up the trail. photo by Lisa Bodey





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It's show time!

CPI offers movie night Oct. 10

Crestone Performances Inc. (CPI) is going to the movies! Yes, we are putting together a movie night for Friday, October 10 at the Crestone Charter School. The Charter School is the perfect place to have it with their big screen and theatre sound. Showtime is 7:30 and we will have popcorn, sodas and juices available. The show will start with the movies created by the Crestone Charter School students that were featured at Adams State College. We will then show a scary classic movie like *Night of the Living Dead* or *The House on Haunted Hill* or *Frankenstein* in preparation for Halloween. We would like to hold a movie night each month but are taking it one at a time to see how you folks like it. Ideally, in the future, we could branch out to include: classic movies with outstanding soundtracks: custom compilations of concerts, festivals and television shows; musicals; musical cartoons; and exceptional Crestone Music Festival footage. We could also feature educational documentaries, independent films and local videographers and . . . well . . . the screen's the limit. We will be counting on feedback from the community to help morph these shows into something really special. This is a fundraiser and the suggested donation will be \$15 for couples, \$10 per person, \$5 for teens and under 12 free.

But wait! Become a mem-

ber of Crestone Performances for \$50 or more a year or \$5 or more a month and get in for free that night! You can even make a pledge to become a member and get in free. That's pretty friendly don't you think? By becoming a member of Crestone Performances Inc. you will be contributing to the vitality of our community. CPI annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, now in its 17th year. The festival is the single largest event in Saguache County and infuses tens of thousands of dollars into the community annually as well as providing a unique cultural experience. Over the last 12 years, our Youth Enrichment Program has produced and fully paid for 30 different presenters to do 102 educational and cultural presentations in Saguache County schools. We have also provided another 80 shows in schools throughout the San Luis Valley plus the Boys and Girls Club of Alamosa. Our Community Service Program lends free technical and consulting support to other local organizations throughout the year including all Neighbors Helping Neighbors events, Yaktobertfest, the Crestone Charter School, Crestone Fourth of July and the Energy Fair.

So come out and get your spook on! CPI is a 501c3 community service organization. Thanks . . . I mean BOO! For more information, please call 719-256-4533.

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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Sparkle: There are several movies with this name. This version is from 2007, a romantic comedy from the UK. Sam moves to London with his mom and gets a job with a PR agency by sleeping with the head of the firm. He then meets Kate and delights in falling in love with a woman his age, only to find out she's the boss' daughter. Stockard Channing, Anthony Head, Bob Hoskins and others. ****

2/ The Deal: Again, a few with this name, so this is from 2007. An irreverent indie comedy unfolds as a movie producer in an exasperated state finds himself in further hot water when the star of his big-budget biopic on British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli is kidnapped right off of the set. Based on Peter Lefcourt's novel of the same name, it portrays the nutsy world of filmmaking and features LL Cool J, Meg Ryan, Jason Ritter, William H. Macy, Elliot Gould, Fiona Glascott, Alden Lithgow & others. ***

3/ The Muse: Another lighthearted flick about a declining screenwriter who needs a hit script or his career is finished. In his desperation he hires a muse that creates a very high priced demandingness for his inspiration. Kooky methods from his Muse conspire to thwart his efforts. Starring: Albert Brooks, Sharon Stone, Andie MacDowell, Jeff Bridges, Cybil Shepherd, and many more. ***

4/ Pursuit of Happiness: No less than 6 movies with this name . . . so from 2001 another romantic comedy (must be on a roll). After an ad exec's career stalls and his girlfriend moves out he relies upon a longtime girlfriend of the platonic type for advice on his romantic troubles. And yes can you see this coming . . . looking for love in all the wrong places so far? Frank Whaley, Annabeth Gish, Amy Jo Johnson Patrick Van Horn, Jean Stapleton and others. ***

5/ Confessions of a Dangerous Mind: (A little darker in nature) this biography is about trash TV maven, Chuck Barris. He is at the top of his game with the hit series *The Gong Show* and the love of a good woman. But his dark secret is he's a CIA assassin that uses his time escorting his game show winners on their vacation prizes. Stars Sam Rockwell, Drew Barrymore, George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Rutger Hauer, Maggie Gyllenhaal and others. ****

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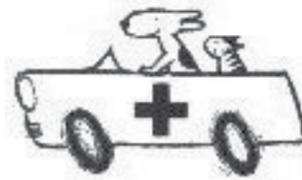
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Approximately 3,000 people were in attendance for the Great Sand Dunes Quarter Launch Ceremony. The Moffat elementary students wait patiently for the ceremony to begin. photo by M. Hashbarger

Moffat Middle School students buoyant over trip to balloon fiesta

by Lyndal Smith

Moffat 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are preparing for an exciting learning adventure in New Mexico. On October 7 and 8 they will head south to Bandelier National Park as part of their extended studies covering the Ancestral Puebloans of the Southwest. We will also investigate the convergence of two cultures with a short visit to the Plaza in Santa Fe. The next morning it is up and at 'em with an early morning wake-up call (4am) to attend the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta where the students will watch the Mass Ascension of Balloons and Flag of Nations event. Each country present at the Fiesta will be flying the flag of their nation and we will keep a tally of the different flags the students can correctly identify.

As part of their STEAM (Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) class this month, the students have been busy working in teams constructing their own colorful hot air balloons using vibrant tissue paper and glue sticks. We have recorded such data as ascent and descent time, estimated height and distance. Problem-solving skills are employed as students work towards bigger and better designs incorporating special shapes. Our next challenge will be creating a nine foot hot air balloon that we hope to launch in New Mexico to celebrate the accomplishments of our first quarter back at school. Those who would like to make a donation towards the cost of the trip may contact Moffat School where monies will be deposited into the Moffat Middle School STUCO account.

America the Beautiful Quarters Program

by Linda Eickhoff

On September 4 the students and staff of Moffat Schools joined with over 2,000 others at Great Sand Dunes National Park to celebrate the release of the newest commemorative quarter by the U.S. Mint. The Great Sand Dunes was selected as the national site to represent Colorado in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program. On the reverse (tails) side of the quarter an image of a father and son playing in Medano Creek with the sand dunes in the background is featured portraying the recreational and scenic beauty of this unique landscape in our backyard. Each student wore a t-shirt depicting the Great Sand Dunes, designed by a student artist from Del Norte Schools.

The release of the America the Beautiful quarters began in 2010 with five new coins being released each year. There will be a total of 56 quarters distributed by 2021. The Great Sand Dunes quarter was the fourth coin released this year. The order of release was determined by the year the location was first established as a national site. The Great Sand Dunes has long been a landmark in the San Luis Valley and was first established as a national site in 1932. In 2004 the Great Sand Dunes National Park was created by an act of Congress.

Representatives of local, state, and national government spoke at the release of the quarter. Local musician Don Richmond serenaded the crowd with his songs reflecting the serenity and beauty of the location. After the ceremony refreshments were available and each student received one of the coins as a personal keepsake.



Buffalo, during the Quarter Launch Ceremony. photo by M. Hashbarger



Brian Rhodes, Natasha Mills McKim, Andy McKim and Will Shellabarger are harnessed and ready to embark on the team-building zip line tour in August. The entire Moffat staff spent a fun-filled day together, one which got our hearts pounding and our spirits lifted before returning to the new school year.

photo by Linda Vigil



Mountain Valley/Moffat Middle School Indian football #7 is Moffat's very own Isiah Wellman! Way to go Isiah! Go and enjoy some football! photo by M. Hashbarger

Moffat CSD #2 brings vital district info to smartphone via mobile app

by Zachary Schwartz

Moffat Consolidated School District announced the launch of Moffat CSD #2 today, a free mobile district application that brings vital district and school information directly to smartphones and mobile devices. Moffat CSD #2 keeps the Moffat School District community connected wherever they are. The app offers mobile access to district news, calendars, schedules, staff directory and more.

Parents and students can download the application free from the iTunes and Google Play app stores. Developed by the school and Blackboard Inc., the app is expected to be popular with alumni, parents, students, sport fans and other members of the Moffat School District.

"We want to offer our students and other members of the community the best in technology and access, and that means making Moffat School District services and information available to mobile users," said Moffat's District IT Director. "We're excited to announce the release of this dynamic tool for our community to stay in sync with Moffat School's education and sports," said Principal Hashbarger.

"Moffat CSD #2 is a big part of how I stay connected to my child's school" said one parent. "Now wherever I go I have access to the school directory, view lunch menus, link to the sport pages and even check my kid's grades. It's great that there's an app that helps me stay involved with my student's education while also keeping up with everything my school is doing."

Moffat CSD #2 is available for free on Android and Apple devices, available from the iTunes and Google Play app stores. Search under Moffat CSD#2.



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Crestone Charter School welcomes back students and staff

by **Mary Benavidez**

It's September and a new school year has arrived. Director Michael Hayes, faculty, and staff of Crestone Charter School welcomed 93 K-12 students and their families at their Back to School night and the Opening Day ceremony.

Both occasions allowed the faculty and staff to present the focus and the developed shared virtues of the new school year to the students, families and community members. Community input was

integral in developing those virtues.

CCS welcomed 2 new teachers and 2 new aides to their staff. Robin Blankenship is the new Intermediate teacher. Ryan Johns joins the Middle School program as the new science and math teacher. Brittany Kwiatkowski (Primary) and Jennifer Nold (Early Elementary) are new aides. They joined the rest of the faculty and staff for 2 weeks before school started to focus on how to best meet each child's edu-

cational needs for the coming year and how to maximize learning in a nongraded program. The teachers also developed a code of co-operation and how to best incorporate the virtues in the classrooms. The results of their hard work accumulated in both ceremonies.

The students and staff started the school year by participating in field day activities, Earth Day camping and incorporating a new project involving weekly school cleaning by working in mixed age groups. These tasks help to foster cooperation between the grades. There are also many opportunities for parental and community mem-

bers to volunteer with CCS.

If you have any questions about the upcoming year or would like to volunteer your time and talents please contact the school at 719-256-4907.



Crestone Charter School welcomed 93 K-12 students and their families at their Back to School Opening Day ceremony. photo by Jennifer Bridgman



Crestone Charter School welcomed 93 K-12 students and their families at their Back to School night. photo by Jo DeAmor

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The Washington Beat

Mid-terms:

*Immigration & foreign policy
still front & center*



by David Nicholas

October, and the heat is on. The “do nothing” 113th Congress has gone home, scheduled only to surface again after the election and go through a lame duck session, which may do something but probably not. Thirty-three Senate seats are up and most for re-election with the majority of these in Republican states, i.e., those states that went for Governor Romney in 2012. The conventional wisdom is that Democrats will lose control of the Senate. Perhaps, but this mid-term election is one of the most fluid and what was conventional wisdom last week can be quite different this week. What can you say? Convention wisdom is always fickle, except when it's right. Take the Colorado Senate race.

Udall in a tight race for re-election

Polls in early September had incumbent Democrat Mark Udall with a comfortable lead in of about six points—48% to 42%—in the NBC/Marist Poll released on September but my gut would tell me the race will tighten come November 4. True, other polls in early September, show the race to be too close to call. Which means Senator Udall could lose to Republican opponent Cory Gardner.

But September is not October and in October there are a lot of “ifs” in this game.

The “ifs” are: if Hispanics turnout for Democrats; if other Democrats are galvanized in coming days with the prospect of extreme Republican Senate majority; if Dems are disenchanted with the President's decision to go after ISIL/ISIS/Islamic State which has been declared a war by SecDef Chuck Hagel with bombing raids in Iraq and not Syria.

Where Senator Udall is concerned, he could be in trouble if Hispanics decide to register their disapproval that President Obama has backed off his promise to move on immigration policy before the mid-terms. The question is, will Hispanics punish the President for his perceived lack of action by voting Republican, or just stay at home and think about 2016?

My thought is that the Hispanic vote has the ear of this President, whereas with Republicans all they will get is derision and

contempt from the conservative wing of the party, such as Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

Then the Senator could be in trouble if the Democratic base hates the fact that Mr. Obama has moved from disengagement to a war footing in the Middle East, playing into the hands of the GOP, where the shouting match is that he's not doing enough. True, the President has reversed himself. He pledged in 2008 that he wouldn't get the US involved in further wars; more below.

For most of the year Mr. Udall was the one bright spot—perhaps the only bright spot—in this years Senate races. But the DC swirl and the relentless narrative on Obama and what he is doing or isn't doing on immigration or foreign policy in a day-by-day blow-by-blow is having an effect on the Udall Campaign.

If Hispanics can see through Telemundo's Jorge Ramos's anger and see that despite the President being seen as dithering on pushing though effective Immigration Reform, this really ain't his fault. Hispanics should not forget that it is GOP in the US House of Representatives who have blocked a really good bi-partisan bill on immigration, which Senator Udall voted for and which has sat on the Speaker Boehner's desk since 2013.

At the moment, Hispanics have no better ally in the White House. President Obama is grooming Julian Castro—currently Secretary for Housing and Urban Development—for bigger things. Secretary Castro is likely to be a candidate for Vice-President in 2016 or for President in 2020.

The reason for Mr. Obama to go-slow on using his executive powers to regulate immigration is that it would just stoke the fires and make the narrative more shrill. The narrative his critics use is that this President is using his executive powers to dictate to the Congress. That perception of Obama as dictator wouldn't help Dems this electoral season, particularly in the red Senate races.

Then there is the Democratic base. National polling that they're disenchanted with Congress and

the whole Washington scene and which generally in a mid-term election sees them stay away in the polls in droves—need to see that there is a lot more at stake this year.

If Democrats lose control of the Senate, a lot could change. The attack on Affordable Healthcare, which is a feral issue in the House, would move to the Senate. While the President would exercise his veto if the GOP could muster the 60 votes needed to pass a law repealing Obamacare, the sense that Affordable Healthcare could be overturned, if not in Mr. Obama's term in his successor's, allows healthcare providers to drag their feet and to keep up a relentless campaign espousing the negative. It makes Affordable Healthcare a limbo bill.

Then there's war. The war hawks both inside and outside the Republican Party are dead set on a full-scale Middle East blow out. Not only major forces in Iraq but also a bigger military engagement in Syria. Control of the Senate allows bills to be passed to engage in wars abroad and argue that it has to do with National Security. However specious these arguments may be, war drums on the Potomac would get louder, making it pretty impossible for Presidents to resist both the political pressure and the relentless drumbeat of the right-wing narrative.

So if you count yourselves in the Democratic base, re-electing Senator Udall is a good reason to vote on Tuesday, November 4. Something to consider: this election, your vote does matter.

The global crusade, er, coalition to combat ISIL

At time of writing US Secretary of State John Kerry has pounded the Middle East to try to get Middle East nations to pony up and join the “Global Coalition” or the “International Community of the Willing (?)” to fight alongside the Western powers against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)/Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS)/Islamic State.

Right now, those Middle East nations are not saying a word in public, particularly those states which finance ISIL in Syria such as the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates. The simplest way to get ISIL to cease and desist rather than bomb them into oblivion would be to tell their sponsoring states to cut of their finance and military support, but no, war is good business and cutting off ISIL's money supply isn't sexy. Those shiny Toyota trucks with 50mm machine guns mounted on the trays running in ISIL convoys on Iraqi highways—Saudi Ara-

bia uses them with great effect to maintain order in the Kingdom—is quite the visual to a very sophisticated ISIL recruitment PR narrative coming from somewhere.

However, this war isn't as simple as 2003, because the Iraqis already have one nation helping them, Iran. The one country in Iraq with boots on the ground is our official enemy. Iran is helping the Shiite militias to train and patrol and protect Baghdad and southern Iraq. They're also supplying arms. It's embarrassing really. We can't be seen to be on the side with Iran because we officially disapprove of Iran's Supreme Council and their nuke policy. But we can't deal with Baghdad nor plan strategy without thinking about what Iran is doing. In fact we have to talk to them as allies or at least see them as a force we need to be mindful of. You have to love the irony of this.

As the narrative heats up on ISIL, Israel warns that Iran is a 50-year problem, while ISIL is a two-year problem. Up to his usual tricks, Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu has been at great pains to try and keep the US focused on Israel's agenda.

In mid-September we have the President emphasizing that we will use aircraft and drones to destroy ISIL on the ground but definitely no boots on the ground, except for the 1,650 or so we have there now either helping the Kurds' Peshmerga army and protecting our consular officials in Kurdistan, or in Baghdad to protect our embassy there.

It shouldn't be lost that this global coalition is about protecting western values and western interests in the Middle East. White Christian values—read civilized—as opposed to the Caliphate Moslem—thus evil. No matter how much our US media narrative tries to reduce ISIL to a cult and not a religion, which SecStat Kerry is mumbling about at present, it still looks a little too righteous and little too European to wage this war.

That said, SecStat Kerry's arm-twisting must have had some effect. At least 10 Arab states have agreed to join the coalition's crusade and “agreed to help.” This does include the Saudis, Jordan and Qatar, although how they will “help” remains to be seen. Given that ISIL gets its philosophical ideas from Wahabism (which is the base for the House of Saud's ruthless domination of its people), that the Saudis will help kill them is a bit of a stretch. Killing your creation, it seems, is a fashion these days. They haven't said how they will aid western civilization so we remain skeptical about

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what they will do.

Crusades are products of the Medieval period but they still continue today. Actually, it has to do with preserving western values and protecting western civilization. If that doesn't whet the appetite for violence and mayhem, I know of no other reason that has motivated Europe over the last 1,000 years or so. Seriously. When Christians march onward in the Middle East it is usually with zealous righteousness and ends in stalemates or failure. Ah, you say, but what about the beheadings? Yes, what about them?

Despite addressing the beheading of the two journalists and one aid worker—two US citizens, one British—in front of cameras as horrific and barbaric, it has happened before. Decapitation was also carried out when we occupied Iraq in the first decade of the 21st century. Also the Saudis still do it, as do the Taliban in Afghanistan. Beheading and guillotining was a preferred method of execution by the French and an English tradition under Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. Journalists know the risks when they go into a conflict zone and the enemy is hostile to their very presence. This is no justification, it's just that it happens still and regularly and journalists are not immune to hostility.

We are at war with ISIS

On Thursday, September 18, the Senate approved ISIL Bill, 78-22, a measure on the training and arming of Syrian rebels. This was the President's request to arm and train Syrian rebels to fight ISIL. So who gets this money and arms and who guarantees anything is a problem that has yet to be defined. Odds are the arms will end in possession of ISIL rather than

be used against them.

As *The New York Times* noted, "Yes, the decision to arm moderate Syrian rebels—whoever they may turn out to be—is 'pretty significant' and could have long-term implications for the region, the Senate refused to take a clear vote on it. The aid was approved late in the afternoon, but only as a small piece of an emergency-spending bill needed to keep the government running through mid-December while lawmakers campaign and vacation.

Most voters will never know whether their senator approved the rebel aid out of principle, or to prevent a government shutdown. And that ambiguity is just the way that most senators who are up for re-election in November wanted it. They were afraid that a clear vote, one way or the other, might anger a voter somewhere, so they ducked the issue and fled the Capitol."

So now we are at war—Obama's War—and a-bombing we will go. Mr. Obama's stated policy of "degrading and destroying" ISIS through airstrikes while arming and training regional forces to retake territory on the ground is where we are at.

On Monday, September 22, we began sending waves of warplanes and launching Tomahawk cruise missiles into Syria to attack an array of targets in an aggressive and risk-laden operation that marks a new phase in the conflict.

Meanwhile the drumbeat of Obama's War took on drama at the UN where the President presided over a session of the Security Council to rally the nation states to his cause. This is a fool's errand, but this course is set now, or so it seems.

Mr. Obama said that such groups only understand "the language of force" and that confronting their brutality compels the world "to look into the heart of darkness." But for all the President's soaring rhetoric about the need to defeat ISIS, it's unclear whether he can do that without putting American boots on the ground—something he has repeatedly ruled out—or whether he could survive the political fallout at home from doing so if that eventually became necessary.

We can't win this war of attrition but the President wants to give it a shot or shots. ISIL can just melt into the background if we invade much like the Taliban does in Afghanistan.

It's said that ISIL is attracting droves of foreign fighters to fight under its banner but separating them from supportive Sunni tribesmen will be like trying to find needles in a haystack.

We shall see.

Ukraine

Our next enemy, the Russian Federation, currently undergoing demonization with more sanctions heaped upon Russian corporations and billionaire oligarchs, provides another steady drumbeat. Despite the hits on the currency, the ruble, it's not having much effect in the Federation. Russia still controls the gas and is starting to cut the supply to EU countries such as Poland and Germany. This is the reason why the sanctions are not working, at least where Germany is concerned. It's simple really: if you don't pay, you don't get the gas.

Financial transactions still flow back to Russia, and despite the west trying to bring the Federation to its knees economically, Russia is looking to Africa and China for its business dealings. This is foreign exchange, which doesn't go through Europe.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin is still unrepentant. He is still not leaving the Crimea and he is watchful of the pro-Russian enclaves in the eastern Ukraine. He is still supplying them with arms and food as his supply convoys cross the border without much or any resistance from Ukrainian forces. While the fighting continues around Donetsk sporadically, the ceasefire holds is officially holding.

In my view Mr. Putin will still move into the eastern Ukraine at some point, if Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko moves too close to NATO for his liking. All the while US SecStat John Kerry wistfully denounces Russian's occupation of the Crimea, but to no avail.

This still has to play out and all eyes look to the G20 meeting in Brisbane, Australia in November. Primarily to see a) if Mr. Putin shows up b) he is excluded from the economic forum, or c) some resolution comes from the major players who do attend. Could be a huge drama, or maybe not.

Postscript

Much was made of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Martin Dempsey's appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday September 16, saying something counter to the President about whether there would be "boots on the ground" in either Iraq or Syria. On the face of it, he would appear to be at serious odds with the President. The President come out that evening to emphasize that there would be no boots on the ground, while General Dempsey came out and said that if he thought it was necessary he would make recommendations to the President for his consideration. So all has been smoothed over and everyone is working off the same page, etcetera, etcetera. For now.

And the beat goes on.

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Ballot issues

continued from page 1

taxes are allocated to local communities, historic preservation, community colleges, tourism promotion and the state's general fund. Gambling revenues in Colorado are subject to a graduated tax with a maximum assessment of 20%. In 2013 this came to approximately \$104.3 million. Colorado legalized casinos in 1990 and as of 2013 had 41 operating casinos employing 9,278 people.

The third measure is "Colorado School Board Open Meetings Initiative". This initiative would require that meetings during which

collective bargaining negotiations or employment contract negotiations take place in meetings be open to the public. The ballot question was approved by the Secretary of State's office August 13 after proponents submitted 129,850 signatures.

On August 20 the Secretary of State certified the fourth measure on the ballot "Colorado Mandatory Labeling of GMOs". The measure would require any raw, processed, or prepackaged commodity that has been produced using genetic modification to include on the label: "Produced with genetic engineering." The law would go into effect beginning January 1, 2016.

Colorado Right to Know delivered 167,950 signatures—almost twice the required amount of 86,105—on August 5 to the Secretary of State's office for verification.

Foods from animals that are not genetically modified but have been fed or injected with genetically modified food or drugs are exempt, as are unpackaged foods for immediate consumption, alcoholic beverages, food for animals and medically prescribed foods.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment would be responsible for regulating the labeling under the proposed statute.

It is estimated that more than 80% of processed foods contain genetically engineered ingredients, primarily from GMO corn, soy, canola, cotton, sugar beets and other GMO crops. In a July 2013 *New York Times* survey, 93% of respondents support GMO labeling. More than 64 other countries require mandatory labeling of GMO food.

Withdrawn from this year's ballot were four oil- and gas-related amendments. Signatures for measures were submitted August 4, but as part of a compromise brokered by Governor John Hickenlooper and US Representative Jared Polis, the initiatives were withdrawn from the Colorado Secretary of State.

The measures were at the heart of a costly political battle over whether local governments should have more control over oil and gas activity in Colorado, which is currently managed by the state Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The deal also calls

for the state to withdraw its lawsuit against the City of Longmont. Longmont two years ago had passed zoning ordinances limiting oil and gas activity in residential areas. The state had sued the city contending that it had superseded its authority.

The other pivotal part of the compromise entails the formation of a an 18-person task force charged with making recommendations to the legislature to help minimize land use conflicts that can occur when siting oil and gas facilities near homes, schools, businesses and recreational areas. The task force will include six residents and local officials; six people from industry, including oil and gas, homebuilders and agriculture; and six "respected Coloradans." La Plata County Commissioner Gwen Lachelt and XTO Energy President Randy Cleveland will chair the task force.

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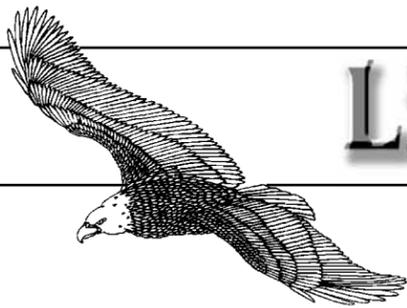


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Living on the Earth

Rails roll in the San Luis Valley

by Mary Lowers

After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1847) ended the Mexican American War, vast territory now known as the American Southwest opened to development (some would argue exploitation) and settlement. Native Americans

The promise of agricultural income coupled with mineral wealth from gold, silver and iron mines in the area made the valley fertile ground for investment by a new breed of adventurous capitalists, called by some “robber barons”. These financiers

often came from humble backgrounds. They pulled themselves up by their boot straps and accumulated great wealth in their lifetimes by taking outrageous chances. Colorado had its share of these bold entrepreneurs. David Halliday Moffat (July 22, 1839-March 18, 1911), a Denver financier and industrialist, was a mover and shaker of this time who had the greatest effect on our neck of the woods. Moffat County in northwestern Colorado, the Moffat Tunnel and the Town of Moffat all bear his moniker. He may well have spent upwards of fourteen million dollars on his vision of a major railroad running from a hub in Denver to the west coast. Moffat served as president, treasurer and board member of various railroads, banks and municipal posts. He was a major investor or had claims on over one hundred mines and nine railroads.

In the era after the Civil War railroads drove the economy. Colorado was bypassed when the transcontinental railroad chose a

route to the north. Territorial governor John Evans said, “Colorado without railroads is comparatively worthless.” Moffat, who held the office of Denver Postmaster and a territorial Adjunct General, got together local and eastern investors to bring railroads to the state.



David Halliday Moffat

and former citizens of Mexico occupied these newly won lands, the Mormons claimed Utah, but there still was room for more, and plenty of natural resources to stabilize and give hope to a nation about to embark on a bloody and divisive Civil War.

From the 1851 settlement of San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado, by settlers from Taos and Las Vegas, New Mexico, agriculture has been a primary economic activity of the valley. In fact the first irrigation ditch was the San Luis People’s Ditch constructed in 1852. The livestock industry began with early Mexican settlers in the 1840s. Primary crops in the valley were wheat, corn and alfalfa. An agricultural review from 1879 counted 145,000 sheep and 35,000 cattle. There was a ditch boom in the 1880s when irrigation canals became a popular investment for Eastern capitalists. The Travelers Insurance Company of Connecticut gathered investors and built the Monte Vista and Travelers Canals on the west side of the valley.



Old ranch houses abound in the SLV. Most ranches are still family operations.



Water being pumped into irrigation canal.



Shepherd in San Juan Mountains around 1900.

The Denver, South Park & Pacific RR, Denver & New Orleans RR, Denver Tramway, Manitou & Pikes Peak RR, Denver & Rio Grande RR, Creede Branch Line, and the Denver Northwestern & Pacific RR were all solely or to a great degree spearheaded by David Moffat. Despite every effort to put Denver on a transcontinental railroad circuit it did not happen until 1928, seventeen years after his death.

Moffat, Colorado was founded in 1890 by the San Luis Valley Town and Improvement Company. It attracted many settlers as a major shipping point on the Denver and Rio Grande Western RR, a project of David Moffat. From 1800-1900 towns like Moffat and Villa Grove were shipping hubs for the rich mining districts of Bonanza, Liberty, Orient, and Crestone. Ranchers used the rail hub of Moffat to move their livestock in a timely fashion east to slaughter houses and dinner tables. The quiet town we know today makes it difficult to imagine the busy berg of over 2000 where a nine-piece brass band greeted trains, the stockyards were huge and narrow gauge trains rolled in from rich mining towns to the east and west. Then Moffat was known as the Queen City of the northern valley. The town in fact came in second to Denver as a choice for the state capitol. The stockyards there were the second

busiest in Colorado.

In 1910 the Oklahoma Land and Colonization Company bought up Moffat town lots from the San Luis Town and Improvement Company. The lots and larger tracts



Locomotive rolling through the SLV.

were sold off by lottery with tickets going for \$200 each. Winning tickets won lots and tracts, some developed and some not. By 1911 Moffat had over thirty businesses. The advent of refrigerated train cars allowed even more meat and produce, servicing larger markets, to leave the valley. This prosperity came with the railroad envisioned by David Halliday Moffat.

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by Kim Malville

October will be an extraordinary month for eclipses. On October 8 there will be a total lunar eclipse in the pre-dawn hours. The first hint of the eclipse shadow should be visible around 2:45am MDT, growing in magnitude to the onset of the partial eclipse at 3:13. The total eclipse starts at 4:25 and ends at 5:24am. Be sure to drag yourself out of bed before it ends.

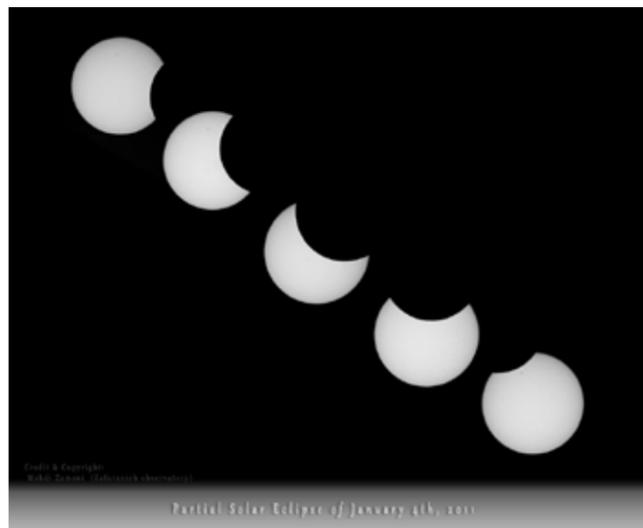
During totality, the moon will be entirely within the earth's shadow. The moon should glow red or orange due to all the sunrises and sunsets that ring the earth. Passing through the earth's atmosphere, sunlight is bent and reddened. It's impossible to predict exactly what

the moon, to the maximum amount of coverage, which, for us, should be about 50%. The time of maximum will be approximately 4:40pm MDT. Whatever you do, don't stare at the bright sun. Ordinary sun glasses will not be safe. One good way to view the eclipse is using pin hole projection. Get a large cardboard sheet with a hole in it covered by a sheet of aluminum foil. Puncture a small hole in the aluminum, and project the image on a sheet of white cardboard. Also, position yourself near your favorite piñon pine and look for a myriad of random pin hole projections produced by the intersections of needles and branches. You can

also make little holes by passing your hands over each other, or you might enjoy creating projections of the sun using your armpits and performing a chicken dance. This partial eclipse is a prelude to a great total eclipse crossing the US on 21 August 2017, when the shadow of the moon will pass from Oregon to South Carolina.

An update on Rosetta and its comet

Rosetta will release Philae from a distance of about 10 kilometers above the comet. The probe will drift unguided towards the landing target, taking 7 hours. Once on the surface, the lander will try to tie itself onto the comet with harpoons and ice screws. This landing site still contains a few boulders that could capsize Philae on landing. And, there are cliffs nearby. Finally, you will note that there are some round areas (see the figure) that appear to be craters but may be vents from which gas will begin to spew forth when the comet gets closer to the sun. It is dangerous

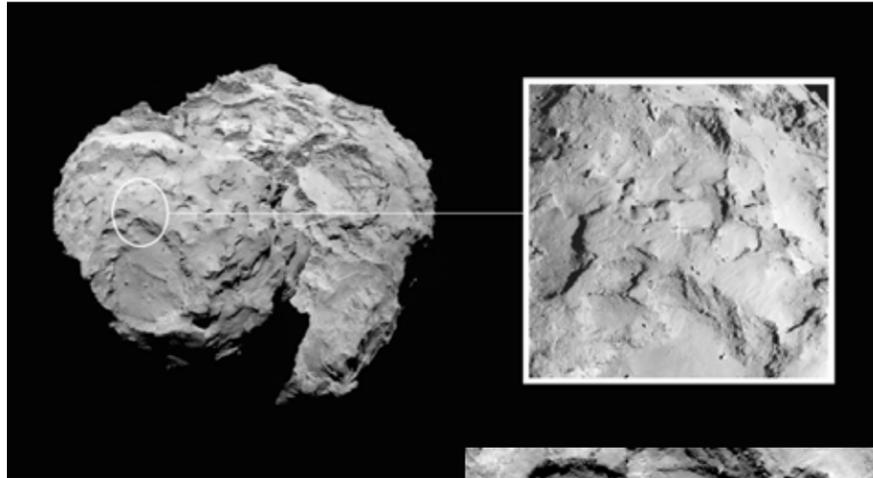


Photograph of a partial eclipse in Iran in 2011.

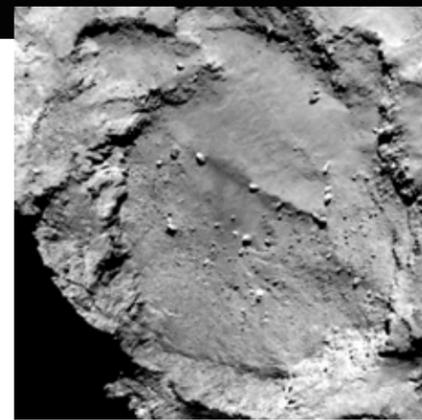
photo by Madhi Zamani

we will see. The moon could be anywhere from a bright copper penny to a brown milk chocolate bar. If there have been a recent volcanic explosions, the moon could be dark red or even almost black. In many ways a total lunar eclipse is more ominous than a solar eclipse. It lasts longer and appears covered by blood.

It will take the moon two weeks to position itself between the earth and sun. The result will be a partial solar eclipse on October 23. In most of eastern North America the sun will set while it is eclipsed, but in Crestone we should be able to see all stages of the eclipse, from the first bite of the sun taken by



Rosetta mission scientists have decided where to try to drop their washing-machine sized robotic probe, Philae onto the head of the rubber-ducky-shaped comet. This is turning out to be one of humankind's great exploring adventures. The landing, which is planned for 11 November, will be the first soft-landing attempted on a comet. It will certainly be a white-knuckled ride downward. The mission scientists at the European Space Agency mission had expected the comet to be a potato-shaped object coated by dirty snow, and they had estimated the chance of success at 70-75%. Now, it appears the chances of success on placing Philae properly on the comet are lower, dropping to 50%.



The proposed landing spot on Comet 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko
photo courtesy EuropeanSpace Agency

but exciting because all of these hazards are great opportunities for learning more about the origin of life on the earth.

Water on the earth may have come from comets. The seeds for life on the earth may also have come from these wonderful creatures. We know that comets contain complex organic molecules that are rich in carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. These are the elements that make up nucleic acids and amino acids, essential ingredients for life as we know it. Philae as well as the mother ship, Rosetta, will search for amino acids (the building blocks of proteins) by sampling and analyzing the comet's nucleus and comet's cloud of gas and dust.

Laudate ad sinistram

Upon landing on the comet, Philae will explore a long standing puzzle about why essential amino acids on earth are almost all left-handed. Handedness refers to the spiraling arrangement of atoms relative to the carbon core of the molecule. Most asymmetrical

molecules in our world are arranged in approximately equal numbers of left- and right-handed configurations. The primary left-handed structure of amino acids used by living organisms is indeed a very tantalizing puzzle. One hypothesis is that these molecules were formed in equal numbers deep in interstellar space, a long time ago, and then radiated by spiraling radiation from a nearby supernova. The circular polarization of that radiation destroyed one type of "handed" molecule. Radiation pressure pushed the surviving molecules out into space, where they eventually ended up on a planet like Earth. It will be fascinating to learn if the amino acids on the comet are equally matched or are all left-handed. If they are equally matched it may mean that the amino acids in our bodies came from another source or that the initial development of life on the earth preferentially used the left-handed molecules. Being a left-handed creature myself, I consider this puzzle to be extraordinarily fascinating.

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RGRT approves soil health study

by Bea Ferrigno

At the September 9 meeting of the Rio Grande Water Conservation Roundtable (RGRT), held in Saguache, the soil health proposal introduced in July was presented in full and unanimously approved. Judy Lopez, program director of the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGWCEI), described a study entitled "Increasing the Water Holding Capacity of Soil for Agriculture Sustainability in the San Luis Valley" that will assess biotic methods of soil improvement. The aim is to see how much methods such as soil amendments, application of compost, cover cropping, and companion planting can reduce water usage of differing crops in various soil types by improving permeability and water retention of soils. Eight conventional farms are being recruited to test the practices in crops of potatoes, barley, and alfalfa. According to the application for \$98,200 in funding from the RGRT's Basin Account, the three-year study will "implement the practices, develop the metrics, analyze the data, and field test the economics of soil health in the San Luis Valley."

Confronted with declining aquifers and extended drought, some valley farmers have adopted biotic methods which treat the farm as an ecosystem within a larger one. This approach mimics nature as much as possible, keeps the soil food web intact, and treats the soil as a living organism. Brendon Rockey, secretary of RGWCEI, has practiced these methods for years and grows potatoes with 12" of water per acre, as opposed to the

usual 20". Other biotic farms have seen water use decrease 30% to 60%, while increasing production. Thus, it could be possible to maintain farm income while reducing production acres.

Additional benefits of biotic practices include reduced expenses for chemical treatments and less tillage; these result in less wind erosion and better water quality of runoff. In response to a question about how to reduce the extent of bare ground after harvest, Rockey said that our long cold winters present a difficulty and that clean fields are necessary in the spring, but also that as soil improves more of it stays in place, even without the cover of crop residue.

Also discussed was a proposal from Conejos Water Users for a telemetric system to monitor the interactions of pumped wells with the aquifers. Data from the system would help calibrate the Rio Grande Decision Support System for the Conejos response area where there is little historical data. It would also help additional subdistricts comply with pending groundwater rules. With the Conejos curtailed 100% as a result of recent high flows, better forecasting is becoming a priority. Next month Steve Vandiver, manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, will discuss Rio Grande Compact compliance and how it becomes nearly impossible when there is significant, unexpected, precipitation late in the growing season.

RGRT meetings are open to the public; the next one will be October 14, 2 to 5 pm at the SLV Water Conservancy District, 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa.

Presentation to Water Resources Legislative Review Committee

by Peggy Godfrey

Recently Moffat rancher Peggy Godfrey spoke in Denver about the failure of the state to promulgate rules to regulate groundwater use here in the San Luis Valley. This presentation was to the Agriculture Producers' Perspective on Groundwater Administration Panel.

The San Luis Valley is still waiting for groundwater administration. We are a watershed without rules or regulations to manage groundwater; and as such are not even beneficiaries of Colorado state statutes concerning groundwater. Wells have been permitted and allowed to be pumped without replacing their depletions. They are still pumping.

Ten years ago SB-04-222 was enacted by the legislature, presuming that the agricultural producers of the entire San Luis Valley knew about and supported the legislation for self-governance. Self-governance has resulted in ten years of no governance. By enacting SB-04-222 the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation is ignored: all wells are equal. Non-exempt wells in the San Luis Valley have been metered since 2009, but the first and only subdistrict with a court decree is in its fourth year of operation and has no authority to regulate pumping. Subdistrict wells can only be regulated by the State Engineer in the spring of the year when he approves the annual Plan of Water Management. When the aquifers continue to drop, as they have, his hands are tied until the next spring. Subdistrict groundwater management plans have 20 years to make progress. For all but Subdistrict 1, they must stop the aquifer decline from current pumping within the first ten years.

This presentation is not about individual efforts or even group efforts to conserve water or build up the soil's water retention capabilities, it is about groundwater administration and we have none.

We are currently awaiting the promised promulgation of Rules and Regulations, as we have been for the past five years. They are based on the RGDSS groundwater model. It has been noted, but not corrected, that the north and south valley have a shortage of monitor well data to give the groundwater model representative information of these areas. "No problem," we are assured: after these drought years with the aquifer being at its lowest, the model will establish a baseline in March 2015, a benchmark with which surface water users are not comfortable. This assumes the appropriate monitor well systems are functioning by then. The RGDSS will then recreate past hydrologic history of these areas. Long-time residents in the poorly monitored areas have questioned model results that do not reflect experiential data.

Gain/loss studies on streams should be implemented on a regular basis to determine the actual effect of wells on the streams. Some work has been done on call sheets and actual delivery of water shows a 35-38% loss in a system between gage flows and actual delivery to surface users in priority.

Pumping the confined aquifer began in the late 1960s and 70s. Even before the current 15 years of drought, the flowing confined wells not associated with pivot sprinklers were showing the effects of pumping. Since 2000, the confined aquifer has seen increased withdrawals from pumping, with noticeable adverse effect on streams. In addition, wells are pumping in the alluvium of these streams that surround the north valley. These outer edges of the valley are the recharge zones of both the confined and unconfined aquifers over which streams must flow to reach the valley floor. When the aquifers are full, water flows over the recharge zones; when the aquifers are drawn down during limited surface water supplies (drought), only high water events allow water to reach the surface rights on the valley floor.

A federal pumping project with a salvage decree continues to pump in the Closed Basin, the area north of the Rio Grande. On September 30 there will be oral arguments before the Colorado Supreme Court concerning whether the water pumped from non-augmented wells in the Bureau of Reclamation Closed Basin Pumping Project can be used as replacement of depletions to the river for non-augmented irrigation wells also pumping in the Closed Basin. Between 1988 through 2011, project water has been delivered as mitigation water to Blanca Wetlands (BLM) and the Alamosa Refuge (USFWS) as well as to compact payment. If approved by the Supreme Court, water would be double-counted both as compact payment and to replace depletions for subdistricts which owe the Rio Grande from 2012 forward. This argument not only concerns well-to-well augmentation, but also the question of how many times you can use the same water for differing purposes. The Supreme Court's decision could have statewide ramifications for surface water rights.

Subdistricts in the rest of the valley must have their groundwater management plans before the court one year from the date the Rules and Regulations are approved by the court . . . however, that does not mean the groundwater management plans are functioning. As you well know, there will be objections to the Rules and Regulations which will have to be resolved. Subdistrict Plans are likely to be challenged and those will need to be resolved. How long could this process take?

Well over a decade of severe drought has already exacted a heavy toll on landscape-level ecology and ranches. Modest, if any, effect has been experienced on pivot sprinkler production, dependent on groundwater pumping.

We need an immediate mechanism in place to make wells accountable for their depletions and to insure that over-pumping a decree during drought years does not continue to adversely affect surface water rights while litigation is ongoing. In addition, gain/loss studies on all the streams with decreed surface rights are needed to inform the groundwater model the extent of stream loss as the over-pumped aquifers receive any available waters during the entire year.

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- For homes in wildfire-sensitive areas of Saguache County
- Hazard assessments
- Mitigation plans developed
- Hands-on work with homeowners
- Work done for disabled and elderly

Call Daniel S. Johnson at (719) 480-9764
From Saguache County and FireWise Communities

SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Chris Botz, Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Dept.

We have had good year for rain. The duality: we did not have any wildland fires; however, this did not reduce the fuel load, it increased it. The fuels we are speaking of are the grasses and brush. C'est la vie San Luis.

The season we are approaching is chimney and stove fires. There are experienced professionals who clean and check your stoves and chimneys advertising in this news journal, who are certainly glad to receive your calls on

this subject.

Short term the best thing to do if you do have a wood stove fire, is to shut the damper and make sure the stove door is firmly shut, then dial 911.

I don't think there are that many actual fireplaces. Should there be a chimney fire, call 911. Do not spray the event with a high pressure fire extinguisher as this is most likely to push the embers out of the fireplace and into your house.

There will be a Firewise class presented on these subjects at the Baca Firehouse on two Saturdays

in October, the 18th and the 25th, and the first Saturday in November, the 1st. The times for all three are 1 to 2pm. And you are welcome to stop by the firehouse anytime you see us training. We are glad to answer your questions or listen to your suggestions.

We have been training diligently and are expecting an ISO inspection and examination this month. While I would never expect insurance rates to go down, I am convinced that they won't go up. C'est la insurance.

The firefighters will also be taking the American Heart Association CPR class in October. This

training is being sponsored by the Baca/Crestone Ambulance, thank you Pam Gripp, EMT-Paramedic. Coincidentally, Pam is the person you talk to about those blue address signs you have seen cropping up in our community. These are a great help to timely arrival by first responders. She also is the connection to make sure your address and phone number for 911 calls are synchronized.

For information Pam can be reached at 719-256-4171, extension 17.

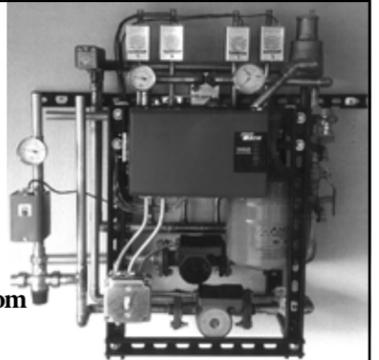
Hopefully this fall the only fiery colors we see will be in the hills and beside the streams around us.

Reduce your carbon footprint. Install the new E-Cube!

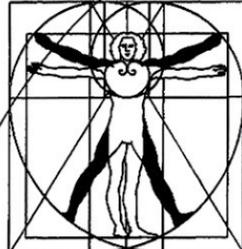
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Gardening in the San Luis Valley, with its short season and sandy soils, requires gardeners to use all the best tools available to them to ensure a successful and bountiful harvest.

Ormus should be one of those "can't live without" tools!

All crops benefit from the addition of the monatomics to one's gardening arsenal.

Always dilute Ormus with water prior to use.
Use at a concentration at 1% strength. One gallon of Ormus added to 128 gallons of water equals a 1% solution. The Ormus water mixture can be used two to five times per growing season here in the Valley.

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PRICE REDUCTION: Estab-
lished B&B Retreat Business.
Property features Main house,
2 queen bedrooms and exquis-
ite Master Suite.



\$340,000
PRICE REDUCED
Amazing contemporary home
with separate 1 bedroom
apartment above the detached
garage. Kitchen features all the
modern amenities.



\$275,000
Just north of town, 5 acres with
North Crestone Creek running
through it! Secluded 960 sq. ft.
home. About 200 feet of creek.
Call Terry on 681507R



\$275,000
PRICE REDUCED
Lovely contemporary home on 8
acres. Creek runs thru the back-
yard! Greenhouse, studio apt,
open floor plan, exceptional
price for this beautiful property.



\$265,000
PRICE REDUCED
Complete remodel in 2012. All
new appliances and kitchen
remodel. New wood stove in
living room and new flooring.
Windows added for solar gain.



\$265,000
This 4 bedroom 2 bath 2519
sq. ft. home located next to the
National Park has panoramic
views and quietude. Oversized
2 car garage.



\$259,500
Lovely contemporary-styled 2 story
with great views from the upstairs
porch. Priced well below the last
appraisal, seller says "sell!"



\$245,000
Lovely contemporary home with 3
spacious bedrooms, and 2.5
baths. Kitchen features gas
range, refrigerator, and micro-
wave. Formal dining.



\$375,000
COMMERCIAL
NEW LISTING!
DOWNTOWN LOCATION!

**PRIME DOWNTOWN
LOCATION!**
3 separate commer-
cial spaces. State-of-
the-art commercial
kitchen in the restau-
rant downstairs. An
established real es-
tate office and an
upstairs apartment.
Must see!



\$245,000
Large contemporary style
home. Additional studio. 2
bedrooms and 2 full baths with
2 propane fireplaces and one



\$229,000
5 bed 3.75 bath home with
additional room off Master
suite. Kitchen has plenty of
cabinet space. Attached 2
car garage.



\$215,000
ARTESIAN WELL
This home has 40 acres with an
Artesian Well. The lovely home
has 3 bedrooms and 3 baths.
The Master Suite has a walk-in
closet, and a bathroom addition.



\$199,900
New construction, backs to
Cottonwood Creek. Upstairs
and downstairs has new no-
maintenance decking. Bath-
room has a garden tub.



\$199,999
SELLER MOTIVATED
Very secluded beautiful home
on 40 acres. Completely off-grid
with top-of-the-line solar system.
Two bedrooms, office, formal
dining room, nice outbuilding.
360 degree views.



\$198,0
3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a
larger Master in the upstairs loft.
Kitchen features built-in range
oven, refrigerator, and dish-
washer.



\$188,500
This 2 story stucco home has
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Open
kitchen with pantry area. Ap-
pliances included. Master
bedroom & a master bath.



\$179,000
Creek side home! Large fire-
place, spacious kitchen. 1 bed-
room and 2 loft rooms on the
upper levels, plus a bathroom.



\$179,000
Great 5.25 acres for horses or
dogs. Backs to willow Creek
greenbelt for trail riding.
Thoughtfully built straw bale, 3
BR, 2 B home.



\$168,500
Unique setting for sweet soli-
tude in this custom 2 bdrm 1
bath home built by Terrapin
construction, near Pundarika.
Sunny, open, interior base-
board heat, woodstove.



\$165,000
Charming home! 4 bedrooms
and 2 baths, newly painted, new
wood laminate floors upstairs.
Large green house in the back
of the house!



\$159,900
PRICE REDUCED
This home features a newly
remodeled kitchen with all new
stainless appliances. 2 bed-
rooms downstairs, and a loft
bedroom with 1/2 bath upstairs.



\$158,000
Great getaway home near
Cottonwood Creek. Great
room with vaulted ceilings,
2X8 construction, wood beam
ceilings. Spacious bathroom
with marble shower. All appli-
ances included.



\$139,900
Very spacious 3B/2bath home
on 1.47 acres in Chalet II. Open
floor plan, wood stove. Unique
floor plan; oversized carport, a
garden shed, detached studio.
Hot tub in Master Suite.



\$129,000
SOLD
Very cute and quaint adobe
home with full bath downstairs,
great room floor plan. Upstairs
is one large room, could be
converted to 2 bedrooms. New-
er gas stainless range/oven.



\$68,000
NEW LISTING
Mechanics Special! Garage pit,
room for tools, car buff! More stor-
age/garage area on back of home.
1ac in Lazy KV, horses ok. 3 bed-
rooms 2 baths, country kitchen,
separate dining. Corner lot.



\$58,900
Great retirement home! Nice
stucco finish and sweeping
views of the Sangre De Cristo
mountain range.
Property sold "as-is".



\$44,900
PRICE REDUCED
Nice open floor plan, with spa-
cious kitchen, separate dining
room, and a wood burning
stove. Horses and chickens
allowed on 1 acre.



\$44,900
Handyman special on 1.85
acres, tremendous views, private
cul-de-sac, household well. Sold
"as-is" and conveyed by the Quit
Claim Deed.



\$20,000
UNDER CONTRACT
Mobile home needs TLC but
backs to farmland and great
views of the Sangre De Cristo.
On 1 acre, horses allowed.

LAND LISTINGS

- 40 acres on CR CC with 160 ft. well pumping 60 GPM, nice level land, with good views \$54,500
- Commercial Building lot in the Town of Crestone, with an excellent high-traffic location across from the Post Office. Great for small business \$30,000
- TBD Silver Ave Two adjacent lots next to the park in the Town of Crestone. Reduced to \$48,000
- 1478 Spanish Creek Rd. 1.68 acres with beautiful view of the mountains- \$4,000
- Lots 1396&1397 in the Grants, private area, walk to the creek for a dip! Just \$4,250 3.5 acres

GREAT BUYS!

- Reduced! 0.5 acre in Chalet I, on a cul-de-sac. Tap fees paid. \$1,500
- Reduced! 1.5 acres in the Grants. A very secluded, off-grid lot. \$1,700
- 2862 & 2863 Carefree Way. Lots back up to greenbelt, beautiful mountain views. Only \$2,000 each. Buy them both!
- Reduced! Two lots 1133 & 1134 Camino del Ray 3.269 acres \$2700
- 3819 Virtue Way Near creek, water & sewer fees paid \$12,500





Congratulations to new resident Ani Rinchung on her purchase of her new home at the open house.

Century 21 Valley Realty moves to downtown Crestone location

by Mary Benavidez

Century 21 has recently moved from their office in the Chalets to downtown Crestone to be more accessible to their clients and the community.

A new ground level presence offers a welcoming environment which includes providing local area maps, faxes, and other general services for clients and community members. Shirley Motz and Alisa Severskaya have already seen increased traffic in their new location.

The real estate company previously known as Northern Valley Real Estate and Crestone Real Estate has called Crestone home for over 16 years.

A very successful open house was held on September 1 to welcome clients and community members to their new location.

Century 21 Valley Realty is now located at 121 E. Galena Ave., Suite Suite A, and is open Monday through Friday from 9-4 and weekends by appointment. The helpful staff can be reached at 719-256-4444 or shirley@century21valleyrealty.com.

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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

In the High Uintas, where I worked many years ago as a backcountry ranger, a dusting of new snow would appear on a ridge above camp right about now. The elk would bugle as streaks of yellow lit up the aspens. In the rift between high summer and hunting season, fewer travelers rode the Highline Trail. Soon, I would be packing all my gear down mountain to the Uinta River guard station, a wilderness halfway house, and beyond to the material comforts of the flatlands and a teaching job in Salt Lake City.

Today I feel the shift in a spare moment here in Crestone. It is quiet except for the bees buzzing in the hive outside my window. The sunflowers Grace planted in June, now tall and gangly, swoon in a slight breeze. Whatever wind there is up high isn't strong enough to nudge some lazy clouds over the Sangres. I haven't finished unpacking from a long road trip, the last one of the season. The camper on the back of the truck needs to come off, but instead I grab a cold beer and watch baseball.

It is still summer and it isn't. It is because it is still warm and the walking rains still saunter across the valley, shedding a double rainbow on the mountain this evening, reminding me of a similar time, fifteen years ago, when we arrived here—young parents with a new baby—wondering if this place would welcome us, which it surely did. It is no longer summer because I have overindulged at too many barbecues. We have put thousands of miles on the Chevy. I have put the river gear away. And the call of the teaching vocation demands more of my time.

But there are openings for reflection in this shifting season. I recall a few moments I want to carry into this next turn of the wheel: a solstice day run with my family through Brown's Canyon, dipping the oars into the shining white water I hadn't seen since the old guiding days thirty-some years ago; showing my oldest daughter how to surf a hole on a slower river further west; tasting a real tomato from the fertile San Juan Island soil of my sister's farm and appreciating all her hard work; watching a thirteen-year-old mountain dog as he runs every which way into the brand new fecund smells of a Pacific Coast beach at low tide; listening to the laughter of my two daughters, just now old enough to enjoy one another, on their long backseat ride down the loneliest highway in Nevada.

A while back, I came home to the sad news that Michael, an old pal here, had died after a thankfully short bout with cancer. I knew he was sick and I had been thinking about him on that long drive home from the northwestern family visit. Lately I've been thinking about all the good cheer and conversation we shared. I miss him. Rest in Peace, amigo.

Tonight the crickets are singing. Signus the Swan will glide further west across the night sky, leaving celestial space for the rising stars of autumn. And it occurs to me that happiness comes and goes like the constellations, but joy stays with us like Polaris, the north star. Joy is the residual shine from savored moments with friends and loved ones that we carry into the longer nights ahead.

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Dara Blumenhein
Associate Broker



UNDER CONTRACT



1234C Brookview - NOW \$419,000
Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent views, gorgeous Master suite, with exquisite Master bath. Includes 3rd lot.



1647C Willow Creek Way - \$229,000
Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1760sf 3bd/2ba home on .98 acre w/2 decks + flagstone patio/walkway. Hardwood floors, spacious kitchen. Separate wings for bedrooms. Backs to Greenbelt Views.



2747CR Easy Way - \$169,000
A unique 2 story, 1768sf, 3bd/2ba home in Chalet 2. 1.86 acres. Brick floors, rock walls, wood ceilings. Passive solar w/ ETS heater, propane heater & woodstove. Detached shed.



4327 & 28 Tranquil Way \$150,000
High in Chalets II, hexagonal 2-story log home w/ wonderful views over treetops in every direction. 1brdr and 1.5ba on Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt. Private location will appeal to many & includes neighboring lot.



4406C Twin View Terrace - \$139,000
Artistic straw bale home located high in Chalet II on consolidated 1.417 acres w/ privacy, amazing mountain & valley views. ~1450sf, 2-story, 2-bd, 1-ba, w/ studio/office space, passive solar design.

New Listings!



275 W. Iron Ave - \$189,000
2 high-quality 1BR/1BA cabins, built in 2012, in a secluded area of the Town of Crestone. Both contain Amish hand crafted timber frame trusses, hickory hardwood flooring, structural insulated roof panels with tongue & groove white pine ceilings.



Baca Meadows Townhome #10 - \$189,000
Exquisite town house completely remodeled in 2008. 1480sf 2-story 2BD/2BA features redesigned kitchen & bathrooms, updated heat & lighting systems, beautiful patio. Must see to appreciate the quality and beauty!

New Listings!



1175 Golden Eagle Trail - \$182,500
Lovely 2BD/2BA 1196sf Ranch-style home on 2.15 acres, built in 2006. A cozy piece of luxury in the Grants. Master Suite has tremendous views, full bathroom, walk-in closet, & patio & garden. ETS heat system. Well & septic.



315 E. Iron Ave - \$150,000
Built in 1951-2,400sf log home on a full city block (12 lots) is ready for your TLC. Well permit allows irrigation of 1/2 acre & watering of domestic animals. Land can be divided into 3 additional building sites if desired. A rare property!



1472 Spanish Creek Trail - \$75,000
Beautiful, artistic strawbale home on 2+ acres, under construction with lots of potential. 1206sf home + walkout basement is enclosed, marvin double pane windows, woodstove, well & septic. Finished, will be a lovely home or retreat!

Town of Crestone



170 E. Golden - \$189,500
This 3BD/2BA 1500sf home is beautifully situated with attention to detail. High ceilings, bright skylights & fenced-in back yard make this a must-see property!



345 S. Cedar - NOW \$179,000
A short walk to the post office, coffee shops, restaurants and shopping, this Victorian style 1434-sf home has three bedrooms and two baths.



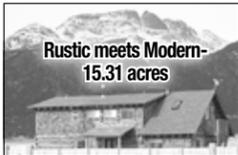
370 S. Alder - \$179,000
Recently renovated duplex conveniently located in downtown Crestone, close to restaurants and shopping. Bright spacious 5bd 2ba 1950sq ft home, single family or duplex housing!

Off-Grid



765CRR Heatherbrae Rd - \$295,000
Exquisite, custom 2-story traditional home located on 11.94 acres offering amazing views and lots of privacy. Bonus attached garage with an upstairs studio apartment. Solar electric & well water.

Off-Grid



358 Birch Road - \$289,000
Off grid home with 3bd/1.75ba, office, 2nd living room, modern efficient kitchen & elegant bathrooms-an inspired renovation. Natural light, expansive & unobstructed views.



600 Heatherbrae Rd - \$182,500
Beautiful 1240sf 2BD/1.5BA off-grid home on 2.61 acres, borders Conservation Easement. 220SF enclosed passive solar porch, 105sf enclosed shower & deck, 528sf deck & 8' x 12' storage room. Well water.



802 Holly Trail - \$159,000
Solar electric~1,700sf strawbale 2bd/1ba fully passive solar with wood burning stove. Large open living space with beautiful views. Well and septic.

Valley Property



27378 Red Cloud Road-\$185,000
Premium home on 36+ acres in the N. San Luis Valley, energy-efficient 3BD/2BA 1300sf is tastefully remodeled. 12'x18' greenhouse w/ commercial potential, domestic well & septic w/leach field, easy access from Hwy 17. Spectacular Views!

Baca Meadows Townhomes



Townhouse #13 Baca Meadows \$150,000
Beautiful townhome, 2 floors with 2BD upstairs & 2 full baths. Master bedroom has private balcony view of mountains. 2nd bedroom w/ walk out balcony. Spacious open design living room.



Townhouse #11 Baca Meadows \$150,000
Lovely town house 2 floors containing 2bd and 2ba. Spacious living room, private baths in bedrooms, Master bedroom w/ private balcony. W/D, Fridge, Range/oven.

Baca Grande Properties



2795CR Brook Terrace - \$499,500
The castle tucked away on a private cul-de-sac on 2.765 wooded acres. 3 level stone & stucco with views to the sky. Artistic with quality & attention to detail. A must see home!

Baca Grande Properties



3926 Cordial Way - \$499,000
Secluded 4100+sf home 4bd/3.5ba 550sf guest house plus 2 car garage on 23.749 acres on Cottonwood Creek. Lovely views and privacy!



1967 Rockyview Way - \$495,000
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck. Chef's kitchen with Wolf stove.



499C Willow Trail - \$349,000
A unique & rare find! ~3900sf with 4bd/3ba/office/sunroom + attached greenhouse. 20+ acres. Tall trees. Private, long cul de sac & backs to Conservation Easement, offering extreme privacy. Well water.



4262C Serene Way - \$299,900
Immaculate 2500SF 3-level home on .98 acres 5bd/2.75ba. Custom finishes, fire resistant, energy efficient, magnificent views, extensive patios. Private. Good retreat home.



3919 Cordial Way - \$299,000
Two story, 3BD/2.5BA ~2400 sf home has a walled courtyard & 4 intimate decks w/ great views. Southwest style home gracefully adorned with fine details and finishes.



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!



149 Moonlight Way - \$279,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2118sf home w/ 2 living areas - extensively updated & immaculate condition. Cathedral ceilings & a wall of glass w/ great views. Adjoins greenbelt & creek.



1234 Laredo Trail - \$265,000
This strawbale 1831sf 3bd/2ba home with detached studio on 1.86 acres has magnificent views and fine finishes, an open floor plan, a Master Suite with soak tub, a deck with bamboo fencing and plenty of privacy.



909C Brookview Way - \$250,000
Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca iWaiting for the right partner to complete the vision. 2324 sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576 sf guest house w/kitch.



733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$229,000
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.



1564 Wagon Wheel Road - \$229,000
A 2,192sf beautiful single level ranch style home built in 1997 on 1.66 acres. 3bd/2ba, great room, living room & 2 car attached garage. Well and septic. Great value!



397 N Chaparral Way - \$219,000
Lee Mitchell Home, 1410sf, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2-story stucco home has magnificent mountain and valley views. Gorgeous Master Suite on entire 2nd floor. Private suite is complete w/ large closets, master ba, 2 balconies.



4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$217,000
Straw bale home on 1.59 acres. Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available. Built by Paul Koppna. Adobe floors. Diamond finish walls.



3356C Camino Del Rey - \$210,000
2 story, 1981sf, 2bd/1.75ba home w/ passive solar sunroom - great views on .864 acres - Master suite w/ clawfoot tub, pine floors, pellet stove. Propane heat, great appliances.



1447 Chaparral Way - \$199,000
This 1440sf 2bd/2ba home-complete remodel with bamboo flooring, Jenn-Air stainless appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, travertine bathrooms, ma ba soak tub. Adjacent lot available.



3704 Carefree Way - \$195,000
Immaculate like new 3 bd/1.75ba, 1316sf home has wood floors, stucco privacy wall, single car garage, beautiful views of the mountains.



2715C Happy Hollow Way - \$189,000
Nestled in the trees, this 1860sf 4BD/2BA/2 Living Area home offers great retreat and/or income potential. Located on 1.54 acres and close to Spiritual Centers, very secluded. A very versatile home!



1541 Camino Real-\$179,000
This 1799sf, 3BR/1.75BA home built in 1974 & w/attached 2 car garage. On 3.25 acres in the grants, 188 ft well, septic, elec. baseboard heat, wood-stove, composition shingle roof. Great opportunity for a fixer-upper.



198C Evergreen OL - \$172,500
Renovated 3BD/1.75BA 1704sf home on .998 acre. Spacious decks w/beautiful views. Huge, attached garage w/woodstove. ETS heat system. Many interior updates. Roomy, close to town & paved road.



3732C Cordial Way - \$169,000
Private & unique hexagonal 2 bd, 1.75 ba home on 1.36 treed acres. Separate 384sf building incl. heated & finished office & workshop/storage area. Great views, wrap around deck.



1573C Kings Hill OL - \$169,000
Light & bright 3bd/2ba, 1480sf, 1.5 level stucco with large south facing windows and view deck on .84 acres. Easy access off paved road. Hot water baseboard heat/passive solar.



3705 Carefree Way - NOW \$165,000
This 1874 sf, 3 bdr/1.75 ba home built in 1995 as a passive solar home. Great value & offers lots of space for price. Also includes the upper adjacent lot to protect the views to the mountains.



1914 Lone Pine Way - \$142,000
Built in 1999, this 1bd (+Loft) / 1ba 900sf house is in a convenient location off the main road in Chalet One with lots of windows. Energy efficient with passive solar and in-floor radiant heat.



1372 N Saddlerock Trail - \$139,000
This 1960 sf 3 bed 1.75 bath has a three room master suite & a 200sf sunroom. Panoramic views of three mountain ranges on 2.03 acres bordering the Willow Creek greenbelt. Well & septic.



2776 N. Carefree Way - \$139,000
This 2-story, 2BD/1BA, 1338sf wood & stone home set in the trees high in Chalet II. Great mountain & valley views, close to retreat centers. A cozy mountain feel, very private and quiet.



29 Sunset OL - \$125,000
2BD/1BA A-Frame extensively remodeled w/ new kitchen appliances, cabinets, & flooring. Option to purchase furnished. Propane heater. Wood cathedral ceiling in LR. Large loft Master Bedroom. Fenced yard.



36 Camino Baca Grande - \$115,000
This lovely chalet style home with soaring windows and high ceilings has 3bd/1.75ba, a loft sitting area and attached sunroom. Wood fireplace, Toyostove heater.



381CR Del Sol Lane - \$64,500
Casita Park-Immaculate 3bd/2ba bath 1624 sf home located on 0.819 acres (5 cons. lots). Includes attached 2 car garage, storage + appliances. Magnificent views & privacy. Includes attached 660sf 2 car garage

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Located in Chalet I of the Baca Grande, this artist-designed house enjoys spectacular mountain and valley views in a neighborhood of Rinpoches. "Rustic elegance" describes this hand-crafted romantic home with its large fireplace, massive vigas, wide plank floors and charming French doors.

With two bedrooms, two baths, and a large art studio, the house is 2340 sq ft on two floors, with second floor balconies and deck, and a south-facing patio. Bordered by greenbelt, this spacious and very private home on 1.93 acres has embraced many meditation retreats in its Milarepa shrine room.

923C Blue Spruce Overlook
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Custom Contemporary Home



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483C Point of Rock OL - \$285,000
 Built by Teahen Construction. Beautiful 3BD/2BA 2-story contemporary home on 1.946 acres. Attached 2-car garage, detached studio. High energy efficiency & quality throughout.

Retreat Property



WAS \$669,000

4460C Ridgecrest Way - NOW \$375,000
 Residential Retreat Complex w/3025sf central complex w/ Chartres labyrinth as the centerpiece. 1000sf 2/1 home; 450sf office; 707sf yurt plus grow dome. A beautiful property.

Commercial Property



Professional Building

46 Camino Baca Grande - \$257,000
 Six-Unit professional center. 2 story structure is ~2600 sf. and conveniently located near the entrance to the Baca on a nicely treed 1.05 acre lot - plenty of parking.

Historic Hotel



WAS 349,000

Willow Springs (Moffat) - NOW \$299,000
 Fully restored former historic Forbes Hotel. 9bd/3BA 3600sf, detached 22x24 studio, 500ft artesian well. Great business potential for B&B, hotel /retreat center.

Dream Home!



Was \$459,000

786C Panorama Way - \$427,000
 This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!

Town of Crestone



Reduced! Was \$499,000

Creekside in Crestone!

332 E. Mica Ave - \$449,000
 Spectacular Strawbale 3BR/2BA/ Office custom home w/ enormous chef's kitchen, located on North Crestone Creek. Lush, grassy yard & huge trees. Detached 950sf barn could be great as enclosed yoga/art studio!

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A LOT of HOME for the \$\$\$



This spacious 1960sf home with panoramic views of three mountain ranges is located on 2.03 acres bordering the Willow Creek greenbelt. Located in the Grants, it has its own 130' deep well.

The house features a great room, a three-room master suite with office, meditation/art room and walk thru closet, two additional bedrooms and a 3/4 bath, a sunroom/yoga room and a separate utility/laundry room. Very flexible floor plan!

The home was extensively remodeled in 2008-2009 with the addition of birch wood floors, warm window shades, natural clay plaster walls and new paint throughout. A new metal roof was added in the fall of 2013.

Make an appointment to see this beautiful & affordable property today -

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4246 SERENE WAY

3 br, 1.5 bath, 1,338 sf. Motivated Seller! Great opportunity for affordable living in private high Chalet II location. Bright with many windows and trees and views in all directions. \$159,900 Now \$134,900



\$98,500! Wow!

20C BACA GRANT WAY

2 br, 1 ba, delightful screen porch, over-sized 2-car garage with workshop space, vaulted great room design. 1-acre consolidated lot on greenbelt walking distance to Charter school. Hot water baseboard heat & other upgrades. \$119,900 Reduced, now \$98,500



Views! On Creek!

526 CAMINO DEL REY

3 br, 2 bath, 1740 sf. 2011, elegant home, granite & stainless kitchen, fine finishes, off-grid, low utilities. Sun room, 2 greenhouses, creek lot, privacy. 2.65 acres. Great soil for gardening, great well. Must see! \$227,000



305 PALOMINO WAY: 3 br, 2.5 bath. 2528 sf on 3 ac. Quality home with upstairs living & large downstairs studio, gallery, & practice spaces. Indoor sauna, beautiful park-like location. \$310,000



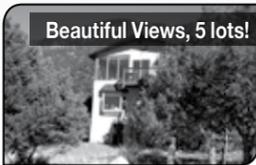
2100C LONE PINE WAY: 3 br, 2 ba, garage, single level. Exquisite craftsman. Fine finishes & quality throughout. Gracious 10' ceilings, terrific front porch, on greenbelt. Private. Must see! \$258,000



83C IBERIA CT: 3 br, 2 bath. 1190 sf. + huge 30' x 40' workshop/6-car insulated garage. Well-insulated & pleasant. Move-in ready. Beautiful landscaping, on greenbelt. \$98,500



1454 WAGON WHEEL: 4 br, 3.5 bath, 2421 sf. Lovely southwest-style home w/ vaulted ceiling, passive solar, private master w/ screen porch. Close to town, on green belt, well, 3.164 acres. \$279,000



4236C TRANQUIL: 4 br, large office or 5th bedroom, 3 bath. 2,160 sf on 2.6 ac. Views, secluded, high on mountain near retreat centers. Seller finance option. \$335,000 Now \$295,000



1615 WILLOW CREEK WAY: 2-3 br, 2 bath, 1600 sf. \$160,000
196C EVERGREEN OL \$174,000 SOLD!
3510 ENCHANTED WAY \$119,000 SOLD!
1653C WILLOW CREEK WAY \$88,000 SOLD!

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**There's No Such Thing
As A Weed**

by Dorje Root

Wild Rose (Rosa woodsii)



Although our beautiful wild roses bloom in June, their hips are best after the first frost, usually in October. The frost deepens the flavor and sets it. Bears, deer, squirrels, as well as humans find them delightful, and hopefully there are enough for all to share.

Rose hips make good jelly, wine, fruit leather (usually combined with other fruits), and the whole dried hip can be ground for teas. Long ago when I was traveling on the open deck of a ship from Palermo to Tunis, I was very impressed by a young Swedish man cooking Rose Hip Soup on a small wind-resistant stove. He shared it with a number of us fellow travelers, and we sat huddled in our sleeping bags for warmth.

Rose hips can have as much as 500mg. Vitamin C in each hip. The seeds have been cooked and used for muscle pains—I've never tried this but would love to hear from anyone who has. The late, great herbalist, Michael Moore, had this to say about Rose hips, "Let me be frank here: at best, Rose hip tea tastes like feeble raisin and hibiscus tea. You gather rose hips because they are up there, abundant, free, renewable, and they get you out of the house and away from the forced-air heat or woodstove smoke. This is

your last batch of herbs to process for the winter until the aspen buds come out in February or March (unless you consider splitting firewood to be a kind of herb garbling)."

As for the rest of the plant, all parts can be used. The twigs, leaves, root, and flower are all mildly astringent (as are all the plants in the rose family). When you think astringent, think wound wash, diarrhea remedy, inflamed mucus membranes (colds and flus, and sore throats), and inflammatory skin issues. Use the twigs and roots in a decoction (simmer for 20 minutes), the leaves and petals in an infusion (cover with boiling water and steep up to 5 minutes).

Rose petals can be added to apple pie, or wrapped around butter to impart a delicious flavor. They can be added to tea for an uplifting effect on the nervous system, to ease depression, insomnia and soothe irritability. I always find it to be beneficial to add rose petals to tea!

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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As the Worm Turns Heyokah seed harvest

by Leigh Mills

I love the experience and independence of growing my own vegetable and flower seeds. Over the years, I've learned not to take anything for granted and realize every growing season is different. Last year's seed harvest was huge and this year it was small. This month's article summarizes my attempts and successes at growing out my 2014 seed crop.

Unsuccessful attempts at growing out seed

Detroit Red Beets: I've been successful in the past, but this year is the second in a row that something happened to the over-wintered roots which resulted in them dying in early spring.

Spinach: The seed plants were growing well, but in late August they got some sort of wilting virus and I had to pull them out of the ground. They were growing close together and maybe the cool, wet weather affected their health.

Cucumbers: I had a great seed crop last year, but again, I think the cool spring and summer affected their growth. I got frustrated and pulled up the tiny plants in late July.

Basil: I started some seeds in



Dragon Carrot flowers are very fragrant and draws many types of small pollinators. Each tiny sub-flower represents a possible seed. A large, pollinated flower top can produce more than enough seeds to keep and share. Dragon Carrots have purple skin with orange centers.

my greenhouse early in the spring and had to replant because they didn't germinate. The second crop grew well enough for eating and preserving, but I didn't feel confident enough with their overall strength to let them grow out to seed.

Successful 2014 seed crops

Bunching Green Onions: These hardy root plants were kept in the ground over the winter and covered with plenty of straw mulch for protection. They grew back wonderfully and I have a bumper crop of new seed which will supply me (and others) for a couple of years.

Lettuce: I grow out lettuce seed in my little greenhouse. I planted five varieties in early November 2013, enjoyed eating fresh lettuce from January to late March, and was harvesting their first seeds by late June. Lettuce seeds are easy to grow out and I have lots of each "flavor".

Columbine: These are the only flower seeds I saved this year. I planted these locally grown seed three years ago and got my first flowers this year. They are a mixed color variety with different combinations of pale yellow, creamy white, light burgundy, purple, and soft blue petals.

Green Arrow Peas: These yummy peas grew in abundance last year, but this year the plants were fairly stunted. I harvested a bit of fresh peas for eating and got a few handfuls of seed to replant. This is one example of not knowing how the plants will produce from one year to the next.

Dragon Carrot: After two tries at growing out these seeds, I finally got a great crop this year. Carrots are another type of vegetable that take two growing seasons to produce seed. I leave the roots in the ground heavily mulched and covered with plastic to withstand the winter temps and moisture. All the roots grew back and now I have gobs of new seed that will last for



Green beans are easy to grow for eating and seed. Eat them fresh during mid-season and let others stay on the bush to make seed for next year's planting. The seed pods need to stay on the bush until yellowed and dry. Crack open pods to release seed and dry for another two or three weeks in a cool, dark place before storing seeds in an airtight container.

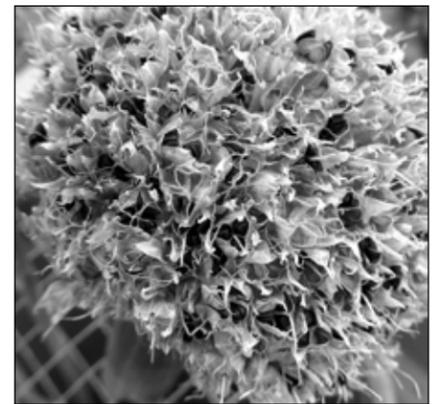


Onion seeds ripen from the middle of the flower to the edges over a period of two weeks. I didn't want any seed to drop into the garden bed, so I cut the dried onion flower tops a couple of inches above the bulb and rigged up a drying rack using a flower pot, hardware cloth and old bamboo sticks. The seeds would continue to slowly ripen and when ready, fall into the shallow tub; every now and then I would shake the bulbs lightly to loosen the seeds.

several years when stored in a cool, dark, dry area.

Burpee's Stringless Green Beans: These bush beans are the last to be harvested this season. I noticed the early pods shriveled and dried up without making seed, but the later ones are big and healthy. I'll get enough seed to replant, but not much to share.

After harvesting any seeds, I let them completely dry for several weeks before putting them in airtight containers where they will stay viable for two or more years. I love the satisfaction of seeing all the different types of seed I've grown and saved; sharing them with others motivates me to keep growing.



Bunching onions are small, white onions with green tops. They are eaten fresh, easily dried, or stored in the freezer after cooking lightly with olive oil. They are easy to grow and this year I have lots of onion seed to keep and share.



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Articles by Leigh Mills
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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Our current weekly reading program, "Stories for Little Ones,"

is geared towards infants through age 4. It is facilitated by our favorite storyteller, Penny, from the Saguache Public Library, and is held each Tuesday morning from 11 to 11:45am (or until everyone gets cranky!). Please bring your little one(s) to this program and get an early start on a love of reading that can last a lifetime. There is no registration required—just come when you can.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our local

Friends of the Library group who bought the new revolving display unit for books in the children's room. This beautiful display replaces the old black book truck, and it makes such a difference in highlighting our new books for young readers. One of the purposes of a Friends of the Library group is to enhance the library they represent, and our group is tops with us!

For all of us who need a good laugh now and then, we are creating a new section in the DVD sec-

tion under "Humor." Staff members asked patrons to recommend their favorite stand-up comedians, and so far we have included George Carlin, Ellen DeGeneres, Richard Pryor, Robin Williams, Steve Martin, the best of Saturday Night Live and Second City TV, Jerry Seinfeld, Bill Cosby and many others. If you have a favorite, please let us know.

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

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In Search of Economic Reality

Local school boards keeping low standards for our children

by Ed Lyell, Prof. of Business & Economics, Adams State U.

America's 18,000 local school boards may have worked well a hundred years ago, but not now. We need national standards on what children should know and by when, while also becoming more flexible, even individualized, in how children learn. We should unleash the creativity of teachers and parents to find better methods to individualize learning and to help every child learn more and with more enjoyment. To improve American economic prosperity we must insure that our children can compete in an economically globalized world. Currently American children are near the bottom among westernized nations on all international tests of reading, writing, math and especially science.

Now a strange coalition of both Republican and Democratic leaders is reneging on their commitments to a world-class core curriculum. America's leaders, led and funded by Bill Gates, have developed world-class standards in every subject and grade. Yet now Democrats are led by teacher unions to fight off

the accountability of what students should know and demonstrate. Republicans no longer support core standards, arguing that it is a nationalization of education. Some political leaders fear teaching things like evolution, climate change and the constitutional right to protest. Many of these critics are fundamentalist Christians trying to force student learning back to just Bible stories while ignoring centuries of real data and science.

American local control of schools evolved from an agrarian society when we had small towns. Then we changed our schools to prepare compliant, yet timely, workers in assembly lines. This led to a bureaucratic system in which teachers and students must learn in a certain way, using specific textbooks, and with rules and regulations more fit for a car assembly line than for teaching children to think critically, research new information and invent a new future.

For generations in America we have had a school system giving out As and Bs based on individual classroom teacher standards and grad-

ing. Parents are told that their children are all above average and that every state is above average. Only those illiterate in math would accept this characterization. Teachers develop their own tests, grade them, and give out grades to students based on each teacher's criteria. A "C" from one teacher could represent greater student learning than an "A" from another teacher. Existing standardized tests too often test trivia and do not require students to think and write critically. Other countries have verbal, written and activity based assessment in which students must solve real problems using math and science. Those state assessments are never seen by teachers, principals and school boards. The teachers cannot teach to individual test items, and cannot cheat on student exams. We have thousands of teachers in jail for reading out the answers when giving the test, or changing wrong answers to correct after collecting the tests. Whole school districts, like Atlanta, have hundreds of teachers, administrators and even the superintendent in jail for cheating on state tests.

The biggest negative of teacher-driven important grades is that the student is afraid to show ignorance in the classroom. Yet if the teacher does not know what is confusing stu-

dents how can she help them learn? We play a lose-lose game of students pretending to know and teachers thanking that all is being learned. This makes our students world leaders in "BS", but not real skills. Research is very clear that we learn more from our mistakes than false praise. Other countries' assessments determine student advancement and teacher retention. The student and the teacher both want the student to do well and yet teachers cannot teach to narrow test items nor cheat since they never see or administer the exams. This means that the teacher and student are partners in learning and not just deceiving one another.

For over a century local school boards argued that since most of the money came from local taxes the state should have no say in what students should know, how they are taught, or any other rules. Now as state funding is 70% of education funding, local control should surrender to state assessment of student outcomes. Moreover, these local boards are not really public school boards since school board elections are held alone in the spring and often the only place to vote is at the local school during school hours. Thus less than 10% of eligible voters vote and among the voters near 80% are teachers and their families. We have employee school boards who focus on making life good for the employees and are less concerned with student learning and achievement. This mismatch is the biggest cause of America's low student achievement and the increasing costs per student.



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For Sale 3 BR, 2 BA spacious ranch style home on 2.8 acres in Ch I with detached garage, great views of both the mountains and valley. now \$216,000, call 588-3243 for details

HALF ACRE LOTS FOR SALE

BUY YOUR SACRED LAND NOW. Five 1/2 acre lots for sale in Chalet II Crestone. Visit our virtual tours at the link. Great value from \$12,000-\$19,000 with amazing views. <http://enchantedforestcrestone.weebly.com/lots-for-sale.html>

Houses for Rent

Home for Rent Chalet I

Lovely, well cared for 3 bd/3 bath tri-level home in Chalet 1. Large deck, upper deck balcony, gas fireplace, all energy efficient appliances. \$850 plus utilities. No smoking. No growing. Pets negotiable. References. 937-7790

RENT Custom Cathedral Style Home on Year Round Creek

Custom Cathedral Style Home 2-3BD 1&1/2BA, 30x16ft Studio, Year-round mountain stream off Master Suite, private enclosed porch w/ gas stove. Amazing mountain and valley views. Large light filled 30x16ft Studio. Meditation Loft w/ balcony, S, Office, Vermont stoves (wood

and gas). Passive solar, fuel efficient heat. Secluded & quiet, many amenities. Perfect for sabbatical or spiritual practitioner. CHALET II \$950 mo. (906) 281-4812

Craftsman-style Home

Craftsman-style Home, Private, furnished, 3 BR, 2Ba. Radiant floor heating, propane. Fenced grounds. \$1,000/month plus utilities. Available January 15. First, last and deposit. Contact: 719-588-9582.

Blessing House

Restful Retreat in high desert. Surrounded by pinons you will have stars and silence, artesian well water, wifi, solar heat, woodstove, 360 views, open floorplan with beds upstairs, windows everywhere. See attached link. Long term, \$800 or short term. Tom, 303-485-1195 <https://www.facebook.com/tom.demers.39?fref=ts>

Spacious 3BR, 2BA passive solar home on 2+ acres with detached one car garage in Chalet I, available September 1. \$950 per month plus utilities. Call 719-588-3243 for more information.

Cozy Cottage for Rent

Cozy Comfortable Cottage nestled in the trees in a very peaceful setting w/amazing valley & mountain views. Close to all spiritual centers. Nightly, B&B, weekly & Long-term. 719 256 5768 Enchantedforestcrestone.net/annekellycrestone@yahoo.com

HOUSE & SACRED SPACE FOR RENT

3bd/2ba with master suite & balcony. Separate Sacred geometric building ideal for yoga, meditation & healing. Amazing views in Chalet II. \$1100/mo+util with 6 month lease. Passive solar/low utilities. No smoking/growing. enchantedforestcrestone.weebly.com

EXCEPTIONAL HOUSES

NEW CONSTRUCTION 2-3BD/1,5B, WOOD INTERIOR, MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM KITCHEN, LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT, CREEK, 950/MO. SUPER STRAWBALE 2BD/1.75B, GRANTS TREES/CREEK, BEAUTIFUL, 950/MO. EMAIL: SOULARQUEST@GMAIL.COM 719 937 1039

Chalet I Home For Rent

Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, furnished home, in Chalet 1. Exquisitely located near park and town. Open view of the mountains. Currently available. Short term rental \$55.00 single person, per night; or longer term, \$ 900.00 plus utilities. No smoking or growing on premises. Contact person: Diana Moats, #: 719-588-0152.

Chalet II House For Rent

1900 sq ft house for rent in Chalet II. 3BD 1.75 BA; tromb wall (passive solar), wood stove & electrical baseboard; W/D garage & greenhouse. \$875/m + deposit. Owner pays H2O & propane. Call 303-775-9074.

Retreat Rental

Beautiful Baca home with shrine room available for retreat rentals from one to six months. Very private and spacious in spectacular view setting near Chalet One trailheads. \$600mo includes utilities/deposit required. Please call Barbara at 575-758-1280 or email emptycanvasstudio@yahoo.com. Single retreatant only.

COTTONWOOD CREEK MAGICAL HOUSE

Beautiful tree and creek property on 6 acres on the creek. furnished 2 Bdr. 1Ba, 2200 sq. ft. Solar, Great living Rm. skylight, beams, kitchen with granite island, wood stove, radiant heat, quiet with GREAT VIEWS. Seek responsible person(S) NS, PET OK, REFERENCES, AVAIL OCT. 1 TO JULY 1, 2015 LEASE. \$775 plus utilities. Wi-Fi, Great well water. 7190588-0777 larainapple@mac.com photos available

3 bedroom 2 bath home on 35 acres

3 bedroom 2 bath home on 35 acres. Wood stove, well & outbuilding. \$890 month. First last and deposit. Utilities not included. Cnty Rd T Towards crestone. 719-256-5439.

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1454 Wagon Wheel

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\$279,000

Call for a showing of this spacious Southwest-style home located on the Willow Creek greenbelt near the stables. The gracious floor plan offers many possibilities with a large 500 square-foot private master with views and screen porch, a living area featuring dramatic high ceilings and arched windows, an open kitchen/dining area, and three additional bedrooms privately located down a passive solar breezeway. This home boasts mountain and valley views, is desirably situated on 3.16 acres, near a paved road, and is five minutes to town. It is well-suited for many lifestyles with its varied possibilities for office space, studio, income, and living. So much to offer. Was \$319,000, now \$279,000! Great Value! Contact Vivia to view: (719) 480-9384-cell



Contact Vivia Lawson for further information



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Apartments/Rooms/Misc. for Rent

Room Mate Wanted

Looking for a Room Mate, beautiful convenient Crestone location. Short or long term arrangements possible. Negotiable terms depending on type of arrangement, call 719-256-4057

Downtown Crestone Lodging

Casa del Soul—Downtown 1 & 2 bedroom fully furnished suites with full kitchens, wifi, Direct TV, pet friendly. Smoke free property. Nightly & weekly rates. (719) 256-5788

Spaces for All Needs

Yurts, \$35, Hostel Rooms, \$25, Call for Rates on Vacation Houses, Nightly, Weekly. 3 & 4 Bedroom Houses furnished and unfurnished for long term lease available September 1st. Please Call Electrum 719-588-2114 or globalspirit13@gmail.com

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House Rental Wanted

House Hunting !

Young responsible couple looking for long term lease in or near Crestone. We have a 17 month old little girl and one lazy dog. Looking to spend approximately \$650 to \$950 per month. one year lease minimum, Call Brandy 707-321-6233

Services

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Sand Pit Metal Works, LLC Mobile Welding, D1.1 Certified in STICK, MIG, TIG, Aluminum welding, Gates, stairs, railings, metal repairs, Structural steel & fabrication, Ivan Lakish, 719-588-5819 or 256-4252

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Licensed Real Estate Appraiser with 25 years experience, many years experience in Crestone. Don Root. 720-244-1097. donald.root@yahoo.com.

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Looking for a Healthcare Practitioner?

Looking for a health care practitioner in Crestone? Massage therapists, herbalists, energy healers, doulas, and more. Also lodging, hot springs, gift certificates. www.crestonehealers.com.

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Excellent Petsitting and Housesitting!

Your home will be well cared for and your animals will be so happy with me! I love them and treat them really well. Multiple good references available. cynthiagreb@gmail.com or 505-603-2217

Help Wanted

Software company in Crestone! We're hiring !

Seeking an asp.net Developer, ideally with SQL database experience. www.SilverEarth.com. We are a cloud-based eCommerce and POS multi-channel platform, and rather cutting edge. Yes, right here in Crestone! Also looking for people skilled in technical onboarding with Account Management experience.

Mentors Needed!

Mountain Valley School District is looking for compensated and volunteer mentors. Please contact Megan Strauss at megan@valley.k12.co.us or 719.655.2578 for more information. <http://mountainvalleyschool.org/>

Misc. Wanted

CARPOOLING TO ALAMOSA

CARPOOLING TO ALAMOSA, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, Work at Adams State University, Call: 281-229-8824

Refrigeration

12 volt DC refrigerator (large), and deep freezer (large), solar light tube for roof. Paul 401-241-8000.

Straw Bales – New or Old

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

WANTED: Bodhisattvas

For the benefit of all beings, starting with all beings here and now! tinyurl.com/Bodhisattvas

Community Service

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

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

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. email Marta at martashoman@gmail.com

Misc. for Sale

Buy firewood Now

The best pine firewood for sale. Available now. \$200 per cord. Pickup yourself or \$225 delivered. Call electrum 719 588 2114 globalspirit13@gmail.com

stove for sale

vermont castings reliance propane stove with blower, 4yrs. old. call DON 719-849-1506 717-256-5735

Lost and Found

Lost Mala

Lost, well-used and loved mala. Amber with turquoise. If found, please call 505.983.1343.

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Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-6200.

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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

The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.
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by Keno
I heard the entire country, including Colorado, will see some of the heaviest snow ever recorded for this upcoming winter. Is this true?

Absolutely not. What you heard came from an online article which was an internet hoax which started to spread in early September. Like all winters, yes, some areas of the country will see record snows and some areas will see very little snow fall. What never takes place is what was reported, where the entire country would see record snows all winter long, as there would always be a big chunk of the country that would be excluded from something like this happening. I'm always asked around September what kind of upcoming winter weather will we see, and I always give the same answer—I don't know for sure and nobody else really does either. We can get an idea if one part of the country will be drier or wetter than normal, but that's about it, and as I've noted before here, Colorado is one of the hardest places to predict long term forecasts for, so I don't.

Why is the Harvest Moon orange and a different color than the (white) moon we see during the rest of the year?

The scattering of light in our atmosphere is the main cause of this.

At times the moon could look red, orange or even blue, and it appears to be these certain colors only during certain times of the year. The Harvest Moon during the fall can appear larger than normal, and orange. There are two reasons for this, that being the path the moon takes across the sky this time of year, and then also the climate of earth. During certain times of the year, the moon will rise and set at different angles. Sometimes the moon stays low in the sky and never reaches an overhead position and because of that, the earth's atmos-



Beautiful fall colors near O'Haver Lake. Photo taken Sept. 21. photo by David Hillman

phere, which also goes through certain changes at certain times of the year, plays the key to how the moon will appear in the sky.

In some months, the atmosphere contains more dust particles than usual. The more particles in the atmosphere means more scattering of light. In the fall, many farmers are harvesting their crops and in turn, lots of dust from the soil of the crops ends up the atmosphere. At the same time, the moon is lower in the sky during the fall

season. So with more dust in the sky and the moon closer to the horizon, the moon often looks orange in many places in the northern hemisphere. As for why the moon's size always looks larger when lower in the sky (just as the sun does), that's because of what is called a superior mirage. I wrote an article for the *Eagle* way back in January of 2004 that explained this, which you can still read online at: crestoneeagle.com/archives2004/jan04_b1.html

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

August 21 to September 20
Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 1.28"
 Snow: 0.0"
 Measurable precipitation fell on 8 days.
 Measurable rain fell on 8 days.
 A trace of rain fell on 2 days.
 3 thunderstorms occurred, one being a dry thunderstorm.
 No snow or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 10.61"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 37.7"

Snow Season*: 0.0"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 83.8°F on August 17

Low temp: 38.4°F on September 13

Avg. high: 75.4°F

Avg. low: 44.8°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 90°: None

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 80°: 7

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 40°: 3

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 3.0 mph

Highest gust: 45 mph on August 26

Main direction: Out of the east northeast

Weather summary:

Temperatures were below normal in the last 10 days of August and well above normal in the first 20 days of September. No record high temps to report, but the last 3 days of the period saw us missing the record high for each day by one degree on each day. As of September 20 we still haven't come close to seeing the first freeze or frost of the season. There was one record low set on August 22 when the lowest high temperature for the date was smashed, as the high only reached 59°. The old record was 69°, set in 1996. Precipitation was around normal until the first week in September, and then after that it was below normal.

Outlook for October:

October averages 1.06" of precipitation, making it the fifth wettest month of the year. Along with that it also averages 3.9" of snow. The most snow in the month was set in 1984 when 17.5" fell and the most precip was 3.38", set in 2006.

Temperature-wise, the average high and low in the first week of the month is around 65° and 34°, and by the last week it drops off to 53° and 25°. Record high for October is 80°, set on Oct. 1, 2010, and the lowest temp was 2° set on Oct. 30, 1993.

The 30-day outlook for October is calling for both below average temperatures and precipitation.

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

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