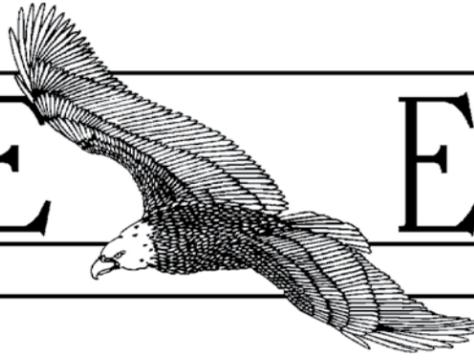


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 25, Number 2

February, 2014 \$1

25 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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A crowd gathers in the Crestone Town Park for a last minute skateboarding mini-potluck party and poses here on the half pipe with lots of enthusiasm!

photo by Lori Nagel

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

Coalition gathers to aid endangered & threatened wildlife species in Saguache County

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Southwest Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Gunnison Sage Grouse, and now Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. Do species become Threatened and Endangered in Saguache County because of poor conservation practices, or is it because we are one of the last frontiers for many plants and animals? In a county where 76% of our territory is public lands, the latter is likely the case. Whatever the reason, Saguache County's landowners, public

officials, and public lands managers find themselves in a predicament: either find ways to protect sensitive species that will be acceptable to federal agencies charged with protecting wildlife, or live with the consequences of sometimes severe federal restrictions on private property to protect species.

To help find solutions to this dilemma, Saguache County Commissioners called together representatives from most of the agencies and public organizations that work

to protect wildlife locally to collaborate with the county on protecting species that are likely to be listed as Threatened or Endangered in the near future. The coalition, the Wildlife and Habitat Strategic Committee, met for the first time on January 15, and the county hosted representatives from local Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Sand Dunes National Park, National Forest and BLM, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), SLV Conservation

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Antonio Marron checks out the top-bar hive brought by Karen Lemke of the SLV WannaBeekeeper at the last SLV Seed Exchange. See article on the upcoming seed exchange and events on page 16.

Skateboarding takes off in Crestone—plans underway to create a new skateboarding park

by **Lori Nagel**

There's a new skateboarding presence in Crestone that is getting stronger by the day. The initial half-pipe skate ramp in the Crestone Town Park was donated last summer by Joe Campo and built by local volunteers. More major renovations being done recently. And while this ramp is a good one, there are plans for a bigger, better one on the horizon.

Judie Rose and Benny Roman

are helping to spearhead a project to build a new concrete skate park, which might be built on land of the new Crestone Charter School. Julie Mach from ScSEED is writing a grant proposal, and they will be submitting it to 2-4 organizations, two of which are the Tony Hawk Foundation and GOCO. When these grants come through, they should cover the cost, supplemented by in-kind donations of land, labor, and fundraisers.

The school is supportive of this project, and agrees it is an ideal location for our community to gather. The school plans to have after-school activities and summer camp programs that could benefit from having a skate park added. At this point, it is not known how insurance and other processes will be dealt with.

A skateboard park in Crestone would bring an increase of

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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.

Editor's Notes

It's the people

Last month we held an open house to celebrate our 25th year of *The Crestone Eagle*. We were amazed by the large turnout as people kept coming all afternoon. It was so great to have everyone come and we really felt honored by your presence and compliments. This newspaper has always been a community effort.

With the office jam-packed, friends greeted friends as they came in the door. As we mingled with people and looked over old issues of the *Eagle* laid out on a back table, we talked about how it used to be, environmental battles that were fought and won, changes that we've seen, highlights of the years, while people used the newspaper to point out the year they moved here.

We ran a slide show on our computers of photos of people from our files. This was one of the biggest hits of the party as people watched the faces go by—some still here, some much younger (and thinner), some moved away and some passed away. "Oh look, that was so and so", and then the stories would begin. To me, that was so very special. As a community of people, we remember each other and the lasting effect we have on each other—good, bad and sometimes very funny. In a small town, you can't hide, and we *will* talk about you. Photos of Kailash on keyboard, BG in her fancy hat, Enzer & Caroline with their rugs, Ken at the Sage. A lot of people have come and gone over those 25 years (some we've been happier to see go than others). To me, it is the people, even more than any news, that is the heart of this place.

As an independent small-town newspaper following the ups and downs and occasional craziness of life in this out-of-the-way place, we're so glad that so many of you came to say you appreciate us and the work we do.

Thanks for the adventure,

—Kizzen



Thank you, PUC

Dear Editor,

As a result of the recent PUC decision, the valley will be spared the atrocious specter of the "Twin Towers" proposed by Solar Reserve.

To the point, the grid is obsolete; it is old and fragile, considerable energy is lost in long distance transmission, and it is ugly.

Distributed solar is the future; a solar array and/or wind turbines for every home, farm, warehouse, ranch and business.

Personal energy is personal freedom.

Take responsibility for your future and save the Earth from further environmental insult; is nothing sacred? Begin the transition, one panel at a time.

Small is beautiful.

As for jobs; for those who are not afraid to get your hands dirty, there are good opportunities in organic food and hemp production.

Press on,

Bruce Sheldon

A big thank you from Moffat School

Dear Editor,

Moffat Schools would like to thank all the community members, along with Elaine Johnson, Marsha Gardner and the Crestone Mercantile for their generous holiday donations that were received by the youth in the community. It takes a lot of time and effort to put together a drive such as the Giving Tree at the Crestone Mercantile. It is these acts of kindness that help make the holidays even more special, not only for those who have received something but also knowing that we belong to a community that is more like a family. Know that your donations are blessings in themselves and brought smiles to many faces. Again thank you from the bottom of our hearts for showing us the true meaning of the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Elise Lovato, Moffat Schools

Members object to POA board action

To the Editor,

We are aware that, in a written directive dated December 13, 2013 the Board of Directors instructed the POA insurance company's attorney to withdraw an appeal in which he was trying to recover money that the POA's insurance company spent on attorney's fees to defend POA directors Russell Schreiber, Treat Suomi and Bill Folk from a lawsuit filed by current POA board members Bruce McDonald and Nigel Fuller and their co-plaintiffs Janie Thomas and Diane Dunlap. The POA itself was liable for \$5,000 (our deductible) of the more than \$18,000 it cost the insurance company to defend that case, which was dis-

missed on a technicality. (The Plaintiffs have since refiled their lawsuit and forced the POA further into the case as a consequence).

We strongly believe that the vote taken at the POA board meeting on December 12, which we believe authorized that letter to be sent, was inappropriate, appearing to have served two individual board members' financial interest at the expense of the POA membership and representing a clear conflict of interest.

We therefore have requested that the Board of Directors either send a letter to Bill Short at Hindman-Sanchez (the POA's insurance company's attorney) reversing their demand that the appeal be withdrawn, take another vote without the participation of Nigel Fuller and Bruce McDonald, or answer to the membership at their Feb. 13 meeting, where our request to be heard is supposed to be on the agenda.

Alison and Bob McClure

Andrew Campagnola

Ann Bunting

Anna Louise Stewart

Armand & Therese Peloquin

Bruce and Elinor Nygren

Burt Wadman

Carol J. DeAntoni

Chris Canaly

Cristina Cabeza-Kinney

David Hillman & Vicki Matthews

David Vermont and Aaron Juchau

Deborah Easley and Steve Haines

Donna Peizer

Doug and Amulya Beechwood

Eileen Reed ("Tilly")

Emmy Savage

Esteban & Treffa Hollander

Hamilton Brannan

Janet Martinez

Janet Woodman

Jeff and Myan Sorensen

Jerry and Vonda Jones

Jo Anne Kiser

Joanna Theriault

John and Cheryl Rowe

John R. M. Day, & Jean A. Day

Judith DeLuca

Judy Gilbert

Julia Voss

Kathleen Rainbow Adler & Robert B Adler

Ken Nelson

Larain Appelbaum-Matheson

Lee B. Temple

Loretta and Lionnell Covert

Lynda Kucin

Margret & Clay Bridgeford

Marika Popovitz

Martin Macaulay

Mary Katherine Steichen

Mary Michael Onewing

Seymour and Audrey Topping

Shahna Lax

Nathan Scarritt & Sharon Landrith

Pamela Ramadei

Parvin & Patricia Johnson

Patrick Lee & Sandra Hammond

Phil Madonna

Philip and Mikela Tarlow

Rich Jewett

Richard Lind & Leslie Holloway

Robert Demko & Findley West

Robin and Vickie Helm

Sarah Hoenninger

Susan M. Pierce

Stacey A McCulloch

Stephanie Gaines

Steven K. Carter

Sue Turner

Sugandha Jane Brooks

Susan Fey

Susannah Ortego & Harun Mag-

nuson

Suzanne Foote, director for Manitou Institute and Conservancy, Manitou Fdn

Suzanne McGregor

W.C. Dobson & Moira Forsythe

Heavy heart

Dear community, POA members and POA board,

I feel that the current state of affairs at the Baca Grande POA, and specifically their fire department, continues to illustrate that a property owners' association is an inappropriate organization for providing emergency fire services. Specifically, I don't trust the Baca POA to adequately protect my safety and potential liabilities as an officer on the fire department. I believe this situation has resulted in a tragic loss of volunteers with decades of experience and training. Therefore, I regret to inform you that I resign from the Baca Fire Department as a fire fighter, communications officer, and lieutenant after over eleven years, and countless hours, of dedicated service to the department. I urge the community to consider now as the time to look for alternatives to a POA-run fire department. Maybe it is time to hire another organization to provide our much needed emergency services?

With heavy heart,

Treat Suomi

Concerned about Baca Fire Department

Dear community,

I'm very concerned about our Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department and its members' well-being. I propose that the property owners' association implement the use of www.theweave.info (a website that outlines a method to reach an equitable, fair process) or some other system to resolve the situation with the fire department ASAP . . . before we don't have one any more.

As a 17-yr. community member, 7-yr. veteran/retired EMT-IV, 11-year fire department member; also as a fire chief and assistant chief with Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District, I feel this is an emergency.

It is my opinion that the current fire department issue is a lot more than a budget problem. The polarized environment dividing part of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association board from cooperation with the BGVFD is a lack of knowledge of the fire profession in part; however it's also turned absurd and personal of late. A blast zone wiped out 7/8 of our volunteers and has compromised the community's safety.

It is clear to me that without community participation in the process of steering our future, it's left to the POA board to either continue business as usual (which is obviously creating animosity amongst us), or call an emergency roundtable discussion to return us to civility. We have a saying in the fire service . . . 200 years of tradition unimpeded by progress. It's up to us now to create what we want to see tomorrow. I suggest an inquiry, a priority analysis that isn't the agenda of the current personal conflict.

Info from Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some clarification with regard to fire protection in the Crestone/Baca subdivision area. My hope is to alleviate some of the community's concerns during this transitional time while more permanent solution can be found.

While it is true that several members of the Baca Grande VFD have resigned recently, for a variety of reasons, many of those also serve as volunteer firefighters with the Crestone VFD, which is part of the Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District (NSCFPD). Most were members of both departments because of their desire to serve the entire community and to make fire responses as efficient as possible no matter where they happened within the community. They assure me that they will still respond to any emergency in the entire Crestone/Baca community when called.

It is also true that the Baca Grande (POA) VFD was not included in the San Luis Valley Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid between Fire Protection Districts and Municipalities. That said the NSCFPD did enter into an Interagency Agreement for Mutual Aid between Fire Departments and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Automatic Mutual Aid Response within the Crestone/Baca area. These agreements were signed and became effective March 1, 2012. These agreements are still valid as neither the NSCFPD or

the Baca Grande POA boards have terminated the agreement. Both of these agreements will be used during this trying time. I also want to stress that other fire departments in the San Luis Valley assure us that they will respond to calls for mutual aid in the Baca subdivision if command has been passed or assumed by an officer of the NSCFPD and that request came from them. In the event of a large emergency event (wildfire, etc.) which cannot be suppressed by the resources of the Baca Grande VFD and NSCFPD personnel, command is passed to the county sheriff who can then use the county's Annual Operating Plan and subsequent agreements to coordinate and receive help from our state and federal partners.

With respect to response times to the Baca Grande area there should be no change as both Baca Grande VFD and NSCFPD dispatch centers already automatically notify the other dispatch center of the call per the above agreement. If there is a delay it should be limited to the time for dispatch centers to notify each other and the extra time it may take some firefighters to drive by one fire station to get to the other.

Please be assured that both the NSCFPD and Baca Grande POA are working diligently to assure that services are not negatively impacted by recent events and will continue to work with all involved agencies in order to find long term solutions to all issues currently being faced.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions at wmoores@wildblue.net or by calling 719-539-6516

Wesley Moores,
NSCFPD District Chief

Response to POA letter of Dec. 12, 2013 & open letter to the Crestone/Baca community

Dear POA board of directors:

The district is in receipt of your letter, which chronicles the position of the majority of the current directors of the POA. Your letter is quoted in its entirety:

"This letter is a formal response from the POA Board of Directors to the issue of making POA emergency services assets available to the CrESD. The POA will not under any circumstances transfer its emergency services assets to the CrESD by any means including by lease. In addition, the POA Board will no longer support the existence of the CrESD. We find that is not in the best interest of the POA membership."

The district was preparing a revised proposal to the Baca Grande POA and the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District, namely:

The CFPD plans to reduce its budget/mill levy request through:

- Ambulance Service will not be included in the Services Plan (50% reduction in proposed budget).

- Two full-time-equivalent positions for Administrator, Fire Chief, and Equipment Manager.

- Reduction of budget expenditures wherever possible while maintaining high levels of services, equipment and training (comparable to 2013 POA Fire Department budget, but including firefighter pension provisions, and a reserve).

- Mill levy set at 8.02 mills reflecting Northern Saguache Fire Protection District rate. Within the District boundaries, the assessed valuation is \$21,530,000 with a yield of \$172,241 for the first year.

- Possible agreement with the POA:

- Gifting or lease of equipment and vehicles for a token amount.

- Renting of the firehouse for \$450.00 per month.

- District to pay for liability insurance with same company, VFIS.

- Researching the issue of indemnifying POA, as equipment owners/lessors, from liability, including the district acquiring additional insurance if required.

- Pledge from POA board

that dues will be lowered by the actual reduction of expenses related to the removal of the fire department and fire protection services from the POA budget

- Service Plan: The plan will have to be substantially revised to reflect a fire department with a narrower mission, a lower mill levy, and new agreements.

This proposal is negated by: "The POA will not under any circumstances transfer its emergency services assets to the CrESD by any means including by lease." The district cannot possibly prepare a viable Service Plan without the POA's emergency equipment.

The district hopes that the current majority of the POA board will re-evaluate their position, and consider the following:

- Voters supported the district by a 2 to 1 margin in the Dissolution Election.

- The current proposal consolidates and coordinates services, and helps to retain continuity of service at a modest increase in property taxes.

- Provides governmental immunity for firefighters and the jurisdiction.

- Assures a dedicated committed to emergency services.

- Remedies the current situation with the alienation of and the resignation by the most experienced volunteers and employees, leaving the POA membership at greater risk to life and property.

We are still maintaining the coordinated emergency services can only be achieved through a regional public district. If a locally controlled district eventually becomes unfeasible, we would support the consideration of area annexation by the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District. Even without funding, the Crestone Fire Protection District remains committed to the principles of its inception, and will support any improvement in emergency services.

Respectfully submitted,
The Crestone Fire Protection District Board of Directors
Frederick J. Dunets, Chair
David Hillman, Secretary
Eli Dokson, Treasurer
Peter Taylor, Director
Bill Sutherland, Director

It is my belief that challenges are opportunities and become ripe when we grow from them. However, left alone they may grow so large that the famous line applies "Necessity is the mother of all invention." Will this be our default method? I ask you this, do you believe our POA board is making decisions consistent with the guidance of our constituents and fire fighters who could be in harm's way?

If we don't make a change we can expect more of the same.

I am because we are!

Best to you all,

Nathan Good

Response to Suomi's letter in Dec. Eagle

Dear Editor,

It is a distinct disadvantage to be consigned to responding—an entire month later—to a damning inflammatory letter to the editor such as the one Treat Suomi wrote about myself and others in last month's *Eagle*. I should have been notified and permitted space in the same issue (as is routinely offered to others) except when it concerns people and issues that this paper supports.

Treat presents his tale as if it is a genuine effort to honestly inform the community about what has been occurring with the lawsuit. The problem is: Treat's letter to the editor was not accurate and was a deliberate effort to simply stir up anger towards myself and others

in hopes that enough public pressure would ensue to force the plaintiffs to drop the lawsuit. Treat routinely chose this type of approach while serving on the POA board. And, this is one of the main reasons that Treat has become a defendant in a lawsuit.

I could address each inaccurate point that Treat made, but it is fairly common knowledge that it is "not appropriate" to be discussing ongoing litigation in public.

What I will say at this point is: Perhaps it is time to consider that Treat and the other defendants may not have been entirely candid with this community. Perhaps it is time to consider that there are very good reasons that they find themselves defendants in a lawsuit. Perhaps it is time to consider how many requests and opportunities for sensible solutions were selfishly and carelessly discarded by Treat and the other defendants. And, perhaps it is time to consider that there was no other way to resolve the very serious issues raised in the lawsuit due to the defendants' refusal at every turn, to take any of it seriously. They simply want this lawsuit to go away.

Of course, Treat and the other defendants would want that because, finally after an entire year of stonewalling, they now have to actually answer the allegations and finally . . . the truth is on the verge of being revealed.

In fact, the truth is about to

come out about a great many things in our community. And, it is time for everyone to wake up to the possibility that exposing the truth is precisely what is going to really create lasting peace and harmony around here.

Bruce McDonald

[Ed note: To see the letter to which Mr. McDonald refers, go to crestoneeagle.com/january-2014-letters-to-the-editor/]

Freeloaders & fire protection

Dear Baca Grande property owners,

I would like to point out to all of you, that your fellow community members, who own property in the town of Crestone and surrounding county land, pay taxes to support

the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District. I myself pay over \$100 a year to support a fire department. I would therefore, in the spirit of fairness and pulling your own weight, invite you to pay your share for these services. Do not be freeloaders who expect your neighbors to shoulder the expense of responding to your fire emergencies.

In the spirit of community and fairness,

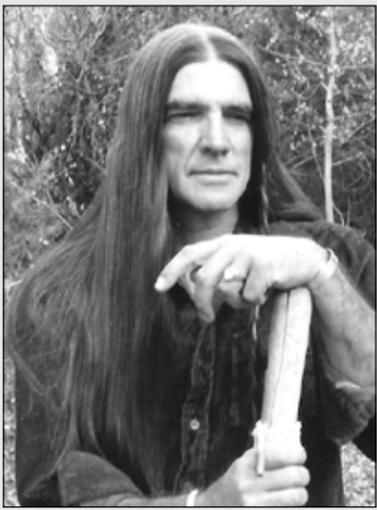
Maia Dercum

Seven flipping dollars, really?

Dear Editor,

I didn't think you could put a price on people's lives but apparently for this Baca Grande Property

continued on page 4



John V. Syperda

John Vincent Syperda passed away January 10, at 71. John led a rich and varied life, leaving rural New York in 1960 for the Navy. He trained as a radio technician and served on the Cuban blockade and on the Presidential Honor Guard in DC., which included the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. His distinguished record led to a career as an officer in the Fullerton Police Department in California. In 1978 he was named Officer of the Year. John was then successful in the competitive tech industry boom of the 80's, working for Research Inc. on Space Shuttle apparatus. He was hired in 1986 as the national sales manager for Video Tec, a high tech security company, by owner, Laura, who became his wife.

Seeking a real community and a pristine environment away from the LA rat race, they moved to Crestone in 1989, and married on their land on Willow Creek. He built a home for them, and helped Laura with a remarkable organic garden there. He later designed and built a home for his in-laws, Al & BG Purvis, just up the creek on Moonlight Way. Later Jim, Sherry, Nathan and Jeremy Maxwell moved to the Baca to complete the family clan. John started a commercial trash service & recycling program when the new Saguache Landfill opened in 1990. He performed a host of construction, maintenance & hauling jobs.

Under the tutelage of Bertha Gotterup, John became a ceramic artist. His Spirit Shields & Masks still grace local homes, and throughout the country. In 2000 the couple began Antelope & Willow, importing Feng Shui & Crystal Suncatchers for the wholesale market. A business trip to the Pacific NW in 2001 lured them back to the beauty of the ocean. They re-settled near Netarts, OR in 2002. By 2004 they were crafting their own original crystal suncatchers for wholesale markets around the world. Their Motto: "May Rainbow Light Be Yours!" John is survived by wife, Laura, son Tyce, daughters Heather Brown and Beckie Shiveley, and granddaughter Alicia Shiveley. A potluck Celebration of Life was held at the Oceanside Community Center on January 26.

Letters

continued from page 3

Owners' Association Board of Directors it's seven dollars a member less per year. I ask all of you what you think it takes to run into a burning building or to a burning car to save the life of someone. Well, I will tell you that it is not being brave or a hero. It is about training, awareness and practice but what it really is about is being in a group that trains together and knowing that your brother, with the same training, is there to have your back. I never understood why the naysayers, now part of our POA board, or anyone would fight *and destroy* a fire department full of people who voluntarily train and give their own time to protect people they don't even know.

As one of the last members of the BGVFD, I have no more trained brothers left to have my back. It's true that some of us are on the limited Crestone department but the truth is that we have been broken. The strong group of firefighters that was created by all of you POA members has been broken by these naysayers, and select POA board members. I now follow all my brothers and resign from the POA. I can't believe they took a critically needed fire house job away from Jim Vanderpool and his family. The BGVFD gave so much to me, I will never forget and I want to personally thank all you members for the years that we had a fire department.

We are broken but we are still around. Please help us get our group back together. Send your seven dollars or more to Crestone Emergency Services District, tell the POA board you want the district to use the unmanned POA fire equipment and together we can get back to the level of protection we once had.

Craig Tomaski

Three victories

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to last month's article "Meth in Crestone?". Crestone has had three wonderful victories. The town park was a gathering place to party, sometimes to excess. This made many people uncomfortable, especially mothers with babies and parents with children. We took back our park and we were victorious. Next, the local watering hole became non-existent. Many residents see that as a victory and a statement about our priorities as a community. Finally, one very troublesome man who referred to himself as the "Meth Messiah" is gone from this community.

Is Crestone a safe place to live? Honestly I have heard more stories of bears doing damage than humans.

In the past couple of years the Crestone Charter School has had experts come in and discuss the effects of drugs and alcohol on the human brain. Parents can become more aware and informed through their children.

The hardest hit and most vulnerable to alcohol and drug "abuse" are our older teens and young adults. The Crestone Creative Council helps channel our young adults towards work experience, projects and many other construc-

tive things. We are an amazing community that has shown much love and will continue to do so but we have also proven that enough is enough and when love is continually abused, then accountability through punishment and change through fear become the only recourse. As a community we have been dealing with alcohol and drug problems for upwards of two years or more mostly with a few troublesome characters.

The worst is behind us and as a community we can move on and let it be. There is a saying "What you focus on expands." It would be nice to focus on something positive and let that expand.

Respectfully,
Jodi Price

Read contract carefully

Greetings,

I have been an in-home caregiver and certified nurses aide in this community the better part of the fifteen years I have lived here. I have found that helping my community and neighbors has been very rewarding. In addition to the service aspect I have learned much about the area's history and the people who have resided here for years. I have referred many people in an attempt to connect caregivers with folks in need.

The purpose of this letter is to make people aware of some "questionable" caregiver service contracts that may be presented to you by the caregiver prior to employment. Certain "suspicious" requirements in the contract such as initial deposits, or requiring a ten-day notice prior to termination (or you lose your deposit), extra pay for weekends or holidays or services which may or may not be desired. These things should be considered carefully before signing any service contract.

As a caregiver there is a certain trust that develops when providing care for the homebound. I believe that contracts may be necessary in some instances, but a poorly devised contract can breach that trust. The bottom line is . . . read carefully and/or seek legal counsel to review a contract or have someone go over the service contract with you before you sign it.

Thank You,
Kris Boberek

Peterson to run for county assessor

Dear Editor,

I am formally announcing my candidacy for Saguache County Assessor in the November 2014 election.

First, a little background leading to this decision: I was hired by the Saguache County Assessor's Office (SCAO) two years ago to provide fieldwork identifying rural properties in Saguache County and quickly became fascinated by the assessor's work in general, especially considering the notion of property tax for education and public services is such an age-old concept. Furthering this interest, as the mandated county reappraisal began last January, I was fortunate to be asked to assist the Colorado Division of Property Taxation (DPT), as a local, to help their employees perform their field-

work for the next 5 months. This "on the job training" has proven invaluable and, consequently, I have formed many close working and personal relationships with DPT employees providing me with a continuing education and insights into the job. These same employees teach the classes I have been taking to obtain my appraiser's license later this spring.

Briefly, the assessor is charged with discovering, listing, classifying and valuing all taxable real property in the county. The assessor's duties are mandated by Colorado Revised Statutes and the office is audited annually by an independent firm. To this end I promise a fair, unprejudiced and transparent office with easy access to all public records.

Some history:

The highlight of my life, raising three beautiful children with my former wife, Penny.

University of Colorado at Boulder; Biology major (un-degreed)
6 years United States Marine Corps

8 years Mountain Valley School BOE, 6 as chairman

6 years Vice Chair Saguache County Democratic Party

Commercial crab fisherman, Alaska; ranch manager, Gunnison; hardrock miner, Jamestown, CO; Forest management, Boulder; Log home construction and chinking, Crested Butte and locally.

I live off the grid and stay in excellent physical shape (that fieldwork!) by hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, mountain biking and gardening.

I would greatly appreciate your support throughout this endeavor!

Thank you,
Be well,
Peter Peterson

Liza Marron announces county commissioner candidacy

Dear community members of Saguache County,

I would like to represent you as county commissioner in 2014.

I moved here in 1987 to work on the High Meadows Buffalo Ranch. In the fall of 1989 I was hired as an income maintenance technician with Saguache County Department of Human Services and was part of welfare reform. That year I bought a home in Saguache, and began a new grant-based youth mentoring program "Pilots for Prevention" serving students of all school districts in the county with after-school tutoring, mentoring and monthly adventures. I spent summers with my children working Green Earth Organic Farm, taking vegetables to farmers' markets and helping to grow amazing vegetables. In 2002 I earned a BA in Spanish from ASU and my masters in 2009. In 2006 we secured an eight-year grant from LiveWell Colorado to facilitate healthy eating and active living here. We are continuing this work as the SLV Local Foods Coalition; a new non-profit dedicated to creating a regenerative local foods system.

My community service record

continued on page 5

Letters

continued from page 4

includes serving as a foster mother, being a founding member of ScSEED (Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development) and serving on the Mountain Valley School Board. I also serve on the board of the Valley Food Cooperative and the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center.

Some accomplishments include supporting a youth-led effort to build a skatepark in Saguache, helping Colorado pass the Cottage Foods Bill, the Crestone Music Festival Pancake Breakfast, the ScSEED Ranching Celebration, the placement of solar panels at MVS and the creation of a community/school garden.

There was a moment when I sat in the Saguache County Commissioners' meeting months ago during a Secure Rural Schools funding discussion. Several entities hoped to get a share, as did Mountain Valley School. I listened to the sheriff and school teachers' testimony about how deputies and young teachers do not earn a liv-

ing wage. As I listened I confirmed to myself that I wanted to run for county commissioner to embrace a culture of abundance here. We live in one of the most beautiful spots on this planet. We have abundant resources: open space, mountains, meadows, clean air, wildlife, self-sufficient people, agriculture and beautiful views. My father visited from Chicago once and remarked on the "holy silence" here.

I believe that everyone does better when everyone does better. I would like to see that Saguache County is lifted from the list of the top three poorest counties in Colorado. I would like to see that businesses thrive and that every person has an equal chance to have water, nourishment, clothes, shelter and education.

I don't pretend to be an expert, but I do believe that the public interest is best served when complex and controversial issues receive careful review by elected representatives who have the time, commitment, and expertise to hold meetings and hearings, take community input, examine the evidence, debate their differences and work out necessary compromises.

I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Elizabeth (Liza) Marron

Celebrating more than a newspaper

Dear Editor,

It's *The Crestone Eagle's* 25th anniversary and I realized how it's more than a newspaper. For a quarter of a century it's reported news in a balanced way, events, politics and the culture of a small western town. It's supported a rotating group of writers. Provided a platform for advertisers and businesses. But it has also held our memories and history, just like our family and friends do. That makes it more valuable than just a paper.

Congratulations to Kizzen, Janet, present and past staff, and all of us for keeping the tradition going.

—Sandia Belgrade

Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

Oops—on January 20, a Crestone man looked out from a home he was working at in the town of Crestone when he noticed his Dodge pickup, which he'd parked in reverse gear, was slowly but surely rolling through the stop signs and onto Golden Ave. Although the man chased after the truck he was unable to catch it before it hit two parked vehicles and a fence outside Shambala at the corner of Golden and Cottonwood. There were no reported injuries.

The balmy air of a false spring did not decrease crime much in Saguache County. Undersheriff Tristan VanZalinge told me, "There is no new information on last month's robbery in the Baca. We have followed a few leads to nowhere. It is an active investigation." Meanwhile in Moffat the undersheriff said the department had a warrant to arrest a local man possibly connected to a number of thefts in the community. These include motor vehicle theft and property crimes.

Crestone and Baca residents banded together quickly last month to get behind community safety. Undersheriff VanZalinge told me he has been researching rural neighbor watch programs and the Saguache County Sheriff's Department is willing and ready to help organize for a safer community. Crestonians and Bacaites have made an effort since the increase in crime over the last month to get to know their neighbors. Folks are making sure they are paying attention to odd or unusual behavior in their neck of the woods. People are increasing safety by simply talking with each other in their neighborhoods and if something looks odd checking it out. The first order of business in any emergency situation is to call the Saguache County Sheriff's Department (655-2525).

An example of community safety in action occurred last month. In the bitter cold of the night a frail elderly man wandered away from his house in the Baca. His caregiver called the sheriff but given the distance an officer would have to drive to get here, and the risk of hypothermia in the freezing temperatures, she quickly called neighbors who rallied and formed search parties. John Myszkowski, who was on the scene and searching, credited the quick action of neighbors for finding the confused gentleman before hypothermia set in. "Neighbors simply went out to help neighbors." Response time for neighbors showing up to search was three minutes. The gentleman was located and returned home safely thanks to community participation.

In other news, a Hooper man was arrested in Center for failure to obey a traffic control device, being under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and excessive alcohol content. He was held on a \$10,000 bond. A Baca man was cited for careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident without giving required information after he struck an unattended vehicle on Cottonwood. A Center man was arrested and held on \$10,000.00 bond for possession of a weapon by a previous offender, resisting arrest and possession of a controlled substance. Another man from Center was arrested for domestic violence and third degree assault. A Moffat man was arrested for first degree criminal trespass and criminal mischief. His bond was set at \$5000.00. Another man from Moffat was served with a Summons to Appear in county court for driving under the influence.

Speeding tickets were issued all over the county. There were more tickets given out in the Crestone/Baca area last months.

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Saguache County News

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

Nothing raises the temperature of valley conversations like the subject of water, so when Saguache County Commissioners made their annual appointments, there was virtually no discussion—until it came to water. George Whitten, local organic beef rancher, who has served on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) board for over 20 years, has announced his retirement effective the end of January. (Thanks George). As he gave commissioners an update on the district, three other applicants for the position were waiting in the wings. Perry Oswald, Peggy Godfrey, and Jim Warner, all local ranchers, have volunteered for the position. Since the position is open until February 4, other candidates may step forward.

Commissioners asked Whitten about Sub-District #1, which was the first to form in the SLV, and encompasses much of the southern part of Saguache County and parts of Alamosa and Rio Grande counties. Faced with ongoing drought and a lowered water table, farmers in the San Luis Valley are agreeing to join together and follow rules set out by the State Engineer and the RGWCD board and pay significant fees for pumping or face the prospect of fines and, ultimately, loss of water. Fees are used to pay farmers who agree to retire their ground and not irrigate. Whitten said it has been a “hard slog”. The sub-district is contentious, but it is functioning. He noted that “Mother Nature doesn’t care what my water right is.” He said that his successor will need to work on building a community effort around water. If there is no water, the water right doesn’t matter. “We need to help one another through this.” He also said its important to increase the water-holding capacity of the soil.

All three of the candidates for the position, each of whom gave a short presentation, stressed the importance of protecting surface water rights. As ranchers in the northern part of the county, they have all observed serious drops in the water levels in creeks and wells.

The perception of many farmers and ranchers is that water is being pumped out of the aquifer by large farms in the central part of the valley, and that the loss of groundwater is causing streams

along the foothills to soak into the soil and disappear at an alarming rate, leaving those with more senior surface water rights with little or no usable water. Many contend that the water models being used by Sub-district #1 are erroneous, and only serve large farmers. Others note that the pumping fees also favor large farms over smaller farmers and northern valley ranchers. Others contend, however, that the aquifer is complex, with numerous barriers to prevent such a simple model from being accurate.

At a subsequent meeting, former commissioner Mike Spearman gave a report on the State Water Engineer’s Rules and Regulations committee. The State Engineer, Craig Cotton, is charged with enforcing the state water rules. Spearman said the Rules and Regs Advisory Committee has no independent authority, but can only advise regarding the formation of rules for the new sub-districts. The engineer, on the other hand, has enforcement authority. Spearman explained that the committee and the engineer realized that they did not have an accurate model of the geologic formations and water flow within the aquifer, and spent some time developing more accurate measurements. The engineer is now ready to move forward, and the long-awaited rules are expected in April or May. Spearman expects there will be legal challenges to the rules, which may delay their implementation yet another growing season, but eventually, rules will be in place. According to the plan, Sub-district #1 must eliminate pumping on 40,000 acres of land. 60% of that land will be in Saguache County. This will also affect the county tax base, as agricultural land is taxed based on output. Other sub-districts will be formed within the next two years.

Spearman said the most controversial part of the Rules is Rule 8, which says that a water user’s plan must be “sustainable”. This concept is not clear in every situation. For instance, is an uphill well or stream sustainable if pumping downhill takes all the water? Spearman said, the main rule is: agricultural well-water users must replace what they pump, plus pay back what has been taken over the last 20 years. Surface water users want to see how they will be repaid. It creates a dilemma that is difficult to reconcile.

Marijuana public hearing

The required public hearing on the county’s retail marijuana regulations is scheduled for February 18 from 4 to 6 pm in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The annual joint planning commission meeting

with county commissioners will be held on February 13, also at Road and Bridge, from noon to 3 pm.

Payment In Lieu of Taxes

At press time, the county still had no word on whether PILT would be funded for 2014. The commissioners budgeted \$496,000, a substantial amount of the General Fund budget income, anticipating that PILT would eventually be funded. However, when the federal budget bill was passed, there was nothing for PILT. Now it has been attached to the Farm Bill, which is controversial on its own. Fortunately, all of our federal legislators, from both parties, are working hard to see that PILT gets funded, but it is primarily a western issue, as most public land is in the west. Few counties, even in the west, have as much public land as Saguache, at 76%. This amount of land outside the tax base has a huge impact on the county’s income and the services the county can offer to its widely dispersed population.

Eye on the county: Planning grants received

Saguache County is the recipient of two Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Planning Grants. The first grant supports the development of a Saguache County Strategic Plan. This grant, for \$15,000, must be matched by Commissioner Contributions, and will fund a strategic planning process and DOLA-approved consultants, Managing Results, LLC. (MR)

Gunnison County, which implemented a strategic plan, achieved amazing results. They built a state-of-the-art public works facility, and jail, while lowering taxes! While their county is quite different, it is great to have a nearby good reference, and Gunnison has offered to be of support as they can. There may also be regional potentials in working together.

Managing Results principals, Marv and Marty Weidner,

will gather information on the operations, issues and goals of county departments, will collate and analyze the information, conduct a county retreat to begin developing the plan, and provide the Strategic Plan document. They will then assist with performance measure development, and plan implementation.

A parallel grant, also from DOLA, is a facilities planning grant. It is clear that the county has outgrown its buildings. The commissioners’ first thoughts were to look at the buildings we have, and try to use them more efficiently. However, there is no extra space in any of the buildings for consolidation or real use. As a result, commissioners have begun the planning process for an annex building on the Saguache County Courthouse property. With the county’s current tight budget, it is not in a position to begin actual construction. But the Planning Grant through DOLA will be used in collaboration with the Architectural Department of the University of Colorado—Denver, for the planning and design phase. Architecture students, as part of their studies, perform the work. They learn, and the county benefits in the enormous savings from what would be paid to a private sector architectural firm, which is currently beyond the county’s reach. The first step is to gather information on the amounts of space and uses currently lacking.

Sales tax grants

Commissioners are preparing for the next Sales Tax Grant cycle by reviewing the forms and procedures for grant submission. Applications for the spring cycle will be due on March 14, and the announcement of awards will be made in early June. Grants are awarded in three categories: Youth and Seniors, Renewable Energy and Job Creation, and Emergency and Health and Safety.



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Bonanza to dis-incorporate?

Municipal status called into question

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

The town of Bonanza was once a thriving mining community with hundreds of residents, many businesses, and several active mines. Over a hundred years later, however, the mines are closed, almost all of the residents gone, and the last mayor died a few years ago.

According to Wikipedia, "The Town of Bonanza is a Statutory Town located in Saguache County, Colorado, United States. Formerly known as Bonanza City, Bonanza is a largely abandoned former silver mining town. Bonanza is a Spanish language word meaning a rich mineral deposit." In its heyday, when silver was king, over five hundred people called it home. When the 2010 census was taken, 10 people were recorded as residents, with the vast majority being seasonal. An article in *The New York Times* by Antonya Nelson, written in 2010, describes the difficulty new owners encountered getting a street address to link to a telephone because the town is incorporated, but with no official street addresses and no one to issue a number. The county is no longer able to certify a mill levy, and Department of Local Affairs is encouraging the commissioners to dis-incorporate the town because there are no officials to run a government.

Consequently, County Attorney Ben Gibbons, "made application to the Secretary of State for a determination that the Saguache County

town of Bonanza is abandoned. The application alleges as its grounds that the town failed, for a period of longer than five years immediately before the filing of the application, to hold any regular or special election, elect officers, or maintain any of the functions of town government."

However, at a hearing on January 7, 2014, the Colorado Secretary of State's office heard concerns from a few county citizens, including local resident Lisa Cyriacks. In a comment letter to the SOS, Cyriacks stated "The Town, formed in 1881, is an important part of Colorado's history and efforts should be made to preserve that history."

One criterion used to determine whether a town is incorporated is whether any official business has been conducted within the previous five years. At issue are a couple of documents: a check for road maintenance in 2009 and a budget from a similar time period, but with no name or signature to indicate whether it was adopted, and if so, by whom.

A report in the January 9 Center Post Dispatch indicated that a resident, Jim Shepherd, protested that "it is incumbent on the county to proceed cautiously", and asked that the action be postponed until residents can research the issues.

Commissioner Linda Joseph indicated that incorporation is not a prerequisite for a town. The Town of Villa Grove has never incorporated, primarily because the necessity of

having a town council and government officials can be burdensome to a small community. She noted that it does not mean the name of the town or the flavor of the area would change because of dis-incorporation, only the responsibilities of a municipality would be lessened.

Apparently, another concern of some citizens relates to ownership of lots. If the county takes over, some lots owned by the town would go to the county. Cyriacks says, "Many have expressed concern about their ongoing property rights should the County take over the land and other assets of the town. Concerns have also been raised about protecting access to public lands that many have used town streets to access." Attorney Gibbons, however, says all the town-owned lots that would go to the county are designated Open Space, and it is unlikely that the county would ever change that designation.

In a statement issued in *Eye on the County*, commissioners said, "Bonanza is precious to many in the Valley, and beyond—Saguache

County included. Dis-incorporation of the legal status of the Town is being considered by the State, and any determination is based on whether the Town meets the statutory criteria for dis-incorporation. A public hearing was held on January 7, 2014 in Denver. The Hearing Officer entered a decision to extend the time for presenting additional evidence or comments about the status of the Town for two weeks, until January 21, 2014. The Hearing Officer also stated that her decision would not be issued prior to one month following the hearing. The provision of Notice of Hearing was the responsibility of the Secretary of State's Office, which posted notices in the Town and published notice in *The Saguache Crescent*. The County has no plans to change anything if dis-incorporation should be ordered. The County currently maintains the roads. The Town itself maintains nothing. Maintenance and access would remain unchanged. All Town owned lots are currently dedicated to Open Space and would remain so dedicated."

Dogs & cats harassing wildlife at Baca National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) personnel have recently witnessed dogs and cats disturbing, chasing, and sometimes killing wildlife on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Breeding birds, small mammals, and young elk are especially vulnerable to these disturbances. Part of the mission of the USFWS is to conserve and protect wildlife on the refuge for the benefit of the American people. As such, federal laws mandate that feral animals be controlled on the refuge (USFWS 50 CFR § 30.11). In addition, disturbing, injuring, and damaging plants and animals are prohibited (USFWS 50 CFR § 27.51a).

When feral dogs and cats without signs of ownership (collar, tags, etc.) are present or harass wildlife on the refuge, law enforcement officers are authorized to dispatch them. If signs of ownership are present, efforts will be made to contact the pet's owner. Owners will be held responsible for any damages, and may be criminally prosecuted.

The USFWS encourages neighboring residents to be responsible for their pets, and take steps to prevent their animals from escaping onto the refuge where they may be dispatched or removed if caught. For additional information, contact the Baca National Wildlife Refuge at 719-256-5527.

Debris pile burns planned at Baca National Wildlife Refuge through 2/28

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that they will be conducting prescribed burns of several debris piles on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge during the period of January 21 through February 28. Specifically, wood piles (small branches) along Deadman and Cottonwood creeks have burn prescriptions in place to contribute towards debris removal and wildlife habitat improvement at the refuge. The burns will be conducted by professional fire personnel from the San Luis Valley Interagency fire management team. Exact burn dates will depend on weather conditions and other prescription requirements.

Adjacent neighbors and towns should be aware of plumes of smoke temporarily generated as a result of this prescribed burning, and wood piles have the potential to smolder for several days. All burns will be monitored until they are declared completely out. Signs will be posted along the nearest major road (Saguache County Rd. T). Any neighbors or individuals that may require special consideration or assistance in the event that unplanned smoke issues arise are encouraged to call Refuge Manager Ron Garcia at 719-256-5527.

For additional information, contact the Baca National Wildlife Refuge at 719-256-5527.



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Municipal elections to be held April 1

by Akia Tanara, Town Clerk & Election Official

Four Crestone Board of Trustee terms expire this year and an election will be held on April 1, 2014 to fill these seats. Qualified candidates must have lived within Town of Crestone boundaries for a minimum of one year preceding the election, be registered electors in the Town of Crestone, and be at least 18 years old on the date of the election.

The main responsibility of a trustee is to set policy for the town, and trustees are responsible for representing their constituents. Regular monthly meetings of the Crestone Board of Trustees occur the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30pm.

Nomination petitions may be picked up at the Town Hall beginning Monday, February 10, 2014, and must be returned to the Town

Hall no later than Friday, February 28, 2014. Town Hall is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm. Please contact Akia at Town Hall for more information: 256-4313.



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Looking to the future—highlights of the January Baca Water & San. board meeting & retreat

by Cindy Reinhardt, BGWSD Director

At the Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District's January board meeting and retreat, the board engaged in looking at how the district can best continue to meet its mission: to provide high quality, reliable and sustainable water and environmentally responsible treatment of wastewater with a commitment to service excellence for the well-being of the community in the most efficient and economical manner.

Like countless other local government entities near and far, BGWS&D faces numerous challenges: an aging system, a small customer base relative to the system's size, increasing costs, debt, and an economy that is far from robust. If long-term stability were only as simple as cutting a few dollars here and there, raising fees, or delaying an improvement for a year or so, the decisions would be much easier. But the reality is that every choice we make impacts our customers, the future of our facilities, and our long-term financial stability. How to provide quality, affordable services is a key factor in every decision we make.

That is the context in which the board reviewed 2013 accomplishments and began to prioritize projects for the current year.

Among the district's accomplishments in 2013 were:

- Continuing to make progress on a water rights plan
- Resolution of a long-standing fine with the Colorado Department of Health & Environment
- Completion of a hydraulic model to support leak detection

and a comprehensive water conservation plan

- Meeting annual goals for sanitary sewer system jetting and fire hydrant maintenance
- Recruitment and training of three new system operators
- Purchase of a much-needed backhoe

Looking ahead to the remaining months of 2014, projects and priorities include:

- Implementing the second phase of the water conservation project consisting of meter replacements in order to quantify total system usage and usage within specific areas
- Creating redundancy for critical areas of the water and sewer systems
- Performing critical preventive maintenance
- Developing a long-term approach to the disposal of treated waste
- Establishing a pay portal for online receipt of payments
- Creating a process for prioritizing and approval of capital projects
- Holding a director election in May
- Long-range planning to look ahead toward meeting future financial needs

As the district board and staff tackle these challenges, we invite the community we serve to get involved. Attend our February board meeting on Friday, February 21 at 8:00am. Consider putting your hat in the ring as a candidate for the board. You can get details on the district's website: www.bacawater.com.

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POA board deals with some tough questions but leaves others unanswered

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) Board of Directors met at 5pm on January 9. All board members were present; Director Schreiber left at about 8pm to a round of applause from the audience of nearly 40.

The open meeting had been preceded by an executive session of the board members and General Counsel Erich Schwiesow.

Possible settlement of lawsuit out of court

Many in the audience had expected a presentation by the attorney to the community as implied in the original agenda. Mr. Schwiesow did address some brief remarks to the open meeting but left shortly thereafter, not answering the many questions from the audience. He reported that he was seeking a stay on a judge's decision, but it was unclear if the action (a) involved the refiled version of the original lawsuit complaining that several current and former members of the board had conducted the 2012 board election illegally or (b) was directed to the case brought to the Appellate Court by the attorney for the insurance company representing the POA directors concerning fees imputed to the plaintiffs after the original lawsuit. Or, maybe both. He further said that an effort was to be undertaken to settle the matter (which one? both?) out of court.

Adverse opinion of this attorney was expressed later in the meeting when Alicia Mason-Miller outlined reasons to consider Mr. Schwiesow's previous representation of (now) board member Bruce McDonald in a private legal matter as a conflict of interest. Mr. McDonald stated that the attorney wouldn't be biased and there would be no conflict of interest. Possibly this matter of at least the appearance of conflict of interest will need to be assessed by the state's regulatory body, as suggested by Ms. Mason-Miller, if the issue cannot be

resolved otherwise.

Interim fire chief

Since the last public meeting Jack Johnson, a resident of Alamosa, has been named interim fire chief. He revealed that he believed there were currently only five active volunteers, but said that if there were a fire, the Crestone fire department would respond. If there were a structure fire, he would come up from Alamosa. There were no further revelations about a proposed "advisory committee" for the volunteer fire department.

Lot consolidation committee

The previously discussed "lot consolidation committee" was expanded to one charged to study the overall dues structure, possibly even including the matter of collecting unpaid dues. This more holistic view came about largely as the result of concerns by the community of the narrowness of the originally conceived committee charter. Director Schreiber also was instrumental in this wider conception. The Baca Grande is one of the few property owners' associations that charges all dues at the same rate, whether the lot has been developed or not.

Water in Baca creeks

The Committee for Natural Surroundings, represented by Noah Baen and Glyder (Tom Tucker), presented its concerns about water in the creeks passing through the Baca. The board agreed to a Resolution (2014-01) urging the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, owner of most of the water in the Baca, to consider water issues within the Baca community as part of their Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the next 15 years.

Leasing of Baca facilities & equipment

The board has militantly stated its view on leasing as it applies to its fire equipment: the "POA will not under any circumstances transfer its emergency services assets to the CrESD (Crestone Emergency

Services District) by any means, including by lease. In addition, the POA Board will no longer support the existence of the CrESD. We find that it is not in the best interest of the POA membership" (*Crestone Eagle*, Jan. 2014; note the recent election [March, 2013] in which the POA membership voted nearly 2-to-1 in support of CrESD). Notwithstanding this position, the board has leased many other assets of the POA, including the stables, the golf course and its structures, and the library facilities. The latter two of these leases were discussed at the meeting in a reasonable way that was not consistent with the board's adamant refusal to lease any of the fire equipment.

Fire protection service discussion

A petition signed by 40-some members questioning the state and future of fire protection services was presented to the board by Christine Canaly as a matter for Dispute Resolution. However, the board deemed the subject not to involve any dispute. In lieu of a dispute resolution hearing, the board has scheduled time at the Thursday, February 13 meeting at 6 pm to discuss fire department issues.

Golf course & pro shop lease

Kyle Grote of Chokurei Farm and the Yak 'N' Cracker Restaurant met with the board to discuss his lease and plans for the former golf pro shop and golf course facility. There was mention of golf tournaments and a put-put installation. Kyle did object to a provision in the proposed lease that he would be held personally liable for any damage on the golf course to people or property. Kyle also said that he would prefer the POA hire professionals to renovate the pro shop downstairs, then raise his rent accordingly, than to have to do the renovation himself. It was decided to temporarily continue the agreement, then discuss it again the following month.

January POA meeting abruptly cancelled

by Earl W. Sutherland

January 23 non-meeting

The January 23 board of directors meeting, originally scheduled for 7pm, then changed to 5pm, did not happen at all.

This reporter and a number of other audience members who showed up at 5pm had not received notice from the POA or Hammersmith Mgmt. of the meeting time change, but instead received it the previous day through the grapevine. POA Manager Ecklund said she had sent the notice to Hammersmith for dissemination; she didn't understand why we hadn't received the emails.

Abrupt cancellation

When audience members started to arrive at the POA Meeting Room at 5pm, directors Fuller, McDonald and Lakish were all present in the POA building and Schreiber was available by phone, enough to have a quorum (Garnett was absent). However, shortly after 5, Kristen Ecklund, POA Community Manager, entered the meeting room to announce that the meeting had been cancelled. When asked who had cancelled the meeting, and why, she replied that she did not know, but that directors McDonald and Fuller had already left. There no longer was a quorum available with their departure. No director addressed the audience to give a reason. Director Lakish, when contacted later, stated she was also mystified about the cancellation, since there was plenty of work to do. Neither she nor Schreiber had initiated cancellation of the meeting.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Fuller the next day, which he limited due to ongoing legal matters, there was indicated a possible explanation for the cancelled meeting. The central factor seems to be the consideration of who on the board has a conflict of interest and who is at all eligible to vote on a variety of subjects. Fuller declined to say that these ideas originated with General Counsel Schwiesow. Fuller was optimistic that the judge (Michael Gonzalez) would be able to settle key issues pertaining to this in a fairly short time. Fuller also offered a hopeful opinion that the outcome would achieve greater clarity and promote enforcement of our governing documents, factors which he feels contribute to the present problems.

It is not known if Fuller, Garnett and McDonald plan on attending the next scheduled POA meetings. Members may want to call ahead and verify meetings will be taking place. The POA confirms that meetings will now be starting at 5 pm.

HRRMC Joint Replacement Prep Class

If you are considering a hip, knee or shoulder replacement or are already scheduled for a joint replacement at HRRMC, this one-hour seminar is for you.

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 4 p.m.
HRRMC second-floor conference rooms
1000 Rush Drive, Salida



Robert Hunter, M.D.



E. Andrew Jonassen, M.D.



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www.crestoneagle.com

Baca property owners file request to intervene in court case filed against POA, Schreiber, Suomi & Folk

—Crestone

On Friday, January 17 a group of Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) members filed a petition for “intervention by right” with the Saguache District Court asking the court to allow them to file an amicus brief in support of the defendants in a lawsuit refiled by Janie Thomas, Bruce McDonald, Nigel Fuller and Diane Dunlap after the plaintiffs’ first case was dismissed on a technicality. Two of the plaintiffs now serve as members of the BGPOA Board of Directors after winning their seats in an uncontested election on November 22.

In their current lawsuit the plaintiffs are alleging that the Baca Grande Property Owners’ Association election in 2012 was illegal and that the individually named defendants (current POA director Russell Schreiber and former POA directors Treat Suomi and Bill Folk) “violated their fiduciary duty, duty of care and loyalty” as board members of the POA in their conduct of the election.

In their submission to the court the petitioners—namely Christine Canaly, Susannah Ortego, Alison and Bob McClure, Harun Magnuson, Martin Macaulay, Mark Elliott, Deborah Easley, Stephen Haines, Neil Hogan, Andrew Campagnola “and other concerned members of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association”, say they participated in the election in question and have “firsthand knowledge” of the events surrounding that and similar prior POA elections that they would like “to brief the court on”.

To support the request for intervention the petitioners stated that “Over the course of the past several years, the Plaintiffs have alleged similar complaints against other members of the POA, including past board members and citizens representing other government entities, through the filing of approximate-

ly nine (9) separate lawsuits.”

The petitioners go on to claim that the plaintiffs’ allegations have served to “harass and intimidate the POA, newly elected POA Board members, and/or public officials who have different goals, views and/or agenda for the POA than the plaintiffs, who continue to hold a minority view within the community.” They add that, as a consequence, POA members who desire to run for the POA board are reluctant to do so because “they fear that they, too, will become defendants in a lawsuit initiated by the plaintiffs if their views differ from those of the plaintiffs.”

In asking the court to allow them to present evidence and first-hand accounts in an amicus brief to support their petition, the petitioners stress that they “and all members of the POA, present and future, will be affected by the Court’s decision in this case as it will affect people’s willingness to serve their community . . . on the POA Board or other government entities.”

At the time of writing the court has not handed down a decision on the case or yet agreed to allow the petitioners to file an amicus brief.



Dave Miller took this photo of a bobcat perched on a piece of Crestone conglomerate, with which they blend in beautifully. The photo was taken in January up high in Chalet I in the Baca Grande.

What’s happening with the Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department?

by Kizzen Laki

Jack Johnson of Alamosa has been hired by the Baca Grande Property Owners’ Association to be interim fire chief of the Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department. Johnson is retired from the Alamosa Fire Department, having served 25 years as a firefighter and 9 years as fire chief. He had served before as interim chief for the Baca for approximately 6 months in 2010/11. He is being paid a salary for 20 hours per week.

When we spoke mid-January, he said that one of his priorities was recruiting and training new volunteers for the department. He said then that, not including himself, there were 5 firefighters on the force, two that had been inactive, but had either rejoined or become active again. One of those is Robin Durrance who is now the paid part-time equipment manager. Jim Vanderpool is the deputy fire chief, a non-paid position. Since our conver-

sation, another long-time firefighter has resigned. Johnson said that as he lives in Alamosa, he would not respond to minor fires, but would readily come for house or wildfires.

Johnson said that he had 17 new people express interest in joining the department as part of his active recruitment and he would be meeting with them soon. His core group would train new recruits. In addressing concerns about the Baca’s small number of experienced firefighters, he emphasized that there is an “automatic response” in place with the Crestone Volunteer Fire Department. As part of a “Memorandum of Understanding” signed in March, 2012, if there is a fire call in the Baca, Crestone is automatically also called out.

Ben Brack, Crestone fire chief, has said that the experienced and highly-trained Crestone firefighters will rapidly respond and help with any Baca fires.

GUIDE TO POA POLITICS

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With
Diane

indiane@airstow@gmail.com
 719-256-5912



Vicious Cycle performs Thurs. Feb. 6 at Shumei.

February 6 Shumei hosts father-daughter-father-son quartet

Scott and Abby Swartz, along with Steve and Trevor Storm, have joined to become a father-daughter-father-son quartet called Vicious Cycle. Scott and Steve are playing acoustic guitars and singing, Trevor on electric guitar and Abby on bass. Join them on Thursday, February 6 at 7pm; \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Scott has played off and mostly on with Colorado's Grateful Dead cover band, Shakedown Street, now for almost twenty years. He was called to play with the Jerry Garcia Band for a brief time after Jerry died, filling Jerry's empty seat. Melvin Seals from the Jerry Garcia Band often plays with Shakedown Street even today. Scott has played with other great players nationally like Vince Wellnick, Jeff Pevar, Buddy Cage, and Vassar Clemens. During the week you might see Scott out delivering mail around Moffat. Almost every weekend, though, he's up in Denver playing with Shakedown and beyond, or coaching daughter Abby on bass. In short, Scott's one of the quiet local treasures not everyone may be aware of.

Steve and Trevor have been playing Celtic music mostly locally for over ten years, including several years on-stage at the Crestone Music Festival. Their sets always

manage to inspire. Trevor has been taking lessons on guitar from Scott now for several years, and it's definitely showing.

"Basically it's Scott and I having fun playing with our teen-age kids, hopefully passing the torch, while they're still around," says Steve. "We're keeping it simple and fun, learning cover songs. We'll be playing tunes from the Grateful Dead, the Beatles, Pink Floyd, as well as others less well known. Lots of singing. Of course Scott sings but I haven't been singing with my guitar on-stage for a long time. For me this has been so fun, just to step out and do something completely different. By the time we get some good harmonies going this band gets pretty heartfelt. This will be our only gig locally for several months." Please come out and enjoy some family!

For concert information visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 719-256-5284.

SLV Cancer Relief Fund concert Feb. 15 features Don Richmond, Tish Hinojosa & Michael Hearne

Music inspired by the San Luis Valley, Taos, and Texas will fill Leon Memorial Hall as Tish Hinojosa, Michael Hearne, and Don Richmond share their talents in a songwriter-in-the-round format to benefit the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund on Saturday, February 15, at 7pm in Leon Memorial Hall on the Adams State University campus. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for 18 & younger and can be purchased at The Green Spot in Alamosa, All Good Things in Monte Vista, and The Windsor Hotel in Del Norte.

The SLVCRF was established in 2006 by the late Tony Ross whose purpose was to "lift the spirits" of those battling cancer after he received emotional and monetary support while being treated for cancer. The fund has grown since Ross first initiated it. The fund was able to distribute \$11,900.00 to 59 patients in 2013, more than doubling the amount of patients it helped in 2012. The annual Concert for Cancer Relief is its biggest fundraiser of the year.

Tish Hinojosa, originally from San Antonio, Texas, grew up listening to traditional Mexican music and the pop and folk music of the 1960s before heading out on her own, first to northern New Mexico, then to Nashville, spending the past 9 years in Hamburg, Germany before returning home to Austin. Hinojosa was signed by A&M Records in 1987 after her independent release, *Taos to Tennessee*. She has released 16 CDs since then, exploring sounds from the country, folk, and Latino genres and winning multiple awards

along the way. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "simply put, Hinojosa is a first class songwriter", and the *Washington Post* describes her music as "vivid, touching, pointed, playful, engaging."

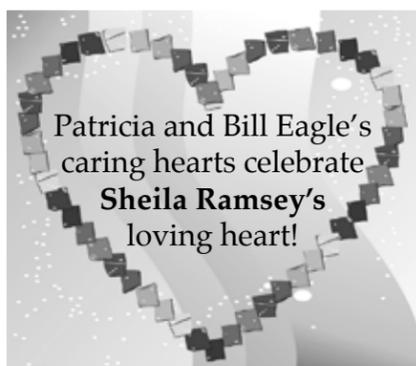
Michael Hearne was based in Taos, NM, from the early 1970s until 2011 when he headed for Austin, Texas. Hearne is largely responsible for what has come to be known as Southwest Americana music. His stellar guitar playing, "whiskey velvet voice", and original songs speak to the life he was born for . . . playing for, singing to, and interacting with audiences. His songs have won numerous awards from the New Mexico Music Awards and Hearne won the Texas Singer/Songwriter of the Year shortly after moving to Austin.

Alamosa's own Don Richmond has been playing music for more than 40 years and has been described as a "musician's musician" and as ". . . practically peerless as a picker, singer, producer, and arranger." Richmond is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist who plays just about anything with strings. Because of this, Richmond is often in demand to accompany musicians traveling through the southern Colorado, northern New Mexico area, including the likes of Susan Gibson, Chuck Pyle, Trout Fishing in America, Bob Livingston, and Tish Hinojosa.

These three combined promise an extraordinary night of excellent original music while raising funds to support the CRF's mission to assist cancer patients in the SLV. Richmond has become a staple of the annual concert, having been through the cancer journey himself. When Richmond was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer in 2007 he "received incredible community support . . . It meant so much to me and I really think it helped me get better." Because of that, Richmond is committed to giving back.

Teri McCartney, chair of the SLVCRF, is "thrilled to be involved in the growth of the fund. All of the money stays right here in the valley, going directly to cancer patients. Even a small gift can help people know others are thinking of them and they are not alone."

The SLVCRF is a totally volunteer organization with a small board of dedicated individuals who have been touched by cancer and want to help others in that journey. The bulk of funds raised comes from individual memberships and fundraisers like the Concert for Cancer Relief and the Memories and Reflections evening in December. Individuals wishing to become members or businesses wishing to sponsor the concert should visit slvcrf.org or contact McCartney at wellspring@att.net or send a check to the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund, PO Box 1297, Alamosa, CO, 81101.



3rd Annual Concert for

Cancer Relief

7 PM / SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

LEON MEMORIAL HALL
on the ASU Campus

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND



Michael Hearne

*
Tish Hinojosa

*
Don Richmond



Tickets \$25 Adults
\$15 under 18

Tickets available at:
Green Spot / Alamosa
All Good Things / Monte Vista
Windsor Hotel / Del Norte



Great Valentine's Day gifts available at the Crestone Artisans Gallery

In the heart of winter, there is no better time to celebrate matters of the heart than by choosing a special gift for someone special in your life. It's February—time to light up the dark corners brought on by cabin fever, trapped inside, hiding from the dark and the old!

Our gallery has a remarkable collection of affordable gifts for your loved one. There are large selections of artfully created greeting card with plenty of space to add your own personalized thoughts. There are books written by and about our local artists and travellers, to inform, not only about their lives, but about their talents. Then we have a collection of CDs performed by a collection of local performers, showing off their talents in a wide variety of music styles and moods.

And then, there are the jewelry collections, created by master artists using a remarkable array of materials, from gemstones, to elk horn, to fabric and feathers, to offer all of us an amazing choice of brilliant colors and textures as well as prices for every budget.

We offer the choices and a warm and inviting setting for you to select the perfect gift for Valentine's Day. Our knowledgeable staff is waiting for you and looking forward to serving you. Remember, the joy is in the giving!

NHN talent show planned for March 8

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is happy to announce the annual "Ole Cabin Fever" Talent Show will be held on Saturday, March 8 at the Crestone Charter School. This year's program has an awesome line up of local talent that will amaze and inspire you through these long winter months. We invite you to share the evening and witness the wonderful diverse talents that we have within our community. The evening's event also includes the Yummy Desert Auction with tasty cakes, muffins, and pies all created by our local talented cooks. Also important to note that Big Tom's Famous Trifle will also be up for the highest bidder this year. This dessert is guaranteed to be a desirable delight! In the school lobby area Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be presenting a silent action of various goods and services donated from the community. The doors will be open at 6pm and the show will begin at 6:30pm. Suggested donations of \$10 will be accepted at the door the night of the event.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is requesting volunteers for the

Cabin Fever event in the following areas: event assistants, event set-up and clean up, and auction assistants. If you are interested in helping out at this exciting event, please call Renee at 256-4741.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a 501(c)3 community emergency relief organization. All proceeds and donations go to the assistance of local individuals, families and community members in crisis.

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Winter Hours
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Crestone Artisans Gallery
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Thank You for shopping locally!



Welcoming you! Shannen Beelendorf, Narayan & Darshan Matz, Michael Byer, Michelle Beelendorf-Byer, Benjamin Byer, Orca Ross, Simone Chalfy, in front, Shoshana & Sunia Beelendorf.

Elephant Cloud moves into new store in downtown Crestone

by Mary Lowers

Michelle Beelendorf-Byer and partner Benjamin Byer are excited to have moved the Elephant Cloud to its new spacious location in the former Curt's Store on the corner of Cottonwood and Silver in Crestone. The store features an expanded selection of organic and whole food products. They carry the freshest organic produce available due to three-times-weekly produce deliveries. The expanded space allows for a large frozen food and dairy section, giving customers more choice and variety. All-organic meats will be a feature along with an expanded health and beauty section. Plus, they also are selling gasoline at the reopened pumps.

When you walk in the store a comfortable seating area greets you on the left. It features café-style tables and a kid's play area. An attractive wall of bulk food bins full of whole grains, beans and other bulk items stretches from the produce section toward the windows. Wide aisles, high ceilings and good lighting make it comfortable and easy to find things.

There is plenty of friendly staff ready to help shoppers.

Elephant Cloud also will help with special orders. You can get cases of whole food/organic products for 8% above wholesale through the store. Michelle, who has twenty years experience in the natural foods business, told me "We are dedicated to providing high quality service to the community. We are here to help people."

There are plans to produce to-go style foods in the store. There's also talk of a juice and smoothie bar by summertime. Stock will include more supplements and homeopathics. The increased space will also allow for more household items, small gifts and locally produced items in the store.

Michelle says hours will be expanding soon. On Tuesday and Thursday hours are 8am-8pm. Monday, Wednesday and Friday the store's open 8am-6pm and on Sunday hours are 9am-6pm. You can reach Elephant Cloud by phone at 719-496-0966 or by email at elephantcloud-tea@gmail.com.

Dear Elfin,

Still loving you with all my heart...

- Crazy Boy



Love on the Line

When the lights go out, SLVREC's linemen head out into the elements. Whether they are climbing poles, restoring power or clearing tree limbs to prevent future outages, they are never far from the hearts of the women who love them. This Valentine's Day, please take a moment to thank the women who support and love the men who brave the elements and work long hours to keep power flowing to our homes each and every day. Thank them for putting their love on the line.

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TO MY PERSONAL HERO:
SIR SMUGNESS, SSG RJP**



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We invite you to the new Elephant Cloud Market at 200 Cottonwood St. in downtown Crestone. Enjoy an abundant variety of organic and locally sourced produce. Explore our expanded selection of dry goods, bulk items, meats, milks and cheeses, coffees and teas. We look forward to seeing you soon in our new store.

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Sign up for weekly "what's fresh" email updates.

FRESH FLOWERS IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

CHECK OUR STORE FOR DAILY SPECIALS!

HAPS

Stay Warm Workshop Feb. 15

Saguache Works, a non-profit organization, announces the date for the 2014 Stay Warm Workshop. It is a one-day event planned for Saturday, 15 February from 9am to 4pm. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Talented instructors are completing class kits for your warming and learning pleasure. Registration for this workshop would make an excellent holiday gift.

Registration costs before February 7 is \$25. After that date, registration costs become \$35. Mark your calendar for a February 15 Saturday filled with skills for a warm wintry time. For more information call 719-655-0216.



NEIGHBORHOOD NATURAL GOODS Health Food Store

320 W. 7th St., Salida
Open Tues thru Sat
Kathy 539-7409

Saguache SNAP recipients discount-eligible

Residents eligible for SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps) can now receive a 20% discount on all food purchases at the 4th Street Food Store in Saguache. The food store, a nonprofit project of Saguache Works, aims to support local food producers and to make healthy and local food choices available to all county residents regardless of income. The EBT discount is made possible by a generous donation from the Saguache County Commissioners. Located inside the Welcome Center in downtown Saguache, the 4th Street Food Store is open from 10am to 4pm weekdays and from 10am to 3pm on weekends. For more information, please call 655-0216.

Articipate looking for board members

The Articipate Board of Directors is seeking new members for our team to provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Articipate's mission is to foster awareness and teach the importance of the arts in improving lives and building communities through workshops, performances and educational programs for all ages.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about Articipate's mission and who has a track record of board leadership. Selected board members will have achieved leadership stature in the arts, business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. To read the full Board and Officer Position Description, visit www.articipate.net.

For more information, contact Jessica DuBoe, Articipate Administrative Director, 719-530-1247, Jessica@earthart.org.

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Have fun & hurry back home to me!

ScSEED hosts discussion of Crestone's future economics

On Feb. 19, 5-6:30pm, Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (ScSEED) will be hosting a community forum in Crestone to share info on ScSEED projects and gather input from citizens about future economic development projects. Meet the ScSEED board and staff, share your ideas and enjoy light refreshments. For more info visit www.scseed.org

Shumei Free Movie

Please note the new day and time: February 15, Saturday, 3pm!

Shumei Free Movie hosts *Béla Fleck: Throw Down Your Heart*. Inspired by a love of African music and an interest in tracing the roots of the banjo, American banjo great Béla Fleck embarks on a musical journey through Uganda, Tanzania, Gambia and Mali, playing with locals and discovering the beauty of the land. Although often associated with the American south, the banjo is actually a descendent of an African instrument, which was brought across the ocean by slaves. Refreshments provided, 3pm, 256-5284.

Community Lunch Assistance

Free Spirit Christian Church is happy to announce that the CLAP for the Lord (Community Lunch Assistance Program) will be opened once again for free lunches at the Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat beginning on Tuesday, February 4, from noon to 2pm . . . every Tuesday and Friday for your dining enjoyment! We have a great group of volunteers, starting with David Zarecore who has been a cook in restaurants in the area, and various other people who are willing to volunteer to make this event happen. If you wish to help in any way, please feel free to call Angie at 719-650-5066. Donations always welcomed. Thank you all for your support! Please come and join us!

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dorjoroot@yahoo.com
www.rootsofhealing.com
46 Camino Baca Grande

Dear J,
Happy 21st Anniversary
You'll always be my Valentine!
love, K



"Before Family, Friends, and Nature" Thomas Jay Schultz and Debra Ann Powers bound their hearts together in matrimonial celebration here, in Crestone, on December 13, 2013. With glad tidings and heaps of gratitude they humbly remember the following: the Town of Crestone, the Dharma Sangha Zen Center, their friends at CreStore, as well as the many individuals who shared in the wedding joy and communion; who gave generously of their talent and time, tremendous energy and spirit, too numerous to name here. You know who you are! Namasté. Thanks to ALL, from the NewlyWeds.
photo by Scott Murrish

2014 Election: Democratic Party precinct caucuses March 4

If you want to participate in your local government and get involved at the grass roots level, your precinct caucus is a good starting place. Wonder what precinct you're in? Go to: <http://bit.ly/1dVgctR>. What issues are important to you that you would like to see be part of the Democratic Party platform? Go to your precinct caucus and let your voice be heard. Want to be a delegate to the county assembly where delegates to the state assembly are selected? Go to your precinct caucus. Working together we can make a difference and expand our community voice to the state level. Have questions about what will happen at the precinct caucus or county assembly? Contact Lynne 754-9163 sheebalt@yahoo.com, David 588-6961 david.burrill@earthlink.net, Judy 655-2320 jmarold1@gmail.com or Barb 719-221-8434 slvbarb498@gmail.com.

Democratic Party precinct caucuses on Tues., March 4 at 6:30pm will be held at:

- (Saguache/Villa Grove area) Saguache Road & Bridge meeting room
- (Crestone) Crestone Charter School
- (Moffat) Moffat School
- (Baca) Baca Grande Property Owners Assn. (POA) Hall
- (Center-west) and 7. (Center-east) Kiwanis Club

Thank You

20 Retired volunteers For your years of service!

B.G.F.D.

Community Calendar—February 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.

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Saturday, February 1

- 2014 Heritage Grant deadline – All Day www.sdcnha.org
- Recycling pickup – Secret Garden parking lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm By donation

Sunday, February 2

- BGPOA Natural Surroundings Committee meeting, Kloppenburg residence 1:30-4pm 256-4171

Monday, February 3

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center noon-8:00 pm

Thursday, February 6

- Concert at Shumei: Scott & Abby Swartz, Steve & Trevor Storm – Shumei International Institute 7:00 pm-9:00 pm \$10 suggested donation www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, February 8

- ALMA and Friends Benefit Concert – Bistro Rialto 7:00 pm-9:00 pm <http://www.almaonline.org/>

Sunday, February 9

- Monthly Sampai, Shumei Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
- Honoring of those cremated at CEOLP site – CEOLP cremation site 3:00 pm 719-256-4247

Monday, February 10

- Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 1:30 pm

Tuesday, February 11

- CEOLP monthly meeting – Topping House 7:00 pm 256-4247

Thursday, February 13

- Rumi Circle – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org
- Baca Grande Board of Directors meeting, Baca Grande POA 5pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, February 14

- Full moon – All Day
- Valentine's Day – All Day
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am babajashram.org 256-4108
- Blind Date with a Book – Baca Grande Library 11:30 am-5:00 pm 256-4100

Saturday, February 15

- Stay Warm fiber workshop – 9:00 am-4:00 pm Before 2/7 \$25; after that, \$35 719-655-0216
- 4th Annual SLV Seed Exchange – Crestone Charter School 11:00 am-3:00 pm 655-2011
- Shumei Free Movie – Shumei 3:00 pm 719-256-5284
- SLV Cancer Relief Fund Concert, Leon Memorial Hall, ASU 7pm Adults \$25, 18 & younger \$15

Monday, February 17

- Crestone Creative District community meeting, Crestone Town Hall 3pm coloradocreativeindustries.org/communities/creative-district-certification

Wednesday, February 19

- Discussion of Crestone's future economics – 5:00 pm-6:30 pm www.scseed.org

Friday, February 21

- Meeting re:skateboard park in Crestone 256-4313

Saturday, February 22

- Healthy Garden Expo – Adams State University
- CB Watershed Council educational event – Crestone Charter School 11am-3pm 256-4809
- Sharing the Love of Our Land – Crestone Charter School 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Thursday, February 27

- Sufi Dhikr All Welcome – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm free or by donation nurashkierrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, February 28

- Shivaratri – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 pm-4:00 am babajashram.org 719-256-4108

Saturday, March 1

- New Moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am babajashram.org 256-4108
- Recycling pickup – Secret Garden parking lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm By donation

Tuesday, March 4

- Democratic Party precinct caucuses – 6:30 pm 754-9163, 588-6961, 719-221-8434

Friday, March 7

- Open House – Salida Dermatology Clinic 5-7pm www.salidadermatology.com 719-539-5338

Saturday, March 8

- Talent show – Crestone Charter School 6:30 pm 256-4741

Tuesday, April 1

- Crestone Municipal Elections – Crestone Town Hall All Day 719-256-4313

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

- Dorje Trolo practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 256-5773
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719 937 7769

Monday

- DanZen with Diane Birch St Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am \$7 719-256-5912

- Zumba Toning Birch street studio 9-10am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- CCC "The Pack" Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-6pm Free 304-638-3743
- CCC Bellydance Fusion Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4:30 pm-6:00 pm \$40 719-480-5925

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Community Yoga for Everybody The Dreamweavers 9-11am sliding scale donation 256-5315
- CLAP free lunch Sangre de Cristo Trading Post noon-2:00 pm free 719-650-5066
- Awakening Artists Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-7pm Free 719-480-5925
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Zumba Fitness Birch street studio 9:00 am-10:00 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- DanZen with Diane Birch St Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am \$7 719-256-5912

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668
- CCC Meeting & Hangout Crestone Community Bldg (Old Schoolhouse) 4-8pm Free 719-480-5925

Friday

- Zumba Fitness - Abs & Glutes! Birch St. studio 9-10am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- CLAP free lunch Sangre de Cristo Trading Post 12:00 pm-2:00 pm 719-650-5066

Saturday

- Recycling pickup Secret Garden parking lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm By donation



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'Sharing our love of our land' Crestone Baca Watershed Council event Feb. 22

"Sharing Our Love for Our Land," a celebratory and educational event for the whole family, will be held at the Crestone Charter School Saturday February 22 from 1 to 4pm. Come to share gratitude for those "special places" in our greenbelts and common lands that give us renewal and to learn to more about our flora, fauna, stream-ways and ecosystems. This free event is sponsored by the Crestone-Baca Watershed Council (CBWC). With presentations and performances by local "lovers", displays, multi-media, maps and interactive activities there will be something for all ages.

We'll begin with an invocation at 1pm, followed by a presentations from Trout Unlimited on stream restoration at 1:15, from Crestone/Baca Land Trust at 2pm, on "birds of our greenbelts" at 2:30, from the Environmental Stewardship Network at 3pm, about bees and other pollinators in the greenbelts at 3:30, winding up with an overview of riparian ecology and the future of our watershed from the CBWC. All interspersed with interactive activities and performances. Art Projects and displays with a wealth of information will be ongoing. Please bring something you'd like to share such as poetry, photos, art work, tales of wildlife adventures.

The Crestone-Baca Watershed Council will hold a raffle to raise funds to purchase and plant native trees and shrubs and support our ongoing restoration and monitoring of

stream-way habitats. Donations to this local effort is encouraged.

The (CBWC) supports and promotes activities that maintain and enhance the health and biodiversity of local riparian habitats. In support of these objectives we engage in educational programs and events; riparian stewardship training; and advocate with government and local organizations.

Last month, the CBWC, working with the POA Natural Surroundings Committee was instrumental in the Baca Grande Property Owners' Association Board of Directors passing a resolution urging the Baca National Wildlife Refuge to adopt a cooperative water management plan protecting Baca streamways as part of the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan now being drafted. Since most of the water rights in our streams are owned by the refuge, management by the refuge to support Crestone and Baca Grande ecosystems—lacking for years—is of vital importance. Displays will be provided concerning the above information. Citizen input on this matter can make a difference. Send comments to Laurie Shannon, Planning Team Leader, Division of Refuge Planning, P.O. Box 25486, Denver, CO 80225, slvrefugeplanning@fws.gov.

Contact crestonebacawatershedcouncil@gmail.com, 256-4086 for more information.

Crestone Baca Watershed Council monthly meeting is Feb. 2 @ 1:30. Call 256-4677 for info.

Crestone Energy Fair planning for 2014

by **Donovan Spitzman**

As 2014 begins my head starts to spin with thoughts and ideas for the 25th Annual Crestone Energy Fair. Please contact me if you would like to coordinate, have ideas, encouragement or contacts to help support the development of this year's event.

Thank you to everyone who made 2013 possible. Financial contributions made by community members, combined with the remaining funds from Sagauche County, allowed the event to cover its financial obligations. The presenters (audio archive at ValleyRadiofm.com) and demonstrators who gave freely of their time and information. The Crestone Mercantile for donating food for Dave Kirchner's solar cooking demo, and Brenda Tolian for assisting Dave . . . all day. Alternative Power Enterprises for traveling from Ridgeway to provide a solar hardware presence. The Tiny home folks were kept busy answering questions. The Pirate Ship showed support by installing a solar system (which needs batteries), Chokurei and Nhat for feeding the people. Elianna for coordinating music on Saturday, Crestone Performance (Tom Dessain) for sound and Paul Shippee for guiding home tours on Sunday. Valleyradiofm.com for promoting, recording and archiving the event. Scott Murrish, Scott Swordy, the CCC and Patrick Moore for set-up and clean-up.

The Sangre de Cristo Inn provided lodging for presenters and musicians and an extra big thank you to the homeowners who opened their houses for the home tour. If you would like to have your home on this year's tour, please let me know. We are looking for as diverse a group as possible. Diverse in energy systems, building materials, building systems, unique design characteristics etc.

It is time to start the planning process for this year's event. Feel free to contact me by phone, 303-868-6352, with thoughts and ideas. During February and March we will focus on securing the foundational components and theme of the event. Keep up to date on Facebook at "Crestone Energy Fair 2014". The event is planned for August 23-24 with supporting Hands-On Workshops August 30-31 (Labor Day Weekend). If you would like to host a workshop, let me know. Thank you again to everyone who made last year happen.



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John Sisson doing a Back Five-0 grind on the half pipe skate ramp in Crestone's Town Park. (For all the skateboarding novices, that means he's facing his front to the rail, coping and grinding with only his rear truck/axle.) photo by Lori Nagel

Skateboard park

continued from page 1

fun physical activity for diverse age groups and an attraction for locals and visitors alike, say supporters. It could increase tourism, as there would be a fun place to bring children, and boarders from neighboring communities might come to join the fun.

In addition to skateboard-

ing, this park will also be open to roller skates, rollerblade, scooters or bikes. It allows a setting where people can socialize, where alcohol and drug use will not be tolerated. Skateboarding can be done year-round, as most skateboarders hardly ever think it's too cold or hot to practice. Contests and demos can be a big community event like many towns have soccer and baseball games. Crestone seems more in line with the individual thinking and camaraderie that skateboarding instills in each of its enthusiasts. Roman strongly believes that, "a skate park, if located and supported properly, will be appreciated, used frequently, and respected as if it were in people's own backyards."

Benny Roman has been receiving donations of skateboards and helmets in anticipation of being a lending venue for kids who do not yet have their own equipment.

The Crestone Charter School is now offering a skateboard mentorship program to the LINK students and may discuss further the possibility of opening this opportunity to the Middle School as well. First students learn how to fall and prevent injury and then, on an individual basis, improve their skating at their own comfortable pace.

Futher information and updates on this project can be found oth the Crestone Skateboard Conglomeration group on Facebook.

Crestone End of Life Project & Informed Final Choices

2014 finds both the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP) and its educational outreach branch Informed Final Choices (IFC) moving forward.

Lorraine Cazier and Jeanie Krogh have assumed the role of CEOLP Registrar. If you need registration materials call Lorraine at 937-7802.

Jo Anne Kiser and Martin Macaulay have collaborated to produce beautiful notecards which feature a watercolor done by Jo Anne of the CEOLP cremation site in spring, with the Sangre de Cristo range towering behind. The cards are available, 10 for \$10, from Stephanie Gaines at 588-7415.

CEOLP will be hosting its annual contemplative retreat for volunteers at Dragon Mountain Retreat Center, on Sunday, February 9. The retreat day is an interweaving of contemplative practice, discussion and personal sharing focused on our service to the community and our relationship to the life-death continuum. The final activity of the day is to gather at the cremation site, where

we read the name of and honor each individual who has consecrated the site through having been cremated there. If you would like to join us for this ceremony, please arrive at the site by 3pm.

Informed Final Choices has received nonprofit approval from the IRS and will complete the process for receiving the Annenberg/Metabolic Studio grant of \$12,000. The funds will be used to sponsor, throughout the area, a range of workshops; Death Cafes; information sessions on Advance Directives and end-of-life-choice as well as trainings in how to conduct Home Funerals. The first event sponsored by IFC was held in Fort Collins. A Death Café, hosted by Anna Louise Stewart and Mark Talbot, was a great success—in spite of contending with Super Bowl play-offs and beautiful weather.

If you would like to know more about our unique service, attend our monthly meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 7pm at the Topping House, 33 Sunset Overlook. Call 256-4247 for information and directions.



Crestone End of Life Project
Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment
Call 719.588.7415 or 719.937.7802 for information/materials
www.crestone-end-of-life.org • email: ceolp.info@gmail.com

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Everything will be all right if you only will! - James Taylor
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Attend our meeting **Tuesday, February 11th** at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left past the Century 21 office). Call Wayne at 256.4247 for directions/information.

Dear Crazy Boy, Though you can never get a surprise pasture, Now you just the same. Forever be my valentine, ~ Effie

Grow a Garden Series: Seed exchange Feb. 15 & Healthy Garden Expo Feb. 22

The Infinite Bee invites you to dig into health with the Grow A Garden Series, two events highlighting organic gardening and the cycle of health: from soil, to seed, to you. The 4th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange is on Saturday, February 15 from 11am-3pm in the Crestone Charter School's Rainbow Room, located at 330 Lime Avenue. The seed exchange will feature locally grown seeds from area gardeners and farmers. Paul Niebel of Kirby House Agro, Esteban Salazar, and Leigh Mills are among the many experienced seed growers and savers who will be sharing their knowledge and homegrown,

high altitude, heirloom seeds.

This event is a great opportunity for new, experienced, or "still researching" gardeners to network with other gardeners about the challenges and rewards of high altitude, high desert gardening. Tables will be available for gardeners to sit with their seed and exchange with other gardeners and event participants for new seeds, information, or possibly cash donations. Biodynamic calendars will be available for purchase and a door prize giveaway features products donated by Grow A Garden sponsors. Everyone is invited to exchange seeds, ideas, experience and energy. Bartering is welcome. Admission is free.

The Healthy Garden Expo is planned for the following weekend, Saturday, February 22 from 11am-3pm in the HPPE building, East Campus, Adams State University. Over 30 tables will show the cycle of health: from the soil, to seed, to you. San Luis Valley organic farmers, gardeners and seed savers, soil and water experts, beekeepers, greenhouse growers, natural food caterers, soap, salve and balm makers, homegrown tea and medicinal



Over 200 regional seed savers and seed receivers came to the 3rd Annual SLV Seed Exchange at Joyful Journey in 2013.

herbs, garden consulting, books and biodynamic calendars, health and physical fitness coaches, and many examples of responsible living will be represented at this event. There will be a "Micro-Garden Corner" which will have all the components necessary for you to grow sprouts or create a mini garden, perfect for windowsills or dorm rooms; and the Alamosa Community Gardens will host a rosemary sachet hands-on activity and demonstrate how to make rosemary salve. A Healthy Garden Food Court is being planned and hosted by SLV caterers who will be offering whole-food snacks, beverages, and alternative sweets

to event participants. A door prize give-away is scheduled for the afternoon with products donated by Grow A Garden sponsors. A \$2 donation/admission will be asked, with no one turned away.

The Infinite Bee invites everyone to experience the entire cycle of health and thanks all the sponsors and volunteers who are helping make this event possible. For more information about the 4th Annual SLV Seed Exchange and the Healthy Garden Expo, please visit the Grow A Garden webpage: theinfinitebee.com/index.php/grow-a-garden-series or call Leigh Mills at 719-655-2011.

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**2 Events Highlighting Organic Gardening & the Cycle of Health in the San Luis Valley
Everyone Invited!**

4th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange

Saturday, February 15 ~ 11am ~ 3pm
Crestone Charter School ~ 330 Lime Avenue

Exchange Seeds, Ideas, Experience, & Energy
Locally Grown Seeds Available
Gardening Info & Biodynamic Calendars
Door Prize Give-Away + Free Admission

The Healthy Garden Expo

Saturday, February 22 ~ 11am ~ 3pm
HPPE Building, corner of 1st & La Veta Avenue
Adams State University - East Campus

Over 30 Tables Filled with Information and Products Showing the Cycle of Health
From the Soil » to Seed » to You
Locally Grown, Heirloom Seeds Available

Create an indoor Micro Garden

Learn how to make Rosemary Sachets

Healthy Garden Food Court

Door Prize Give-Away

\$2 Donation/Admission – Kids under 12 free

The Infinite Bee would like to sincerely thank all the Grow A Garden Sponsors whose contribution made this event possible

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 Green Spot Garden Center & Antiques + Body Tune-Up



Crestone/Center:

Matie Belle's Garden + Elephant Cloud Market + Cynthia Nielsen LMT, RYT + Shumei International Institute
 Living Arts Institute + Shakti Sharanam Yoga Shala



Villa Grove/Moffat:

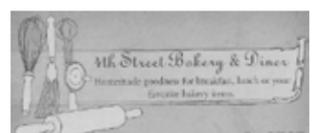
Helen Martin's Miramonte Pottery + ChoKuRei Ranch & Farm

Saguache:

4th Street Food Store + Saguache Crescent Newspaper
 Green Earth Farm + Saguache Chamber of Commerce

Salida/Arkansas Valley:

Kathy's Neighborhood Natural Goods + Vital Living
 Simple Foods Market + Beyond the Hive + Hobbs Family Farm
 Colorado Central Magazine + Brady's West Garden Center + Sunshine Market



For More Information, Contact Leigh Mills – slvseedexchange@gmail.com
TheInfiniteBee.com – Grow A Garden Series 719-655-2011

Who We Are

William and Brahma Howell: Finding and offering spiritual sanctuary

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Brahmi Howell remembers that as a young girl, a few simple words her father once spoke about her amounted to the kindest gesture he possibly could have made on her behalf. With an older and younger sister both excelling in school, Brahma (then known as Barbara) was struggling with her studies. She loved to read but was restless and physically active and found it a constant challenge to sit at a desk. Her teachers, aware of her older sister's stellar scholastic record, had expectations Brahma knew she could never fulfill. So it was an enormous relief and gift one day when she heard her father say, "Let her alone. Her school is the school of life."

And so it has turned out to be: a school whose breadth has encompassed continents, whose depth reaches into the heart of many of the world's wisdom traditions, and whose circuitous curriculum she has shared, for the past 30 years, with her husband, poet and fellow spiritual traveler William Howell. Somewhere along the way, the two discovered the complementary nature of their inclinations and skills. "I feel like she has a PhD in intuition," William says, smiling quietly at his wife as they sit in the living room of their comfortable townhome, surrounded by colors and handcrafted items from travels in India and Central America. He likens their partnership in life to a steam engine whose pistons slowly gain speed: Brahma's insights set things in motion and his energy and collaborative nature usher them toward a goal.

Vision into reality

Together, beginning in the early 1990s, William and Brahma cre-

ated the nonprofit Sanctuary House. First in Snowmass, Colorado and later in Crestone, it was a space devoted to spiritual authenticity where seekers on a variety of paths could gather, practice, and be inspired. In the foothills near Crestone, Sanctuary House was built between 1995 and 2004 and hosted retreatants, lamas, yogis, and sheikhs. The space contained shrine rooms for Hindu/Vedic, Buddhist/Zen, Jewish/Christian, and Sufi/Muslim traditions, as well as a central labyrinth modeled after the original at Chartres Cathedral in France. In 2004 the Howells sold the facility and moved in a more inward direction. Yet the sharing of experiences on the journey toward human wholeness continues as Brahma and William offer space in their townhome for satsangs and other gatherings with local or invited teachers.

One group that met there for a time, and with which the Howells have been actively involved from its inception, is the Crestone End of Life Project. The open-air cremation of William's mother Laverne in 2001 inspired the organization's founding, and William continues to serve as CEOLP's secretary. The more community-involved of the couple, William was active in helping found the Crestone Charter School. He also supported the establishment of CB Village, which matches local residents in need of personal assistance with community members who have the skills and time to help. Most recently, William and Brahma envisioned and created the Camino de Crestone (caminodecrestone.com), a week-long interfaith spiritual experience modeled after the sacred pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, which they walked in the fall of 2012.

West and east from Missouri

Brahmi and William, now 72 and 67 respectively, like to note that they both began their life's walk in Kansas City, Missouri, although neither stayed there long. Brahma grew up on the west side of Los Angeles, at a time when California's population was much smaller and the beaches and mountains were her playground. She married early and raised three children. In her early 30s she read *Autobiography of a Yogi* and was inspired to actively set her feet on a lifelong spiritual path.

William's family moved east from Kansas City when he was five. His father, a civil engineer, was in charge of building Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. and later settled the family in Chicago. William studied economics and political science at Knox



William and Brahma at Bapu's ashram in India's Gujarat state.

College in Galesburg, Illinois, but knew he was not cut out for the 9 to 5 world. He held a series of service-oriented and teaching jobs, was a conscientious objector assigned to work in a Denver hospital emergency room during the Vietnam War, and became deeply involved in practicing and teaching Transcendental Meditation (TM). In 1981 he earned an MFA in poetry from the

University of Arkansas. felt that the spiritual journey was over—but I sure was cautious after that," Brahma says in her warm, bright manner. The two were married in Snowmass in 1987. They began healing from the cult experience through the contemplative tradition of Christian mysticism, inspired by the life and teachings of Trappist Father Thomas Keating, who remains their mentor.

The integrated journey

William and Brahma (who for a time went by the name Baladevi) moved to Crestone in 1994. Over the years they have met and absorbed teachings from adepts including Sheika Fariha Fatima al-Jerrahi of the Sufi tradition, and the Dalai Lama. They consider Saint Francis their patron saint. And their primary teacher is Sri Punitachariji Maharaj, known as Bapu, who visited Crestone in 1999. "To me, the one word that describes our journey is integration," Wil-

liam observes. "Physics says that the whole universe is in every part of the universe. All the great incarnations fall under that oneness."

With its wealth of spiritual centers and spirit of openness, Crestone represents the evolving collective consciousness, or morphogenetic field, that unites all the wisdom traditions, William believes. "They're all beads in a common necklace, and humanity already wears that necklace," he says. Brahma adds that she sees the intensity of challenges and opportunity in the world today reflected on a local scale. "It's a waking up, almost like a film coming off the eyes by the present community here—a lot of strong people, wisdom, and elders," she muses. "We don't know what it's

going to look like, and it won't be without challenges, but there's a lot of intention. It's not easy, but it's an amazing time to be here."

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

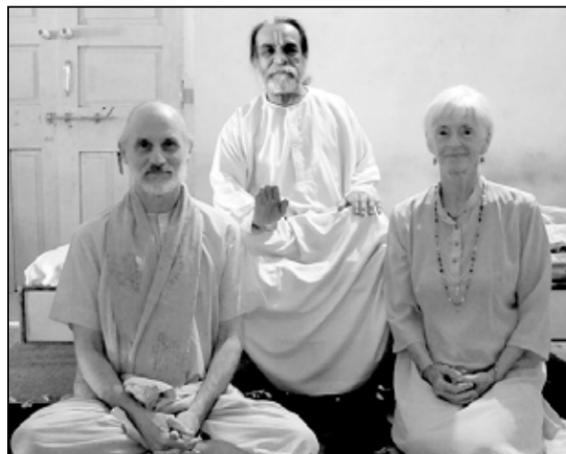


William Howell, Yuki (Brahmi's daughter-in-law) and Yuki's daughter Miako in the center of the concrete labyrinth at the former Sanctuary House, designed after the original at Chartres Cathedral in France.

University of Arkansas.

Enthralled & released

William and Brahma met in 1983 in Victoria, British Columbia. Both had been drawn there by the magnetic pull of a charismatic TM teacher—into what they later realized was a cult. The group "promised full development of what a



With their main teacher, Sri Punitachariji Maharaj, known as Bapu.

human being is, but the leader was not anywhere near that," William relates. After perceiving the leader's far-from-enlightened qualities, he and Brahma were ejected from the group. "What's interesting to me is: I never for a moment

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Help create Crestone Creative District—encourage the arts, cultural tourism, & more—meet Feb. 17

by Robin Rosenberg

Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado's state arts agency and a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, announced on Dec. 30 that it will accept letters of interest from towns, cities and neighborhood groups seeking formal designation from the State of Colorado as a Certified Creative District. "The goal of this program is to help Colorado Creative Districts achieve the administrative structure, funding streams, community engagement process, strategic plan and staff structure that provide both immediate sustainability and opportunities to evolve," said Margaret Hunt, director of CCI. Its purpose is to capitalize on our creative sector to enhance economic growth in Colorado commu-

nities; to expand the economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life.

In 2011, the Colorado legislature passed HB11-1031 encouraging the formation of Creative Districts in communities, neighborhoods and towns for the purposes of:

Attracting artists and creative entrepreneurs to a community, infusing new energy and innovation, which in turn will enhance the economic and civic capital of the community;

Creating hubs of economic activity, thereby enhancing the area as an appealing place to live, visit and conduct business, as well as create new economic activity by:

- Attracting visitors
- Revitalizing and beautifying communities
- Providing a focal point for

celebrating and strengthening a community's unique identity

- Showcasing cultural and artistic organizations, events and amenities

- Contributing to the development of healthy communities

- Improving the quality of life of the State's residents

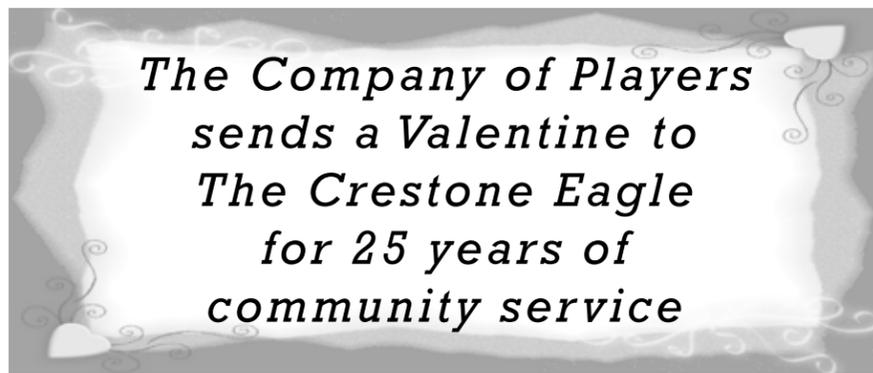
The program initiated, in 2011, certified Denver's Art District and in 2012, Downtown Salida. In 2013, five more districts were granted state certification: Corazon de Trinidad, North Fork Valley, Pueblo Creative Corridor, Ridgway Creative District and Telluride Arts District.

There is a two-step application process. Interested communities must submit a letter of interest by March 3. CCI will review the letters of interest and conduct site visits. Up to 15 communities will be invited to submit applications for candidacy, reviewed by a panel of professionals with experience in arts and creative industries, city planning, economic development and business development. Once accepted, there is a two-year training period to develop sustainability and if certified in 2016, the successful candidates will be eligible to receive a Boettcher Leadership Award of \$25,000. "The state's newly

designated Creative Districts are capitalizing on Colorado's creative assets to grow their local economy and to improve the quality of life for their residents," said Tim Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation.

Crestone is a creative and culturally diverse community! Please come and learn more about how Crestone can become a Creative District. Anyone interested in creating economic growth through arts and culture is invited to participate, including arts organizations, spiritual centers, non-profits, for profit businesses and community-minded citizens. Join a steering committee to help launch this innovative project. Everyone is welcome. There will be a community meeting at the Crestone Town Hall on February 17 at 3pm.

If you would like to research further information and application guidelines, please go to: coloradocreativeindustries.org/communities/creative-district-certification.



The Crestone Eagle celebrated its 25th Anniversary with an open house on January 18. The Eagle is now the longest running business in Crestone. People arrived in droves! Catered by Bon Deleagar (plus help from friends), this event was filled with great people, delicious food and lively conversation! Thank you all for coming! photos & collage by Lori Nagel

Moving Up Higher It's all about love

by Joyce Meyer

The most important thing we can do as Christians is love God and love people. But before we can love anyone, we have to receive God's love. Because you can't give away something you don't have.

So, do you really know that God loves you? It's one thing to understand that God is love and He loves you, but it's another to know and experience His love personally. Where the mind goes, the man follows.

If you need to get a deeper revelation of God's love for you, a good place to start is to meditate on this truth based on God's Word: "God loves me unconditionally!"

The truth about God's love

Many years ago when I was preparing to teach my first public message, I felt like God was speaking to my heart to tell people He loves them. At first, I wasn't excited about this because it seemed too simple, so I told God, "They already know that. And I don't want to just teach a little Sunday school lesson." But God showed me that many people don't really know how much He loves them, because if they did, they would act a lot differently than they do.

God's love is amazing! First John 4:16 says God is love. And verse 18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear . . ." (NKJV). God's love can remove fear from your life. It's a medicine that can heal every wound in your soul: a broken heart, the pain of rejection or abandonment or any other hurt you've experienced.

When you know God loves you, you feel valuable, accepted and that you have a purpose. You know your sins are forgiven and you are free from guilt and condemnation. And no matter what you've

done, you can have a new beginning in Christ.

I want to encourage you to be determined to know and receive God's love for you. Study scriptures about God's love and make them personal confessions you can declare over your life. Look at yourself in the mirror and say out loud, "God loves me! He chose me, actually picked me out for Himself to have a personal relationship with Him. I am more than a conqueror in Christ because He loves me, and His perfect love casts fear out of my life."

It's more than a feeling

The most important thing to God is that we love each other unconditionally. Love is not a theory or a gooey feeling; it's about how you treat people. And we start loving people with our thoughts. How do you think about people?

If you're going to walk in love, you have to set your mind and keep it set that you're going to walk in love. Our natural tendency is to be selfish, but the solution to overcoming a selfish, self-centered life is to love aggressively. Start with your thoughts and make this your confession: "I love people and I enjoy helping them."

I've found that when I'm focusing on others and how I can bless them, I'm more peaceful and have more joy. Make it your business to put a smile on someone's face and do something that makes someone's life better every day. Trust God to take care of you. If you stay busy trying to help others, you won't have time to worry about yourself. And you'll enjoy living a life of love.



Engin OytaÇ visited Crestone to launch 'KarmaBarter', a giving, receiving & sharing global website

by Rich Jewett

Can you imagine Crestone Chill gone global? Imagine a sharing community at a worldwide level, acts of kindness and social responsibility exchanged between individuals and corporations, creating a spirit of sharing, giving and receiving. As David Hillman said, "KarmaBarter takes the word 'barter' to an exponential place with multiple ways to operate within and without monetary systems."

Engin OytaÇ visited Crestone in January to launch the pilot, KarmaBarter. Open to the public for the first time, this new giving and receiving social media service recognizes that everyone has something to give and receive.

In the design process with his team for three years, KarmaBarter provides a missing link, matching resources and needs both locally and globally. For example, on a local level it can help groups like Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Crestone Baca Village access resources outside the community, even through the crowd-sourcing of funds. By creating a "give" and a "receive," individuals and organizations can gain "karma" by fulfilling each other's requests, even in a collective way. KarmaBarter can show the world how a sharing economy can work with social responsibility and vast possibility. Via a review process by KarmaBarter participants, businesses can demonstrate their willingness to be good world community members. Accumulated reviews give KarmaBarter the potential to serve globally similar to Angie's List, the Better Business Bureau or Consumer Reports.

During his stay, Engin met with Crestone Mayor Kairina Danforth, who commented, "Our community has been uniquely honored to be chosen at the beginning for Engin's groundbreaking and visionary creation of the pathway for both giving and receiving that beckons each of us onwards and upwards." Kairina will host community meetings in February and March to support the KarmaBarter pilot in Crestone. Please watch the *Eagle* online calendar for details.

One participant in the pilot said that this is a chance for Crestone, the chosen birthplace of KarmaBarter, to demonstrate our values of equality, hope, sharing and trusting on a global level. We have a chance to show the world how it's done. Nathan Good said

it's a way to actualize the 7th Generation Philosophy. Swaha said, "People want this, a way of connecting with the world and expressing social responsibility. The corporate possibilities are exciting." Moira Forsythe commented that the site elegant, more engaging than Facebook, the colors energetic, while Lisa Bodey added, "KarmaBarter is opening me up to abundance as it broadens our access toward our pursuits and interests. It takes what we do well in Crestone and gives us a global reach."

As the person who suggested Crestone for the pilot, Pamela Ramadei said, "It's energizing to be engaged in such a meaningful project with the potential to enhance the way we exchange goods and services in our world. I'm delighted to have introduced Engin to my Crestone Community and am honored to be working with a man of Engin's integrity and intuition. He values the human qualities of dignity, trust, holism and spirituality and is alert to preconceived notions and judgments; willing and able to be responsive and co-creative with high presence and clear communication."

Engin OytaÇ attended the University of Washington and worked for various start-ups in Seattle before returning to his home country of Turkey. He has since successfully established a number of startups and acquired reputable Turkish partners like KoÇ Holdings (No. 217 in Fortune Global 500). With his past experience in need-based and status-based marketing economics, Engin has created KarmaBarter as a vehicle for moving to cause-based marketing rooted in global community values.

As an Executive Leadership Coach and Master Certified Coach with the International Coach Federation, Pamela Ramadei has been named the Chief Wisdom Officer for KarmaBarter, guiding adherence to KarmaBarter's values, vision, purpose and promises. She is the Community Administrator for the KarmaBarter pilot in Crestone, and is facilitating the ongoing collective wisdom process.

Thanks to those of you who met with Engin and gave invaluable feedback; please keep it coming! Please join the KarmaBarter pilot by setting up a free account at www.karmabarter.com. Local contacts: pamela@choicetochange.com or richjewett@earthlink.net.

Joyce Meyer Article

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Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Saguache County funds four projects of the Crestone Solar Corps

The Crestone Solar Corps, initiated in 2008 by the Learning Center, has been the recipient of support and funds from the Saguache County Tax Revenue Grant in four grant cycles. Wonderful to live in a county that gives our youth, renewable energy and hands-on education a real chance

where little starter plants are already growing, protected and sunlit. The second two projects paid students who learned to sew and install insulated curtains. Two solariums on different homes and the greenhouse received curtains. Our homes are warmer through the winter and during the summer the curtains provide privacy and living space for workshops. The fourth project was completed last fall, as unemployed youth worked hard installing radiant heat in our Meditation Dome. The dome is open for meditation, and since it is close to town, we consider it a community resource. The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center is also grateful to the



Ben Potter, Abby Swartz and David Burril (from left to right), hard at work installing radiant floor heat in the meditation dome at the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center.

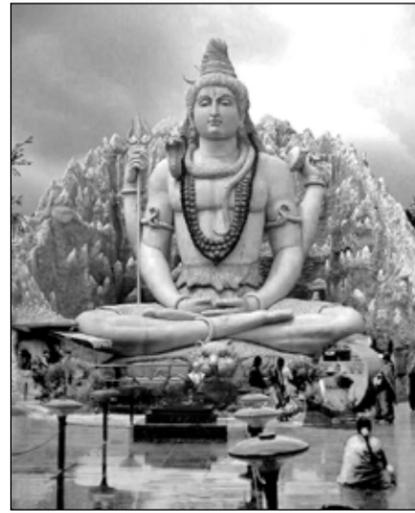
in the SLV. There are limited opportunities for young people in our sparsely populated and spacious valley, and it is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the forward-looking generosity of Saguache County.

Conceived as a model for non-profits who wish to collaborate with funders, students and unemployed youth to improve energy efficiency and renewable technology skills in our community, students are paid to earn-as-they learn and wages are a much-needed inflow of money.

For our first project, charter school students retrofitted an old potting shed into a greenhouse

many students who worked hard and accomplished project goals in cooperation and good-spirits. It has been fun!

Every Tuesday evening at 5:30, a sizeable group meets for good food followed by reading and discussion of Sri Aurobindo's Essays on the Gita. This commentary on India's beloved Bhagavad Gita is quite influential in its home country. Following our preliminary study, Rod Hemsell will return from Auroville and lead intensive discussions. All are welcome at Solar Bridge, 84 Baca Grant Way, and you can call Brian at 256-6010 for information.



Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

We began the new year with a powerful sacred fire ceremony and several visitors. The following weekend we had Bal Gokulam (children's program), which was well attended and focused on Maha Lakshmi. The next week I left for ten days to Florida where I was joined by six other traveling devotees and we conducted fire ceremonies, workshops, and chanting evenings. It is always a sweet time with lots of old and new friends coming together for ceremonies filled with very high energy. It was delightful too, after the continual cold temperatures in Crestone, to walk on the beaches and even take a few dips in the gulf and the ocean. From there I headed for California where I did a few programs but mostly visited family.

The big event at the ashram in February is on the last night, Friday, February 28, Shivaratri. This is the night that the energy of

Lord Shiva, the great transformer, is said to be most powerful on the earth. To honor this, we sing chants to Lord Shiva from 10pm until 4am the next morning. The singing is interspersed every three hours with four pujas to Shiva. They are at 7pm, 10pm, 1am, and 4am. The next morning, Saturday, March 1, we will have a fire ceremony (new-moon) at 10am. Our full-moon fire ceremony is on Friday, February 14 at 10am. The fire ceremonies are followed by a meal. Morning aarati will shift back to 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 6:30am there is a paduka puja (washing of Shri Babaji's sandals) in His kutir (just to the west of the temple) followed by chandan.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has been updated and you may view many items on-line at mahalakshmiashram.org.

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



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*I was dead, then alive.
Weeping, then laughing.
The power of love came into me,
and I became fierce like a lion,
then tender like the evening star.*
~ Rumi

to: my Michael, who completes me - your Dom

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Wildlife

continued from page 1

District, and Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife, as well as other interested parties. Jennie Nearing and two landowners represented the county's efforts to preserve the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

Commissioner Linda Joseph, who chaired the meeting, described the collaborative efforts of ten counties to preserve habitat and populations of the Gunnison Sage Grouse, which is currently being considered for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The service is under pressure from national environmental groups to make the listing. If listed, private landowners and local public lands agencies would be restricted in what they could do with their land, as federal regulators would begin making the decisions. Local landowners and agencies have observed that decisions made in Washington don't often make sense on the ground, either in protecting the species or in terms of private landowners' land-use interests. However, many landowners are becoming willing to make serious efforts to protect species in collaboration with other landowners and local agencies. For instance, a Habitat Conservation Plan developed to protect the Southwest Willow Flycatcher habitat along critical waterways in the San Luis Valley seems to be working fairly well. Joseph has reported the positive experience she has had working with other counties to preserve the Gunnison Sage Grouse. The plan developed by the Gunnison Sage Grouse Strategic Committee has now gone to the feds for approval. If the local plan is approved, it will be a landmark effort to provide a local solution for species protection, and is being watched carefully by agencies in a ten-state area that anticipate a potential Threatened or Endangered

Species Listing for the Greater Sage Grouse.

Jennie Nearing reported that Gunnison Sage Grouse are being transplanted back into historic habitat south of Poncha Pass, with the cooperation of private landowners. Fifteen young birds were transplanted in the fall. So far, there have been two mortalities related to power lines and one mortality for no obvious reason. They are hopeful that the other 12 are still doing well and will begin to breed in the spring. Other transplants are planned for the spring.

Besides discussion around Sage Grouse issues, Laura Archuleta with the FS/BLM Environmental Contaminant Program talked about the positive experience of working collaboratively with landowners to clean up Kerber Creek. Visitors to the Bonanza area may remember when the creek was a dead zone with copper-red water running for miles down the canyon. It was fouled with toxic mine waste from the Bonanza mining days. Over the last decade, with the help and collaboration of private landowners and public agencies, as well as VISTA volunteers, the creek has been returned to a much more natural state that can support fish and other wildlife.

Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife representatives Rick Basagoitia, Area Wildlife Manager, and Jason Surface, Wildlife Officer for the Saguache District, discussed their plans for protecting the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, another troubled species. Sometimes good intentions go awry. For years, wildlife officers stocked non-native Brook and Rainbow trout to improve fisheries. However the species began to outcompete and interbreed with native Cutthroats until the purebred natives are now in danger. Other factors affecting the populations include the drought, which has dried up smaller streams that the Cutthroats use

for breeding, and ash flows from fires in the area. Basagoitia and Surface said plans are being developed to remove the non-natives from certain SLV streams and restock with fairly pure Cutthroats. Surface said very few purebred Cutthroats are available to use for fish stocks at this point. The plan, which is on the Parks and Wildlife website, has six steps: 1) Monitor and look for new populations that can be used for genetic material 2) Secure native populations and remove other competing species 3) Restoration of historic stream sites 4) Protect habitat 5) Educate the public, and 6) Maintain a database of populations in Colorado and New Mexico. So far, streams identified for restocking are all on the western side of the valley, although Fred Bunch of the Great Sand Dunes National Park said there are similar plans for Sand Creek on the eastern side. Treatment of streams will involve building temporary dams to hold back stream water, treating the dammed areas with Rotenone, a naturally occurring insecticide that also kills fish by denying oxygen, then with Potassium Permanganate. This will remove competing species, and then streams will be restocked with Cutthroat trout stocks. This will take several years to complete, and habitat restoration will be an important part of the plan. Basagoitia reports that the species will be considered for Threatened and Endangered listing in September. He said he is not sure what advan-

tage that would have, as they are already doing everything possible to protect the Cutthroat as it is.

Coyotes was another topic that has generated interest this year. Coyotes have become so abundant and bothersome to livestock that the County has placed a \$5 bounty on the creatures. Basagoitia mentioned that studies now show that shooting and trapping the animals has little long-term impact on their numbers. Apparently, like their chief prey, rabbits, they increase or decrease their breeding to fit conditions.

Other topics and species being studied in the county include: bats and white nose disease; Rocky Mountain Sheep and wild turkey transplants by FWS; elk, bison and bears by Great Sand Dunes NP; grazing plans, timber management and landscape-scale fire by Forest Service; solar, weeds, and outfitting by BLM; and, closer to home, the Baca National Wildlife Refuge Management Plan and conservation easements by the local wildlife refuges. Laura Archuleta mentioned a new study on pharmaceuticals in drinking water, which could have implications for the Baca.

Joseph asked for consensus on future meetings, and a decision was made to meet quarterly, with working groups on various topics meeting in between. Agency representatives expressed satisfaction with the meeting. Mike Blenden, Director of the local fish and wildlife refuges, said, "I appreciate Saguache County having an interest in wildlife. It doesn't happen everywhere."



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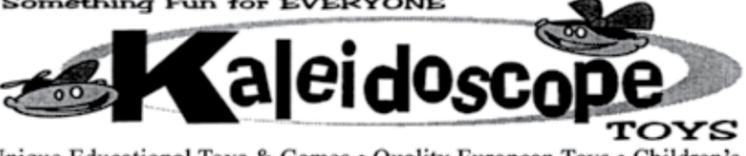


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A Company of Players interview with David Harper

From time to time the Company of Players interviews one of its members, sharing its personalities with the Crestone community. This month we feature David Harper (DH), known to everyone as Harper. After a year's absence, Harper returned to the company as part of the December Dinner Theater Extravaganza at Chokurei. In addition to having served with the fire company, Harper creates a radio music show at KRZA. He also assists Lisa Bodey with the Crestone Creative Council, as well as tutoring elementary school children in reading at the charter school. Ammi Kohn (AK) is the interviewer.

AK: How did you get involved with the Company of Players?

DH: Stacia, who now lives near Philadelphia and had been in a show with the company, heard me tell a story and urged me to join. Her connection continues. She might very well be a long distance player in our next production, Radio Daze, in April.

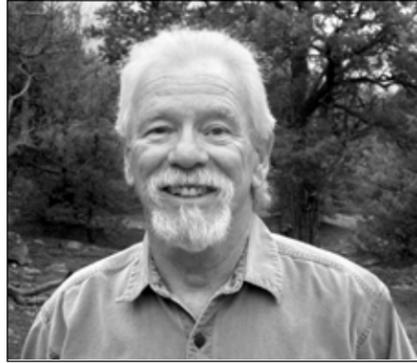
AK: The idea of the company using a radio show format was yours. The company loved it. Did you listen to radio when you were young?

DH: It was Rock and Roll time, baby! The Radio Daze idea was probably stimulated by my music show at KRZA, Monday Morning Mixup, heard on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 9-noon. Growing up in New York City was

great, even with a crazy childhood.

AK: Your childhood was crazy?

DH: I grew up in a black neighborhood in New York City, Bed Sty (Bedford-Stuyvesant). I was a scrawny white kid who got beat up every day. Once I was near



dead, three months in the hospital. My life has been violent. I was a marine in Viet Nam at 19. PTSD as a child and PTSD as an adult.

AK: And yet you write beautiful gentle loving stories for your grandson.

DH: You can't go through life bitter. Although I've had a full life and it feels mostly tragic, the tales for my grandson and other stories I write for myself reflect dealing with life, not being afraid of reality and confrontation. My grandson is 4 years old and loves them.

AK: Last words?

DH: I'm in love with my life, its been an interesting story. I want to share it with others.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

by Ish



1/ Lay the Favorite: In this fun and interesting Indie comedy a bubbly young lady leaves her job as a Florida stripper and heads out to Las Vegas where she joins forces with a professional sports bookie. Because of her savvy she becomes his good-luck charm . . . till his jealous wife adds spice to the plot. Bruce Willis, Catherine Zeta-Jones and other. (3 stars)

2/ Unknown: A group of men wake up and don't know who they are or why they are found to be in a locked-down warehouse. They must work together to find out who's who in order to avoid execution. A taut crime and psychological mystery thriller. Jim Caviezel, Greg Kinnear, Bridget Moynahan, Joe Pantoliano & others. (3 stars)

3/ Awake: This is a TV series with 13 episodes. After surviving a near devastating car crash a detective travels between two realities or versions of his life or his reality. He sometimes knows things but not why or how he knows them as he pursues criminals in both realities. Sci-Fi fantasy I really liked (4 stars)

4/ Continuum: This is another TV series with 10 episodes that I really enjoyed. She is a police officer from 2077 who inadvertently gets swept along with a gang of condemned terrorists as they escape their sentences by traveling back in time to 2012. Before she can return to her home she has to stop the fugitives from changing the past. (4 stars)

5/ Life: Guess I was on a jag . . . another TV series with 32 episodes (streamable). After 12 years in prison (wrongly accused) Charlie Crews gets his life and job restored but as a multi-millionaire and an unconventional thinker, as Zen is what enabled him to get through the prison sentence. He is now bent on solving the case that put him away in the first place. There is a certain charm to this series. (3 1/2 stars)

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Moffat School Board hires a Construction Manager/General Contractor to work on new school

Moffat Consolidated School District is excited to announce the latest member of the New School Facility team. Last week, the district's board members & superintendent attended interviews for selection of the Construction Manager/General Contracting team. The team that was selected is the Haselden/Diesslin (H/DSI) team led by John Diesslin of Salida, CO.

There were several qualifying factors that led to the decision to work with H/DSI, including the commitment they will make to hire as many local, qualified subcontractors as possible. Diesslin worked on the Crestone Charter School project and learned from that experience and will be improving and increasing the level of local participation that is feasible to meet the project's budget and schedule goals. The Haselden/Diesslin team has built several BEST schools recently and they provide a good balance for covering the intensive administrative duties of the project and having team members closely located to the project site. The selection committee was excited about the passion that the H/DSI team showed for our new school project.

The design of the school also continues to progress with the in-

put of the Design Advisory Group, comprised of parents from Moffat and Crestone, teachers, staff, and community members from Moffat and Crestone. Currently under review are 2-3 general building layout options which will be presented to the community at the next community meeting, held at Moffat School on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30pm. We encourage attendance of community members as this is the time where input can be incorporated into the building design. Also, members from the Haselden/Diesslin team will also be in attendance at the community meeting, in addition to RTA Architects and Consilium Partners.

As always, we encourage comments, questions or concerns so we can discuss and address these items before the design and building process progresses to a point where it becomes more difficult to address.

We want to thank the community members who have been providing feedback to either the board of education members, design advisory group members or at the previous community meeting. We are thankful for the continued support as we progress through this exciting project.

Moffat Health Advisory Committee continues to meet

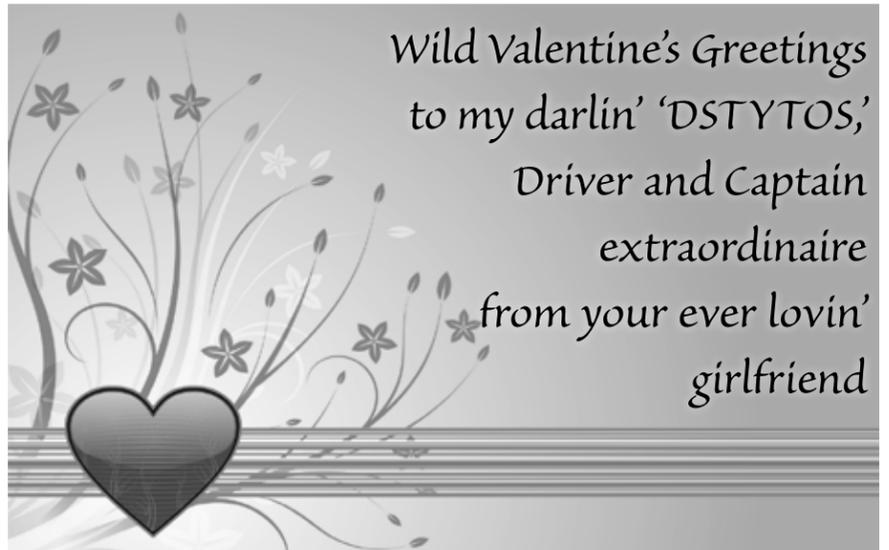
by Michelle Hashbarger

The Moffat School Health Advisory Committee, led by school nurse Alyssa O'Brien, met with committee members to further discuss health and wellness strategies that we plan to implement as part of the schools strategic planning process. Experience shows that schools can be a powerful place to initiate behavioral and environmental changes for students and staff.

This committee was formed to help optimize our school-wide efforts as we continue to work to ensure that all students are healthy and able to achieve academically, and that our teachers are healthy and feel good about their work environment.

As we gather more information/data about the health status of our students, we will be looking to make recommendations to meet our student and staff health needs in various areas.

The HAC committee has been in the process of reviewing our current programs that promote social & emotional wellness, and will continue researching ways to integrate wellness concepts and habits into our school curriculum and environment.



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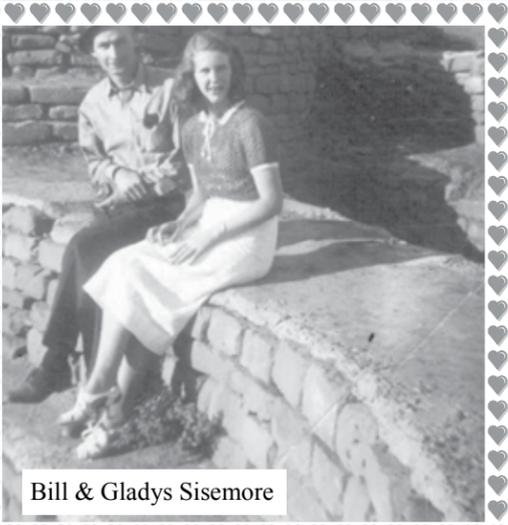
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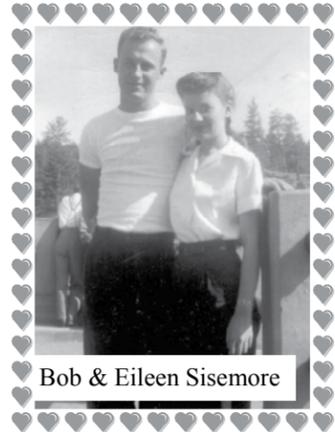
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Crestone Charter School launches into 2014

by Michael Hayes

Our return from winter break at the Charter School has been highlighted by a few notable events. Now that our student and adult mentors are all trained up for coaching our younger and less experienced students in the ski and snowboard program at Monarch, they have been joined by the students from fourth grade through high school. The students and mentors will continue developing their ski and snowboard skills on Fridays through the end of March.

LINK students put together

musical performances for their winter music fundraiser. The audience was treated to amazing deserts and heard pieces from classical through contemporary music. Thanks to Tom Dessain, Mark Mikow, and Karen Acker for helping the students to prepare for this wonderful event.

We recently honored Martin Luther King Jr. Day with an all-school gathering that featured students sharing their impressions and quotes of Dr. King.



Daya Scheide and the middle school performing at the all-school gathering on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Taleb Nelson mentoring Jo and Nesta Davis at Monarch.



Ryan Triplett mentoring beginning snowboarders on the bunny hill at Monarch.



Jake Smith and Tui Perrin.



Jedi Roman mentoring Travel Cole and Raven Cabeza-Willis at Monarch.

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The Washington Beat

The State of the Union

by David Nicholas

President Obama will give his State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 28. Due to press deadline, the address comes too late to make this column, but a short summary will appear in the March Beat. A preview of the President's speech appeared in my December column and in review, other than a paragraph on NSA surveillance and reassuring folks on the right to privacy, I don't expect it to be much different from what I foreshadowed. What might change would be if something extraordinary occurs in foreign policy; that would be Geneva2.

Janet Yellen to head the Fed

Janet Yellen is the new head of the Federal Reserve System. In doing so Ms. Yellen becomes the first woman in the 100-year history of the Fed to be appointed to the position, succeeding Chairman Ben Bernanke. Her formal title will be Chairwoman Yellen, and she becomes arguably the most powerful person in Washington, save the President.

Interestingly, her appointment puts the world's major banking systems in the hands of the patriarchy, joining International Monetary Fund President Christine LaGarde whose hand oversees European and other world financial markets.

Ms. Yellen, 67, served as the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve from October 2010; prior to that she was President of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco from June 2004 to 2010. Her appointment was approved by the Senate 56-26.

As to what her philosophy is and what she brings to the job, Ms. Yellen has supported some of the Fed's most aggressive efforts to crack down on big banks, such as with new capital rules. On that, she has an ally on the Senate Banking Committee in the form of Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). However, other than that she has not given any indication that she plans to go beyond what the Fed has already done or discussed. While liberals have cheered her nomination, Ms. Yellen may disappoint Wall Street critics if the "too big to fail" debate continues and she maintains the status quo approach.

On monetary policy, Ms. Yellen and Chairman Bernanke have been allies, and financial markets don't expect a change once she becomes chairwoman. As well, she has been an advocate of the Fed more clearly communicating its monetary policy approach, including what factors will contribute to future decisions.

Most pundits see Ms. Yellen's main task likely will be to navigate the central bank's way out of its extraordinary stimulus, beginning with dialing down its bond-buying program. It's going to be an interesting tussle in coming months and one we will watch.

Congress passes \$1.1 trillion additional spending bill

Just when you thought the budget was a done deal, Congress passed another \$1.1 trillion spending bill to cover most of what the Federal Budget bill left out.

The Senate voted 72-26 for the measure, which cleared the House a little more than 24 hours earlier on a similarly lopsided vote. Obama's signature on the bill was expected in time to prevent any interruption in government funding Saturday at midnight.

The giant package, which President Obama signed into law, is very much a product of that same budget agreement in December. But if December set the limits on spending, this bill now spells out where the dollars will go. As such, it sets a new template for appropriations for the remainder of the president's second term.

The huge bill funds every agency of government, pairing increases for NASA and Army Corps of Engineers construction projects with cuts to the Internal Revenue Service and foreign aid. It pays for implementation of Obama's health care law (a fight over implementing "Obamacare" sparked Tea Party Republicans to partially shut the government down for 16 days last October). Included as well is funding for tighter regulations on financial markets, but at levels lower than the president wanted.

The compromise-laden legislation reflects the realities of divided power in Washington and a desire by both Democrats and Republicans for an election-year respite after three years of budget wars that had Congress and the White House lurching from crisis to crisis. Both parties looked upon the measure as a way to ease automatic spending cuts that both the Pentagon and domestic agencies had to begin absorbing last year.

But the politics is about Republicans wanting the view of GOP



anti-government "do-nothing" US House of Representatives and anti-Obama members of the Senate to be forgotten as they attempt to control the narrative for the midterm elections. The game is the belief, a very mistaken belief, that their view of Obama's unpopularity will stick all the way through if they keep attacking Obamacare and anything else they can dig up.

Passing this spending bill carries a loaded message, one that rises or falls on political fortune. So what else is new?

National Security Blues II

On January 17, President Obama laid out reforms to keep NSA surveillance within transparent parameters so that privacy to citizens can be respected while still gathering data for our security, which keeps us safe. At issue has been Section 215 under the Foreign Intelligence Security Act, which allows gathering and storage of all calls from phone numbers by the number, not the content of same—metadata. The way the system works is NSA monitors the numbers, and if the numbers are flagged in a surveillance operation, the content can be retrieved.

This changes up to a point which has to do with oversight and transparency. The President asked Attorney General Eric Holder and intelligence officials to come up with a detailed plan by March 28 for how to maintain the government's ability to tap into the calling data.

In the meantime, President Obama said every government search of telecommunications data will require review by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court. Until now, NSA personnel have been able to request the data based on a "reasonable, articulable suspicion" that phone numbers are tied to terrorist activity. However, no judge routinely reviewed those queries before or after they were made.

The president said that the government will no longer access phone records more than two people removed from an individual officials are monitoring, down from three people removed under existing court orders. Also, Mr. Obama also asked Congress to create a panel of public advocates to monitor the FISA court process.

Beyond the lengthy hyperbole of the speech in which the President made the case why surveillance must continue, the idea that human beings will stand in the way of computers doing calculating and gathering in thousandths of a millisecond still doesn't work from where I sit. Having been metadatized since 2002 when I came out and opposed the disastrous pre-emptive first strike policy, formulated under Bush43, this doesn't change much for me.

I know that everything I write or tweet and send to the editor will be captured and stored.

The onus was and still is on me not to be careless. Because I use the buzzwords in every article at some point and assess the wisdom or stupidity of policy as the case maybe, though I'm not advocating overthrow or violent solutions to political solutions, I expect surveillance as matter of course. Do I like it? No, but I'm used to it and this is the world I live in.

The NSA monolith isn't going to be discerning, as it just isn't set up for nuance. Secrecy isn't nuance but gorging the appetite of vigilance to make light of thoughts and actions carried out of the purview of ordinary sight. The system is as easy to abuse as it has been through the centuries by people of ambition, and that's not changing here. What's changed is adding to/tightening up a degree of judicious oversight maybe for the better, but we will see.

Affordable Healthcare numbers

The ACA/Obamacare signups per ACASignups.net are out, and as of January 13, 2014, the number stands at 9.95 million or just 33.6% of the Congressional Budget Office projection. The breakup of the figure is as follows: Private, 2.34 million; Medicaid/CHIP, 4.48 million; Off-exchange, 30,000; Subscribers under 26, 3.1 million.

The wringing of hands at the moment (besides signups being behind schedule due to the initial website snafu), is that Sub26ers haven't signed up at the speed of people 55 and over. For Obamacare to work young adults have to sign up in order to balance the needs of older people who use their plans, which at the moment are the bulk of signups.

In Colorado, the signup number is 52,783 privately enrolled or 57.37% of the 92,000 projected. Colorado is ranked sixth in states meeting their targets behind CT, 121.21%; RI, 102.50%; NY, 98%; NH, 60.24%; and ME, 59.58%. However, in next-door NM only 7,688 or 9.26% of a projected 83,000 have signed onto a plan.

Overall, it's a mixed bag, but the administration is upbeat because they anticipate Sub26ers will sign up at the last minute in March as the deadline looms. What happens if not enough people have met the deadline is hard to say. There will be a lot of flak if Obamacare doesn't meet its goal, but that is 60 days away, a lifetime in the Obamacare political parry and thrust. We will see.

Geneva2. What's that again?

It's US Secretary of State John Kerry's favorite diplomatic event of 2014. So far. Geneva2 one-day

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conference occurred on Wednesday, January 22 in a swank hotel in Montreux just outside of Geneva. After half a year of postponements, this grand conference was designed to be a roadmap to peace in Syria, except it doesn't look like that happened. In short, Geneva2 was annoying diplomacy where everybody talked and made sort of nice, except for the Syrians where both government and opposition hurled insults at one another. A famous remark that flashed around the world was Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem's put-down zinger to UN General Secretary Ban, "You live in New York. I live in Syria"

The upshot was rough and nasty as the Syrians had at it, shocking even for UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who had asked people to refrain from making extreme and abusive comments. It only went for one day with 40 nations staking out their reasons for being present. So no matter what the outcome might be when they actually sit down in the UN's Palais des Nations in Geneva, no one has any intention of following up on what, if anything, was agreed to.

If you tried to point a finger at good guys versus bad guys, you would be hard-pressed to find who was who, because all sides have bad folk. Frankly, it's war mongering par excellence, using a proposed ceasefire or ceasefires—depending on who's talking.

Technically, the good guys in Syria as we see it are the US, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon (Sunni and Christian), the Syria National Council and the Free Syrian Army (whatever that is because no one really quite knows now) and various sympathetic emirates (not Qatar), and Israel.

Technically, the bad guys are Bashar al-Assad's Syrian government and his Syrian army (winning at the moment) backed by Russia, Iran, Lebanon (Shia Hezbollah who controls the Lebanese government).

However, these are the preferable bad guys as opposed to the really bad guys, to wit, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) with other al-Qaida-aligned opposition groups. These groups are better at fighting and making headway against Assad's army than our Syrian good guys.

Obviously, we can't side with them as it would be 9/11 heresy, but these Qaeda elements, to our chagrin, are gaining support in our once-sacred bailiwicks. We can't talk to them, so they weren't invited. To do so would give them legitimate recognition. As well, it would also be

acknowledgement that we are backing the wrong set of angry political Syrians. Our angry political Syrians sit around in other cities outside of Syria—Istanbul, London, Washington and Tripoli—proclaiming their legitimacy and generally carping about how nobody listens to them, while dining out at four-star restaurants. No refugee camp living for these guys.

Anything typecast as "Qaeda" (this is now the collective State Dept. word for Islamic state groups) is gaining momentum in most Moslem states in Africa and Iraq (see following story). They spend time training locals while attacking western interests (companies). In short, Qaeda is about throwing off imperial yokes and customs of former colonial masters. At the same time, these former colonial masters are busy trying to re-establish their influence/dominance (and I mean the French in particular) on folk whom they granted independence in the 1960s. It's tricky PR at least and an embarrassing exposé of colonial masters showing their manipulative deceit set in motion all those years ago. But I digress.

The Kerry drama continued right up until Geneva2 began. Most of the opposition groups, which comprise the Syrian National Coalition/Council, backed by the major powers, dithered about whether to attend the conference and subsequent talks. Some finally decided three days before, that showing up would be better than having Syria's future negotiated without them. Not all the political opposition groups agreed to attend and neither did most of the opposition fighters inside Syria.

So a SNC delegation of nine came to take on Assad's party at the table. Assad's delegation had Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem and his entourage, but not the Syrian president, which was the delicious irony. The reason for the talks was to help/force/coerce Bashar al-Assad to step down and to agree to a transition of power.

However, Mr. Assad has not agreed at this point to step down or to any transitional government other than the ruling Allawite (Assad's clan) getting some role in sharing power.

Herding cats is easier than trying to get agreement from angry Syrians, but that's where it is now and despite Geneva2, the mood didn't allow anything more than lip service. So dismal was the expected outcome, SecStat Kerry was careful muttering provisos, playing down what would come out of the talks and expressing cautious optimism that it

was a beginning. We will know more next month.

Iraq unraveling

Over 8 years of fighting which cost the lives of 4,800 soldiers (most of them ours), and still Iraq is a mess. A legacy of imperial meddling. Iraq was showing signs of pending chaos when the last troops departed at the end of 2011, but in our desire to vacate we chose to ignore the signs.

Shia Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, having already ignored the outcome of the 2010 general election which gave the largest block of seats in the National Assembly to the Sunnis, was already cementing the future fight over who controls Iraq as our troops boarded the last transport planes.

Readers of this column over the years may recall PM al-Maliki's determination never to allow the Sunnis to rule Iraq, fearing the rise of a second Saddam Hussein, putting Shia Muslims at risk as they were under Saddam's Baathist regime. The last year saw him exercising that policy to the point where Sunnis took to the streets of cities in the Sunni-dominated Anwar Province to protest being excluded from all forms of power sharing.

The result was a coordinated campaign by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (which includes Syria, Lebanon and Jordan)—or ISIS as it's referred to in Arabic, the 'S' being for al-Sham (Fertile Crescent). In a surprise takeover of both Fallujah and Ramadi, the major cities in Anwar Province raised the black flag of Qaeda above government buildings in the beginning of the new year.

The immediate cause was the shutdown of protest camp by the Iraqi army on December 30 and the fight in earnest went from there.

Naturally, the hawks in DC started finger-pointing at the Obama administration for failing to step in earlier and take care of the Qaeda factions, but the administration said it was Iraq's problem, and despite the griping none suggested we put boots on the ground.

Nevertheless, for Prime Minister al-Maliki this was a fiasco. After threatening a major attack on Fallujah, he thought better of it, backed off the threat, and went for negotiations instead.

Having learned his lessons from dealing with Bush43, Mr. al-

Maliki took the opportunity to ask Washington for the helicopters and drones he had requested in November when he came a-callin' with his hand out for weaponry. This was a request we were loathe to give him at the time—"demurred" as Senators on the Foreign Relations Committee like to call it—but which were in his hands hours after the black flags were raised on the provincial cities.

No one quite knows if the Iraqi army has taken back control of major buildings in either cities. US hawks went on television to claim that Qaeda had jumped too soon and had made a big mistake in assuming Anwar Province would rise up and declare itself autonomous from Baghdad. But as time goes on and facts showing that certain Sunni clans in Fallujah sympathized with ISIS, US boasting has disappeared and critics have fallen silent for the moment, but not, I suspect, for long.

What was clear is that PM al-Maliki needs to allow Sunnis into national power-sharing or face further armed resistance; and that an Iraqi army equipped with second-hand equipment is ill-prepared for serious conflict.

More importantly, Afghanistan will reveal, as we end our time there and our troops depart, nation-building isn't our bag. We are cynical when it comes to telling people how to be democrats, in that we do stuff like nation-building in half-measures. Either do it full-on or not at all, but full-on requires imperial righteousness and a cowed populace who will obey without question. How's that working for us?

And the beat goes on.

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If you find an error, file a dispute with the credit reporting agency. File the dispute in writing so you will have a paper trail. In your dispute, include your full name and address, what you want investigated, the disputed items, and an explanation of why you think the information is inaccurate. FCRA generally requires credit reporting companies to investigate items in question within 30 days to 45 days of when the dispute was filed.

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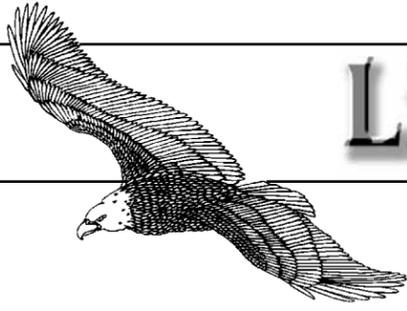
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Living on the Earth

Western women heroines

by Mary Lowers

The role of women in the American west was vital to our development. Records and traces of this contribution are vague and often difficult to unearth primarily due to laws and social norms that made women second-class citizens within the dominate white male culture until the twentieth century. I have researched the stories of different women from different time periods and cultural backgrounds whose experiences illustrate what life was like for them in our region of the world. Their contributions, while not as well known or documented as their male counterparts', are equally important in creating the west we live in today.

Northern New Mexico in 1861 was a hard place. The former Mexican territory had become part of the US just a few years earlier under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1846) and the Civil War had just begun. Society was shaken up. Confederate troops from Texas were encroaching on eastern NM. The only battle of the war fought in NM, the Battle of Glorieta Pass called "The Gettysburg of the West" took place about a year later in 1862.

On April 26, 1861 a woman



Fort Union U.S. army post for 40 years near Loma Parda where Paula Angel's family lived.

from the community of Loma Parda in San Miguel County on the northeast side of the Sangre de Cristo Mtns, Paula Angel, became the only female in the state's history executed for murder. Paula, whose age is given as either 19 or 26, was brought to trial in Las Vegas, NM. Judge Kirby Benedict sentenced her to death for stabbing her married lover Miguel Martin, a Las Vegas man with five children, when he met with her to break off their affair. Despite compelling arguments from her lawyer Spruce M. Baird, who addressed the jury saying, "Do not be so cold in soul as to demand death of this fair maiden who has been wronged by an uncaring adulterer." Angel was sentenced to death in a trial that lasted only five days.

Court records, which now reside at the Huntington Library in California, contain the original warrant written in Spanish from Gov. Abraham Rencher to Sheriff Antonio Abad Herrera. It says,

"With this you are ordered that on the 26th day of April 1861, you take said Paula Angel from the jail, in which she now finds herself incarcerated, to some appropriate place within the limits of said county, and within a distance of one mile from the seat of that county, and that between the hours of ten in the morning and four in the afternoon of said day, you then and there hang the said Paula Angel by the neck until she is dead, dead, dead and may God have mercy on her soul."

Sheriff Herrera, who only served in that office for a year, badly bungled the execution. On the morning of April 26, Herrera escorted Paula Angel from her jail cell and set her atop her coffin in wagon which wound its way out of town to a large cottonwood tree he'd chosen to hang her from. Records indicate the sheriff "covered her neck with hemp rope" but neglected to tie her hands. As the cart and coffin drove out from under her, Angel managed to get her fingers under the rope around her neck. The crowd, horrified by this spectacle, rushed forward and cut her down. Many felt she had after all been hung and should after this ordeal be set free. Col. JD Sena of Santa Fe, a "prominent and forceful man", read the warrant of execution to the crowd and pointed out the sentence required "death by hanging." The second execution of Paula Angel then proceeded successfully.

The death of Paula Angel is immortalized in a folk ballad written by her cousin Juan Angel. Many questions still surround her execution.

In the nineteenth century the execution of women was frowned upon. The speed of the trial and verdict show the court of public opinion was stacked against Paula Angel. Was it because she and her family were from Loma Parda,

a community known as the Sodom of Mora, because of services it provided the soldiers at nearby Fort Union supplying them with liquor, gambling and prostitutes? Was it due to the power and position of her lover Miguel Martin? We will probably never know as publicity with the looming Civil War was scant as far as this case is concerned. The swift finality of western "justice" is the one clear conclusion of the sad



Lozen and Dahteste (on left) surrendering to the U.S. army in 1887.

story of Paula Angel.

Lozen and Dahteste were two Apache women who fought alongside the famous warrior Geronimo ("Goyatla: one who yawns" was his Apache name) in the so-called Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s which followed the Civil War and large mineral discoveries in the American west. As with many Native Americans, the various Apache bands were fighting out-and-out war against the US. In addition the Apache, whose territory crossed the imaginary line dividing the US from Mexico, also fought the Mexican army. Apache boys and girls are taught identical life skills, leaving what profession the individual chooses up to talent and predilection, not sex.

Lozen was a Chiricahua Apache warrior born in the 1840s. Younger sister to the famous warrior leader Victorio, she was a gifted horsewoman from the age of seven and learned the art of war from her brother.

She fought with other Apache warriors in battles in NM, AZ and Chihuahua, Mexico. She never married or showed interest in traditional female roles. Respected as an athlete, Lozen was described by Victorio as "my right hand" and as a "shield to her people". Renowned as a medicine woman, Lozen could detect the whereabouts and size of an enemy force through ritual means. She reportedly moved in a circle with her arms in the air until her palms tingled indicating the location and number of enemies.

Lozen is a heroine to her people. James Kaywaykla, a child at the time, recalled how Lozen saved many women and children as the Apache retreated in the late 1870s from the US Calvary. Encouraging the women and children to cross the surging Rio Grande, Kaywaykla remembered seeing Lozen riding in front of his grandmother as they fled in fear. "High above her head she held her rifle. There was a glitter as her right foot lifted and struck the shoulder of her horse. He reared and they plunged into the torrent. She



Ann Ellis of Bonanza.

turned his head upstream and he began swimming. This encouraged the women and children who followed her into the torrent. She told my grandmother, you take charge now, I must return to the warriors." Upon the death of her brother Victorio she joined Apache resistance leader Geronimo fighting next to her warrior comrade Dahteste, a Mescalero Apache.

Lozen eluded capture many



Bonanza Colorado early 20th century.

times until she was surrounded with Geronimo by US Calvary in 1886. It was a brutal summer with little water or grass and heat often hitting 120°. This moved the worn out Apache to surrender at Skeleton Canyon near Douglas, AZ after a rough three-year campaign. Taken to a prison in Mobile, Alabama, Lozen died of tuberculosis at the age of fifty. She never saw her homeland, family or warrior companions again. Her commitment to her ways and her people remain a powerful example today.

Beautiful and feminine Dahteste rode and fought as well as Lozen. She was married with children but chose the life of a warrior. An expert horsewoman and crack shot, she excelled in her chosen profession. Before joining Geronimo's band of resisters Dahteste, as a fluent English-speaker, became a mediator and scout for the US Calvary. Her first loyalty remained with her people. After fighting for many years beside Lozen with Geronimo, Dahteste tried to help negotiate peace with the US. Despite her work she was arrested at Skeleton Canyon along with Lozen, Geronimo and many other warriors. in 1886.

As a prisoner of war in St. Augustine, FL for eighteen years she survived pneumonia and tuberculosis. After being transferred

continued on page B-5



LOZEN (c. 1840-1890)
Chiricahua warrior, medicine woman, prophet, sister of Victorio

The Apache Nation still reveres and honors Lozen.



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

Mercury will be turning retrograde on February 6 at 2:45pm and becomes direct on February 28 at 7pm. The Sun leaves Aquarius entering Pisces February 18 at 11pm. The Full Moon will take place February 14 at 4:54pm mountain time zone.

February 1 the Sun is in a positive aspect with Pluto (it was yesterday also) which helps to energize the transformative process you're in especially if you're focused on dealing with alcohol or drug addiction.

February 6-28 Mercury turns retrograde at 2:45pm urging you to go within and take time away from worldly circumstances as much as possible. Make sure that your car or truck is safe to drive. Computers often go on the blink while Mercury is retrograde, however, you know that. Conversations can result in misinterpreting what another has said to you. Make sure to listen more attentively during this phase.

February 9-11 the Sun is in a challenging aspect with Saturn. This signifies frustration and obstacles to be dealt with. Be patient. This is a poor time to start a new project especially if you were born between February 11-14, May 13-16, November 16-19 of any year because Saturn is affecting your natal Sun.

February 11-April 26 Jupiter and Uranus are in a challenging aspect to each other. Yes, you read that correctly, this aspect lasts a long time because these are outer planets and move more slowly. Good luck and opportunities come to you out of the blue, but there is some catch to it that you may not be aware of right away, so be careful. It's an innovative aspect bringing about insight and ideas that can open doors to new possibilities if your timing is good. Wait until May 2014 to put your recent ideas into action. It can bring about clarity and wisdom.

February 12-16 the Sun & Mercury are in Aquarius nicely aspecting Mars in Libra. Intelligent

conversations take place which could make an impact. More laws will change that bring about hope for civil rights.

February 13 the Sun is in an awkward aspect with both Jupiter and Uranus bringing out the rebel in you. You're apt to be defensive, defiant, and impatient.

February 14 the Full Moon takes place at precisely 4:54pm with the Moon in Leo and the Sun in Aquarius. Mars is in Libra and Saturn in Scorpio relating to the Full Moon's position. This Full Moon is about relating. The problems are old karmic patterns from long ago which are igniting the tension felt. Old beliefs that no longer fit need to be revitalized with new creations that work better for the whole to manifest friendship where there has been long held resentment. As always with a full moon we feel its effects a few days before and a few days afterwards. Those who are psychically sensitive and those born during a Full Moon usually say that the Full Moon has a strong effect on them. (Happy Birthday to William Howell, Valentine's Day birth!)

February 14-16 the Sun and Mercury are in an awkward aspect with Pluto indicating issues with cooperation and lack of it. Those who feel "powerless" are doing whatever they can to prove their worth and it doesn't look very nice.

February 16-18 Mercury while retrograding is in a challenging aspect to both Jupiter and Uranus. Your thinking is not clear. Your mind is probably racing.

February 17-19 Mercury is in a challenging aspect to Saturn bringing out worry, guilt and shame. This aspect ends at noon on February 19. There will be blockages to progress which would cause tension and frustration. Try to relax and ride it out. This would not be a good aspect to have during a wedding ceremony.

February 18 the Sun enters into Pisces at 11pm, remaining here until March 20. Idealistic fantasies surface for the best-ever relationship to appear. Idealistic fantasies also surface for the world to be an ideal place where people love and care for each other. As you've heard over and over I'm sure, we have to begin within our own minds and hearts to create an ideal circumstance in order for that to manifest externally. While the Sun is in Pisces we tend to be in our own dream world. Assuming that others understand what we're thinking and needing finds us in a mess. Try to improve your communications because Mercury is still retrograde. The good thing about the Sun in Pisces is that it stimulates the art of self healing through a routine "spiritual practice."

February 19 Venus is in an awkward aspect with Neptune. High idealism about a potential mate you've met online may find you in a mess with someone who is using the singles network for scamming purposes. I've seen this recently with a friend who naively wired money to her online "soul-mate" only to find from her bank that he was a scam artist. This was absolutely shocking to my friend who is a romantic, idealistic Pisces.

February 21-23 the Sun is conjunct Neptune in Pisces. If you are thinking of going to a spiritual healer, now is the ripe time. It all depends on your belief system if it will work or not and on what level of healing you will receive it. It

might not be physical. Don't be let down. Spiritual healing can often take place on the inner level and bring about healing on the physical level sometime in the future and this can be the starting point. One more thing about this aspect is that it can cause you to feel spacey and confused. I should know, I was born with the Sun conjunct Neptune (in Libra).

February 22-24 Venus is in a favorable aspect with Saturn which finds relationships more committed. Talking honestly about expectations may help bring idealistic thoughts down to reality.

February 26-March 1 the Sun in Pisces is in a positive aspect to Jupiter in Cancer. Your psychic awareness is increasing; that is, if you are paying attention and acting on it. Your dream life ought to be ignited and you would do well to write down the dreams that come and then look back at what you wrote a month from now. They would be prophetic.

This is also a good time for self healing to take place.

February 28 Mercury will be turning *direct* at 7pm You may find that it takes a few days for misunderstandings to be corrected unless you work at it persistently.

Ananur Forma lived in Crestone 1996-2003 and now resides on the rocky coast of Maine. 207-594-2565. AstrologyWithAnanur.com



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by David Lindsey
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by Kim Malville

What's happening in the skies this month?

Jupiter dominates the skies this month. It is in retrograde in Gemini, moving slowly to the west. Try out some binoculars to view its brightest four inner moons, which nightly change their positions.

In the early evening the constellation of Orion will be due south. Look for the three stars of the Hunter's belt. Above the belt to the left is the red giant Betelgeuse. On the lower right is the bright blue star Rigel. The belt stars align with the bright Dog Star Sirius. The Hunter is Greek. In Hindu mythology, this constellation is the father of humankind, Prajapati. The star Sirius is Rudra, the fierce form of the god Shiva. He has just shot an arrow into Prajapati, to prevent him from having intercourse with his daughter, Rohini, the bright red star that we know as Aldebaran, the red eye of Taurus the Bull. The arrow ap-

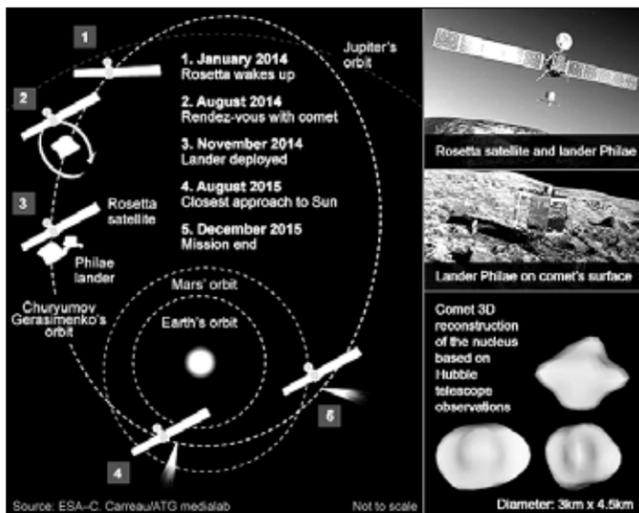
traveling at the speed of light, take 45 minutes to reach the earth. (Reminds me of a joke: When the airline flight attendant asked the photon if he had any bags to check, he said, "No, I'm travelin' light.")

Rosetta was put into hibernation in June 2011 when its path took it so far from the Sun that its solar panels would harvest minimal energy. Starting in four months Rosetta will begin firing its thrusters to begin zeroing in on the target comet. Today, the separation is nine million km. By mid-September, it will have been reduced to just 10km. The plan is for Rosetta to escort the comet for 17 months, as it moves closer towards the Sun, monitoring the changes that take place.

Comets are the pristine remains of the gas cloud that produced our solar system some 4.6 billion years ago. The mission should provide more clues about how the solar system came into existence, much

like the Rosetta Stone, which provided a blueprint for deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Comets are giant ice blobs mostly covered by a dark tar-like substance. The oceans of the earth may have been formed by hundreds of thousands of comets hitting the earth some three billion years ago. These comets may have contained organic molecules, such as amino acids or even more complex molecules, which could have been the seeds for life on earth. These wonderful objects may thus have carried both water and life to the earth.

One of Rosetta's first tasks will be to scout for a suitable landing location for its piggyback-riding Philae probe. It is outfitted with



Rosetta Spacecraft Mission

European Space Agency

pears as the three stars in the body of Prajapati. These are two remarkably different stories!

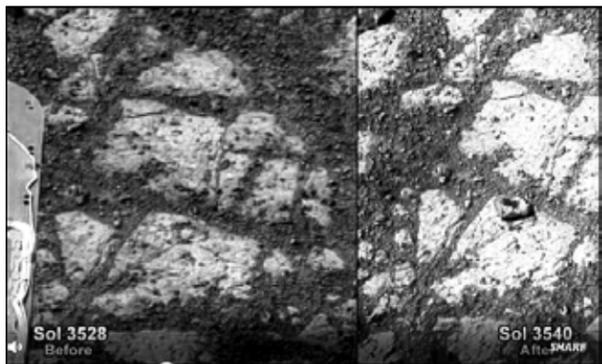
February 1: Look to the western skies about 45 minutes after sunset. If you look carefully you will find Mercury below a thin sliver of the moon.

February 10: Jupiter is above and to the left of the moon.

Rosetta wakes up and calls home

As I write this column on 20 January 2014, the Rosetta Spacecraft awakened from two years of hibernation and called to us. The spacecraft, which carries a 220-pound lander called Philae, has been hibernating for most of the past three years to save power. It is due to reach its destination, the 2.4-mile diameter comet called 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in August. The lander is named after the Nile island Philae where an obelisk was found that helped decipher the Rosetta Stone.

At a distance of 500 million miles from Earth and just inside of Jupiter's orbit, radio transmissions,



The mystery rock on Mars: before and after

NASA

twin harpoons laced with tethers that will be fired into the comet's surface to anchor Philae and keep it from bouncing back into space after touchdown.

Philae will drill into the comet and extract core which will be analyzed by organic chemistry experiments. Those results will be beamed up to Rosetta, which will



Artist's depiction of Philae on the surface of the comet with Rosetta overhead

European Space Agency

in turn be transmitted to Earth.

The mystery rock on Mars

After 10 years of wheeling around Mars, NASA's Opportunity rover has discovered a new rock shaped like a jelly doughnut that appeared out of thin Martian air.

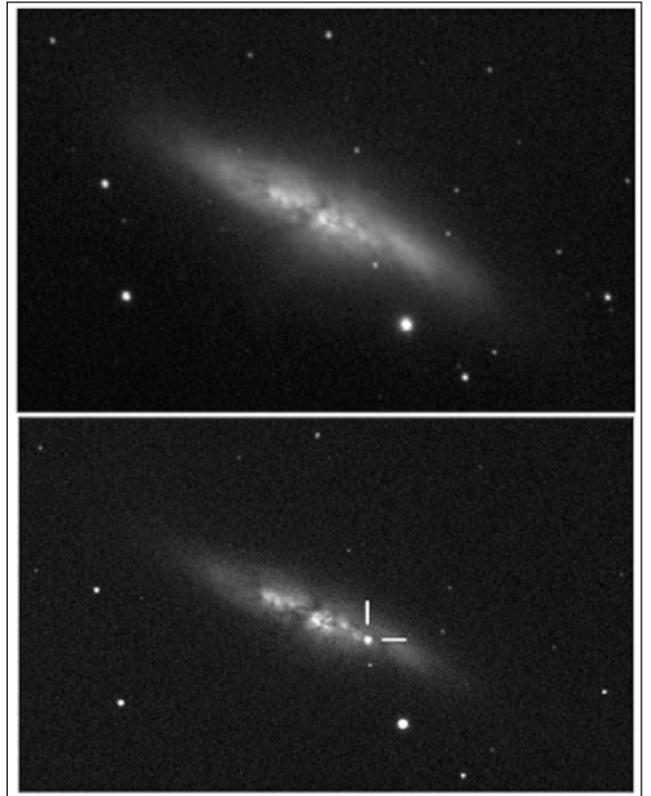
In late December, Opportunity snapped an image of a rocky outcropping with no rock the size and shape of a jelly doughnut. But 12 days later, when the rover took another picture of the same area, the jelly doughnut-like rock was there. The Opportunity team has come up with two theories to explain the rock's mysterious and sudden appearance. One idea is that Opportunity's wheels somehow flicked the rock out of the ground and into field of view of Opportunity. The second theory is that the rock was thrown into place when a meteorite hit the planet some distance away. In any case, the brightness of the rock indicates that its surface is newly exposed to light and may reveal something intriguingly new.

The Opportunity team has just started to take a closer look at the rock to figure out its composition. So far, those results have been baffling. For example, they discovered that the red "jelly" part is very high in sulfur and magnesium, and that it has twice as much of the element manganese as anything they've ever seen on Mars. The Opportunity team reports that they are "completely confused", and having a wonderful time, arguing amongst themselves. By the time you read

this column ten days from now, perhaps the mystery will be solved.

A new supernova

One day after Rosetta called home, an exploding star was discovered by a group of students at the University College London. It



Before and after the appearance (above and below-marked with lines) of the supernova on 21 January, 2014

University College London Observatory

is the closest supernova found in more than 30 years and should be a cornucopia of astronomical information. Almost as remarkable, it was discovered beneath the thick atmosphere of London. This kind of supernova is produced by white dwarf stars when they collide with each other or when a white dwarf becomes unstable because a neighboring star dumps too much gas on it. The supernova is in the galaxy M82, otherwise known as the Cigar Galaxy, about 12 million light-years away in the constellation Ursa Major, the Big Dipper. Instead of a delay of 45 minutes from Rosetta, there has been a delay of 12 million years for these photons to reach us. Come to think of it, light is not all that fast!

State Engineer provides more information on San Luis Valley groundwater conditions

by Bea Ferrigno

State Engineer Dick Wolfe and several staff members visited the San Luis Valley for the second time this fall on December 11 and 12. On the morning of the 11th a meeting was held in Saguache to update the public on the progress of modeling efforts that will establish baselines and targets for subdistricts still to be formed. On the 12th Wolfe convened a meeting of the advisory (rules) committee to follow up on the work that was done at the previous meeting in October (see the November *Eagle*.) A further set of similar meetings was planned for January, but due to scheduling conflicts no informational meetings preceded the rules committee, which met on January 23, after our deadline. In December, the models for Saguache and San Luis creeks were not yet complete so there was no es-

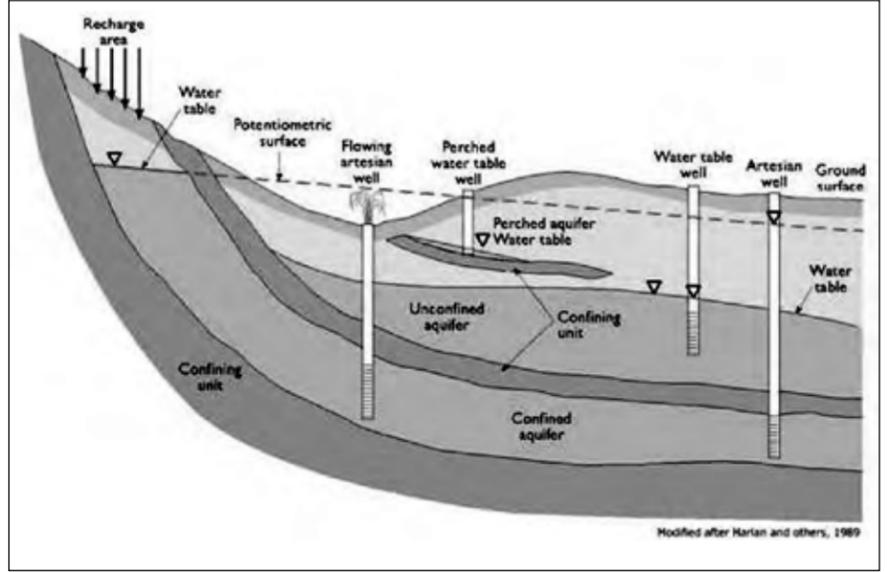
interaction between the confined and unconfined aquifers that the confined, or lower aquifer, cannot be dewatered; instead, it is depressured, an effect demonstrated by reduced flows from artesian wells and springs. Another difference in effects of pumping from either aquifer occurs in the extent of cones of depression or the area of influence around wells: in the unconfined aquifer the area of lessened water extends only a mile around the well, whereas a well into the confined aquifer affects a circle whose radius is approximately 23 miles.

The effects of pumping are also magnified over time: with intermittent pumping, stream depletion rises and then recovers when pumping stops, but with continuous or long-term pumping, stream depletion continues to increase even after pumping ends. Extended pumping lowers the water table of the unconfined aquifer as well as hydraulic pressure in the confined aquifer. There are also different effects with different irrigation methods: in terms of crop production, flood irrigation is 50% to 60% efficient, while sprinklers are 80% efficient. Flood irrigation, however, provides more recharge to the aquifers and streams: all these factors go into the model.

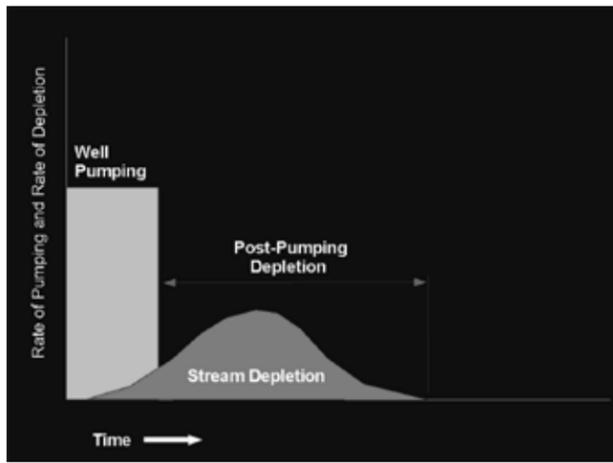
According to the legislation that authorized the formation of subdistricts, the aims are to minimize reduction in pumping in order to maintain agriculture, restore the aquifers to sustainable levels, and remain in compliance with Rio Grande Compact provisions.

While these might seem to be incompatible goals, the model will provide a scientific approach that considers all the many variables and moving parts. The definition of "sustainable" at present means an unconfined aquifer level equivalent to the average seen between 1978 and 2000. Twenty years are allowed for each subdistrict to replace its portion, based on historical water use, of the deficit. When subdistricts are in place, year-end direct measurements will monitor progress toward recovery of the aquifers. Once the stipulated level has been reached, it cannot be allowed to drop below the 1978-2000 average minimum but must be maintained between that level and the average maximum.

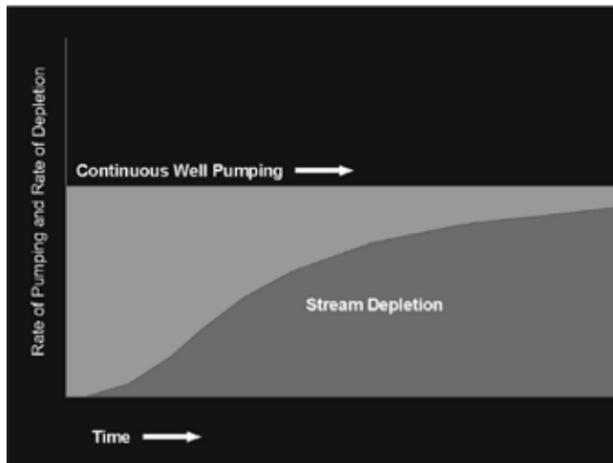
At the December 12 Alamosa rules committee meeting, which included a presentation similar to those given on the 11th, one participant questioned whether current plans for fallowing in subdistrict 1 would be adequate. Wolfe responded that he doesn't want to dictate to the subdistricts as they will be addressing widely differing conditions. Instead, he chooses to allow for flexibility between subdistricts—the



Relation of the water table to wells in the confined and unconfined aquifers. Although the artesian well on the far right draws from the confined aquifer, it requires a pump because the top of the well lies above the potentiometric surface.



Post well pumping depletion

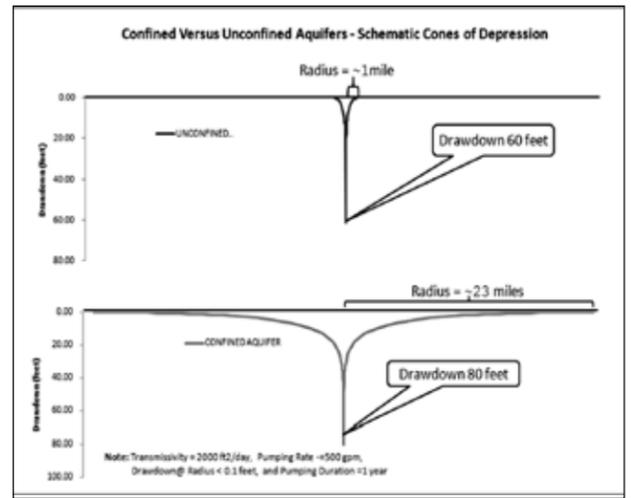


Stream depletions with intermittent or continuous pumping.

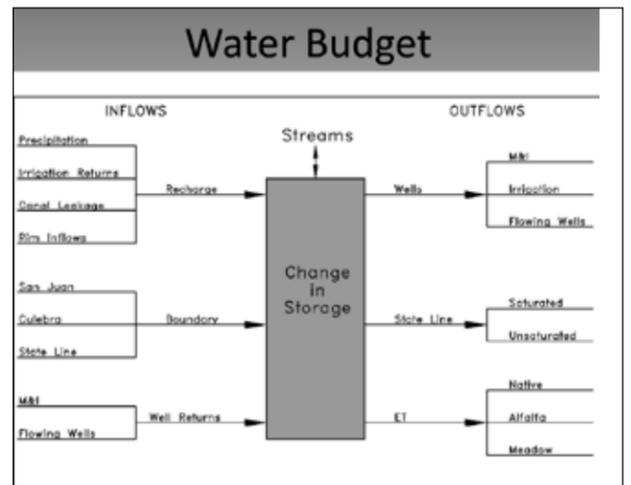
estimate of anticipated depletions.

In Saguache, Deputy State Engineer Mike Sullivan and Lead Modeler James Heath gave an informative presentation on the fundamentals of the Rio Grande Decision Support System (RGDSS) or model, on which ground water regulations will be based. After a brief description of the formation of the San Luis Valley, which is far more complex than other river basins in Colorado, they discussed the water budget which takes into consideration many interactive variables—basically varied inputs and outflows—and forms the basis of the RGDSS model.

While pumping from the unconfined aquifer draws down the water table, there is enough



Confined vs. unconfined aquifers.



Water budget.

same plan won't fit all of them. Another participant suggested there should be stronger guidelines for attaining sustainability and that there should be a tie-in with actual conditions, as there are for compliance with the Rio Grande Compact, so that the amount of fallowing would be based on the amount of water available. Again, Wolfe expressed a preference for guidance rather than rules.

Complete graphics, including detailed depictions of well pumping effects, can be seen under "General Concepts" at <http://bit.ly/1aMZVWS>.

(Note: Last month we ran these illustrations and graphs with the wrong article! Our apologies to the author and readers. —kz)

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Roundtable hears about possible source of augmentation water

by **Bea Ferrigno**

A project that could provide augmentation water for the San Luis Valley was unanimously approved at the January 14 meeting of the Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable (RGRT). The San Luis Valley Irrigation Well Owners (SLVIWO) hold rights in the Taos Valley No. 3 ditch on the San Antonio River, a tributary of the Conejos River. The rights were acquired in 1973 for augmentation and irrigation in the face of regulations that were pending but never enacted, partially because the Closed Basin Project helped meet Rio Grande Compact obligations. Shares of the augmentation water are owned throughout the valley, including Saguache County, although some owners are presently unknown due to the passage of time. According to Division 3 Engineer Craig Cotten's comment, if those owners cannot be located, the shares will be distributed throughout the area.

The SLVIWO holds a junior right that produces between 10,000 and 29,000 acre feet each year; it could contribute an average of 10,000 acre feet to the valley's estimated depletions of 30,000 to 50,000 acre feet. The plan is in three phases, the first being a hydrological study to determine

whether it is feasible to store the water or move it to locations required for augmentation. Subsequent phases would address infrastructure and legal matters as the 1970s process was not completed in water court.

Although the usual preview of this project had not been presented at the December meeting, it was approved for forwarding to the Colorado Water Conservation Board so that it might be funded at their March meeting. Proponents pointed out that well owners in the valley have only two years to form subdistricts or come up with augmentation plans; otherwise their wells will be shut down in accordance with rules now being developed by the State Engineer. A third meeting of the advisory committee to review the proposed rules was to be held in Alamosa on January 23, just after our deadline, and rules are expected to be promulgated this spring.

The RGRT also heard a proposal from the Manassa Land and Irrigation Company to lay 26,400 feet of pipeline parallel to an earthen ditch that no longer delivers water effectively. The project was tabled but a committee was formed to explore it prior to the February meeting.

Western women

continued from page B-1

to Ft. Sill, OK for nineteen years she was freed and joined the Mescalero Apache in NM. Eve Ball, who interviewed Dahteste in NM as a very old woman said, "Dahteste to the end of her life mourned Lozen." The resistance of these women and other brave Apache warriors prevented what would have otherwise been cultural genocide for the Apache.

San Luis Valley daughter Anne Ellis is the last western woman we will take into consideration. Born in MO in 1875 Anne traveled by oxcart with her family to Bonanza. "Our little family drove into Bonanza in the fall of 1882. The camp was discovered in 1880, following the Leadville boom. Men were wild with silver fever and the mountains were full of prospectors," Ellis recalled. Her father, hoping to strike it rich but unable to support his family, deserted Anne and her six siblings. Anne helped the family survive by working hard.

When her first husband George Fleming left Anne broke in Denver with two children, Anne followed him up to Cripple Creek

where he was killed in a mine explosion. Anne kept the family afloat by baking pies and running a boardinghouse. Her second husband, Herbert Ellis, who moved the family back to Saguache County, was a good man who died during surgery.

Anne kept on reinventing herself. She raised three children mostly on her own and sent them to college. She cooked all over the valley in mining camps and for construction crews. She was the only woman on crews installing telephone lines and building roads in the San Luis Valley. She ran for and won the position of Treasurer of Saguache County.

Living in Albuquerque, NM to help her life-threatening asthma, Anne began to write. Her accounts of life in the expanding west are fascinating. In 1938 Anne received an honorary degree from the University of Colorado. She died in Denver at the age of sixty-three. Anne Ellis is buried in the cemetery at Exchequer south of Bonanza.

Anne Ellis represents the spirit of women who braved the odds in new territory. They, without drama, kept their families warm and dry. They were never afraid of work. They raised children who learned to love their home and care for it.



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February 2014 Listings



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WAS \$315,000

1540C Willow Creek Way - \$199,000
This classic farmhouse has 3bd/ 2.5ba, large deck w/hot tub, 2 screen porches, hardwood floors, large studio w/bath & kitchenette. Great Deal!

New Listings

3766C Carefree Way - \$159,000
Immaculate, cozy home, 950sf 2bd/1ba ranch-style house built by Terrapin mid 2013. Magnificent mountain and valley views. Full-time residence or a vacation getaway.

Casita Park

13 Camino De La Plata - \$47,500
980 sf duplex has two complete fully functional separate units (380sf. & 600sf). Decks, Storage shed & landscaping. There are beautiful views of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Excellent investment property!

23 Acre Estate

WAS \$990,000

On the creek

3926 Cordial Way - \$599,000
Secluded 4100+sf home 4bd/3.5ba 550sf guest house plus 2 car garage on 23.749 acres on Cottonwood Creek. Lovely views and privacy!

Retreat Property

WAS \$669,000

RETREAT CENTER NOW - \$479,000
Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!

Commercial Properties

Residential + Restaurant + Office

WAS \$495,000

121 E. Galena - NOW \$399,000
Premiere, newly renovated downtown commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt. and 3 rentals 1st floor, one with modern commercial kitchen. Great opportunity!

Commercial Properties

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.

Downtown Commercial Lots

Lots 11 & 12 Blk 43. - \$85,000
Rare opportunity to purchase 2 downtown commercial lots. 2 each 50x142. Utilities available. Prime location for development.

Historic Hotel

WAS \$349,000

Willow Springs (Moffat) NOW \$299,000
Historic building 9Bd/3BA 3600sf; detached studio, artesian well. Great business potential.

Baca Grande Properties

Custom Quality Home

637 Panorama Way - \$699,000
Magnificent ~3000sf 3bd/3ba 1-1/2 story custom home with exquisite detailing & beautiful woodwork. 750sf det. garage w/ studio apt. above. Stone fireplace, net meter solar, Viking appliances.

Enchanted Castle

2795 CR Brook Terrace - \$499,500
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Rustic Elegance

923 Blue Spruce OL - \$439,000
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Was \$459,000

786C Panorama Way - \$427,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/ sunroom/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.

Was \$499,000

1234C Brookview NOW - \$419,000
Lee Mitchell custom-built, 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.

Was \$429,000

Custom Southwest Style

1266C Forest Grove OL - \$375,000
Extraordinary ~2238sf on .97 acres, 2bd/2ba home with 408sf sunroom, 624sf 1 bd apt over 624 sf detached garage. Custom built. Magnificent views at top of Chalet I.

Was \$349,000

483C Point of Rock OL - \$333,000
Teahen Construction, Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2-story home on 1.946 acres Attached 2 car garage, detached studio. High energy efficiency & quality throughout.

Was \$349,000

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

MILLION \$ VIEWS!

909C Brookview Way - \$299,000
Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca iWaiting for the right person to complete the vision. 2324 sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576 sf guest house w/kitch.

A lovely sanctuary

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.

5 Lots!

1202 Hilltop Way - \$295,000
Lee Mitchell custom-built, 3bd/2ba home on 5-Chalet 1 lots. Fine finishes, radiant floor heat & framed views.

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!

Rustic meets Modern- 15.31 acres

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.

Was \$295,000

Bonus Cabin/Studio

733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$270,000
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.

Very Private - Was \$297,000

1255C Eagle OL - \$267,000
Beautiful 2075sf 2-story home with 2bd/2ba/ office/sun room, Chalet I on 1.766 acres, private cul-de-sac. Dramatic view windows, vaulted ceilings, master suite w/soak tub.

REDUCED! Was \$275,000

149 Moonlight Way NOW \$250,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2118sf home w/ 2 living areas - extensively updated & immaculate condition. Cathedral ceilings & a wall of glass w/ great views. Adjoins greenbelt & creek.

New Construction Reduced! Was \$269,000

1647C Willow Creek Way - \$249,000
Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1780sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt. Views.

WAS \$260,000

4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$239,000
Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available. Built by Paul Koppana.

Magnificent Views!

764 Indian Hill OL - \$229,000
This sunny 3 bedroom 2 bath ~1800+ sq. ft. home. 2 living areas- with magnificent views from interior & deck. Detached 576 sq.ft garage & studio. Open plan & energy efficient.

Spacious & Gracious

2664C Happy Hollow - \$215,000
This spacious 2356sf home On 1.041 acres with 4bd/2ba, 2 separate dining areas + gardens, carport & workshop! Large windows-sunshine & awesome views. Passive solar & woodstove.

Includes Lot 1446

1447 Chaparral Way - \$212,000
This 1440sf 2bd/2ba home-complete remodel with bamboo flooring, Jenn-Air stainless appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, travertine bathrooms, ma ba soak tub.

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.

1468C Horseshoe Trail - \$209,500

Spectacular 360 degree views, immaculate, almost new 3 bd/2ba. Large windows, granite counter tops, hickory custom cabinets in kitchen and bathrooms. 2 stone patios

Gorgeous Views!

1740C Willow Creek Way - \$185,000
This 1 1/2 story home located on 1.32 acres has 3bd/2ba with a downstairs studio. In addition it has a glassed-in sunroom with magnificent views. Wood floors downstairs.

Was \$174,000

Close to Town

40 N Crestone OL NOW \$169,500
Built in 1971, renovated in 2010-2012. 1.5 story, 1624sf home with 2bd/1.5 ba/ sunroom/study/office/utility. Located on private cul-de-sac close to town, backs to greenbelt.

Separate Office/Workshop

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.

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.

Was \$159,000

Great retreat home!

936 Spanish Creek Trail \$139,000
1449 sf 1or 2 bd/1ba house on 1.57 acres backs to greenbelt and Spanish Creek. Unique design w/ open floor plan and rasta exterior walls. Passive solar.

Log Home - WAS \$139,000

98 Skyview Way - NOW - \$134,000
Built in 2002, this ~953 sf log home is 2 bedroom/1 bath down with large ~200sf loft up. Located close-in to town and accessible by paved roads.

381 Del Sol Lane - \$69,999

Casita Park-Immaculate 3bd/2ba bath 1216 sf home located on 0.819 acres (5 cons. lots). Includes attached 2 car garage, storage + appliances. Magnificent views & privacy.

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As the Worm Turns

What is a Bee Guardian?

by Leigh Mills

My love affair with honeybees began three years ago. I did a lot of research for an article I was writing then and discovered many facts about honeybees. I learned there were different types of beekeepers, and some call themselves Bee Guardians. My sweet husband and I have enjoyed having a top bar hive of honeybees on our homestead and we call ourselves Bee Guardians, too. One day last fall, a regular reader of this column asked me what a Bee Guardian was and suggested I write something about it. I thought it was a good idea, so here it is.

Not all Bee Guardians are alike, but I think the main goal we share is to learn how to raise honeybees, and harvest honey, while respecting the bees' natural pat-



In the center of this picture, between the two worker bees, there is an open hive cell. If you look closely, you can see the head of a worker bee who is just emerging from her birth chamber. What a special sight! She will spend the next 6 weeks of her short life working very hard to clean the hive, attend the queen, and search for nectar, pollen, or water.

terns of existence.

A Heyokah Bee Guardian:

- researches honeybees before acquiring a hive and colony. (See list of recommended reading at the end of article.)
- understands the esoteric and healing properties of honeybees and their products.
- realizes the value of collecting and raising natural bee colonies. Catching swarms could be similar to growing your own garden seeds; the honeybees are locally adapted to the environment. By allowing a strong bee colony to naturally re-queen, those stronger genetics are passed through the bee-stock.
- creates hives using sacred geometry to support the bees' natural vibrations and esthetic needs.
- leaves the hive and bees undisturbed for longer periods of time. I read somewhere, maybe Rudolf Steiner, that a hive can be likened to a human brain. When a person opens a honeybee hive, they are performing brain surgery on the hive. How often would you want your brain opened?
- uses alternative methods of calming bees other than smoke when working the hive. The reason smoke works is because it creates an alarm within the colony. They think there is a fire, and in preparing to leave the hive, they eat a lot of honey, which makes them heavy and slow. Using smoke in this manner significantly disturbs the colony's harmonious rhythms and also reduces their vital honey stores. We spritz water on the bees when necessary, and then only sparingly. We also drum and hum to keep ourselves, and the bees, calm and centered.
- works with the bees in order to protect, not exploit for profit.



As a Bee Guardian, you can see that I don't wear a heavy bee suit. So far, I've only been stung a few times, and that was in the first year when I wasn't as connected to my girls, and boys, as I am now.

- strives to connect vibrationally with the bees. Example: Honeybees perceive in three ways and will react accordingly, neutral, alike, or defend. I attempt to exude a neutral or alike vibe when I'm around my bees, because if they sense a need to defend, that's when I get stung.

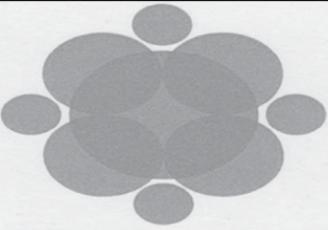
There are a few more points of reference to the making of a Bee Guardian, but the most important thing my girls have taught me is learning how to remain calm, centered and present when working around things that can create pain . . . and love, love, love, no matter what.

Here are a list of books and websites about honeybees and their gifts:

- Bees – Rudolf Steiner
 - Toward Saving the Honeybee – Gunther Hauk
 - Top Bar Beekeeping (Organic Practices for Honeybee Health) – Les Crowder and Heather Harrell
 - Barefoot Beekeeper – P. J. Chandler
 - Health & Healing with Bee Products – C. Leigh Broadhurst, PhD
 - The Sacred Bee (In Ancient Times & Folklore) – Hilda Ransome
- Websites:**
- BackYardHive.com – Offers beekeeping classes
 - BeeGuardian.org
 - FortheLoveofBees.com – Offers beekeeping classes

ZiaQueenBees.com

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



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Weather re-cap for 2013

Rain, snow, wind, drought, many records set

by Keno

We have some interesting weather to recap from 2013 in the Crestone area, so let's take a look back at the highlights.

January and 2013 started off very cold, with many records broken. From January 2 'til 7, the thermometer in Crestone stayed at or below 12° for 94% of the time. We also saw 15 record low temperature readings set during the month, including 3 days where the temperature stayed below 10°. The coldest reading of the month (and year) was reached on January 13 when it bottomed out at -16.2°.

On January 22, the temperature climbed above freezing for the first time in 2013, and also for the first time since December 18, 2012. That broke a cold spell that saw constant below-freezing temperatures for 34 days, 23 hours and 30 minutes. In the end, this January became the second coldest January ever, with an average temperature of 12.5°.

Yet with all of this cold, Crestone/Baca saw measurable rain fall for the first time ever in the month, on January 26. It had only rained once before in January, in 2009, but only a trace fell on that day. This January also became the only winter month on record where most of the precipitation that fell in the month, fell as rain and not snow.

With an average snow depth of around 8" on the ground throughout January, it seemed hard to believe that the least amount of snow to fall in January occurred, only 0.6" was recorded, and this was also the first time less than an inch of snow fell in the entire month. This was the sixth January in a row that saw below average precipitation fall to start off the year.

Unlike January, little weather news to report for **February**, other than on the 25th, a record low temperature was tied at 4°.

Just a bit more action in **March**, with the 6.4" of snow recorded on March 9, along with .57" of precipitation, both records for the date. Then thanks to a cold front, the high temperature for March 23 was set right at midnight, at 24°, which was a new record low high for the date, shattering the old record of 35°. That afternoon the high was 22°. On March 24, two records were set, first a record low at 2°, along with a record low high of 31°.

For **April**, a total of three record low temperatures were set, and on April 5, we experienced both the first day in 2013 where the temperature didn't fall below freezing, and also the first day since November 9, 2012, where no freezing temps were observed.

On April 16 the humidity dropped to 7%, along with a dust/sandstorm that hit the area for most of the day, with visibility down to less than half a mile at times. Also officially on this day, our weather station recorded the highest wind gust ever, when a gust of 54mph was recorded at 12:46pm. However, our area has seen stronger winds before—just unofficially, because of a lack of data in the past.

We see very little sleet (officially called "ice pellets") in our area in any one year, and the first and only day when sleet occurred in 2013 was on **May 7**.

On Thursday, **May 9**, three new weather records were set. First, the 3" of snow that fell was a record amount for the date, with up to 6" of snow reported at other locations around town. Second, the .62" of precipitation was also a record for the date, and finally, the high temperature of 44° was a record low high for the date.

The 3.4" of snow that fell in May marked the first time in 12 years that more than one inch of snow fell in the entire month, even though the average snowfall for May is 2.1". Up until May 2001, it was common to see heavier snow fall in May.

It wasn't until **June 10** that we finally got to experience our first record high for 2013. In fact, two records were reached on this day, a record high, plus a record high low. Then the next day, June 11, another new record high low temperature was reached.

The first hail of 2013 hit on June 18; this was the latest start to hail season in at least 10 years.

On June 27, a record high was broken for the date at 94° and this reading tied for the second warmest temperature reading ever recorded in June.

20 days in June saw relative humidity values below 10%, with the lowest reading, on June 11, of



Looking up East Galena after the first snow of the season.

photo by Lori Nagel

only 2%, which broke the all-time Crestone record (of 3%) and tying the Colorado and US record for **lowest humidity reading ever recorded**. There were several other locations in the San Luis valley, including Hooper, and also across our mountains in Westcliffe, where they experienced the same 2% reading.

Now, how about a report of snow falling in Crestone—in **July**? Yep, in Crestone's National Forest campground (at 8,300'), just north of town, in the afternoon on July 2, big flakes of snow fell. Since this report came in from my daughter Jackie, well, she is a trained weather spotter, so I believe it!

Not too many records were set in July, other than 3 record low highs, with the record low high set on July 28 at 66°, tying for the sixth



It was amazing to witness—almost right over me, with intense winds and noise. The funnel was twisting extremely rapidly . . . the curling edge was getting sucked up into the tube and I wondered what was going to happen next! photo by Kate Steichen

coolest daytime high ever recorded in the month of July.

August was another month with nothing too exciting to report. 3 record low highs were reached and the only other interesting events to note was on August 27, when a thunderstorm dropped .42" of rain and small hail in just 20 minutes, at 3:30pm, along with the temperature dropping 27 degrees during the storm; then on the next day, another thunderstorm hit, dropping .37" of rain and small hail in 30 minutes around 5pm, along with party cloudy skies and sunshine throughout the entire storm.

September would turn into one crazy month, with a total of 12 new weather records set in the first 10 days alone! A total of 15 records would fall before the month ended,

each other, which is even rarer.

Another record precipitation total was set on September 13, with .81" of rain falling (with .71" falling in the early morning hours), breaking the old record of .30", set in 1993. Then even more precip records would fall. On September 22, two records were broken, first, the daily record for precipitation was shattered, when .91" was recorded (old record was .40"). With this event, the all-time record for September precipitation was also broken, and now stands at 3.71" (old record was 3.52"). Then 3 different thunderstorms hit on September 23, with the second storm bringing with it the largest hail seen in the greater Crestone area in over 11 years. Officially, the largest hail to hit at the weather station was 5/8" (grape size), with the average size at 1/2" (marble size). One mile east of the station at 8700 feet, 7/8" (or nickel size) was reported. With this storm, widespread damage was reported, including over by the retreat centers above Chalet 2, with blown out windows on buildings, many down trees, and other damage which might have been caused by a funnel, tornado, or perhaps straight line winds. Some locals did report seeing a funnel in the sky when the storm hit.

Just a handful of records were set in **October**, starting on the 4th, when the high temperature only reached 49°, set at midnight before a cold front came in. Then the next day, the low temperature was 20°, and that tied the previous record low for October 5, which was first set in 1998. Then a new daily snowfall record was reached on October 15, when 1.1" of snow fell, breaking the old record of 0.6", set in 1994.

November was uneventful until the evening of November 24, when the greater Crestone area saw a record snowfall take place. That night snowfall rates of between 3" and 4" were seen for about 4 hours, dropping off to around 1" to 2" per hour around 11pm and that rate continued on past midnight. The total snowfall for the day was 20.4", which broke the old record for the date of 4.0". This total was the second highest one-day snowfall total for any day in November (the record is 28.5", set on Nov. 28, 1997). Also set was the record for the date for precipitation, with 1.92", shattering the old mark of 0.12". That also is

here are a few: A record high temperature was set on the September 5 at 87°; this reading also tied for the highest temperature ever recorded in September (first reached in 1995). Then several things of interest took place on September 7, when for the third day in a row, the Crestone/Baca weather station not only saw a record high temperature set, but also saw a precipitation record tied for the date, just an hour after setting the record high, when .40" of rain fell in about an hour's time during a late afternoon thunderstorm. The record was first reached in 2003. It is rare to see both a record high temperature and record high precipitation record set on the same day, but these 2 records were set within an hour's time of

2013 Weather

continued from page B-8

the most precipitation in one day for November; the old record was 1.62", set on Nov 28, 1997. This total is also the third highest one-day total ever for Crestone/Baca. Also, the 5.0" of snow that fell in the early morning of November 25 was a new record for that date.

After that snowstorm, 6 record low temperatures were set to close out November, and the total precipitation for the month was 3.07", a new record high for November, breaking the old record

of 2.13", set in 1997. The 33.0" of snow was the second highest total for snowfall in November; the highest record still stands at 33.5", set in 1997.

Record low cold continued in **December** with 4 more record lows set, but with very little snow falling (4.4"), although just enough to keep close to a foot of snow on the ground throughout the entire month, right through to New Year's Eve.

In looking back, Crestone/Baca saw 15.35" of precipitation in 2013, making this the first time in 6 years that an above average total for precipitation was reached or past.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

10 Healing kitchen herbs



Healing kitchen herbs fennel seed and sage.

further help in colds and flus. Use a handful in a pot of just boiled water and breathe in the steam. Sage (please don't use our local Sagebrush!) is astringent and so is soothing and healing as a tea for a sore throat. (A note of caution though, don't use Sage if you are breastfeeding, the astringency can decrease the milk supply.) Basil and Peppermint as teas are helpful herbs for mild digestive problems.

Several herbs in the carrot family are carminatives (they help with gas and bloating). Dill, Fennel, and Caraway seeds can be chewed after a meal, or taken as a tea to ease digestion.

Our two most popular alliums, onion and garlic, are antimicrobial and can be used in a number of ways. For a cold or flu, tape slices of garlic clove to the bottoms of your feet to get the benefits of the garlic without the taste. Chop garlic and spread on toast with butter. Make a great cough syrup by slicing onions and covering with honey. Allow it to sit overnight before using.

As you plan your garden for this year, be sure to include these herbs. You can use them for culinary and medicinal purposes during the growing season, and dry them for next winter. Or have a little indoor herb garden and grow them all winter!

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.

February is *almost* spring but not quite. You can almost feel it coming, but there's still snow on the ground. It's still too soon for gardening outside, herb walks, or wildcrafting. But in everyone's kitchen there is an herbal apothecary, a wealth of herbs to use for various ailments.

Let's look in your cupboard. Hopefully, your herbs and spices are not kept near the heat of the stove, and hopefully they are all less than one year old. If not, just know that their effect will be weaker.

Thyme, Oregano, Basil, Sage (not Sagebrush), and Peppermint are all in the mint family. Thyme and Oregano can be used in a respiratory steam, opening up the sinuses and bronchioles. Since they contain volatile oils, they have antimicrobial qualities which can

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<p>\$245,000</p> <p>Large contemporary style home. Great for those who enjoy in town living. Additional studio. 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths with 2 propane fireplaces and one wood hearthstone fireplace.</p>	<p>\$239,000</p> <p>SELLER MOTIVATED</p> <p>The kitchen features, concrete counters, with all appliances, and separate dining, and living room area. 2 spacious bedrooms, and bathrooms with custom vanities, and jetted shower in the master bath.</p>	<p>\$234,000</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>Completely off grid on 40 acres. Home. Gas stove, gas refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, pecan custom cabinets, breakfast nook, and lovely formal dining room. Spacious living room with wood stove, 2 bedroom, 2 bath.</p>	<p>\$239,000</p> <p>Beautiful 3 bed room 2 bath home, designed by architect Ross Chapin. Bright sky lights, large windows, high ceilings and big closets. Walking distance the Charter School!</p>	<p>\$229,500</p> <p>This home has 40 acres with Artesian Well. The barn has several stalls and storage. The lovely home has 3 spacious bedrooms and 3 baths. The Master Suite has a huge walk-in closet, and a newer bathroom addition.</p>	<p>\$215,000</p> <p>Amazingly beautiful creek lots-2.08 acres bordering Cottonwood Creek. Home is contemporary open floor plan with one large bedroom. The second story on the home has gorgeous views of the surrounding area.</p>	<p>\$199,900</p> <p>Spacious 3 bedroom/ 2 bath contemporary style home has a loft area with a secluded office attached. Formal separate dining area. Kitchen with all the amenities, and adjoining utility room. Master Suite with large adjoining full bath. Home also has a 2 car garage.</p>
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<p>\$199,000</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>Large home 6 bedrooms, 3 baths. Open and spacious, would make great retreat for a group. Several areas could be used for meetings, etc. New hardwood floors in most of the home. Creek and very private setting.</p>	<p>\$179,000</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>Complete remodel on this home in 2011, new windows, roof, exterior siding, and interior remodel. Very retro modern design, features 4 bedrooms and 2 baths on nicely treed lot in The Baca Grande.</p>	<p>\$198,000</p> <p>The perfect retreat home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with a larger Master in the upstairs loft. Living room has wood burning stove. Kitchen features built in range, oven refrigerator, and dishwasher. Nice back deck, and a front porch.</p>	<p>\$195,000</p> <p>Superbly constructed monolithic dome with R-60 energy efficiency. Spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bath home with comfortable and spacious living area. Detached, insulated and heated garage/workshop/studio.</p>	<p>\$189,000</p> <p>Walking distance to town and the Charter school. Great 3 bedroom 2 Bath house designed by Ross Chapin. Spacious rooms, large closets, high ceilings, sky lights, and beautiful balcony views of the Sangre De Christo Mountains.</p>	<p>\$188,500</p> <p>This 2 story stucco home has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Open kitchen with pantry area, appliances include gas range, refrigerator, microwave, & washer, dryer. Master bedroom features walk-in closet, master bath.</p>	<p>\$179,900</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED</p> <p>Walking distance to Dharma Ocean Institute-High up on the mountain with amazing panoramic views of mountains from upstairs deck. Beautifully treed lot with screened porch to enjoy the wildlife, and a greenhouse for the gardener.</p>
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<p>\$179,000</p> <p>Great 5.25 acres for your horses or dogs. Backs to Willow Creek greenbelt for trail riding. Thoughtfully built straw-bale, 3 BR, 2 BA home with lots of adobe finishes. Comfortable living space along Willow Creek greenbelt.</p>	<p>\$179,000</p> <p>Newly remodeled down town duplex, great for residential or commercial use. Close to Charter School, 5 bedroom 2 bath. Spacious living rooms and kitchens.</p>	<p>\$165,000</p> <p>High up on mountain strawbale home with efficient in floor radiant heat, and solar hot water 2 bedrooms 2 baths makes it the perfect retreat size home. Lots of light, and great views from the upper decks.</p>	<p>\$165,000</p> <p>Charming home in Crestone. 4 bedrooms and 2 bath, newly painted, new wood laminate floors in upstairs. Large green house on the back of the home.</p>	<p>\$120,000</p> <p>Great ranch style home with oversized 3 car garage, barn, horse fencing, storage trailer, and loafing sheds. Home features 4 bedrooms 3 baths, sunroom, office, large living room. Spacious kitchen, and Master bedroom.</p>	<p>\$80,000</p> <p>Beautiful 2 bedroom home with wonderful mountain and valleyviews nestled into the north side of Casita Park!</p>	<p>\$79,500</p> <p>New roof, new carpet, new paint on this bank owned manufactured home on 1 acre of land in Lazy KV subdivision. Spacious living Room, and open kitchen, adjoins the separate dining area. Large Master bedroom.</p>
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<p>\$64,900</p> <p>One of the nicer locations in Lazy KV, this home is on CR CC on the west side of the subdivision, home features spacious rooms with large kitchen. Home is sold as-is. Property will be conveyed by a Quit Claim Deed.</p>	<p>\$62,900</p> <p>Nice open floor plan, with spacious kitchen, separate dining room, and wood burning stove. Property sold as-is.</p>	<p>\$58,900</p> <p>Great price for Casita Park. Nice stucco finish. Property sold as is, without repairs, warranties, or representations.</p>	<p>\$29,500</p> <p>Home in Moffat with detached garage, large living room, separate dining, and large kitchen. Property</p>	<p>\$27,000</p> <p>Mobile home needs TLC but backs to farmland and great views of the Sangre De Cristo mtn. range.</p>
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\$39,500

This property has great state Hwy frontage. The popular Villa Grove Trading Post is next door.

Land Listings!!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>495 Moonlight Way-High up on the mountain, and close in, seller will finance-\$4,900</p> <p>4352 Rarity Way-Absolutely gorgeous lot, no need to cut any trees, great building site, good views, close to Stupa-\$7,000</p> <p>112 Cottonwood Creek Rd.-Nice area of The Grants, close to Sand Dunes, National Park, and Cottonwood Creek, 3.01 acres!-\$3,800</p> <p>287 Palomino-All tap fees paid, high up and close in-\$4,500</p> <p>534 Thornwood Trail-Creek meanders thru this Grants lot, with 2.65 acres of nice pasture grass, good for horses or livestock-\$12,500</p> <p>1602 Silver Spur Trail-Grants lot with panoramic views, horses allowed, 1.65 acres-\$5,500</p> <p>1788C Summitview Way-3 consolidated lots, backs to greenbelt, high on the mtn, near spiritual retreats, all tap fees paid-\$50,000</p> <p>2856 Carefree Way-Nice area with 360 views of the mountain ranges, \$7,500 tap fee paid, BARGAIN!-\$3,000</p> <p>2146C Indian Well Way-2 consolidated Chalet lots with all tap fees paid, PRICE REDUCED-\$8,000</p> <p>4318 Serene Ct.-Very close to Stupa and retreats, on secluded cul-de-sac in very quiet area-\$10,000</p> | <p>1447 Malachite Trail-1.46 acres in a lovely area of The Grants, well and septic required-\$4,000</p> <p>88 Little Wanderlust- Beautiful Sangre de Cristo views, 2.82 acres- \$6000</p> <p>2840 N. Carefree Way- Nice area of the Chalets, all tap fees paid, water and sewer available-\$8,000</p> <p>2106 Spanish Creek Trail-Nice corner lot near paved road, trees, views-\$7,500</p> <p>1340 Rocky Point Overlook-All tap fees paid, in a nicely wooded area-\$8,500</p> <p>7 Baca Grant Way-Very close in to new Charter School, backs to greenbelt-\$11,000</p> <p>1850C Raccoon Overlook-3 consolidated lots on water and sewer-\$15,000</p> <p>102-104 Wagon Wheel-Nice pasture lots for horses totaling 11.6 acres-\$29,000</p> <p>605C Quail Run Trail-4 consolidated lot 11.86 acres, great for livestock-\$22,000</p> <p>285 Indian Pipe trail-2.83 acres backs to creek and greenbelt-\$23,000</p> <p>TBD CR B-308 acres borders 2 paved roads, great development potential, near Great Sand dunes park and pool-\$123,200</p> <p>4352 Rarity Way-Just Listed, beautiful building site, amazing views-\$10,000</p> <p>823&824 Meadowbrook Trail-Borders creek and greenbelt,6 acres-\$30,000</p> <p>139 Camino Del Rey-Great lot for solar, near paved road, great for horses-\$5,000</p> |
|--|---|

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DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

A community of hermits. I've heard Crestone described that way. It certainly fits as far as our end-of-the-road location is concerned. Why would anyone choose to stay if they didn't enjoy the time and distance between this place and somewhere else? Hermits, after all, prefer some degree of separation, solitude, and silence—all qualities of life that are readily available here.

I know of a hermit nearby who lives a contemplative life in a ridge top cabin, making an occasional trek down to a lower elevation cache where he stealthfully picks up the groceries that his sponsors leave there for him. Another hermit, who lives in a cave outside town, visits periodically to get supplies and to check in on the rest of the world via his laptop. Two former members of the Carmelite community live in simple dwellings on the far edge of a nearby ranch, occasionally surfacing to teach a class or lead a retreat. These are a few of the more isolated hermits I know about; I'm sure there are others around here.

I love solitude, but given too much of it, I would wither away. The hermit's life, in its purest form anyway, isn't for me, nor is it for most people. In fact, it's a pretty specialized vocation. Nevertheless, I treasure the ideal of it and its appeal increases proportionally with the amount of chaos I experience.

Most hermits I've met or read about live simple lives in simple dwellings. The great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, wrote a poem

called "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," which describes the allure of the hermit's dream:

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there,
of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there,
a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.*

*And I shall have some peace there,
for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning
to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer,
and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.*

*I will arise and go now, for all-ways night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway,
or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

In the middle of winter, it's tempting to pine away for "water lapping" or "bee-loud glades." But for those of us who appreciate certain qualities of the hermit's life—and my guess is there are plenty of us hereabouts—there's no need to hurry the days along. We have reasons to welcome the longer nights, and the silence and solitude that comes with them, in this season of the bear's deep sleep.




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1615 WILLOW CREEK WAY: 2-3 br, 2 bath, 1600 sf. Open floor plan, bright, well-maintained. Hot water heat, carport. On greenbelt. 2nd lot included. Great value! \$165,000



120 SKYVIEW WAY: 3 br, 1.5 bath, 1235 sf, updated electric, paint, carpet. Stainless kitchen appliances & granite countertops. Wraparound deck leads to hot tub and views, includes 2 lots. \$155,000. Wow!



4236C TRANQUIL: 2,160 sf, 4 br, office, 3 bath on 2.6 acres. Expansive views, secluded, high on mountain near retreat centers. Walk to Stupa! Many possibilities with location & amenities. Must see! \$335,000



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958 MEDITATION OL: 1,363 sf, 3 br, 1.5 bath, built in 2007. Quiet location, meticulously maintained, energy-wise, bright, creative touches. Solar in-floor heat with electric backup. \$195,000



165 CANYON OL: 4 br, 1.5 bath, bright with beautiful views! 2 balconies, patio, screened porch, greenhouse; private location on cul de sac. Near hiking trail, park and creek. \$189,990 now \$182,000

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331 Camino Baca Grande - \$4,750
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403 N. Chaparral - \$8,500 New Listing!
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Grants
1463 Horseshoe - nice, flat, grassy - \$8,200
Casita Park (Mobile Home Estates)
57 El Cid - 2 lots, cul-de-sac - \$3,000
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3510 ENCHANTED: 3 br, 2 bath, 1833 sf. Spacious kitchen, living, and master. Two tankless water heaters for hot water & central heat. Nice location & lot. New roof with warranty! \$119,000

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Baca Grande Library News



Blind Date with a Book Feb. 14 by Suzanne McGregor

The Friends of the Library (FOL) group of the Baca Grande Library is looking for more members! The dedicated volunteers of this nationwide organization advocate for libraries, raise needed funds, sponsor programs and special events, and host popular fundraisers such as used book sales, projects at local festivals, etc. Currently, our primary focus is the Baca Grande Li-

brary Relocation Project, as the survey taken last summer indicated that the majority of community residents would like the library to be located in town. Please consider joining this group—we need help with fundraising projects to assist us in making this dream a reality for our community.

We are beginning the new year with many new selections in both books and videos. Many new videos have been added to our music DVD collection (the blue dot category), children's audio books (like the entire

Narnia series on CDs), new DVD series (*Enlightenment, Vexed, William and Mary, and Miss Fisher's Murder Series*), plus many new audio books on CD (including *Sycamore Row, The Book Thief, Orphan Train, The Bully Pulpit* and *The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon*). We have started adding MP3 CDs to our audio collection, as a number of patrons have requested this format.

Once again, we will have our Blind Date with a Book on Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14. If you missed out last year, this is how it works: books are wrapped and decorated so they are a surprise when you unwrap them at home. They have a few clues on the cover (like fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, etc.) to help you out a little bit. You check them out, and (hopefully) you will enjoy a good read. The books we choose are usually very worthwhile books that have been neglected for a while and are in danger of being withdrawn. Folks really enjoyed their "blind dates" last year, so we welcome you to check them out!

Note: The library will be closed on Wednesday, February 5 for a staff/community planning session.

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

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In Search of Economic Reality

Does TPP globalization enhance the wealthy, & destroy US independence?

by Ed Lyell

The US Congress is proceeding with fast track status on a new multinational trade treaty, called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This is raising many questions around the world in terms of good or bad, and for whom. Fast track authority is a provision under the Trade Promotion Authority that requires Congress to review a free-trade agreement, or FTA, under limited debate, in an accelerated timeframe that is subject to a yes-or-no vote by Congress without any provision for Congress to modify the agreement by submitting amendments.

I am reminded of another major piece of legislation rushed through Congress avoiding public discussion or involvement. That was the 1913 Federal Reserve Act that took away government control of its money. Instead, we have a private bank owned by wealthy people printing and controlling our money, increasing income and wealth disparity in America. Signing the law creating the Federal Reserve made then President Wilson later say "I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled

and dominated Governments in the civilized world no longer a Government by free opinion, no longer a Government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men."

Now we again are giving in to the world's wealthy. TPP is a multinational agreement going through Congress in the dark of back rooms. Its intended purpose is to make it easier for the member nations to trade goods and services among themselves. However it also takes away a nation's ability to control patents, air and water quality, and labor rights.

The opposition is from both the American left and right. Labor unions and environmental groups see disaster for the world. Some of the business community is concerned that patent rights and rules for innovation are being taken from the US government and given to a new multi-nation compact. Some on the far right see this TPP as a new step toward a world government that diminishes US sovereignty.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which exists to keep the internet open to everyone, has stated "Big Content companies are pushing extreme copyright provisions in a secret trade deal that would put restrictive controls on the Internet. While Hollywood has had easy access to view and comment on draft texts—so it can get the provisions

it wants—our own lawmakers have been mostly left out".

The liberal Huffington Post has taken the position "Working Americans won't be fooled again. We know this is about our kids and the future of this nation, as we risk shipping our manufacturing sector and millions of service sector jobs overseas. It's about our jobs and wages, our environment, our public health and our food safety. It's all on the line and it's up to us to hold the line in the weeks ahead". Huffington states "Collective bargaining rights and coverage for U.S. workers are the lowest among other democracies, yet we continue to look for trading partners in countries like Vietnam, where the minimum wage is 28 cents an hour and child labor is rising."

Conservatives oppose TPP from a different viewpoint, voiced in a book *The Late Great U.S.A.* This book uncovers the careful deceptions of a powerful elite who want to undermine our sovereignty before we realize it. Phyllis Schlafly, president, Eagle Forum, stated that this book "connected the dots between the sale of toll roads and other infrastructure to foreign companies".

If TPP is all good why is it not also embracing multi-national rules on tax evasion, bank fraud and off-shoring jobs which exploit workers?

President Obama praised TPP in his State of the Union ad-

dress saying: "To boost American exports, support American jobs and level the playing field in the growing markets of Asia, we intend to complete negotiations on a Trans-Pacific Partnership." The 12 nations involved in the TPP are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the United States. With Speaker Boehner's decision to support Obama on TPP, the Republican Party appears ready to ignore concerns raised by GOP conservatives and various Tea Party groups that the deal further undermines U.S. sovereignty. Those opponents argue TPP places major sectors of the U.S. economy under a new dispute-regulation mechanism that takes precedence over U.S. laws, judges and courts.

Pressured by labor union constituents, the House Democrats have concluded the massive Trans-Pacific trade deal capitulates to corporate interest groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

When both liberals and conservatives agree that something is dangerous to the average American, I want to know more about it. I recommend that the American public demand hearings and publicity to promote awareness and discussion about TPP before it becomes law. Already less than 10% of Americans trust Congress and this is one more reason why. TPP is another major sign that we are a plutocracy and no longer a democracy doing business for the public in the public. Instead, wealthy insiders are making the decisions and no longer even want us aware or involved. I recommend that readers demand this TPP proposal be slowed down and the discussions held in public.

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4bd, loft, 1 bath, jacuzzi tub, tile floors, radiant floor heating, wood stove. monthly lease while house on market, no pot growers. \$900 mo, w/s and garbage included. susie 707-476-8823 sshope32@gmail, avail Jan.

LG. HISTORICAL FARM HOUSE

Ig. 2 Story Home – Unfurn. HUGE fenced grounds, 2 enclosed porches, 1 Lg. open south deck, W/D, 2 1/2 BA, wood stove, Pics/terms/contact: www.thelongandshortofrenting.com

Beautiful Rental Available Now

Chalet I – Beautiful 3 BR/2 BA, wood stove & propane heat, jetted tub, clean and well kept, W/D, large deck w. great views, N/S/P, lease, \$750 inc. water & san. 719-937-7786

Live in Town

Downtown Crestone rental offering. Cozy, quiet cottage. Close to creek and park. Wood stove. WiFi, dish TV available. \$400/mo plus utilities. Available mid-February. 256-5445. thecrestoneoasis@yahoo.com

COZY STRAWBALE HOME

Grants 2200sq.ft. charming strawbale, Treed Spanish Creek frontage, radiant floor heat w/woodstove ,2bd/2b, w/d, storage shed; 1st,last,sec, ref.; available 2/10/14. 719-937-1039 LEASE/SALE.

Housemate Wanted:

Private bedroom with private bathroom plus screened in porch. Very quiet, peaceful and beautiful.. Shared kitchen and living space. Pets in household. Contact DeAnna 719-256-4455

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

Furnished 1 BR/1BA Retreat Home

Beautifully appointed, wood stove, passive solar, gated grounds. Fully furn. 719 256 4585 Pics, terms & email: www.thelongandshortofrenting.com

Apartments/Rooms/Misc. for Rent

LG. RETREAT CABIN STUDIO FURN.

Private, Quiet Log Cabin, Large, Lots of Storage, Fully Furnished, STEAM SHOWER, short/long term. Pics, Terms, Contact info: www.thelongandshortofrenting.com 719 256 4585

Studio- Apt.

STUDIO / APT. \$625.00 + util. gas cooking/heating, 6 insulated claw foot w/ shower. Passive Solar heated-straw bale w/ Adobe. Charming/quiet. Some furniture. Paul 256-4677

Gorgeous Furnished Master Suite

Gorgeous Furnished Master Suite, short term with shared bath - GREAT for writers/meditators' need for private retreat time, www.thelongandshortofrenting.com 719 256 4585

House Rental Wanted

Short-Term Rentals Needed

Short-Term Rentals Needed: The Crestone College of Structural Integration will be hosting classes in 2014, and we are putting together a housing list for our students. Class dates will be 3/24-4/24, 5/25-31, 7/7-8/27, 10/6-11/26. If you have a furnished rental, and want to be included on our housing list, please send rental info to info@crestonesi.org

Services

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.

Affordable Renewable Energy

Offset the cost of your utility bills with Solar Electric or with Solar Heating and Domestic systems. Efficient, cost effective, reliable and professional service. Call Talmath with New Gen Energy at (719) 588-8276 or visit us online: newgenenergy.com

Licensed Real Estate Appraisal

Licensed Real Estate Appraiser with 25 years experience, many years experience in Crestone. Don Root. 937-7796 or 720-244-1097. donald.root@yahoo.com.

Home Health Care-giving

Experienced CNA certified Care-giver in Home Health Care brings professional, compassionate and creative services for short to extended shifts. Email: martashoman@gmail.com Mobile: 719-937-1292

Natural Hoof Care Practitioner

AANHCP Natural Hoof Care Practitioner- Narayan Khalsa. Hoof care modeled after the wild horses of the Great Basin. Going on 30 years of tried and true practices, facilitating sound horses. Call for free consultation and/or to make an appointment. 949-326-3269 www.effectivepetwellness.com www.naturalhorsehoof.com

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and particularly to the electors of the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District of Saguache County, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 32-1-804.1, C.R.S., that an election will be held on the 6th day of May, 2014, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time two (2) Directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and one (1) Director will be elected to serve a 2-year term.

Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms are available and can be obtained from AJ Beckman, the Designated Election Official for the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District, 141 Union Boulevard, Suite 150, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1898, (303) 987-0835. Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms are also available at the District office: 57 Baca Grant Way South, Crestone, Colorado or online at www.Bacawater.com.

The Self-Nomination and Acceptance Form or letter is to be submitted to the Designated Election Official not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014, 67 days prior to the regular election at the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District, 141 Union Boulevard, Suite 150, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1898, (303) 987-0835 or the District's office at 57 Baca Grant Way South, Crestone, Colorado. A Self-Nomination and Acceptance Form that is not sufficient may be amended once at any time prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014. Affidavits of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate must be submitted to the Designated Election Official by the close of business on Monday, March 3, 2014, 64 days prior to the regular election.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN pursuant to Section 1-8-104, C.R.S., that applications for mail-in ballots may be filed with AJ Beckman, the Designated Election Official of the District, 141 Union Boulevard, Suite 150, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1898, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., until the close of business on the Friday immediately preceding the regular election (Friday, May 2, 2014), except that if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business on the 7th day before the election (Tuesday, April 29, 2014).

BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

By: /s/ AJ Beckman, Designated Election Official

Published in The Crestone Eagle February, 2014

NOTICE: MEETING DATE CHANGED DUE TO CHANGE IN PROCESS OF MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND SAGUACHE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND CRESTONE/BACA Public Hearing in the Saguache County Road and Bridge meeting room located at 305 – 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code Articles IV – specifically Retail Marijuana regulations

To view the proposed changes you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.net.

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, February 14, 2014 and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

By: Linda Joseph, Chairman

Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

Computer Service/Repairs

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

Outlets, Wiring, Network and Satellite: Home and Office

Need Phone Outlets added to your house or office? I do Phone, Computer Network, Satellite TV and Stereo wiring. New construction, existing, troubleshooting. Call Dennis 256-4110

The Light Body

The Light Body, Missing Color Analysis and Restorative Treatment. \$60. The Matrix Light Chamber. 719-937-7755. Nate.

IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN!

David W. Walker, Accountant, 36 years experience. Personal & Business Income Tax Assistance. Call for appointment in your area: 719-379-2988.

Help Wanted

Experienced Childcare Needed

Experienced Child care is needed with a good remuneration of 400 per week. If you are interested or for more details contact eduann78@outlook.com

Construction Lead Person

All around self motivated lead person for large wood frame residential project. Reply with work experience, trades you're familiar with, & contact info. CCTcrestone@gmail.com

Lawyer needed

In need of A lawyer-To Represent 2 toddler siblings. This is A out of state case. During A Hospital stay in KY Our Family,forcibly agreed to A UDS for our toddlers,the test was negative. This was A tremendously traumatic experience for our off grid pure family. The DR.,collage interns and UK hospital SW team made this A interrogation to remember . They insulted our religious beliefs and preferences. Disrespected and discredited against our family structure, because A parent was A registered med-MJW patient in another State. This is A permanent medical rec- and SW was called. DCBS had no concerns our family

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

was discharged. Please make this tragedy justified and stop the bully . If money is awarded or A settlement. A portion will be donated to the Crestone community .THE Wood Family call-719-849-5518

Help Wanted

Executive Director, Orient Land Trust (OLT) Seeking dynamic individual to oversee management of Orient Land Trust (OLT) and its recreational facility, Valley View Hot Springs. Applicant should be passionate about preserving open space and wildlife habitat in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Opportunity to oversee wide range of environmental, educational and recreational programs while managing 2,100 currently preserved acres. ED guides OLT, manages staff, implements strategic plans and pursues opportunities for land preservation. OLT is supported through income from Valley View's resort operations and by a broad contributor base. See www.olt.org for mission and details. Request detailed job description from johnlorenz@olt.org. Please reply by February 28, 2014.

PT Help Wanted

Part-time housekeeper needed at Orient Land Trust/Valley View Hot Springs. Some grounds keeping involved. Must be able to work weekend & holiday shifts. Onsite residence possible. Experience is preferred, references requested. Email mark@olt.org for application information.

Misc. Wanted

WANTED: Bodhisattvas!

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

Seeking Professionals

Seeking professionals and/or certified healers to share office space, Carver House, Alamosa. One day a week for \$75.00/month. Inquires sent to energymedicineslv@gmail.com or 719-588-0208.

Misc. for Sale

FIREWOOD

Firewood ~ Well Seasoned Pinion Pine \$295.00 per Cord + Delivery ~ Call or Text Sublers Nursery 719-395-6253 ~ Sales@SublersNursery.com

Misc for sale

Vermont Castings dark blue wdstove \$550 with some piping phone 256-5029.

FIREWOOD

Firewood ~ 2 - 4 Cord Loads ~ \$175.00 per Cord ~ Plus Delivery ~ Well Seasoned Firewood \$225.00 per Cord ~ Cash Only, no check or credit cards ~ Call or Text 719-395-6253

GOOGLE JIM STARRY

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

Vehicles for Sale

2003 Ford Focus for Sale

2003 Ford Focus, 114,000 m, 5 speed, 2 new tires, cd player, some minor body damage, runs great, approx. 32 mpg., \$3200.obo, call Mike @ 256-4901

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. call Kris at 719-256-4786; LM—Please speak clearly, I'll return your call.

Events

What's Happening in Crestone?

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

Free

Designing the Earth Anew Together:

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

KRZA

100.9 FM South Fork-Del Norte
88.7 FM Alamosa-Taos
98.7 FM Saguache
www.krza.org



A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

32-1-804.1; 32-1-804.3, 1-1-104(34), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of SAGUACHE County, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6TH day of May, 2014, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, three (3) directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and one (1) director will be elected to serve 2-year* term. Eligible electors of the CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO):

LINDA STAGNER

24351 CR 61, MOFFAT, CO 81143 719/256-4385

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: TUESDAYS from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 24351 County Road 61, Moffat, CO.

If the DEO determines that a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form is not sufficient, the eligible elector who submitted the form may amend the form once, at any time, prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014. The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business (4:00 P.M.) on Friday, February 28, 2014. Earlier submittal is encouraged as the deadline will not permit curing an insufficient form. Affidavit of Intent To Be A Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on Monday, March 3, 2014.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for a mail-in ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on Friday, May 2, 2014, except that, if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business (4:00 P.M.) on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Submitted by Linda Stagner, District Designated Election Official

Little Piggies Are Great For Your Health.



When you really need it, we will have your money waiting for you. A health savings account (HSA) is a way to save money to cover health expenses. By depositing money into your HSA, you can save your money for when the unexpected occurs. Accounts are completely portable, meaning you keep the money if you change jobs, change your medical coverage or become unemployed. Contributions to your account are tax deductible. You will receive tax-free medical expense withdrawals and earnings through investment.

San Luis Valley Federal Bank

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3415 Mariposa Ave. West Alamosa

330 Solar Ave. Monte Vista

www.slvfed.com





by Keno
What is your take on Punxsutawney Phil and Groundhog Day? Just how accurate is Phil?

I believe that most sane people understand that Groundhog Day, held every February 2, is nothing more than a silly joke, as far as predicting the weather for the next 6 weeks.

It is a false belief that all groundhogs wake from their winter hibernation on February 2 of each year and then peek out to see if the sun is shining or not. Groundhogs hibernate for different periods of time depending on the region and climate where they live, and none of them wake up prior to late February or March. So this means that groundhogs are being awakened by humans, who interrupt their essential sleep cycles to be forced to participate in these stupid rituals each February 2.

The famous Punxsutawney Phil doesn't even get to hibernate. He actually lives in captivity, kept on display in the local library until



Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds seen from Camino Baca Grande near south Crestone park, looking northeast around 4pm December 31, 2013. The formation is considered rare and doesn't last long because it arises from an instability between two layers moving at different speeds.
 photo by Felix Lopez and Bea Ferrigno

the beginning of February when he is forced to put on a show in front of thousands of people and TV crews.

Some people actually believe that the groundhog can predict six more weeks of winter or an early spring, and according to Groundhog Day organizers, the rodents' forecasts are accurate 75% to 90% of the time. But they are full of it, and only fools would believe them, since past records have proven over and over again that this isn't close to being the truth. The last study made, by the Canadian govern-

ment for 13 cities going back 40 years, found that the weather patterns predicted on Groundhog Day were only 36% accurate over that time period—almost the same as compared to the 33% accuracy that would occur by chance.

The National Climatic Data Center has described the forecasts as "On average, inaccurate" and stated that "The groundhog has shown no talent for predicting the arrival of spring, especially in recent years."

What is the greatest snowfall on record for one season in Colorado?

The official record was set not too far away from our area, over at Wolf Creek Pass. In the winter of 1978-1979, the total snowfall measured 837.5"!

What is the difference between snow showers, snow flurries, and snow squalls?

A snow flurry is a light, intermittent snowfall without any significant accumulation of snow on the ground.

A snow shower is a short duration of light to moderate snow. Snow showers are characterized by their sudden beginnings and endings. They usually leave snow on the ground, but not always.

A snow squall is a sudden moderately to very heavy snow fall with blowing snow and strong, gusty surface winds. They often produce whiteouts and are similar to a blizzard other than they are localized and don't last long in time, and snow accumulations may or may not be significant.

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

Dec. 21 to Jan. 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.39"
 Snow: 5.3"
 Measurable precipitation fell on 6 days.
 Measurable snow fell on 8 days.
 A trace of snow fell on 2 days.
 Ice Crystals fell on 1 day
 No measurable rain or hail fell.

Total precipitation year to date

Since Jan 1: 0.08"

Total snow to date

Since Jan 1: 1.2"

Snow Season *: 44.2"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 33.5°F on January 14
 Low temp: -5.0°F on January 5
 Avg. high: 24.6°F
 Avg. low: 5.6°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 32°: 3

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 27

Number of days with the low temperature below zero°: 6

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.5 mph
 Highest gust: 30 mph on January 4

Main direction: Out of the east.

Weather summary:

There was nothing too exciting to report. Temperature wise, if you live below 8200 feet, you saw slightly below average temps, above that, you experienced normal temps. There were 5 record low temperatures set, all of which were new record low high temperatures, and this is something we have been seeing most winters since the official weather station was moved to a lower elevation 6 years ago.

Precipitation was very much below average region-wide.

Outlook for February

February is the driest month of the year, with only 0.49" of precipitation expected, along with only 8.5" of snow expected on average. The most snow to fall in the month was in 2003, when 24.4" of snow fell. The most precipitation was 1.10", in 1997.

In the first week of February, the average temperature highs and lows are 36° and 10°, and by month's end those readings warm up to 42° and 17°. The warmest and coldest temperatures in February were: 65° on Feb 28, 2006, and -26° on Feb 1, 1985.

The 27-day outlook for February is calling for both average temperatures, and precipitation.

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

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Love is the only reality and it is not a mere sentiment. It is the ultimate truth that lies at the heart of creation.
 —Rabindranath Tagore