

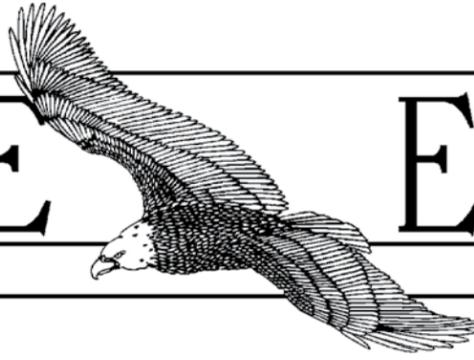
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 26, Number 1

January, 2015 \$1

26 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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Winter makes art of the landscape. Photo by Scott Murrish, US-Photography.com. Murrish says of this photo, "The bike is a Ural, made in Russia on the same assembly line since WWII after copying the 1939 BMW used by the Germans. While it looks vintage it's actually a 2012 model. These bikes are one of the few things, other than vodka and caviar, that we import from Russia. To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Governor Hickenlooper unveils next year's Colorado budget & taxpayer refunds

by Lisa Cyriacks

For the first time in many years, Colorado government finds itself in a position of having to refund tax revenue to voters. The refunds are required when state revenue exceeds the combined rate of inflation and population growth.

Taxpayer rebates totaling \$167.2 million are mandated by Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), assuming current law and the accuracy of the September forecast by the Office of State Planning and Budget.

A \$30.5 million rebate for new marijuana taxes is coming. Total state marijuana revenue was different than what was projected in the election blue book. (In November 2013, Colorado voters approved Proposition AA, which allowed a 10% retail sales tax and a 15% excise tax.) Because the estimated revenue subject to TABOR was underestimated, under TABOR the state must refund the money being collected or ask voters again to keep it for additional state spending.

According to Governor Hickenlooper, it will be important to engage the legislature when the session begins on the issue of marijuana sales tax revenue rebates. At the time he presented the proposed budget he advised that it would be unwise for the state to plan to spend any of those funds in advance of that discussion.

Current revenue projections indicate a \$136.6 million refund for revenue above the Referendum C cap in Fiscal Year 2015-16. If

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New Crestone-Baca library site disclosed

by Sarah Koehn Frey

Both the Crestone Planning Commission and the Crestone Town Trustees unanimously approved the NSCLD's chosen site, after much inclusive discussion and thoughtful evaluation. The NSCLD Board of Trustees, Director, and architect Burt Wadman were honored to go through this process with the Crestone Town Trustees, as it demonstrated the incredible vision and care the Trustees have for the fu-

ture of our community.

In a special meeting that included representation from the Library District, Friends of the Baca Grande Library President Thom Ontko, Charter School Director Michael Hayes and County Commissioner Jason Anderson, a collaborative solution was achieved that will allow for additional parking for special events that will take place at the Library Community Gathering Space and Amphitheatre.

The district made a thorough evaluation of numerous potential locations for the new library, including smaller sites in the core pedestrian area of downtown. After exploring possibilities with several property owners, a location was selected that is midway between the Charter School and the downtown, is convenient to pedestrians young and old, and is large enough to provide ample on-site parking for the

continued on page 8



Magical! The Mercantile put lights on the HUGE tree by the Hardware Store this year! As a size perspective, an average sized person comes up to about the armpit of that little teeny-tiny bear next to the tree! photo by Lori Nagel

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The Crestone Eagle

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Comments or opinions expressed in The Crestone Eagle are not necessarily those of the publisher,

but are solely those of the writer.

Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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

Editor's Notes
January deep freeze

Brrrr. The snow comes in a series of storms, piling up a foot deep or more in places. Muffling sounds, putting the forest to bed.

The snow lies across the valley turning it into one giant sunlight-reflecting bowl. The deep freeze settles in. Below-zero temps at night, below-freezing temps for the highs.

On the slopes we look down on a thick cloud. As we drive down into the morning fog, temperatures plummet, hoar frost transforms the landscape. Otherworldly. Scary in its extreme arctic beauty.

Deep winter. You have to be kinda crazy to live here in January. If you do so, you have to embrace it. Doing a combination of hunkering down and getting out and enjoying it. Feeling the exhilaration of skiing in fresh powder and then the warmth of a wood stove on sub-zero nights.

You have to survive it. Native peoples didn't stay here in the winter for a reason. For those who do, it can be a challenge. Frozen pipes, cars that won't start or get stuck in the snow. Elderly people dealing with icy, snow-covered steps. Young families dealing with sick children. Many people dealing with low or no income, heating bills and cupboards just a little too bare.

Beneath the beauty can be hardships. Who needs help?

I'm very proud of how this community responded over the holidays—raising money for the food bank, buying winter coats and gifts for families in need. Pitching in. Then lighting up the town in celebration right during the winter's darkest nights.

Today the mountains are under clouds. More snow is on the way. Cabin fever can sneak up on you, so go visit friends. Make soup. Check on your neighbors. Stay warm everybody—in body and heart.

Wishing you all a very good and happy New Year,
 —Kizzen



KaliLupe gratitude

Dear Community,

I am beyond humbled and grateful to you for making the KaliLupe benefit a huge success. You have been supporting my healing journey in so many ways for nearly two years now after my initial prognosis of 3 months to live. I cannot express what it is like one day to wake up and find out that you are terminally ill. Being a part of this community continues to be one of the strongest foundations under my feet that keeps me going. My blood family often remarks how blown away they are that I am surrounded by so many loving people. We foster a spirit of unity here that is so rare, may we never take it for granted.

While I was not well enough to attend the benefit, I heard it was a blast. Offering entertainment to our tribe has been a long standing passion of mine and I am glad that I was able to do this again, even if from my bed.

My thanks go out to so many. To you for attending and offering both and energetic contributions. The Crestone Eagle for contributing promotional space, The Cloud Station for the venue, James Joseph Roderick for his artwork, Mark and Mary for their impeccable auctioning skills, the musicians both local and from out of town, the highly talented bakers who contributed their food art, the dancers who are still sore, and I'm certain countless others who I am forgetting in this moment, but who I carry in my heart.

I've even heard that there were folks who couldn't attend but dropped in just to drop off a donation. If you were unable to be at the event and would like to contribute, you can send a tax free offering to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, PO Box 822, Crestone, 81131 with "Kalisama Fund" in the memo line.

Again, my deepest gratitude to you my awesome community.

With love endless,
 Kalisama

Fond farewell to Crestone & residents!

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you to everyone for making me feel welcome, loved and at home here in Crestone!

As most of you know my Mom passed away June of 2014 and as a result I have decided that my time here in Crestone is up.

I will be leaving mid-January for a new adventure with Scott and Kyle. I will be leaving here with very fond memories of everyone and what I feel are lifelong friendships. My Dad is still here so I will be back to visit periodically.

I wish everyone peace, health and happiness!

I love you all
 Sheryll Whelchel



KaliLupe! Some of the crowd of well-wishers at the KaliLupe Benefit Gathering and Dance Party held at the Elephant Cloud Station. all photos by Lori Nagel



Mary Lowers & Jillian Klarl Ellzey greet all who enter the KaliLupe Benefit Party by accepting donations with a smile, giving out wristbands, and happily engaging in lively conversations about all the lovely desserts that will be going up for auction that evening.



Cathy Amenta happily shows off her amazing gluten-free chocolate cake with sea salt & dark chocolate frosting and blueberries, strawberries & raspberries. Her cake got the highest bid of all! Thanks to everyone who baked & bid!



Auctioneer Mark Jacobi workin' the audience for bids, as Debra Irizarry shows off her "Almost Famous" Vegan - Pecan Spelt Crust Pie, which also happened to be the winner of Safiya's 2012 Winterfest Pie Contest.

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Please welcome Alma Sever, left, who has taken over Crestone Eagle Advertising Manager duties from Dee Rudoff. Dee will remain with the Eagle, handling various behind-the-scenes operations.

Crestone Eagle welcomes new ad manager

The Crestone welcomes Alma “Al” Sever to its staff. Al will be our new multi-talented advertising manager. You may have seen her around Crestone as she also works part-time as the Assistant Director for Crestone Performances. She hails from Boulder and has a background in science and computers. She is an avid brewer and also a musician—playing guitar and violin. Dee Rudoff, who has served wonderfully for several years as the Eagle advertising manager, will continue as the classified ad manager and data entry/books person. (As well as continuing to play bass in the River Bottom Blues Band. Great having musicians on staff!)

Please call Al for your advertising needs at 719-256-4956 or email ads@crestoneeagle.com.



A room full of wonderful presents!

photo by Elaine Johnson

Crestone ‘Giving Tree’ lights up the holiday for local children

The Crestone Giving Tree, located at the Mercantile grocery during December, is a wonderful reminder of the generous and kind nature of our local residents. The Mercantile received the names of 39 children who were in need this holiday. Because of special donations, we were even able to provide for several elderly people in the community.

The Crestone Giving Tree received an incredible donation of \$500.00 from the Crestone Youth Plaza, Inc. Lanelle Lovelace facilitated this wonderful gift, which was used to purchase clothing, toys, and other items for the children. This donation, the proceeds from a donation jar, and the generosity of our community in giving new clothing and toys, made a brighter Christmas for many children.

For all the children who had a happier Christmas because of your generosity—thank you!

Addante Chiropractic, PC

Addante Chiropractic / Crestone

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

Public comments invited on Draft Saguache County Strategic Plan

Dear Saguache County Community,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we present to you the draft Saguache County Strategic Plan. It is the first of its kind by and for our county, a reflection of the need to plot a long-term course that serves our county community in a clear, concise manner. This document was created to establish an action plan to address some of the most pertinent issues of our county in a manner that is transparent, measurable, and creates accountability. As government public servants, we are keenly aware of the challenges that we are called upon to address—economic scarcity, the state of our resources... especially water, and the difficulties of isolated communities in a vast landscape - are all issues that are seen as major concerns of our citizens. As we know when seeking solutions for large issues, the most difficult part is the process of turning ideas into action, and more importantly, results. A strategic plan aims to address this.

This document was made possible when Saguache County became the recipient of a CO Dept. of Local Affairs (DOLA) Planning Grant. The grant, awarded just before the holidays last year, supports the development of a Saguache County Strategic Plan, by January 31, 2014. This grant is for \$15,000, matched by Commissioner Contributions in 2013 and 2014, to make the project possible. Saguache County worked with the Strategic Planning process and consultants approved by DOLA—Managing Results, LLC (MR).

Saguache County was first introduced to this planning process and MR over 5 years ago, when Gunnison County, which had used this approach, presented it at the Annual Colorado Counties Winter Conference, and again a few years later. Implementing their strategic plan, Gunnison County achieved amazing results. Since, they’ve built a state-of-the-art public works facility, and jail, while lowering taxes! Their profile as a county is quite different, so our journey and outcomes will be our own. But it is great to have a nearby positive reference, and the added benefit that Gunnison County has so much experience, and they have made themselves available to be of support as they can.

The strategic planning process began with Managing Results principals, Marv and Marty Weidner, completing a documents

review to gain the needed understanding of the County’s profile, businesses and services, in the first quarter of 2014. Next, elected officials and dept. heads, and citizens they encountered during their stay, were interviewed to gather essential information on the operations, issues and goals of the County and County governance, in late April. MR collated and analyzed the information from these steps, in preparation for an open working County retreat that began development of the strategic plan, in early May. MR and the County reviewed the resulting rough strategic plan draft in a final session in July, where MR captured the ideas that came forth on performance measure development, and plan implementation. In work sessions this fall, commissioners and County personnel studied possible data sets for where we’re at now, and targets for what we’re reaching to achieve. And, we did an “inventory” of existing organizations and projects in our county already contributing in areas related to the strategic plan goals; and potential partners, projects and funding sources there might be.

It is our intention that the County use this document as a tool to create a more unified effort for the betterment of our county. However, as with any tool, it is only effective if we are willing to pick it up and put it to use. So at this time, we request and encourage you to review this draft Saguache County Strategic Plan, and help in shaping it. Let us know how it might be improved, and what would make it yours also, as we move forward as a county.

Sincerely,
Saguache Co. Commissioners
Linda Joseph
Jason Anderson
Ken Anderson

The Draft Saguache County Strategic Plan is available:

- In hard copy at the County Administration Office, lower level at 501 4th Street, Saguache
 - Online for download at: <http://saguachecounty.net/departments/administration>
- Public comments will be accepted two ways:
- In writing by 3pm Thursday, January 8, 2015; regular mail & email; details in draft plan
 - At the public meeting Friday, January 10, 10am to noon at the Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd Street, Saguache

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Entering the Real World
Michelle Theall,
Teaching the Cat to Sit
Hal Walter, *Full Tilt Boogie*
Teresa Cutler Broyles, *One Eyed Jack*
RSVP 539-9629

135 F Street



This lovely buck had been eating something in the tree and snow dropped all over his head. And now it's as if he's saying, "Whatchu lookin' at?" Taken on 12/18/14.

The New Year's crime outlook

by Mary Lowers

This year local law enforcement has been busy. They solved the chain of robberies, including one on Rarity Way in the Baca. They stopped a pair of arsonists from torching the SLV and caught the perpetrators in the act. Not to mention all the other accidents and calls, from domestic violence to dangerous driving, the officers from the County and the State Patrol deal with on a daily basis.

Pot growing

The Saguache County Sheriff has had many calls this past year asking them to investigate people growing marijuana in the Crestone/Baca area. These calls were followed with officers going to the location of each complaint. According to Sheriff's Deputy Tristan VanZalinge, "We have probably checked out everyone growing pot in the area and everyone has been legal with their papers in order."

It can look as though there is a lot of marijuana growing in one place and there are several reasons for this. According to the new legalized status of marijuana in Colorado every adult can have six plants. This means if there are two adults in a household they can have twelve plants, if there are more adults in the household the number of plants they can cultivate rises. Patients with a medical marijuana card can designate any adult as a "care giver". This status allows an individual to grow the marijuana for a patient. Everyone growing for medical use investigated in our area has produced the necessary paperwork showing they can grow for medical use. The way the law works someone can have three mature plants and three immature plants. This can also make it look like someone is tending a great number of plants.

Ninjas

There have been several calls about suspicious folks wandering around the Crestone/Baca area. All these calls have received attention from the Sheriff's Department. This past month a citizen living in the Baca called 911 four or five

times, according to Deputy VanZalinge, to report ninjas lurking around his home. "The person calling appeared confused" the deputy told me, but the call was responded to in a timely fashion. After taking a report at the caller's home deputies asked where these ninjas were. The gentleman who had made the emergency call pointed across the road across from his property and exclaimed, "There are five of them over there." Upon inspection all the deputy found there were five trees at the spot indicated, but no ninjas.

What can be done

It's good to be aware of what the Sheriff's Department can and cannot do. They can't, for example, go after a tenant who may have caused damage to a rental house. This is not a criminal but a civil matter. A landlord could file a claim for small claims court action in Saguache. Now if said tenant burned down the house intentionally, that would be a criminal act and a 911 call would be in order.

What to do

Saguache County Sheriff's deputies respond as quickly as possible to all calls, particularly 911 messages. It is very important to remember that 911 is an *emergency* number for incidents involving "loss of life, liberty or property and serious medical issues." Non-emergency calls should go through the front desk of the department at 719-655-2525. This phone is answered 24/7. Tying up emergency lines with non-emergency situations can be dangerous.

It's important not to tie up the 911 exchange with non-emergency calls

As you know Saguache County is one of the poorest in the nation. Our law enforcement budgets for apx. four deputies on the road at any one time, in a county the size of the state of Rhode Island. The Sheriff's Department has a low budget and they do a good job. This is not Ferguson, MO. Our deputies have no used military hardware and are genuinely trying to "serve and protect" our communities.

Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

Several accidents kept the Colorado State Patrol busy this past month here in Saguache County. In early December, a 48-year-old Baca woman rolled her red SUV 2½ times on the south side of County Rd. T just east of the Yak n' Cracker. EMTs were on the scene but the woman refused medical assistance. She was charged with driving under the influence, no evidence of insurance and having an open container of alcohol in her vehicle. She was booked into the county jail on \$500 bail.

An accident which diverted traffic around Hwy. 17 in Moffat until all glass was cleared from the highway mercifully caused no serious injuries. A Baca woman failed to come to a full stop in her Subaru when crossing the road on the corner of Hwy. 17 and Moffat Way. She was headed west toward Saguache when she collided with a pickup driven by a Fort Garland man going north on Hwy. 17. The truck rolled into the southbound lane of Hwy. 17 where it hit another Subaru driven by a Moffat man. Five people including drivers and passengers were transported to the hospital in Alamosa where they were treated and released. Two injuries were reported—a broken collar bone and a broken arm were the results of this accident. The woman causing the accident was cited for careless driving causing injury and will appear in court in Saguache.

A Baca man was taken into custody and charged with two counts of sexual assault on a child (age 16) after two young women in the Crestone/Baca area called Saguache County to report the alleged incidents. He was held in jail on \$50,000 bail. A young Baca man was taken into custody for sexual assault on a minor. The incident took place on Christmas Day. The man was taken by deputies to the Saguache County Jail where he is being held on \$50,000 bond.

A Baca resident called to report ninjas in the woods near his home. Deputies found no ninjas but took a report. A Baca man was held in jail in Saguache on a \$200 cash-only bond for failing to appear in court. A 24-year-old man living in the unincorporated county was jailed on charges of domestic violence and false imprisonment. A man age 65 living on County Rd. T was booked on charges of domestic violence and harassment.

A 32-year-old Center man was booked into the county jail in Saguache on charges including vehicular assault, DUI, second degree Criminal Trespass, having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle, driving while hunting, and hunting deer with no hunting license and under the influence of drugs or alcohol. A Baca woman reported an injured deer near her home with an arrow sticking out of it.

A Moffat woman was ticketed for driving an unsafe vehicle without a valid license. An Alamosa man was cited for having a fake validation sticker. There was the usual number of speeding tickets issued. More tickets were given than usual for school zone driving violations.

Daniel Bessey, who may be connected with the as-yet-unsolved woman-in-the-barrel murder in Saguache County, went on trial this month in Monte Vista. Judge Patty Smith spent two days in jury selection where some 300 people were interviewed. Bessey is on trial for the murder of a couple in Monte Vista in February 2012.



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Fresh snow on Challenger/Kit Carson

photo by Dennis Neuhaus

Rebate available for low-income seniors & disabled

Colorado offers a public benefit to low-income seniors and disabled persons (regardless of age) of up to \$700 for rent or property tax paid and up to \$192 of heating expenses they have paid during 2014, for a maximum rebate of \$892. The benefit is known as the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit or “PTC Rebate.” The Colorado Department of Revenue is responsible for creating and processing the applications, and is responsible for issuing the rebate payments to recipients. The Colorado Department of Human Services conducts public outreach through its Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and through county human services offices to eligible populations.

The actual rebate total amount is based on the applicant’s income and expenses. The rebate amount is determined upon review of the application and supporting documentation. The minimum rebate for 2014 is \$300 (\$227 rent, \$73 heat). The total rebate is paid to the recipient in quarterly installments.

Eligible applicants may start applying for the 2014 year PTC Rebate on January 1, 2015. The application period is two years and ends on December 31, 2016.

PTC eligibility requirements

- The applicant must have resided in Colorado the entire year.
- The applicant is lawfully present in the United States. Complete the DR 4679 PTC lawful presence affidavit.
- The applicant is a single person with total income of less than \$12,720.
- The applicants are a married couple with total combined income of less than \$17,146.
- Either husband or wife is 65 or older by Dec. 31, or a surviving spouse at least 58 years old by Dec. 31 or,
- The person was disabled for the entire year, regardless of age.
- The person is not claimed as a dependent on any other person’s federal income tax return.

The 2014 PTC application booklet will be available on the Department of Revenue’s Taxation Web site at www.TaxColorado.com. Click the File button, then select

PTC Rebate.

Starting this January for the 2014 rebate, anyone who has applied for the rebate since January 2013 will be able to file the application electronically through Revenue Online, a service provided by the Department of Revenue, www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline. The link will appear in Revenue Online, under “Additional Services.” Click on the link “File a PTC Rebate Application.” Supporting documentation must be submitted as electronic attachments when the application is filed in Revenue Online.

First-time PTC applicants must submit a paper return with copies of required paper documentation as outlined in the PTC application booklet.

PTC applicants can check the status of their rebate in the Revenue Online service, www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline under “Quick Links,” and “Where’s My Refund / Rebate?”

Rebate status is available on or after April 15, 2015 if the application is filed in early January, or 12 weeks after the application is filed. Depending on when an application is approved, installment payments are issued in April, July, October and January.

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Crestone Area Business Alliance —become a founding member

by Lisa Cyriacks

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”
- Henry Ford

The newly forming Crestone Area Business Alliance’s purpose is to promote the economic sustainability and prosperity in the Crestone area while embracing the diversity and vibrancy of our community.

Crestone is served by many organizations, but none specifically tailored to generating commerce for existing professionals and businesses as well as opening up opportunities for entrepreneurs to establish themselves as part of our community. Crestone Area Business Alliance or CABA is dedicated to doing just that.

Crestone and the Baca is a unique and creative place. That creativity extends to all of our professionals—to our artists, healers, spiritual centers and business owners. The Alliance invites all individuals and organizations to join together in a strong local network, supporting one another.

The Alliance is at the point of publishing a website that will provide the foundation for promoting the unique culture and beauty of our community. Their website is www.crestoneslv.com.

In the spring, there will be an invitational dinner and a membership meeting. Check the website and *The Crestone Eagle* for upcoming events.

Become an integral part of our network. For the first year only, you can participate in becoming a founding member of the Crestone Area Business Alliance for \$250. This funding will go to support the Alliance and community events that attract visitors to Crestone and the Baca. Founding members will receive all the benefits of a basic membership plus an identifying certificate to display at their business and on the website.

Also available the first year will be a basic annual membership of \$35 which includes a directory listing on the website and all publications of the business association, ability to link your website or web page to the CABA website. Enroll and pay the dues on our website or contact one of the members listed below.

Public benefits available on the website will include maps and event listings to orient visitors to businesses, services and local attractions.

The eight current members working to structure this new association are board members Nick Chambers, Lisa Cyriacks, Kairina Danforth, Marcia Heusted, Elaine Johnson, Vivia Lawson, and Tim Windwalker. Luke Bradley, web development consultant, is also an integral part of the newly forming association.

Check us out at www.crestoneslv.com or contact any of the current members for information on how to join the Crestone Area Business Alliance.

LEAP assistance to help with heating costs

This winter Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) wants to encourage all of the state’s residents to make small changes in energy-usage habits so they can save on their home heating costs.

LEAP is a federally funded program administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) that provides cash assistance to help Coloradans pay a portion of winter home heating costs. The program pays the highest benefits to those with the highest heating bills and lowest incomes by family size. Applicant income cannot exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level, which equates to \$2,982 per month for a family of four. This year’s average LEAP benefit is expected to be \$430 per household.

“Home heating is crucial for Colorado families, but there’s no denying that it’s expensive,” LEAP Manager Aggie Berens said. “Every family can follow a few small steps to reduce their home heating costs without greatly impacting their day-to-day lives.”

There are many free ways to save money on energy bills this winter. These include:

- turning down the thermostat at night or when you’re not home;
- opening blinds and curtains to take advantage of Colorado’s average 360 days of sunshine;

- lowering the hot water heater’s temperature to 120 degrees;
- closing the fireplace damper when not in use;
- checking the furnace filter monthly for cleanliness;
- ensuring that furnace ducts are unobstructed.

LEAP-eligible households may also qualify for Colorado’s Crisis Intervention Program or Weatherization Program to help with heating-source repair and efficiency.

LEAP applicants must be responsible for paying heating costs directly to an energy provider or fuel dealer, or as part of their rent; and be permanent legal residents of the United States and Colorado, or have household members who are U.S. citizens.

Colorado also offers a rebate of property tax, rent, and heat expenses to low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities. Please visit the Colorado Department of Revenue’s website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/tax/property-tax-rent-heat-credit-ptc-rebate-file> for more information and the rebate application booklet.

To find out if you qualify for LEAP, call toll-free at 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap> to view the current program application requirements. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2015.

Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade
Saguache County Strategic Plan released for public comment

With great pleasure and anticipation the Saguache Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has announced the release of a strategic plan for the county. Its intent is to turn ideas into an action plan to address some of the most pertinent issues our County faces in a manner that is transparent, measurable, and creates accountability. The economic growth of the county is a key priority and the plan addresses economic scarcity, the state of our resources—especially water—and the difficulties of isolated communities in a vast landscape. The Commissioners have been working since last spring on this, the County's first strategic plan, which was made possible when Saguache County became the recipient of a CO Dept. of Local Affairs (DOLA) Planning Grant. Discussions have been taking place in open work sessions (where no final decisions are made). On December 12, they finalized the first draft and set a comment period for the public. The plan can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/1sTAtKK>.

The Commissioners stress how essential and important it is to receive public input, and they invite and encourage citizens to comment on this draft from Dec. 12 to Jan. 8 until 3pm, approximately three weeks. All comments will be considered, whether in writing or

as verbal feedback at the public meeting on Friday, January 10 from 10am to 2 pm at the Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd Street, in Saguache, CO. Written comments do not require presence at the public meeting. They can be mailed to: Saguache County Administration, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149, emailed to administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov or delivered to: County Administration - lower level, 501 4th Street, Saguache, CO.

The plan must be finalized and adopted by January 31, 2015. It is due to DOLA in February.

Solid waste local and regional solution in the works

Chris Canaly, Director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC), spoke about the widespread problems with solid waste management and illegal dumping occurring all across the valley. In an assessment throughout the valley communities felt water and air quality along with concerns for illegal dumping and environmental health issues were important. A regional solution is being developed. SLVEC has received funding from the USDA Rural Utility Service (RUS) and will implement a solid waste management grant in two phases. Conejos and Costilla counties are part of Phase 1; Saguache and Alamosa counties are part of Phase 2, beginning fall, 2015. Canaly asked the BOCC for a letter of support for this educational and capacity-building grant. This effort will also include recycling with the whole valley working in tandem.

Canaly thanked Commissioner Linda Joseph for her service and devotion.

Landfill will stay open; recycling gone

In the meantime, Randy Arredondo related that he's getting Conley Waste Management back. The board will discuss terms. It appears that the landfill will be open 5 days, closed Sundays and Thursdays. No tires. He will request a budget adjustment on Dec 30. They're still in the red, and will terminate the contract with Crestone Recycling.

Colorado counties divided

Jason related that Colorado Counties, Inc., the Colorado counties association, is having difficulties working together. Anderson observed that larger counties feel their interests are not being reflected and may pull out. Brainstorming is happening to see what would entice counties, like Arapahoe in whose interests and fees differ from smaller counties, to stay. There still may not be a unified voice because size is only one issue. There is "fracturing over fracking." Some, like Weld County, say CCI should support gas regulations. Others have different attitudes, so oil and gas is a flashpoint, as is local control and the divide between rural and urban interests.

Public lands monthly discussion

The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is seeking public input on a potential entrance fee increase. According to Kathryn Faz, Public Information Officer at the Sand Dunes, they

have not changed fees since 1997 and need to align it with the park service rate schedules. Under the proposed fee schedule, single, private, non-commercial vehicles and motorcycles would pay a flat rate of \$15.00 regardless of the number of passengers. Those entering by foot would pay \$7.00 per person. The camping fee will not increase. The park has 240,000 visitors a year and collects \$100,00/per year. 80% of the revenue stays here for activities, maintenance, upcoming construction for visitor centers, and the educational component. Faz said the park has contributed 40 million dollars to the economy and jobs. Comments and input are welcome on the website, or address mail to the superintendent by January 2.

Gunnison Sage Grouse

Governor Hickenlooper has challenged the ruling on the Gunnison Sage Grouse. The Attorney General's office filed a notice of intent to sue the Feds with the Interior Secretary over the hotly contested move to list the Gunnison Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. At issue is federal control over local control over listed species as well as ranching and energy development versus conservationists. Saguache County lawyer Ben Gibbon will prepare a notice of intent to support the County.

Commissioners' notes

* The 2015 budget will not be approved until December 30.

* The BOCC will need to replace Linda Joseph in Emergency Services.

* Gibbons advised Joseph to download County information, now on County computer hard drive, onto a flash drive.

* Ken Anderson noted that the Colorado Mushroom Farm growing operations are doing well. Formerly the former Rakhra Mushroom Farm, it is located northeast of Alamosa. They are bringing in the first crop at the end of November. There is the possibility of continued growth and expansion of employees.

Brown's Canyon

Jason Anderson said that proposals are in place for Brown's Canyon to become a National Monument. It would become the second designated National Monument in Colorado after Dinosaur National Monument. Brown's Canyon encompasses the most popular family whitewater rafting trip on the Arkansas River, and the longest unroaded stretch of the Arkansas river. While it is in Chaffee County, Anderson strongly supports it because any tourism opportunity in

the area benefits our county. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service would work with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to manage it.

Department farewells

The December 16 meeting was, in effect, a farewell of long-standing employees who have served the County. Stepping down will be Linda Joseph, who has served two terms as commissioner. Sheriff Mike Norris departs after 12 years in office. Since PILT funding for the county will be similar to last year, the Sheriff requested they consider restoring the officer position cut because manpower is important. He will look into whether leasing a department vehicle might be better than buying one.

Jeannie Norris, Director of Social Services, has been with the County for over 19 years, and acted as director for eight years. Norris and her replacement, Lorie Moores, thanked the BOCC for their ongoing support, commitment, and recognition of their department. LEAP began again in November. Lorie is the LEAP technician. The Emergency Food Bank is well stocked. A startling statistic: Colorado ranks 6th in the nation in suicides. The Governor has freed 23 million dollars to address the problem. The stated goal is to have a response within 2 hours or less and a guarantee that someone will reach out to the person in crisis.

Administration report

Lyn Lambert, co-administrator, announced that the Saguache County Assessor recertified for 2014 a total assessed valuation of \$68,365,918 for Saguache County. As the annual budget of Saguache County for Fiscal Year 2015 requires the generation of property tax revenue for the various County funds, the BOCC authorized that a property tax levy of Eighteen and Eight Hundred Thirty One Thousandths mills (18.831) for the General Fund is approved; and that a property tax levy of three and seven tenths and zero hundredths and zero thousandths mills (3.700) for the Social Service Fund is approved as is an abatement tax levy of One Tenth and one hundredths (.110). The total combined mill levy for these three funds will be Twenty-two and Six Hundred Forty one Thousandths mills (22.641) for Fiscal Year 2015.

Wendi Maez suggested the County hold lot consolidations for December because of end-of-year procedures. Property owners within the town of Crestone are required to receive notice of fact that their taxes might be adjusted.

continued on page 7

Strategic Plan feedback

In addition to making comments of your choice, the Commissioners would appreciate receiving your feedback on a few specifics:

Are the Strategic Priorities clear and understandable?

Are there additional measurable results that you would like to see in the Plan? In which priority?

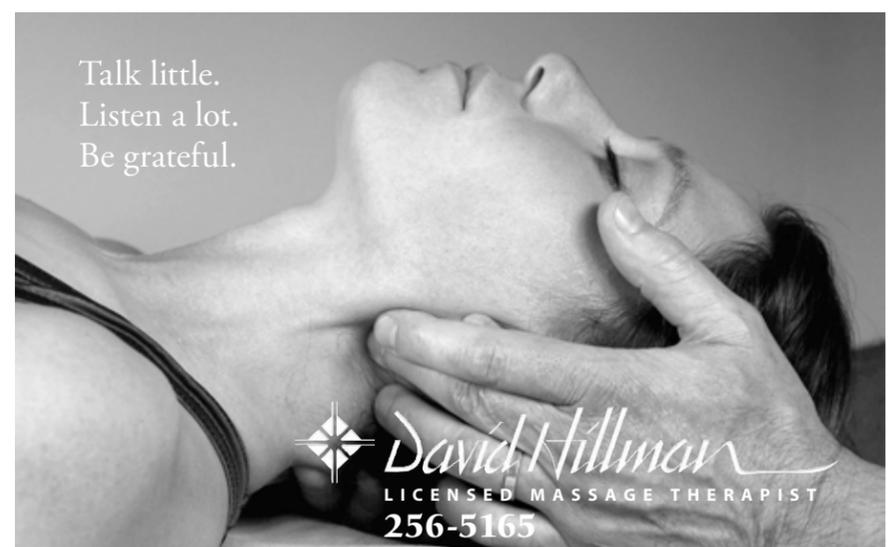
Do you have ideas for making us more One County, One Community?

Which parts of the Plan would you or your organization be willing to devote time to achieving?

Are there additional implementation strategies that may help achieve the strategic plan goals in:

- Tourism
- Research and Development
- Alternative Energy
- Infrastructure
- Grow the Workforce
- Small Business Development

What would you change to improve the Plan overall?



Talk little.
 Listen a lot.
 Be grateful.

David Hillman
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Baca Grande Property Owner's Assoc. Board tackles debt collection

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held a rescheduled regular meeting on December 18. Director McDonald was again absent because of health issues. The meeting, which ended a bit after nine, was attended by an audience of ten.

An executive session slated to discuss further the contract with Hammersmith, the Association's management company, was cancelled due to the absence of certain documents. Accordingly, the Members' Forum and reports from the Ambulance and Maintenance Departments were conducted earlier than scheduled and missed by this reporter due to his presence at the meeting of another board of which he is a member. The Acting Community Manager's report was noteworthy for the information that "29.53%" of members were over 91 days behind in payments of various kinds. Previous figures have been about half as large.

One and a half acres of POA-

owned land west of the POA complex had been leased to Curt Goodnight about 25 years ago (normal leases are for 5 years). In this interval the lessee has built several structures for storage units, which are believed to revert to the POA upon completion of the lease. Apparently plans for construction have never been submitted to the POA. Recently, new construction has appeared, finally prompting the Board to action. The action devolves to the Environment and Architectural Committee (EAC), whose approval, based almost entirely on technical considerations, is tantamount to approval by the authorities of the County. In the discussion it came out that the commercially valuable storage unit operation has apparently always been taxed by the County as though it were vacant land. The POA has clearly stated to the County authorities that there are indeed commercial buildings on the site, yet it is taxed at a much lower rate than the nearby golf course and pro shop. The lease will be closely re-examined before its re-

newal date in October, 2015.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation well orchestrated by Manager Alison McClure of various strategies to improve collection of dues and assessments. The most attractive option seemed to be the imposition of "super-liens", which have precedence over mortgages. These inexpensive (\$11 in 2010) legal actions permanently attach to property and assure that the POA will get its due if ever the property is sold. Or, the property can revert to the POA, which could, according to Ms. McClure, then sell it. (In this reporter's view this could be difficult as defined in the governing documents, which seem to require the approval of quite a few of the members.) Liens could be lain by collection agencies (for a fee) or by the POA itself. Several such collection agencies will be solicited to compare their offerings. Another commercial system, called GAP, exists which functions as a kind of insurer, guaranteeing a return on unpaid dues; apparently not much is known about how this fairly re-

cently developed system is faring and not much enthusiasm was generated for it.

POA Land Use Manager Joe Heilig presented a very interesting and informative perspective on liens employed in the Baca Grande. Faced with a lien on his/her property, some owners will pay what they owe and others will come to be aware that the POA means business when the steps leading to foreclosure are pursued. There was general enthusiasm for liens, which before 2011 were extensively used. In 2010 unpaid obligations amounted to \$750,000; today they are \$1,300,000. The issue of how to get sufficient staff to perform the research and legwork needed to place the liens was addressed by members of the EAC, who as a body have volunteered to help.

Another mellow meeting. Signs of thoughtful approaches to hard problems. Hopeful.

The POA Board of Directors meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5pm, at the POA meeting hall.

County News

continued from page 6

New valuations will be reflected next year. Wendi will design a procedure.

WSM Computer Services contract

Computer Services suggested a fixed monthly payment of \$31,000 to cover all services: computers, servers, phone, maintenance, commerce systems, consultations, etc. The flat fee may eliminate costly random events.

Northern Saguache County Library District

Sarah Koehn Frey, Director, presented the year-end report along with Kate Vasha. The District, which includes Saguache Public Library and the Baca Grande library, served over 29,000 visitors, not including children—libraries are not disappearing. They offer free public computer access; free Wi-Fi; free interlibrary loan; DVD, book, audiobooks and large-print book checkouts; meeting space, copy, fax, and print services. Children's pro-

gramming has been offered monthly. Participation in AspenCat, a union catalog consortium, offers online access to the collections of 70 other libraries around Colorado. Our patrons can search the shared catalog of over 1 million items. Saguache County Conservation Trust Fund Grant: \$10,000 for costs associated with the Crestone/Baca Grande Library planning process. Saguache County Sales Tax Grant: \$6,675 for new patron and staff computers at the Saguache Public Library. The Baca Grande Library continues to make great strides in the campaign to build a new facility. The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) awarded the district \$15,000 for costs associated with the site selection, program design and schematic design process of the Crestone/Baca Grande Library. The site constitutes an entire half-block, almost one acre and enjoys outstanding physical prominence at the entry to town, as well as ideal solar access.

New board candidates are Pat Miller and Kathy Getteys.

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants announced

by Sandia Belgrade

The Saguache County Commissioners have announced the Sales Tax Grants awarded for the latest cycle. Residents might note that at least nine Crestone applicants have received funding to continue their good work in the community in the areas of youth, seniors, emergency services and renewable energy. These grants will benefit us all.

Emergency

Center Conservation Dist. \$4,000
Crestone Food Bank \$3,800
Saguache Co. Sheriff \$6,090
Saguache Co. Veterans \$5,400
Saguache Works (1) \$4,000
Saguache Works (2) \$8,000
Town of Crestone \$3,750
Town of Saguache \$8,481
Center Consol. School \$4,000

Renewable Energy

Articipate \$2,000
La Garita Trading Post \$4,500
Orient Land Trust \$2,500
Rio Grande Watershed \$3,000
Saguache Chamber of Commerce \$3,500
Saguache County Administration \$421
ScSEED (1) \$2,000
ScSEED (3) \$3,000
ScSEED (4) \$7,500
Town of Crestone \$2,500
Town of Crestone/Crestone Creative District \$3,000

Crestone Youth Plaza/Thrift Store \$3,500
Saguache County Road & Bridge \$6,750
Town of Crestone \$2,500

Youth & Senior

Center Boys & Girls Club \$4,000
Crestone Montessori Coop School \$1,425
Crestone Performances \$2,000
Moffat Consolidated School \$2,500
Mountain Valley School (2) \$1,350
San Luis Valley Fair \$4,000
SLV 4-H CSY Extension \$5,000
The Historic Ute Theatre (1) \$5,000
The Historic Ute Theatre (2) \$4,000
YES (Your Employment Solutions) \$8,391

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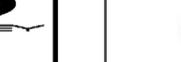


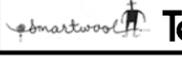


















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Library

continued from page 1

new library.

The site is a full half block, one acre in size, and is bounded by Cottonwood on the west, Alder on the east, Copper on the north and Lime on the south. If you are going to the Charter School, it is on your immediate right, just as Alder Street dog-legs to the left onto Lime.

The NSCLD would like to express special appreciation to Robert Eiserman of Four Directions Consulting, who conducted a Feasibility Study on the financial capac-

ity of the Crestone-Baca Grande community to support the building of a new library. Robert interviewed more than 55 people during his study, and we are thrilled to say the outcome of his hard work is positive! We're inspired and humbled by the community's support for the existing Baca Grande Library and your wish to see a new Crestone-Baca Grande Library in town, and want to thank the community for your excitement and participation in so many steps along our path so far.

Lastly, the NSCLD would like to thank the owner of the property we plan to purchase. Karen Kenney has been supportive of the vision for the property, and has been hugely cooperative all along the way.

The preliminary design of the library is well under way, and we look forward to sharing this exciting vision with the community in the weeks to come. The architect has devised an innovative log construction system that is based on the remarkably sophisticated structure of the honeycomb. The exterior of the solar-powered building will employ locally appropriate materials including conglomerate stone, rusted steel, and heavy timbers, and will incorporate many of the energy conservation principles that are the hallmark of our area. We can't wait to show it to you! But . . . there is much work to be done first.

Thank you, again, for your support of your library.



Fresh snow on the old cabins in Crestone.

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Young Lion Reggae Event
January 17th - Doors 7:30pm

Boogie Nights Live DJ & Dancing
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secondbrainwisdom.blogspot.com



by *Gretchen Nelson*

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Our very best wishes go out to the community for the upcoming year.

New resolution

Resolution 019-2014 was approved, setting mill levies for the 2015 budget year. The mill levy in the Town of Crestone is 5.683 mills.

Ordinance 2014-008

The Board of Trustees approved Ordinance 2014-008, allowing additional connections to existing sewer lines by the same property owner.

Vice-Chair of Planning Commission

In December, Renée Hill was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission for the next 12 months.

Town of lights

Thank you to all of the community members involved in the decorating of Crestone prior to the WinterFest event. The town feels very festive and looks beautiful.

Town of Crestone staff transitions

Gwynn Busby has been hired as Town Treasurer; Gwynn has extensive experience working for non-profit agencies, and moved to Crestone to be closer to her son and grandchildren. Welcome Gwynn!

The Board of Trustees and staff would like to express their gratitude Linda Craig for jumping into municipal finance and keeping this part of the business running during a stressful time. It has been a joy to work with Linda, and we will miss her!

Gretchen Nelson has been promoted to Town Clerk, which is the position responsible for statutory requirements, including elections, liquor licensing, ordinances and resolutions, taking minutes at Board of Trustee meetings, cemetery administration, municipal court and numerous other responsibilities. Gretchen has attended two years of a 3-year Municipal Clerk's Institute, and will complete this training in 2015. Congratulations Gretchen!

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(this special for 1st time facial customers only; Friday & Saturday appointments)

Matthew Crowley book launch party & poetry/art salon

On Saturday, January 24 at 7pm there will be an evening of fine art at the Dharma Ocean Shrine Hall, featuring the performance art of Matthew P. Crowley reciting from his recently released book *Limitlessness*—a selection from 18

years of inspired poetic writing. The Word will be accompanied by the visionary paintings of Marika Popovits from her most recent series, *Golden Overmind*.

Signed copies of the book will be available at the event with \$5 from each book sold being donated to the Friends of the Library. There will also be a silent auction with an original framed art piece donated by Marika Popovits along with 2 fine art framed photographs from Matthew's book with all proceeds from the auction also benefitting the Friends of the Library. "This event is an expression of gratitude to the community for a decade of inspiration which has had such a profound influence on life, love and Limitlessness." Come and celebrate Art & Word in our extraordinary community. The event is free/by donation. Refreshments will be served.

The following day, Sunday, January 25 from 9am-noon, Matthew will facilitate a smaller more intimate gathering he calls "Poetry as Practice" in which participants will be invited to dive deeply and spaciouly into Word. Registration is limited with a sliding scale suggested donation of \$10-\$25 for this event. Interested participants are invited to RSVP with one sentence about their love of The Word by January 20 to matthew@CrowsOutpost.com. Please visit www.CrowsOutpost.com for updates and more information.

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Hedstrom's "Dandelion Seed Earrings"

Local jeweler Rocky Hedstrom named Niche Awards finalist

Crestone artist and jeweler Rocky G. Hedstrom has been selected as a finalist in the 2015 NICHE Awards for two pieces: "Dandelion Seed Earrings" in the Fashion Jewelry category and "Heron Ring" in the Fine Jewelry category. Only 170 entries out of more than 1,000 submissions were named as finalists in this year's competition.

The awards program is sponsored by *Niche* magazine. Now in its 26th year, the Niche Awards program began in 1989 to recognize the outstanding creative achievements of American craft artists who produce work for craft galleries and retail stores. Judging is based on three main criteria:

- Technical excellence, both in surface design and form
- Market viability
- A distinct quality of unique, original and creative thought

Winners of the 2015 Niche Awards will be announced at a ceremony on Saturday, January 17, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, held in con-

junction with the American Made Show. The American Made Show is the nation's largest wholesale marketplace bringing together American and Canadian artists, design-



"Heron Ring."

ers and retailers. More than 700 artists exhibit handcrafted designs in hundreds of product categories to nearly 5,000 buyers representing galleries, museum gift shops and specialty retailers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Rocky and we wish him the best of luck in the finals!

Wishing You a Joyous New Year touched with Peace, Love, and Good Health

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Saturday January 24, 2015 7:00 PM
Dharma Ocean Shrine Hall

*This is a free/by donation event and benefit
for the Friends of the Library*



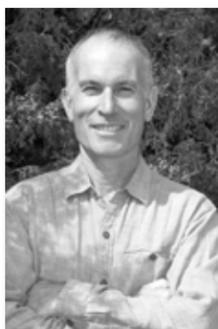
Poetry as Practice

A gathering facilitated by
Matthew P. Crowley

Sunday January 25, 2015 9:00 - Noon
Dharma Ocean Shrine Hall

RSVP to matthew@crowsoutpost.com
Registration is limited with a sliding scale
Suggested donation of \$10 - \$25

For more information visit: www.crowsoutpost.com



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Group show 'Walls & Words' at Shumei for January/February

Shumei International Institute hosts "Walls and Words". Seven local painters create one visual and one worded work to complement each piece. The artists will read their poem/prose alongside their painting at the symposium to be held Jan. 18 from 3 to 5pm at the Shumei Gallery. A reception will follow.

This curatorial project of CrestoneArtists.com is intended to expand the mystery coming through the quiet contemplative nature and silence within the artistic soul.

Beatris Burgoin, Barbara Stamm Dose, Kaia Durcum, Ste-

phen Futral, Robin Ross, Emmy Savage and Jennifer Thomson offer poetry or prose to accompany their paintings. With titles such as "Unmoved," "Winter Solstice," "Bardo Lunar," "Lover of Mystical Ruin," "The Ecology Lesson," "Blue, The Infinite" and "Painting with Three Brushstrokes," this collaborative show offers artistic diversity.

The show runs the months of January and February. This event is free to the public. Visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call Shumei at 719-256-5284 for more information. The Shumei Gallery is open daily 9am to 5pm.



The beautiful Crestone Artisan's Gallery.

photo by Scott Murrish

Crestone Artisans Gallery news now featuring 'Winter Weekends'

by Karl Grose

The frenzy commonly known as Christmas shopping being over, it is now time to relax, unwind and take a deep breath and sigh of relief for most of us (artist and patron alike). This is what I think I enjoy most about January, and I find it a common theme with most creative people who try to eek out a living pursuing their art/craft. There is no looming season or holiday that keeps you in the studio into the wee hours in January so there is time (in my case anyway) to be a little more creative with your work. This is the time of year that artists become more creative and work becomes more fun again.

If you stop in to the Gallery often during the next 3-4 months you will notice a marked increase of new and also unusual work beginning to fill the shelves, it is a great time to be a creative person as well as a collector of creative work. There is a definite buzz and general excitement that gets started this time of year and hopefully spreads throughout the community. It's a great time to explore new things and people and catch up with friends.

The winter is also a good time of the year to add to your art collec-

tion. You have hopefully more time to browse and your finances need not be spread across such a wide spectrum. Your attention can be focused on one article and it can also be a bit of self-gratification to be enjoyed by you or you and your spouse. Because we are all busy with new creations and also allowing ourselves a little downtime we will be trying a new promotion . . . "Winter Weekends". We will be open Friday, Saturday & Sundays from noon until 4pm and by request, there will be a list on the door of numbers you can call to have the Gallery opened. We will open the week before Valentine's Day with a possible reception.

Wishing our global family a safe and happy
New Year
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Sharing Natural Agriculture,
Art, Beauty, and Healing Jyorei
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January Hours
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Crestone Artisans Gallery
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7 LOCAL PAINTERS CREATE ONE VISUAL AND ONE WORDED WORK TO COMPLEMENT EACH PIECE

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NHN phone book corrections

The number listed for Dharma Ocean as 800-342-7629 should be 877-342-7629 We had the wrong prefix. Kali Mara is 239-3547 not 5458. Also, Wood Chester Homeopathy is 480-8048. Please correct your new book.

Crestone End of Life Project continues to improve site & perfect volunteers' skills

Over the last few months CEOLP members have worked at the site oiling the new benches, stacking wood, pulling weeds and polishing all the copper memorial plaques, sealing them so that their gleaming surface is protected.

A final step in completing the site is to have finials made to top each post as a means of protecting the wood and to give a finished appearance to the bamboo wall that surrounds the pyre. The finials are designed and made by Lynn Drake of ClayArts. Honor a loved one or friend whose end of life wishes were fulfilled at the site, by donating \$50 to cover the cost of one finial. Send checks to CEOLP, POB 1238, Crestone 81131 or go to the PayPal function at www.crestone-end-of-life.org.

There will be a training for all CEOLP volunteers and interested community members on Saturday, January 17 from 9am until noon. There will be a review of the *CEOLP Implementation Manual*, which outlines the various duties/responsibilities that are involved in providing either cremation or green burial services. This will be followed by hands-on training. Please call Stephanie, 588-7415, if you are interested in attending.

Remember: If you want CEOLP to fulfill your end of life wishes, you must be registered!

Download forms from www.crestone-end-of-life.org or call Lorraine Cazier, 937-7802 for information and registration forms.

The CEOLP monthly meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 7pm at 33 Sunset Overlook.

Joyful appreciates locals Jan. 13

Joyful Journey Hot Springs will be hosting the annual Local Appreciation Night on Tuesday, January 13. This will include free admission from 5-10pm as well as light refreshments. For any questions or additional information please call 256-4328 daily between 9am and 10pm.

Babaji film showing at CCS

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram invites all to the free premier Crestone screening of *Babaji Mahavatar, Experiences from His Previous Manifestation* on Sat. Jan 3 at 4pm at the Crestone Charter School. This 90-minute film shares a lot about who Babaji is as well as many devotees (some you may know—David and Lorain Davis, Ramloti, JD Marston) telling their experiences with Him. Here is some feedback from the short clip we put on YouTube. “More please!!!! So beautiful on all levels! Thanks to all of you for this beautiful gift.” You may go to YouTube and type in the title to see some clips from the film. Chai and a snack will be served too. If you have any questions, call 719-256-4108.

Saguache County Democratic Party Central Committee meeting Jan. 19

The Saguache County Democratic Party Central/Vacancy Committee will hold a teleconference meeting on Monday, January 19 at 7pm for the following purposes:

- Treasurer's report
- Fill Precinct Committee person vacancies: Two for Precinct 2 (Sargents) and one for Precincts 3 (Crestone) and 4 (Moffat).

This meeting is mandatory for Central/Vacancy Committee members, which includes officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the county party who are authorized to vote to fill the vacancies.

Each Central Committee member has one vote, unless also holding a proxy. If you are a Central Committee member and are unable to attend, please contact Barb Tidd to complete a proxy form. A quorum is required to conduct business.

The meeting is open to the public.

For the call-in number or for more information, contact Barb Tidd (719-221-8434) slybarb498@gmail.com or Lynne Thompson (719-754-9163) sheebalt@yahoo.com.

Recycling pickup in Crestone continues

Recycling pickup by Recycle Creede will continue on the first and third Saturdays of the month in the parking lot opposite Aventa in downtown Crestone, from 10am-2pm.

Please bring your corrugated cardboard, junk mail, glass, plastics (tops removed), aseptic containers (milk, 1/2 & 1/2, etc.), “tin” cans, and aluminum cans and foil.

Recycle Creede is also taking a poll to see what pickup day is the most convenient for participants. To make your voice heard, please email cary@recyclecreede.org.

Thanks for recycling!

Joyful Journey Hot Springs welcomes new general manager

Joyful Journey Hot Springs Resort and Conference Center welcomed Theo Boudreaux as new general manager to oversee all operations of the resort, as of October. Boudreaux has transitioned from Denver and has been a part of this valley for over 10 years. He comes to us with over eight years of experience within the commercial real estate business, managing a variety of properties. The owner of Joyful Journey, Elaine Blumenhein, comments “I am tremendously excited and confident in Theo, as he is committing to take us to a whole new level of excellence”

Joyful Journey is moving forward with new projects and improvements around the facility and Boudreaux is ready to take on these challenges. Many of these new improvements will be occurring this winter.

Marquita M. Oliver, Group Events and Conference Center Coordinator, states “I like to work with each group on an individual basis and help each retreat leader co-create their vision. It gives me great joy to watch as each retreat or event comes to fruition.” Joyful Journey is also welcoming Coral Hackler into a new position of Marketing Coordinator. Working closely with Oliver, Hackler will spearhead marketing efforts and pursue new group outreach. “It’s our experience that many different types of people and groups are looking for a quiet relaxing space in which the destination is the Journey, we are letting groups know that we are in fact not in the middle of nowhere but in the middle of Now Here” said Hackler.

Joyful Journey Hot Springs is located on CO Hwy. 17 one mile south of its intersection with US Hwy. 285. For more information or to make a reservation please call 719-256-4328.

2015 Cabin Fever Feb. 28

This fundraiser is for the Middle School students of the Crestone Charter School, who will be going to Washington, DC. and need to raise funds for the trip.

It will be held at the Crestone Charter School on Saturday, February 28. More information will be in the February *Crestone Eagle* and on Facebook.

Contact Judie Rose at 719 937-7788 or 719 256-5110, if you would like to volunteer to help or be a performer.

Crestone Mountain Karate Club starts new session

The Crestone Mountain Karate Club, a member of the International Shotokan Karate Federation, announces Winter Training five days a week beginning at 4:30 Tuesday, January 6 in the Rainbow Room of the Crestone Charter School. Open to the community, all ages, under the instruction of Sara Grimes, a 7th degree black belt in the ISKF.

Regular training: 4:30-5:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Early Bird Training: 6-7am Monday-Wednesday-Friday

The fee for the Winter Session (January through March 19) is \$30—with a family rate of \$15 for each additional family member—payable at the first class attended. Wear comfortable clothing for exercise.

For more information call Sara Grimes at 413-219-7774 or email sgrimes@umass.edu

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Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not.
-Samuel Johnson

Crestone End of Life Project
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Call 719.588.7415 or 719.937.7802 for information/materials
CEOLP Volunteer Training, Saturday, January 17, 9am-12pm
Call Stephanie, 588.7415, for more information.
www.crestone-end-of-life.org • email: ceolp.info@gmail.com

**One small positive thought in the morning
Can change your whole day.**
-from Words To Live By

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

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Community Calendar—January 2015

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

Wednesday, December 31

- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30-8:30 pm 256-5224
- New Year's Eve at Joyful Journey 8pm \$40-50 www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com 719-256-4328

Thursday, January 1

- New Year's Day – All Day

Saturday, January 3

- Annual Christmas Bird Count, Great Sand Dunes Visitor Ctr. 8am Free <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbc/public>, 719-580-3316
- Recycling across from Aventa 10am-2pm
- "Voices for Freedom" screenings Parts 5 – Cloud Station 1:30 pm-2:30 pm \$10
- Screening: *Mahavatar Babaji, Experiences from His Latest Incarnation* CCS 4pm Free www.babajashram.org

Sunday, January 4

- Full Moon – All Day
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony Followed by a Meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am free www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108
- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am 256-5224

Monday, January 5

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 6-8pm

Wednesday, January 7

- Fortnightly Gentle Yoga, YES Building (Formerly CCS bldg) 11am-12:15pm 719-298-0360
- Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance meeting – 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 8

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. – 3-5pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 256-4290
- BGPOA Board meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Saturday, January 10

- Public mtg—Sag. Co. Strategic Plan, Sag. Co. Road & Bridge Meeting Room 10am-noon <http://saguachecounty.net/departments/administration>
- Crestone Performances Movie Night, Charter School 6:30pm Adults \$5, Teens \$2, Under 12 free 256-4533

Sunday, January 11

- So. Fork X-C Ski Clinic, So. Fork Guard Station All Day sjnordic.wordpress.com 336-607-4465
- Sitting and Walking Meditation (drop-in) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm 256-5224
- Shumei's Monthly Sampai, Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284

Monday, January 12

- Commissioner J Anderson Crestone office hours – Former Farm Table Bldg 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 1:30-6:30pm
- Fortnightly Dharma Ocean Meditation, Charter School 5:30-6:30pm Free dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210

Tuesday, January 13

- Local Appreciation Night at Joyful Journey Hot Springs 5-10pm www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com 256-4328

Wednesday, January 14

- COELP Monthly Open Meeting, Topping House 7-9pm www.crestone-end-of-life.org 256-4247/588-7415

Thursday, January 15

- Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast), Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm 256-5224

Saturday, January 17

- Crestone End of Life Project volunteer training 9am-noon crestone-end-of-life.org 719-588-7415
- Recycling across from Aventa 10am-2pm

Sunday, January 18

- Symposium for group show "Walls & Words", Shumei Gallery 3-5pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, January 19

- Saguache County Dem. Party teleconference meeting – 7pm 719-221-8434 or 719-754-9163

Tuesday, January 20

- New Moon – All Day
- New Moon Fire Ceremony followed by meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108
- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am 256-5224

Wednesday, January 21

- Fortnightly Gentle Yoga, YES Building (Formerly CCS bldg) 11am-12:15pm 719-298-0360

Thursday, January 22

- Sufi Dhikr + Potluck. All Welcome – 3-5pm Free/Donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
- Community Dinner, Mtn Valley School Dist. 5-7pm FREE www.mountainvalleyschool.org 719-655-2578
- BGPOA Board meeting, POA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Saturday, January 24

- M. Crowley book launch party & poetry/art salon, Dharma Ocean 7pm www.CrowsOutpost.com

Sunday, January 25

- Sitting and Walking Meditation (drop-in) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm 256-5224

Monday, January 26

- Fortnightly Dharma Ocean Meditation, Charter School 5:30-6:30pm Free dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210

Thursday, January 29

- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast), Choying Dzong 6:30-8:30pm 256-5224

Saturday, January 31

- Full Moon Ski and Star Gazing – All Day sjnordic.wordpress.com 336-607-4465

Tuesday, February 3

- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am 256-5224

Saturday, February 7

- Recycling across from Aventa 10am-2pm

Monday, February 9

- Commissioner J Anderson Crestone office hours – Former Farm Table Bldg 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- Fortnightly Dharma Ocean Meditation, Charter School 5:30-6:30pm Free dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210

Saturday, February 14

- Valentine's Day – All Day

Saturday, February 21

- Recycling across from Aventa 10am-2pm

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

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

Monday

- Belly Dance Fusion 758 Camino Baca Grande 4:00 pm-5:30 pm 719-480-5925

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Crestone Food Bank Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
- iNtEgRaTiVe YOGA w Cynthia YES Bldg 9:15am

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation 719-256-5668
- CCC Council Meetings and Dinner Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-8pm

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A whole town of fun during Winterfest



Winterfest attendees excitedly hitch a hay ride to the next vending location. Hay rides were offered throughout the day as Crestone's unique form of public transportation among the vending venues. *all photos by Lori Nagel*



The Crestone Artisans Gallery out-did themselves this year with all their beautiful lights!



Michael Divine proudly displays his beautiful works of art on Friday evening. As the main organizer of this year's Winterfest event, Michael really put a lot of time and energy into making this event a successful reality!



Ziggy Eilets and Elianna Krakauer have a fun moment with Santa.



Heather D'Allesio and her son, Toby, look up at the gigantic polar bear outside of the Crestone Mercantile Hardware Store. At the tree-lighting ceremony, Friday night.



Sasha Lovelace, and her daughter, Laurie Jimenez, having lotsa fun at their Winterfest booth.



Barbara Hoepfner, Jo Anne Kiser and Vivia Lawson enjoying themselves at the Crestone Artisans Gallery Open House, which was held as a kickoff to this year's Winterfest festivities.



A group gathers around one of the 4 firepits placed throughout Crestone on Friday night at Winterfest.

Lunch Buffet 11am-2pm
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XC skiing up Willow Creek road. A pristine day!

photo by Cathy Amenta

Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance news

by Peter May

With our recent snowfalls there are local Nordic skiing opportunities. Some folks have already been skiing out on the golf course.

The USFS will be closing

the South Crestone/Willow Lakes Trailhead Road in order to minimize damage to the road during the months that the road is covered with snow. When this road closure occurs, the Nordic Ski Alliance hopes to groom the trailhead road and other snow trails in this general trailhead area of the RGNF thru a special use permit.

The Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance will be holding another informational ski club meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 7pm at a location to be announced. This will be an opportunity to meet other Nordic skiers and to find out about local ski trails, activities, regional races, and fundraising events. Please come to this meeting if you are interested in supporting the Nordic ski club.

Watch for signs around town for the location of the meeting, or email e3stewardshipnetwork@gmail.com to be put on the mailing list and receive announcements.

Happy Holidays and let it snow!

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Cross Country Ski Club Beginning in Crestone!

All levels of nordic skiers welcome!
Fun in the snow!

For more info: e3stewardshipnetwork@gmail.com

Crestone Performances Movie Night happens January 10

by Tom Dessain

Crestone Performances will be presenting an evening of films about winter sports! The event will occur 6:30pm January 10 at the Crestone Charter School. We will serve vegetarian and meat chili along with popcorn, chips, hot cocoa, coffee, assorted sodas, lemonade and water. Suggested admission donation is \$5.00 for adults, \$2 for teens and under 12 are free. We sold out of Al's fabulous chili at the last movie night, so come and get it!

But wait! Become a member of Crestone Performances for \$50 or more a year or \$5 or more a month and get in for free that night! You can even make a pledge to become a member and get in free. By becoming a member of Crestone Performances Inc. you will be contributing to the vitality of our community. CPI annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, now in its 17th year. Over the last 12 years,

our Youth Enrichment Program has produced and fully paid for 31 different presenters to do 103 educational and cultural presentations in Saguache County schools. We have also provided another 80 shows in schools throughout the San Luis Valley plus the Boys and Girls Club of Alamosa. Our community service program lends free technical and consulting support to other local organizations throughout the year, including all Neighbors Helping Neighbors events, Yaktoberfest, the Crestone Charter School, Crestone Fourth of July and the Energy Fair. For more information, please contact us at 719-256-4533, see our web site at www.crestfest.org. or write to CPI, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. CPI is a 501c3 community service organization. All donations are tax deductible.

So come on out and clear some air!

Flu hits early in the SLV

by Linda Smith

SLV Emergency Preparedness & Response

Flu season has hit early and hard this year, and the elderly are bearing the brunt of it. Public health officials are still encouraging people to get their flu shots. Due to the changing nature of flu viruses, vaccines are not always a perfect match for every virus in a given year. Nevertheless, "This year's flu vaccine can protect you from different flu virus strains, and it can also reduce the severity of your illness if you do become sick with the flu," according to San Luis Valley Regional Epidemiologist Samantha Escobedo. Reducing the severity of influenza could mean the difference between life and death in some cases.

Influenza is a respiratory illness. Flu is sometimes confused with norovirus, which is a gastroin-

testinal illness sometimes referred to as "stomach flu". Norovirus is a different type of virus than influenza.

Those at highest risk are the elderly, very young children, and those with certain chronic diseases. The highest flu-related hospitalization rates are among people 65 years and older. Long-term care facilities have been particularly hard hit, and facilities in the San Luis Valley are no exception. As of December 13, thirty-four long-term care facilities in Colorado reported being affected by influenza and influenza-like illness.

In addition to getting a flu shot, public health officials say that people can help prevent the spread of influenza by covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and staying away from people who are sick. If you are sick, stay at home.

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Crestone is full of lights this year! This magical display is the entrance to the McDowells' property, as we approach town on the T Road. photo by Lori Nagel

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center to open dialysis unit

At the monthly meeting of the Salida Hospital District board of directors on Dec. 16, hospital CEO Bob Morasko announced that Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center plans to open a dialysis unit in 2015.

The hospital board and senior management have worked over the past year on developing a strategy to provide local dialysis services that can be performed in a safe and cost-effective manner. Dialysis was the most frequently requested new service on the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment conducted in late 2012.

Construction of the dialysis unit on the second floor of the hospital is expected to take about four months. The hospital plans to begin providing dialysis services in May 2015.

HRRMC will sign a long-term lease with Sanderling Renal Services (SRS) to staff and manage an outpatient dialysis unit at the hospital. SRS brings high quality dialysis and nephrology services to communities across the country. SRS will also provide dialysis for HRRMC inpatients. SRS staff will take a portable unit directly to the inpatient's room for dialysis.

HRRMC hired a nephrologist, David Kanar, M.D., who will direct patient care for HRRMC's dialysis patients. Dr. Kanar joined HRRMC's medical staff on Oct. 1 and sees internal medicine and nephrology patients at the HRRMC Buena Vista Health Center and the hospital's Specialty Clinic. When Dr. Kanar is not available, Sanderling Renal Services will provide telemedicine nephrologist coverage 24/7 for HRRMC's dialysis patients in the Intensive Critical Care, Medical/Surgical and Emergency Departments.

"Offering dialysis has been

explored a number of times over the years by the hospital," said hospital CEO Bob Morasko. "We have worked hard to develop creative strategies to make this service a reality for our community. The dialysis services provided at HRRMC will be unique and more comprehensive when compared to services provided in other rural areas."

"Most rural dialysis services only provide outpatient services, require patients to travel for vascular access ports and are often not integrated or affiliated with the local hospital," added Morasko. "Establishing a relationship with SRS will allow HRRMC to provide high quality outpatient, inpatient and emergency services for dialysis patients. Also, Dr. Franco Rea, a vascular surgeon, recently joined HRRMC's medical staff and will be available locally for dialysis patients to establish and maintain vascular access ports."

Dialysis patients may set up an appointment with Dr. Kanar by calling 719-530-2204. The hospital will release more information about the opening of the dialysis unit as construction nears completion.

Pain management physician to provide services at HRRMC

Andrew Hall, M.D., a board-certified physiatrist, will begin seeing patients at the HRRMC Medical Clinics, 550 W. Highway 50, Salida, on Friday, Dec. 19.

Dr. Hall specializes in treating injuries or illnesses related to the nerves, muscles and bones. Treatments focus on decreasing pain and enhancing performance without surgery. He works in conjunction with Dr. William Choi, a spine specialist and orthopedic surgeon who also sees patients at the HRRMC Medical Clinics.

"HRRMC is pleased to add a physiatrist to our medical staff," said CEO Bob Morasko. "Dr. Hall will enable our physician and rehabilitation team to provide our service area with a comprehensive pain program."

Dr. Hall's primary practice is with Precision Spine Center in Centennial, Colorado, where he

serves as director of pain and rehab services.

He earned his medical degree from The University of Texas in Houston followed by an internship at New York Medical College at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York. Dr. Hall completed his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

He followed his residency with a fellowship in pain medicine at Albert Einstein School of Medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York.

Dr. Hall is board-certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in pain medicine and physical medicine and rehabilitation.

To make an appointment in Salida with Dr. Hall, call 303-790-2225.

HRRMC adds spine services

William Choi, M.D., a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, now sees spine patients at the HRRMC Medical Clinics, 550 W. Highway 50, Salida.

Dr. Choi's primary practice is with Precision Spine Center in Centennial, Colorado. He travels to Salida once a month to see clinic patients and perform spine procedures at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center.

"Our patients will benefit from not having to travel for high quality spine services," said hospital CEO Bob Morasko. "I am also pleased that Dr. Choi and HRRMC accept almost all payors including Medicare and Medicaid."

Dr. Choi earned his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal and completed a neurosurgical residency at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He pursued further specialization in spine surgery through fellowships at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

To make an appointment in Salida with Dr. Choi, call 303-790-2225.

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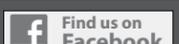
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Who We Are

Matthew Crowley: A poet explores inner and outer limitlessness

by Gussie Fauntleroy

When Matthew Crowley's first moment of spiritual awakening surprised him on a park bench in Vermont on Oct. 19, 1996, his life was barreling along to the heavy metal soundtrack of Marilyn Manson's Antichrist Superstar. He was 30, working too hard, partying too much, amassing the material rewards and stresses of the American Dream. Sitting in the sun that fall day, finally relaxed for the first time in years, he was suddenly struck by the very strange, unprecedented, yet undeniable feeling that God was smiling at him.

The feeling was agreeable but bizarre. It bore no resemblance to Matthew's Catholic boyhood image of God—of which he was unconvinced anyway—and was followed by a stream of equally spontaneous and inexplicable phenomena that continued for the next two months. The most persistent was the curious experience of hearing the same specific phrase seemingly every time he turned around. It's a common phrase—"You can't see the forest for the trees"—but he found himself encountering it virtually every day, spoken by different people, sometimes six or seven times a day.

Other occurrences during that period felt equally serendipitous and odd. Within a few months, seismic changes were rattling Matthew's world, and not in a fun way. His relationship fell apart. He spiraled into suicidal depression. Yet also during this time his brother introduced him to A Course in Miracles, and Matthew understood he had come to a pivotal point. It was time to start paying attention to the ancient edict, know thyself. On impulse, for the first time in his life, he found himself writing poems.

Poetry as spiritual practice

Today, at 49, Matthew is ten years into life in Crestone, happily ensconced in an off-grid home at the southernmost periphery of the Baca, a spot he likes to refer to as the "edge of Edgeville" or more formally, Crow's Outpost. He and his partner, Kelly Hosner, are raising their 3-year-old, born-at-home son

Arthur, and Matthew is a buttoned-up figure of stability as operations manager at Shumei International Institute's Crestone center. He is also, now, a published poet. His first collection, *Limitlessness*, was released in December and will be celebrated at a free community event Jan. 24. (More on that later.)

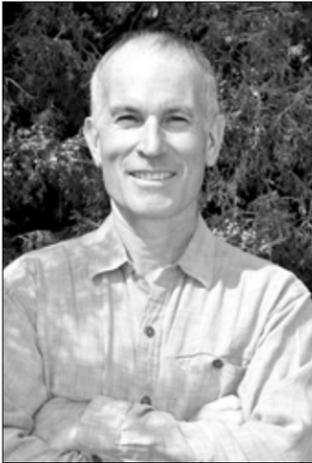
In the years since Matthew's park bench experience, one thing has crystalized in a beautiful way:

Writing has settled into the heart of his spiritual practice in the form of poetry, journaling, and a memoir-in-progress, aptly entitled, *The Forest* (which he jokes he had to come to the desert to complete.) And it all circles back to the initial call that set him on this path. As he describes it, "Know myself. Speak the truth. Write it down. The very natural, organic reason for wanting to write in the first place was remembrance," he explains. "My belief is that spirituality is ultimately not about growth; it's about undoing, peeling the onion, remembering what's already there—what and who I already am."

Trying on masks

Who Matthew Crowley is, on the truest level, remained effectively disguised by a series of costumes for years. The first was scared, lonely boy. Although the youngest of seven sons of a tool and dye maker in a small Connecticut town, he was seven years younger than his closest brother—the eldest being 20 years his senior—so he grew up virtually an only child. The death of a brother when Matthew was 7 and his mother's suicide when he was 14 set the stage for the next disguise: rebellious middle-school dropout, complete with leather jacket and Marlboros. A few years later, after a year of community college and earning his GED, he "discovered capitalism!" He donned the suit and tie of a successful, Cadillac-driving salesman for a company selling long-haul trucks, which kept him busy for 14 years.

Eventually a promotion—or as he saw it, a punitive sentence—from sales to management left him deeply dissatisfied and feeling stuck. Yet



A book release celebration for Matthew's poetry collection is set for Jan. 24., 7pm at Dharma Ocean.

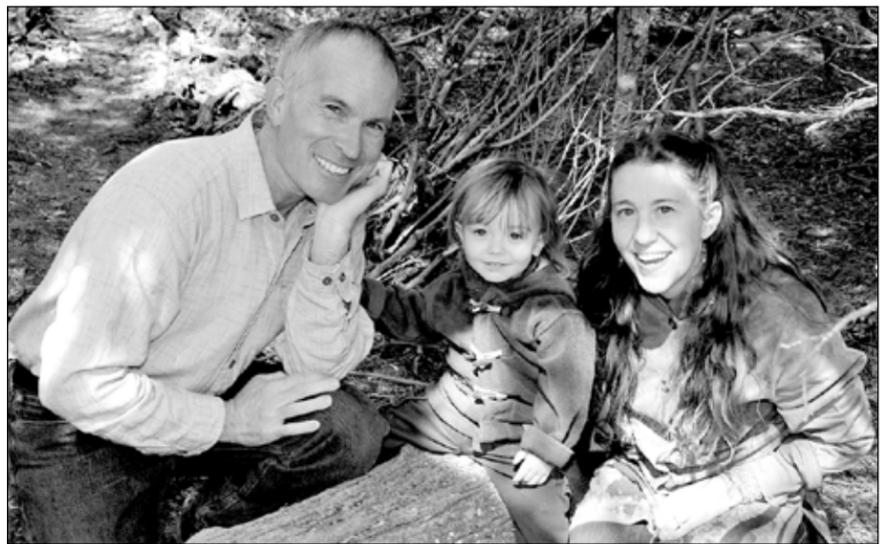
photo by Lori Nagel



Matthew reciting a poem called "The Moving Prayer" with musical accompaniment of a Crestone Choir lead by Jillian Klari-Elzey. photo by Norifumi Tsujimoto

even during this time, the inner warmth of "God's smile" never entirely left him. Nor did the impulse to poetry, or the deep desire to reconnect with nature. One morning in 2001 he awoke and spoke a prayerful intention out loud, "to be closer to the earth I love." Forty minutes later, he was laid off from his job. "Such grace!" he says now, smiling. That led to the next costume, or in

also known as a consummate poetry reader/performer, sharing words he has, as he puts it, "downloaded into my heartdrive." His book's title, *Limitlessness*, represents his favorite word these days. In this collection the cosmic/unknowable and micro-cosmic/everyday reflect and illuminate each other as the poet explores his inner and outer worlds with honesty, depth of feeling, and sometimes



Crow's Outpost family: Matthew Crowley, Arthur, and Kelly Hosner. photo by Lori Nagel

this case, shedding of costumes. He decided to travel around the country for a couple of months—which turned into three years. Following the advice of a wise therapist to "go find some pagans and dance naked in the woods," he immersed himself in neo-pagan drum and dance fire circles and Native American ceremony, and "made more friends than I thought possible." Not surprisingly, that experience led to Crestone, where he settled in January 2004.

Life at the edge of Edgeville

Here, along with his work at Shumei, volunteering on the Crestone Charter School governing council, and serving as chair of the Crestone Spiritual Alliance, Matthew practices fatherhood, committed relationship, photography, gratitude, and "noticing and remembering as much as I can." He is

a barely restrained smile.

Matthew invites the community to share that smile at a book launch party and poetry/art salon Saturday, Jan. 24 at 7 pm at Dharma Ocean. The evening promises music, refreshments, and recitations by Matthew, along with a small exhibition of paintings by Marika Popovits, including *The Holy Fire of God's Alchemical Gold*, which graces the book's cover. The event doubles as a donation-basis fundraiser for the Friends of the Baca Grande Library and their efforts to establish a new, in-town library. For those unable to attend, signed copies of *Limitlessness* can be ordered, with free shipping, through crowsoutpost.com. It is also available on Amazon.

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

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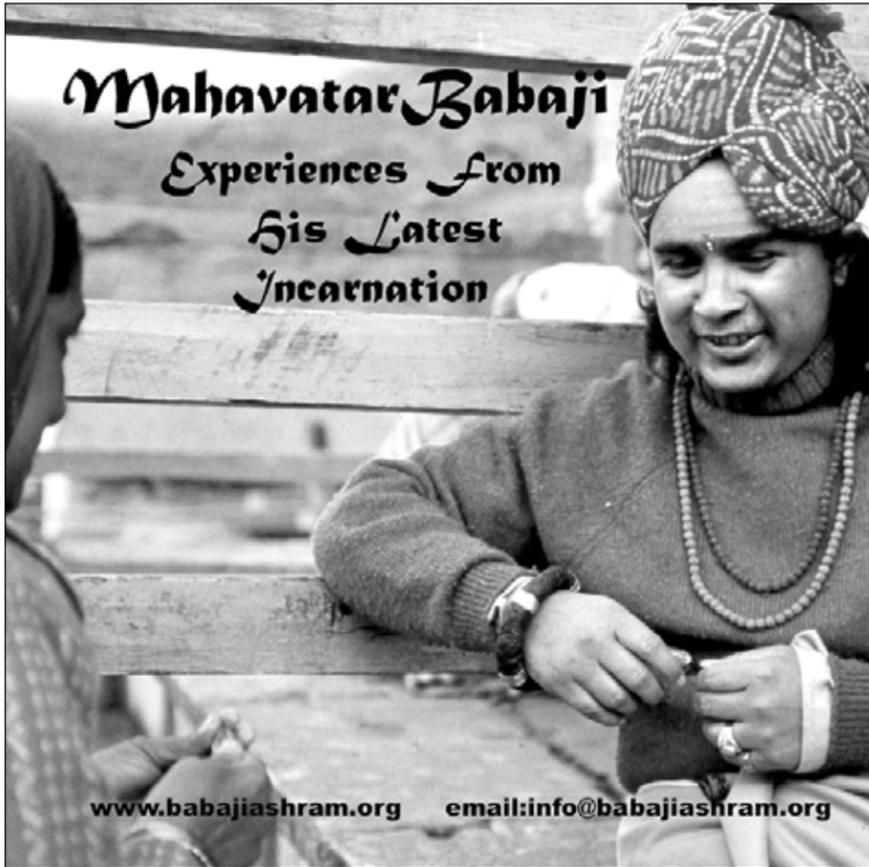
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The film Mahavatar Babaji, Experiences from His Latest Incarnation will be shown on Saturday, January 3 at 4pm at the Charter School. The event is free for the community and chai and snacks will be served.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

December is always a special month with the holy days. We had a lovely Bal Gokulam (children's program) during which we decorated the temple for Christmas, heard a story, did yoga, and performed a puja. Our Christmas Eve gathering of local families was especially sweet, lots of caroling, presents, good food, and cheer. The Ashram sends our prayers for a year of peace and love for the world in 2015.

We are so excited to announce the screening of *Mahavatar Babaji, Experiences from His Latest Incarnation* on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 4pm at the Charter School. Chai and snacks will be served and the event is free. This 90-minute film contains information about Babaji, footage of Him in the late 70's and 80's, and stories by devotees who

were with Him. It is an inspiring and touching movie. If you would like to know more you may call the Ashram at 719-256-4108. You may also view some short excerpts at <http://bit.ly/1sEPgTV>.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, January 4 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Tuesday, January 20. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati will continue at 8am through January with evening aarati remaining at 6pm. There is a small fire ceremony each day at 9am, either at the small havan kund if the weather is mild or inside the temple.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is continually receiving new items and is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your non-sale purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmi-shop.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org where you will find a calendar of upcoming events, many stories by devotees, writings about Shri Babaji and the Divine Mother, and the Ashram schedule. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.

The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center: Student workers complete tiling project

"When you want to realise something, you make the necessary effort to do the work; this concentrates your energies on the thing to be realized and that gives a meaning to your life. This compels you to a sort of organization of yourself, a sort of concentration of your energies, because it is this that you wish to do. And it is in this concentration, this intensity of the will, that lays the origin of joy. This gives you the power to receive energies in exchange for those you spend."

—The Mother, *Questions and Answers 1950-51*

SALC'S adult volunteers have learned a very heartening thing during our Crestone Solar Corps projects: the students we have worked with are energetic, interested and good workers. We are fortunate in Crestone for the quality of education students receive here.

Saguache County supported the idea of two students learning to tile a solarium with its grant encouraging energy efficiency. Many thanks to the County Commissioners for helping the youth acquire skills and discover what different vocations involve. The tax revenue grant made it possible for Quincy Meisman and Chenoa Off to earn-as-they-learned to lay and grout tile. Quincy's response to the project was, Chenoa said, "I had a blast."



The Crestone Solar Corps is conceived as a model for non-profits who wish to collaborate with students, unemployed youth and funders through earn-as-you-learn projects. The goal is to improve energy efficiency in our community while the community's young workers receive wages as they acquire skills in renewable technologies.

The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Sunday morning teachings will return with the teacher, Rod Hemsell, next summer. Every Tuesday evening throughout the year, we eat together, visit, then gather in the Savitri House living room by a roaring fire. There we read and discuss and meditate on the words of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. The Savitri reading circle is open to all who are interested in these revolutionary teachings, and dinner is at 5pm. Our address is 83 Baca Grant Way North. Please call 256-4917 for information.

"On the second day we began to customize the tile to the funky walls and for more than half that day I cut the tiles on a special saw blade. We listened to music, learned more about each other and fell into a meditative work mode throughout the whole weekend. I loved it! I am so excited that I now have this new skill set I can use anywhere I go: for trade in foreign countries, for a consistent job and pay, or for tiling my own house I may build some day. No doubt I have so much more to learn about tiling, but I'm so thankful to everybody who made this internship possible." —Quincy Meisman

Crestone Creative Council For 13-24 year olds

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Tuesdays from 4-7pm



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Enjoying Everyday Life Peace with God, yourself & others



by Joyce Meyer

We can have a lot of things in life, but if we don't have peace, we're never going to truly enjoy our lives the way God intended.

It requires action and doing whatever it takes to maintain peace in our lives. It means not always getting "our way" or having the last word in an argument. It requires us to trust God even more with the people in our lives. But it's all worth it.

Are you ready to enjoy new levels of peace? If so, here are some ways you can cultivate peace with God, yourself and others . . .

1. Receive God's forgiveness. Peace with God is the foundation for peace in every other area of our lives. Jesus is the "Prince of Peace," (Isaiah 9:6)

When we sin, the greatest thing we can do is repent, ask God to forgive us, and then make a decision to not live in guilt. Constantly feeling guilty actually weakens us and causes us to fall into more sin.

2. Make a decision to like yourself. This may sound funny to ask, but what kind of relationship do you have with yourself? The truth is you can't get along with anyone else until you get along with you.

For years, I dealt with self-hatred because of the sexual abuse I endured growing up. Because I didn't like myself, it was almost impossible for me to enjoy peace with my husband or other people. However, as I spent time in God's Word and asked Him to change me, I eventually began to see myself the way He sees me; I began to like myself!

Ask God to help you change your self-image. Because enjoying life and enjoying other people all begins with knowing who God says you are and truly liking yourself.

3. Don't compare yourself to others. Comparing and competing with other people is one of the fastest ways to lose your peace and joy. There is such freedom in learning to be happy with who you are without being jealous of someone else's

skills or achievements.

4. Accept other people just the way they are. I almost wore myself out trying to change people until I realized they're not all supposed to be like me. We are all born with different God-given personalities and were never meant to be the same.

For example, my husband Dave is easy-going and has the ability to enjoy just about anything he does. I'll never forget our grocery trips as a young married couple. I had my list and was serious about accomplishing our mission. Dave, on the other hand, was pushing the kids around in the cart, laughing and having a great time. It made me so mad!

Dave has always been a very wise and responsible man, but I wanted him to be "serious" like me. When I finally stopped trying to change him, it brought tremendous peace. Now, I truly enjoy and value Dave's personality. In fact, over the years the Lord has helped me to enjoy my life and be even more like him!

Sure, we all have areas where we truly need to change, but only God can change us. The best thing we can do for others is to pray for them . . . and accept them right where they are.

5. Let God have control of your life. Proverbs 16:9 (AMP) says, "A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure." I used to have a plan for everything—including my husband, my kids and my ministry—and would sometimes get frustrated if things didn't go accordingly. In other words, I wanted the Lord to do things my way! However, God is smarter than we are, and He wants us to place our trust in His great plan for our lives.

I encourage you to continue trusting God even when things don't make sense. It's one sure way to enjoy your life . . . and experience more peace than ever before.

Staying healthy with the seasons: Winter

by Jan Foster Müller

Ah . . . cold short days, silent dark nights, and frozen vistas. It's winter, the time of year our energies are most internal. Nature paves the way for us to slow down, rest, and replenish. These are key words for winter, and we do best when we follow nature's cue and match that energy.

The ancient Chinese observed nature closely and used it as a guide for maintaining health and vitality through the changing seasons. This will be the theme of this column—looking to the cycles of nature and the wisdom of ancient teachers as guides in nurturing our own well-being. In Crestone and the San Luis Valley we are fortunate to live closely with nature where it is easy to observe these rhythms and adapt our lives accordingly.

What does winter ask of us? Look around and see. Outside, activity has slowed down and moved underground. Intuitively we too move inside, stay warm, sit by the fire, read a good book, or just do nothing for awhile. You may find yourself going to bed earlier and getting up later. This is nature's way of restoring the reserves from the year's activities and allowing them to replenish for spring. Mental activity also moves underground. Those important plans and ideas need time to gestate, like seeds under the earth waiting to sprout. Now is a great time for retreat, whether formal spiritual practice or just removing yourself from the normal pace of life for awhile. The result is a deep rest that brings new energy on all levels.

In classical Chinese medicine, each season reflects the energy of one of the traditional five elements, or primal forces of nature, from which all life springs. Winter is the season of the water element, which holds our deepest reserves. The kidneys and bladder are the organs associated with the water element. It is important to protect and nourish them by keeping the body warm and well hydrated at this time. In many traditional cultures a warm sash is worn around the kidneys in winter to protect them from the cold.

Classical Chinese medicine pays attention to the health of mind and spirit as well as the body. These three are seen as indi-

visible aspects of who we are, not separated as we do in the west. Physical imbalances often stem from imbalances of the spirit that have not been addressed so we need to care for ourselves at this level, too. "Spirit" can be a loaded word in this culture, but the literal translation of the Chinese word *shen*, usually translated as spirit, is "light." *Shen* is the light within us, the spark that animates our lives. Winter is a good time to reflect on what it is we need to nourish this spark. Feeding the spirit well is just as important as feeding the body well, maybe more so.

In winter the body wants warm, nourishing foods. Soups and stews fill the bill and warm us from the inside. We do best when we eat what nature provides seasonally, so in winter eating what has been stored from the summer is best. Root vegetables hold the essence of the plant and are particularly strengthening at this time. Other good winter foods are buckwheat, sea vegetables, black and pinto beans, miso, and dried mushrooms.

While much of life has slowed down, there are still sparks of activity that keep us from becoming stagnant. Whether it be a walk outdoors, a day of skiing or a holiday gathering, try to take things a little slower and allow adequate rest before charging on to the next activity.

In our busy, modern lives, it is easy to get distracted and become out of harmony with nature. Taking time this winter to move at a slower pace and let yourself regenerate will reward you come spring. Living in harmony with the season generates the ability to flow like a river, roar like the ocean, and sit placidly like a clear mountain lake. Most of all, it provides courage to see us through the darkest times into the spring ahead.



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Crestone Creative Council supporting youth

by Lisa Bodey

What is normal teen behavior? Try to remember what it was like when you were 13 years old, how about 16 years old, what about 19 years old? These are all very different phases of development and your confidence, self-esteem and boundaries are changing along the way. Part of adolescence is separating and individuating from the family, so there is a rejection phase that is often very tough for parents. My current advice to the kids is to give their parents a break, as many of them are raising a teen for the first time. As parents, you are learning alongside your son and daughter what age-appropriate behavior looks like vs. more serious signs of at-risk behavior. My current reminder to the parents is that you do not have to do this alone and you have a growing network of support.

The Crestone Creative Council (CCC) has sought to provide a container that allows the teens to safely express themselves and develop healthy peer relationships outside of the home and school setting. Preparing young people to thrive requires strengthening relationships across entire communities that work on building developmental assets together. Our work focuses on building External Assets: support, empowerment, boundaries & expectations and constructive use of time as well as Internal Assets: commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and positive identity. Research has proven that a more effective way to improve outcomes is to build on the strengths and resilience of young people, their families and communities rather than focusing on their deficits and risks.

Some resources for parents and the community:

Parent Further: www.parent-further.com

Search Institute: www.search-institute.org

CCC is eternally grateful for all of your support and encouragement of the Town of Crestone's youth program for 13-24 year olds. We have worked hard to get programs and services in place for the youth, but we want to offer even more opportunities. We wish you all a happy & blessed holiday season and hope you can help us to manifest the following items for our upcoming year:

Art supplies

- Scissors, glue, markers, paint & brushes, construction paper, etc.

Kitchen

- Fry Daddy
- Large natural kitchen utensils (metal or wood)

Work force

- Rakes
- Gloves
- Wheelbarrow
- Pick axe
- Snow shovels

Transportation

- 15 seat passenger van

Meals

- Donate healthy snacks for our after-school programs
- Sponsor a meal (we provide a free dinner every Thursday for 15-25 youth & volunteers)

Monetary donations

We have been able to sustain this program for 3½ years with local support from the Town of Crestone, Saguache County Sales Tax grants, individual donors and fundraisers. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today! Donations can be mailed to PO Box 64 and/or made in person at Town Hall. For more information, please contact Lisa at 719-480-5925 or bodeycrestone@gmail.com.



Roadrunner photographed in the Baca by Jeanne Carden.

Roadrunners in the Baca!

by Jeanne Carden

To our surprise and delight we have seen these big, beautiful, quick birds several times.

In late October my sister was the lucky one to be given the first sighting. She was stepping out our back door and noticed something caught in the apple tree wire enclosure. She had never seen a live roadrunner, but she knew what she was looking at. She called me to share the news, and was met with amazement and disbelief.

Sure enough the roadrunners (there are two of them) have shown themselves on our deck a couple of times as well as walking down our driveway.

I assume that's the female in the photo. The other is a little darker grey, slightly bigger and has red and green on its neck. I have not been able to get him to cooperate for a photo yet.

I did not know that roadrunners came to this elevation. I have seen a much smaller variety in Tuscon. I've been asking around. Friends and co-workers, natives

or long-term residents of the SLV, have never seen or heard of such a bird here.

I have been doing a little checking on their habitat and habits. They are fast runners (up to 18mph), rarely fly and then only for a short distance. They are meat eaters, resorting to vegetation only when necessary. For some reason rattlesnakes are their most notorious victims. They must swallow prey whole, so what they kill is small (if 9" is small!). Grasshoppers, spiders, ants, beetles, rodents, birds and lizards are all on their menu. They are very crafty birds, not unlike the cartoon character we all know and love.

In the spring the male is known to capture a tasty critter to attract a female, then, after he's bred her, share the goodie. Sometimes nesting material is used as a courting enticement as well.

They prefer to nest in trees and large shrubs. Ours hid (or thought he was hiding) all curled up in a piñon not far from our house.



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Also on fire, our girls' Moffat/Mountain Valley Cowboys team coached by head coach Will Shellabarger and assistant coach Natasha Mills-McKim. They took First Place at the Cotopaxi tournament and are a hard working bunch of girls that are going to prove to be a force to be reckoned with on the court! We would love for you all to come out and enjoy some great basketball games this year! Please visit our school website by going to www.moffatschools.org and/or our Facebook page, Moffat Mountain Valley Sports, for an up-to-date game schedule.



The Moffat Middle and High School Rock Band Mentor, Scott Swartz, is pictured here with the students who make up this year's talented group of young musicians that includes: Junior Justin Gonzales, Senior Chelsea Lou High, 8th grader Michael Richardson, 6th grader Chelsea Heater, Sophomore James Joyce, and Junior Destiny Rude.



Moffat High School Seniors Renee Freel and Elaine Wellman have been selected and will compete in Columbus, Ohio for the USA Junior Volleyball Nationals July 14 through July 17, 2015. We are very proud to have these two young ladies represent the Moffat/Mountain Valley Combined Athletics Program. These young ladies are responsible for their own travel, participation and uniform costs. If you would like to support them and help fulfill their dreams of playing at the next level, be on the look out for bake sales and other fundraisers that will support their efforts. Monetary donations can be made as well. Both girls must raise a minimum of \$800 each to make this a reality. If you would like to help them out, please call Moffat Schools today 256-4710 and let us know how you would like to help!



This year's Moffat/Mountain Valley Cowboys basketball team is on fire! They have won First Place at both Cotopaxi and South Park Tournaments. The boys' team is coached this year by Head Coach Chris Trujillo and Assistant Coach Will Hall. This season proves to be one that you won't want to miss! If you would like to join us for some exciting basketball games please go to our website, www.moffatschools.org and/or our Facebook page, Moffat Mountain Valley Sports for up-to-date games and times.



Moffat High School clubs, Key Club, National Honor Society, and Student Council, teamed up to host a community feast before our annual winter concert on December 17. It was a huge success. Parents, community members, and Moffat staff and students mingled over great food before enjoying the concert. We couldn't have done it without several generous donations. Thank you to Saguache Town Market, Crestone Mercantile, City Market, Walmart, Tina Freel, and the Moffat staff, especially Wyonne And Lucille! Thanks to everyone who joined us for the delicious holiday meal!



Moffat Student Council held their Candle Light Ceremony on December 18. Middle and high school students gathered around the Christmas tree and shared what they're thankful for. This tradition has been passed down for years. One of the recurring things students and staff shared was how lucky we are to have each other in our Moffat family. A big thank you goes out to those pictured above: Joedeelee, Paige, Ellyon, Sierra, Ellyon, Miss VanA-rsdale and Jared for continuing this very special Moffat tradition.

Holiday Hoedown

The Holiday Hoedown was well attended and our very own Andy Mc-Kim, Moffat K-12 Art teacher/Cross Country Coach, played the part of Tex Glitter; and our District Special Education Director, Natasha Mills-McKim joined in and played the part of Dolly Holliday.



The Rockin Santa Drifters with Jeremy Berger as "Roadie Valet", Jeremiah Schultz as "Dwight", Jacob Matinez as "Garth Brooks", Rochelle Childers as "McEntire" and many more well known singers, are pictured here gathering and taking roll call to make sure that all were present for the hoedown.

Santa was played by Moffat's 2nd/3rd grade teacher, Mr. Dale Smith, and Mrs. Santa was played by Mrs. Patte Reaves-Smith, Librarian and Interventionist, in the elementary production of the Holiday Hoedown.

The Moffat preschool Rough Riders rode in on their stick ponies to get the holiday show started. They started the program by singing a little snowman song that ended with "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Crestone Charter School wins State Award for Career & Academic Planning

by Michael Hayes

The holiday season is upon us at Crestone Charter School and we are at the halfway mark for our year. The fall has gone so quickly. This month was highlighted by our LINK program's radio performance of "A Christmas Carol", a science fair by our middle school students, our 45th division providing holiday cheer to elder community members, and our primary and early elementary students taking a holiday train ride. Staff, students, and parents are all ready for a well-earned vacation.

The Charter School continues to feature as a model for what is possible in rural education. Last year, the school was highlighted in a video on rural charter school education produced by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (<http://bit.ly/1v6uKeS>). The school was also featured as a chapter in an upcoming book on rural education.

Most recently, Crestone charter school was one of four schools to win a state-wide award for the implementation of Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP). CCS was the only rural school to win this award and the only charter school.

School counselor Laura Karnes submitted an application for the award, and the school was selected from schools across the state. ICAP (educators love acronyms) is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students and

families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary opportunities. With the support of Laura and their teachers, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful and powerful pathways to be career- and college-ready.

At CCS, we strive to prepare our students to lead an inspired life after they complete their education here. For some, this means college, for others travel or learning a trade. Part of our role here is to make students aware and show them the path towards the ways in which they can live their passions in life.

Laura Karnes will travel to Denver on January 7 to accept the award on behalf of the charter school from Colorado Department of Education Commissioner of Education, Robert Hammond.



Charter School students had the opportunity to ride the Christmas Train this December.



Charter School students Jasper, Jazzy, and Sequoia enjoy the Christmas Train.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ The Vector File: ★★★

A young scientist becomes targeted by assassins when his daughter, while playing in his work area, prints out secret documents that can obliterate the human race if in the wrong hands.

2/ The Kitchen: ★★★

In this indie comedy, Jennifer is turning 30 and in no mood to be celebratory. Amongst other reasons; her boyfriend Paul has been cheating on her, her best friend Stan is in love with her and her cynical sister has an inappropriate announcement.

3/ The Happy Poet: ★★★

An interesting indie comedy (mind you most "comedies" aren't really funny). Here a broke poet tries to make a living with a food cart that sells organic vegetarian items that doesn't attract everyone but does hold a place for a customer that also loves poetry.

4/ The Rundown: ★★★★★

In this action thriller we have a bounty hunter looking to retire and open a restaurant. His name is Beck and he (of course) gets roped into one final assignment. He is to fetch his employer's errant son from the Amazon jungle. In the process he gets involved with a treasure hunt and rebel uprising. Dwayne Johnson & Christopher Walken.

5/ Natural Selection: ★★★

In this indie comedy, a repressed housewife is asked by her dying husband to find a boy he fathered via a sperm donation decades ago. A wild road trip ensues where she begins to shed her strict morals and makes an unlikely connection with her husband's troubled son.

6/ Jesus Henry Christ: ★★★

In yet another lighter indie comedy, Henry James Herman, a too-smart-for-his-own-good 10-year-old sets out to locate his father, an anonymous sperm donor. Along the way, in this quirky comedy, Henry uncovers family secrets that only deepen his angst-driven quandary. Toni Collette, Michael Sheen & others.

7/ A Bottle in the Gaza Sea: ★★★★★

In this indie drama about Tai, a recent arrival to Israel who witnesses a café bombing that traumatizes her. As a response she writes a heartfelt letter that meanders to an unlikely path and reaches a young Palestinian named Naim.

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FAST

The Washington Beat

Stirring the pot: The lame duck and Cuba

by David Nicholas

After a smug victory in November giving Republicans control of both Houses of Congress, they now have dilemmas. The primary delima is a lame duck president who just won't lie down and be lame-duckish, won't take the tar and feathering the GOP feels he so richly deserves. That damn President Obama keeps on setting the agenda! And putting the GOP between a rock and hard place. They were going dictate the agenda and show the President the etiquette of governance. It hasn't worked out that way and worse, it's not looking that that tack will work in 2015. The president wasn't waiting.

First, he used his executive powers to act on immigration reform, and then he announced on December 17 that he was going to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba. Cuba! Yes, indeed that little island lying 90 miles off the coast of these United States, a country we haven't had diplomatic relations with since 1961 which is home of great Havana cigars, arguably the world's best ice cream and one of the best healthcare systems in the world. No flies on this guy.

Think about it. Recognizing Cuba just chokes the Republicans who want to spit chips upon this President, but can't really because if they show further anti-Hispanic fervor after alienating most Hispanics on immigration reform, they will lose Florida in 2016, a must-win swing state. Without it the Democrats could run Mickey Mouse as a presidential candidate and win, a long shot yes, but President Mickey would be interesting. Here's why it sews up Florida for the Democrats.

The Cuba strategy

This is a major game changer for 2016. It's good politics and as the President said, "These 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked, it's time for a new approach."

It's a smart move and one to be applauded in my view, but it was not so sudden. Way back in 2008, if you had been listening to then Presidential-candidate Obama, you would have noted that one of his promises was to recognize Cuba and normalize relations because while the old Cubanos still vote Republican and hate Castro with a passion, they are dying out and

there are not many left.

There are three generations of Hispanics who live in and around the Little Havana district of Miami. There are the originals, who fled Castro in the 1960s. The next generation is in their forties and fifties. They still share some of their parents' hatred of Castro. But outnumbering both of these is the next generation, generations X, Y and the millenniums, who couldn't give two hoots about what their grandparents thought and think about the island's politics but are more interested in travelling back to see the country that shaped their parents' view of the world.

While possible presidential candidate US Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) still harbors animosity towards the Castros and Obama, in that order, he risks being out of step as Obama moves quickly to have diplomatic relations restored and allow some trade relaxation on certain goods, particularly corn and beef, that Iowa farmers—Republican Iowa farmers—want. Openly opposing this move is to be on the wrong side of the issue.

The son of immigrant Cuban parents, Senator Rubio predictably denounced the new policy as "another concession to a tyranny" and a sign that Mr. Obama's administration is "wilfully ignorant of the way the world truly works." Ho-hum.

While lifting of trade embargoes lies with Congress, and it needs an act of Congress to lift all the restrictions, the president can do some things to loosen those restrictions and set the ball rolling. Not that these restrictions are well observed anyway. Nevertheless, it's going to be quite a bunfight, which the GOP will lose in the court of public opinion and further alienate them from that growing and influential voting bloc, the Hispanics.

Regarding embargoes on Cuban exports into the US, namely Cuban cigars: these exquisite smoking ticks—much better than cigars manufactured in El Salvador even with the Cuban tobacco leaf—are available to US customers who have the right connections. They can come across the border from Canada, which has had diplo-



matic relations with Cuba forever.

Normalization of relations will allow US citizens to travel to Cuba for access to quality health care at much lower prices than here. Not to mention that the beaches are tourist meccas—particularly for Europeans right now—and the gambling is controlled by the state.

The recognition is strategically a smart move. It gives future presidents and, more importantly, the Democratic Party a pretty secure voter base for the next twelve years at least. Rule of thumb is that the next president is pretty much decided by voters in greater Miami because whomever they vote for wins Florida (29 electoral college votes in 2012). If you want to look at an Obama legacy it is this. He has locked up the presidency for the Democrats for the foreseeable future.

2016: It's on

Favorite Democratic candidates for 2016: US Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) who has said countlessly in the last two months she's not running but history has other plans for her I think, and current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro who hails from the Great State of Texas.

Not so favorite is former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton who has foreign policy baggage and really no financial experience, but if chosen I would be supportive. This is because while there are two years to go in this race, her ability to muster support among women 35 and above is legendary, and she might get lucky in her political fortunes (such as, if the Middle East suddenly becomes peaceful). If Iraq and Syria become stable, if Afghanistan is able to keep its western-oriented government (doubtful), and if Israel is told to pull its head in. Big asks and it looks unlikely today. But if Mrs. Clinton is running—and I am not convinced she is because when she has had many opportunities to announce her candidacy, she has hedged—she needs to get out in front and announce as soon as possible.

Favorite Republican candidates: None, but lightly likeable drawing from a bunch of not much who hardly inspire the imagination. Of the lot, there would be former Florida Governor Jeb Bush (yes, another Bush from that family) who is currently exploring his options on whether to make a run,

and US Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) who can be nice when he tries. The rest are not worth the newsprint. Sorry former Governor Mitt Romney (only President Nixon had two bites of the cherry in recent political history and that didn't work out so good), Senator Ted Cruz (Mickey Mouse before you), Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal (not moderate enough), or Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (Labor hates you and teachers especially).

Of course, there will be more talk in coming months, but this just to get you eyeing the talent of those who are putting it out there.

Congress: Last year in December

The \$1.1 tn(trillion) US budget finally cleared Congress on Saturday, December 13, after hours of last-minute legislative bargaining that secured a number of unexpected wins for Democrats but failed to stop a controversial plan to help Wall Street banks (the Elizabeth Warren issue).

The so-called "cromnibus"—a 1,600-page omnibus spending bill that funds most of government until next September—passed in the Senate by 56 to 40 votes. It also postpones a battle over Barack Obama's immigration reform until March with a separate three-month continuing resolution to fund the Department for Homeland Security.

But a last-ditch effort by conservative Senator Ted Cruz to take more immediate action on immigration delayed the final vote and created a surprise window for Democrats to rush through a series of previously stalled personnel confirmations.

Cruz scuppered the original plan to hold the cromnibus vote on Friday night by insisting there be a vote on whether the president's executive action on immigration was unconstitutional.

This failed, voted down 22 to 74, but the resulting delay allowed outgoing Senate majority leader Harry Reid to use the unexpected Saturday session to hold a 10-hour voting marathon and confirm 24 nominations. Harry Reid finally was good at his job of majority leader in the end.

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) in a run-off election on December 6 was dumped mightily, losing by 14 percentage points, 43%-57% to her opponent Republican Bill Cassidy, another Tea Party ex-

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tremist. Rule of thumb: remember who got you elected and live in the state you represent from time to time. It's good politics and common sense when you think about it. Ms. Landrieu didn't and she paid the price. At some point you have to stop blaming the president for your woes.

Changes

Good things do come to an end and it happens that Stephen Colbert of the Colbert Report signed off as his character self on the Comedy Channel on Thursday, December 18. The show, a companion to Jon Stewart's the Daily Show, was the most influential commentary on American politics for many viewers in the 20- to 34-year-old category as well a must-see for rest of us.

But all is not lost. Mr. Colbert appears as his real self on CBS when he takes over from David Letterman on Late Night. "Big shoes to fill for anyone who gets that position," said Mr. Colbert when it was announced he was the guy to fill those shoes earlier this year. He never mentioned that he was Mr. Letterman's replacement on his show but the double meanings, subtle inferences delivered impeccably with a raised eyebrow was a lot of fun. How well the "real" Colbert does remains to be seen. Alter egos so established in the mind's eye are usually hard to erase. We shall see.

Why this transition gets a mention in the Beat is that the guy who sat in for Mr. Colbert on Monday, December 15 show was the President and his sense of comedic timing was impeccable. You can probably catch it on YouTube or Google it. If the President was wondering what he might do after

politics, well now, you never know.

The third Intifada narrative

Strange as it may seem (yes, I'm being facetious), all is not good in Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu's world of power either domestically or internationally. Apparently not all in his cabinet agreed that Israel is the Jewish State rather than a democracy in which all could dwell. Incensed that being "Given to God" isn't enough for some people (especially Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Finance Minister Yair Lapid), Mr. Netanyahu fired them.

"I will not tolerate opposition in my government anymore," Mr. Netanyahu bellowed and because his coalition government depends on their supporters in the Knesset, the coalition was effectively declared dead. Bibi called for a snap election to be held sometime in March 2015.

Mr. Netanyahu heads the Likud Party and they endorsed his actions.

Meanwhile, Palestinians have been maintaining a steady drumbeat, getting international recognition for a Palestinian state that recognizes the 1967 borders.

Israel has been hammered by a series of diplomatic rebuffs across Europe after the European parliament voted overwhelmingly for qualified recognition of the Palestinian state. European parliaments are all voting non-binding resolutions, but resolutions are litmus tests showing how nations as are feeling on issues. The Swedes did it in October, the British did it in November and the French did it on December 2.

As usual, Bibi said the moves in Europe were an example of "staggering hypocrisy". Speaking before a meeting with freshman US Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), he invoked the Holocaust: "In Geneva they call for the investigation of Israel for war crimes, while in Luxembourg the EU court removed Hamas from the terror list . . . It seems that too many in Europe, on whose soil 6 million Jews were slaughtered, have learned nothing."

But playing the Holocaust card is only so effective when Bibi's behaviour with his bombing attack on Gaza was not unlike the actions of those Nazis. Critics—including me—of his policy said as much. You only cry "wolf" so many times before nobody hears the call. This

seems to be one time too many.

The truth of this was seen on Dec. 17 when the European Parliament voted on the same day as a meeting of signatories to the Geneva conventions. That group warned Israel to respect international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories. The rare international meeting in Switzerland was boycotted by Israel, the US, Canada and Australia.

In a further upset for Israel, the European Union's second-highest court ordered the removal of Hamas from a terrorist blacklist, citing legal problems with the listing, though it added that the Islamist group's assets would remain frozen for three months pending an almost certain appeal.

The day of swirling diplomacy and politics in Europe preceded the expected tabling of a resolution at the UN Security Council that seeks to push forward the case of Palestinian statehood and call for an end to Israeli occupation.

What was worse, no sooner had Bibi said it than the Palestinian foreign minister, Riyad al-Malki, confirmed that an Arab-backed Jordanian draft to end Israel's occupation of lands captured in 1967 would be submitted on Wednesday to the UN Security Council. The Jordanian-backed draft, which the US is almost certain to veto, sets a November 2016 deadline for an Israeli withdrawal.

However, Foreign Minister Malki said the vote on the resolution could be put off, suggesting a compromise was being considered to avoid a clash in the council. But what set Jordan on this path of sponsoring UN resolutions was Jewish settlers attempting to pray in November on top of the Temple Mount where the al Aqsa mosque is located, in occupied territory. This is a no-no.

However, Israel is becoming a mess. While it is thought Bibi will be re-elected in the March election, this is not written in stone. Palestinians are seething and the tension is building. Head of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, has withdrawn cooperation with Israeli authorities to maintain order in the occupied territories. So now it only takes the slightest excuse to spark resistance and people already are saying that the Third Intifada is under way. We will see how this plays out in coming days.

An upbeat end-of-year presser

Sony Pictures "made a mistake" in pulling *The Interview* movie from its Christmas Day release. This was President Obama's response to the first question in his end-of-year press conference on December 19. The President noted that Sony had not talked to the White House before it pulled the movie and stressed that it sets a precedent for freedom of speech in the US and the rest of the world, when a dictator tells us what we can see or cannot see.

The president commented that first it's a comedy being pulled, then, what about documentaries, especially those docs critical of people or countries who need to be criticized? Mr. Obama made this remarked just hours after the FBI had said that they had actually traced the hack to North Korea, based on familiar computer al-

gorithms on previous hack attacks from the DPRK.

Although Sony defended its decision in reference to the President's remarks, it can backtrack and do a wider release.

Other questions asked by the White House Press Corps were on Cuba, the XL pipeline and how the President saw black people in America today.

On Cuba, no the President doesn't intend to visit Havana until after he leaves office, maybe, and yes, Fidel Castro was only mentioned in reference to the President's ten conversations with Cuba's President Raul Castro, noting that the Cuban President took twice as long on his opening remarks before the conversation took place. He understood this move to restore diplomatic relations had support on both sides of the aisle in Congress as well as its critics, also on both sides of the Congress and that lifting of the embargo will take some time.

On the XL pipeline, the President was more emphatic on this project. It has been foreshadowed by new Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as one of the first pieces of legislation he will bring to the floor. The President feels this is essentially a Canadian project benefiting Canada. It would give a direct pipeline to a refining and export terminal from where Canadian oil will reach world markets. None of it would come from the United States. Sounds like a veto in the works.

In regard to color in America today, he said US blacks are better off now than they were when he began his presidency in 2009, but that the gap between blacks and whites remains. On racial tensions he laid it out in general terms.

Mr. Obama argued that "really concrete, practical" law enforcement reforms will result from a review his administration is currently producing. He sounded an optimistic tone about preventing deaths like Michael Brown's in Ferguson, MO and Eric Garner's in New York City.

"What I don't think is always captured in our political debates is, the vast majority of people are just trying to do the right thing. And people are basically good and have good intentions."

The President said, "Sometimes our institutions and our systems don't work as well as they should. Sometimes you've got a police department that has gotten into bad habits over a period of time and hasn't maybe surfaced some hidden biases that we all carry around."

"But if you offer practical solutions, I think people want to fix these problems," he said. "This isn't a situation where people feel good seeing somebody choked and dying. I think that troubles everybody. So there's an opportunity of all of us to come together and take a practical approach to these problems."

His final remarks were on the economy, saying that the economy had improved back to its 2005 level. So despite all the other stuff, Mr. Obama believed 2014 was a good year for America.

That said, the sun rises, the sun sets, day follows night and the Beat goes on. And the beat goes on.



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Colo. budget

continued from page 1

they materialize, the rebates would go out under existing formulas via tax credits or sales tax refunds when people file their 2016 taxes. The cost for refunding TABOR is typically negligible because it done through tax filings.

In a recent interview, incoming House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst made the suggestion that Democrats may support a ballot measure in 2015 to ask voters to keep the money for state spending instead of issuing refunds.

State Senator Kent Lambert (R) is the chairman of the bipartisan budget committee comprised of three Republicans and three Democrats. Lambert supports asking voters to keep the marijuana revenues exceeding TABOR, but he is noncommittal on the larger refund.

Governor John Hickenlooper presented a proposed budget setting aside nearly \$137 million to be returned to taxpayers in 2016. His proposal could still be amended. A final decision won't be made for months, but Governor Hickenlooper made it clear to lawmakers that he does not think voters are willing to let government keep money above the limit set by TABOR.

"Colorado's economic activity continues to outperform the national expansion," Hickenlooper



Beautiful fresh snow on the Sangres on the morning of Dec. 27 after the abundant Christmas snows.

photo by Martin Macaulay

er stated. "Total employment and personal income have steadily increased for several years running. The state's unemployment rate stands at 4.7%, the lowest since 2008. Looking ahead, the most likely scenario is for the momentum to continue at a steady pace."

The full Colorado legislature will make adjustments to

the budget and vote on it in the spring.

The entire letter from the governor to the Joint Budget Committee about the FY 2015-2016 proposed budget can be found online at the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, www.colorado.gov/ospb.

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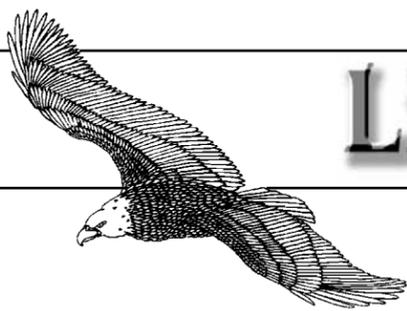
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Living on the Earth

Early ranching in the San Luis Valley

Mexican settlers & the pioneering Trujillo family ranch near the Great Sand Dunes

by Mary Lowers

Ranching and mining put food on the table for many diverse groups. Over the span of time, rich grass, abundant water and accessible passes have drawn herds and hunters to the northern San Luis Valley (SLV). Smithsonian archeologists Pegi Jodry and Dennis Stanford uncovered the remains of mammoth bison and a kill site

where humans processed the animals 11,000 or so years ago northeast of the Great Sand Dunes. The Ute and other native groups in the region ventured to the rich SLV to hunt on an annual cycle.

Some early settlers mistook the American Plains Buffalo for water buffalo and tried to domesticate them. Around 1600 early Spanish explorers and settlers reached the SLV. Searching for gold, meat and religious converts, a group of these vaqueros, impressed by a Ute display of bison hunting, set out to round up a herd of buffalo. They managed to stampede a herd of some 500 of the angry bison. Many men and horses were killed in this debacle and the idea of domestication was given up.

Winter hardship broke down precarious good relations with the Ute and other natives. The need for food and shelter led to the commandeering of corn and enslavement of native people. For nearly a century the citizens of Spanish Mexico enslaved native people and some native groups enslaved Spanish people. The native slaves in the SLV decided they had enough and rebelled, driving the settlers down from the mountains and across the sand dunes to board make-shift rafts to escape south on the Rio Grande. Francis Torres, a Catholic Jesuit missionary, was mortally wounded in the uprising. As he expired trying to make it to the relative safety of a raft, his dying vision was of the mountains to the east tinged a blood-like red in the light of the setting sun. In great pain he cried out, "Sangre de Cristo" (Blood of Christ) and the steep range was named.

In the early 1800s New Mexicans began herding flocks of sheep up the Rio Grande for summer grazing. If you go for a soak at Stagecoach Hot Springs north of Taos and southwest of Arroyo Hondo you can see some of the steep and precarious trails up the Rio Grande Gorge these early ranchers took with their dogs and flocks.

Mexican independence from Spain in 1821 and encouragement from the government led to the settlement of the SLV in the then-northern reaches of Mexico. Mexican sheep rancher, Teofilo Trujillo was born in Rio Arriba County in



The Trujillo Ranch, including the house and out buildings, was sold by Pedro Trujillo in 1902. He establish a new Trujillo spread in the Sargent District.

northern New Mexico around 1842. He moved north and began running cattle and sheep in the area of the Great Sand Dunes and Blanca Peak. Seeing the way the political tides were turning, Trujillo became an American citizen in 1848, right after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo made the SLV part of the USA.

The Trujillos broke from the traditional agricultural practices of their forbearers: the majority of settlers from NM in the SLV lived and worked the land communally. They lived in adobe brick homes built around a central plaza, cultivated common land, and shared water resources.

The Trujillo family founded an independent ranch away from other settlers. They were one of the first families to claim land that was part of the Ute domain. Patriarch Teofilo Trujillo never spoke English but he was astute and took advantage of US land incentives, including the Preemption Law (1841), the Homestead Act (1862) and the Desert Land Law (1877) encouraging settlement, to expand and hold onto his family spread. The Trujillo family kept their ranch, but in 1874 when several ranchers of Mexican lineage filed claim with the US government for title to Zapata Ranch, the Surveyor General said their documents were forgeries and



Pedro Trujillo on horseback. He spent many hours in the saddle ranching and as a deputy sheriff. Pedro was the son of Teofilo Trujillo. He built a home and kept ranching near the Great Sand Dunes after the family had been burnt out of the original ranch house. His descendants still live in the SLV.

denied their claims.

In 1877 the Dickey brothers came to the SLV and settled on the Medano Ranch with plans to introduce the white-faced Herford cattle and acquire as much grazing land as possible. A family who would not succumb to pressure from the Dickey brothers to sell out was that

of Teofilo Trujillo. The goal of the Dickeys was to obtain the Trujillo acreage and stop the sheep operation. Cattlemen and sheepherders were in conflict in much of the grazing lands in the west. Sheep, when grazing, eat the whole plant,

root and all, whereas cattle just mow the top. This caused cattlemen to claim sheep "ruined" the land. This era saw many American Anglos moving into the SLV. Despite some reported trouble with the Ute, more and more land in the SLV was secured for settlement.

A great demand for wool and
continued on page B-9



Teofilo Trujillo was the astute patriarch of the clan. He became an American citizen in 1848 right after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. He moved to San Luis, where he is buried, after his home was burned down by cattle interests who coveted his acreage.



The Trujillo home built by Pedro Trujillo after his father's home was burned down. It still stands on the Trujillo Ranch site between the Great Sand Dunes and the Hooper/Mosca area.



Cowboys herding cattle in the SLV. Breeds like the white-faced Herefords were popular for their well marbled meat. They were introduced in the west in the 1870s.

Statutes aiding ranching & settlement

Preemption Law (1841):

A Federal law permitting "squatters" living on federal lands to purchase up to 160 acres at a low price before the land was offered to the general public. If this land was not used for agriculture for six months it reverted federal control.

Homestead Act (1862):

This law was signed by President Lincoln to help settle the west. Anyone who had never taken up arms against the United States and was 21-years-old or the head of a family could file a claim for a Federal Land Grant. Uniquely for this period in US history, women and freed slaves were included in this law.

Desert Law Act (1877):

This law was fashioned to encourage economic development and settlement of the arid and semi-arid regions in the western US. The act allows individuals to reclaim, irrigate, and cultivate public lands.



by Kim Malville

The month starts out with Mars low on the western horizon in the constellation of Capricorn. It moves eastward into Aquarius on January 8. Jupiter is in Leo, rising about 8pm. By the end of the month, Jupiter is easily visible in the early evening above the eastern mountains.

January 3/4: The Quadrantid meteors are often as spectacular as the famous showers of the Perseids in August and the Geminids in December. This year its meteors will be overwhelmed by the nearly full moon. The meteors are named after a defunct constellation, Quadrans Muralis, created by a French astronomer in 1795, that appears on a few star charts, but which never caught on. Located near the tip of the tail of the Great Bear, it was named after the quadrant, a mechanical device for measuring the altitude of stars.

January 4: Full Moon

January 21: Low on the western horizon soon after sunset look for Venus close to the two-day-old moon. Venus moves from Capricorn to Aquarius on January 25.

January 22: The moon has now moved close to Mars.

Landing on a comet is a difficult task

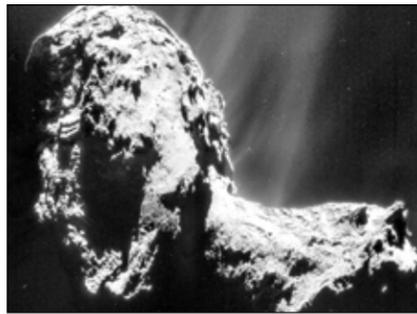
The past few months of the astronomy column in the *Eagle* have been filled with stories and pictures about the rendezvous of the Rosetta spacecraft with Comet 67P and the landing of Philae upon its surface. The editors of *Science* magazine just have identified the landing of Philae as the Scientific Breakthrough of 2014.

As you may remember Philae, equipped with harpoons, screws, and reverse thrusters that didn't work, failed to gain purchase in the surprisingly hard crust of the comet, and bounced not once but twice, coming to rest on its side, far from its intended landing spot, in the shadows of a cliff.

Comets are lumps of dust, ice, and organic molecules and do not contain rocks. Nevertheless, Philae was caught between a hard place and something that looked very much like a rock. With too lit-

tle sunlight to recharge its batteries, the lander had 57 hours to gather and transmit data before it expired. This wasn't your grandmother's space vehicle. Philae has its own Twitter account and sent out this final message: "I'm feeling a bit tired, did you get all my data? I might take a nap."

As it plunges sunward, its subsurface ice has already started to sublimate, producing jets of gas and dust, which can be seen in the photograph. Peak activity should come in August 2015 when it is closest to the sun (perihelion), passing halfway between the orbits of Earth and Mars. Much of Rosetta's sci-



Comet 67P with plumes of gas
European Space Agency

tific power comes from its ability to continue to orbit the comet at close range for months on end. Previous missions to comets were over in a few hours. The next very important flyby of an icy body—NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto—will whiz past the dwarf planet on 14 July 2015. At its closest, New Horizons will pass Pluto at a distance of 10,000 kilometers, close enough to make out features with a camera resolution of 12 kilometers per pixel). By contrast, Rosetta's camera can resolve objects that are only centimeters across.

One of the important mission results so far, published online on 10 December in *Science*, reported a high ratio of heavy hydrogen (deuterium, D) to regular hydrogen. Because this D-to-H ratio is so much higher than that found in Earth water, it suggests that comets like 67P coming from the Kuiper belt, a region beyond Neptune, could not



Sedimentary rocks from an ancient Martian lake

NASA

have played a major role in delivering water to Earth. Other comets, with lower D-to-H ratios, similar to that of the Earth's oceans, formed closer to the sun, and these are the ones that may have produced our oceans and those of Venus, which have evaporated. Those comets were jostled about furiously in the young solar system and were pushed far out into the giant swarm of comets known as the Oort cloud. The Oort cloud contains trillions of comets extending to nearly two light years away from the sun.

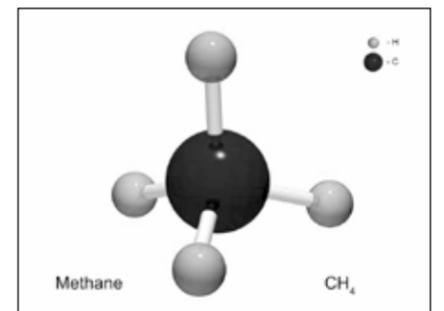
Rosetta orbiter is not only seeing interesting things; it also sniffs. The Rosetta Orbiter Spectrometer for Ion and Neutral Analysis (ROSINA) has been aiming its spectrometers at the gas molecules in 67P's thin halo of an atmosphere, called the coma. In addition to detecting water, methane, and hydrogen, it has started to find more complex molecules such as formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide.

Methane and life on Mars

The Rover on Mars known as Curiosity is also sniffing methane, but in the case of Mars, methane may be a hint of life on the Red Planet. Within Gale Crater, where Curiosity is slowly climbing the hill of sedimentary rock called Mount Sharp, methane exists at a background concentration of slightly less than one part per billion by volume in the atmosphere (ppb). However four times during the past two months the rover measured bursts of much higher methane abundances, at about ten times the background level. Most of the methane on Earth is produced by biology, and the current excitement among planetary astronomers is that methane on Mars could mean some form of primitive life on Mars.

The one-part-per-billion methane that is present permanently in its atmosphere amounts to about 200 metric tons of the gas flowing through the Martian atmosphere.

By comparison the earth's atmosphere contains about half a billion metric tons of methane. Most of our methane comes from anaerobic bacteria living in low-oxygen environments, such as stagnant water and the flatulence of cows and other animals. Methane also leaks out in the process of drilling for natural gas and in combustion of coal, although drilling leaks are much smaller sources than coal. On Earth, the presence



Methane molecule

of methane is a significant element in climate change, because methane is a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Mars's minuscule methane background is probably produced by ultraviolet light striking the carbon-rich debris of meteorites, comets, and interplanetary dust that fall on to its surface. But, this process cannot explain the methane spikes that Curiosity observed, because there have been no recent meteoritic impacts or airbursts in the vicinity of Gale Crater. So the exciting possibility remains that Martian microbes may now be belching methane from subsurface refuges, protected from lethal solar ultraviolet light by thin layers of soil and ice. What a fun challenge for future human explorers on Mars, not so different from the adventures faced by early explorers in the Antarctic, though enormously more expensive.

The Shangri-la family extends its sincere gratitude for the years of continued support of the greater Crestone community.

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Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What is biochar and how can it help reduce my carbon footprint?

-William Jarvis, Bethlehem, PA

Biochar is a naturally occurring, fine-grained, highly porous form of charcoal derived from the process of baking biomass—and it's been associated with fertile soils for some two thousand years. "Biochar is found in soils around the world as a result of vegetation fires and historic soil management practices," reports the International Biochar Initiative (IBI), a trade group representing the world's burgeoning biochar industry. "Intensive study of biochar-rich dark earths in the Amazon has led to a wider appreciation of biochar's unique properties as a soil enhancer."

Indeed, researchers have been hard at work perfecting their own methods for manufacturing biochar by baking biomass in giant oxygen-free kilns. The resulting biochar can then be used as a soil amendment to help restore tired, compromised farmland, not to mention contaminated industrial sites, all the while taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. A liquid by-product of the biochar production process can also be converted into a carbon-neutral "biofuel" that can displace other carbon intensive fuels.

Farmers can layer biochar into

E - The Environmental Magazine

their fields where it becomes part of the soil matrix and helps retain water and essential agricultural nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. "You can basically think of it as a soil reef upon which abiotic and biotic phenomena happen," says David Shearer, CEO of Full Circle Biochar, one of a handful of U.S.-based biochar start-ups working to commercialize the age-old "technology." Farmers like the fact that using biochar can lower their water and fertilizer bills as well as yield more and better quality agricultural products—leading to better market performance overall. "This is really a hedge for farmers," reports Shearer. "It really helps them manage their financial risk and it helps them manage risk into the future around production."

Beyond agriculture, biochar can also be used to clean up polluted land. "For example, if you have a mine that has contaminated soil adjacent to it, biochar . . . will allow you to remediate soils," says Shearer. He adds that biochar also makes for an excellent filtration medium: "We know that activated charcoal has been used for millennia as a filter mechanism, and so there is discussion in the biochar community that maybe the first step is we'll use it as a filtration media, and then we'll move to agriculture as the cost of production of biochar comes down."

As far as environmentalists are concerned, the greater the demand for biochar the better, given



Environmentalists hail biochar, a form of charcoal derived from baking biomass, as a savior of soils damaged by agricultural overuse and pollution. It can sequester significant amounts of carbon dioxide in the process.

the fact that it is a potent storage mechanism for carbon dioxide that would otherwise head into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. "The carbon in biochar resists degradation and can hold carbon in soils for hundreds to thousands of years," reports IBI. "We can use this simple, yet powerful, technology to store 2.2 gigatons of carbon annually by 2050. It's one of the few technologies that is relatively inexpensive, widely applicable and quickly scalable. We really can't afford not to pursue it."

Contacts: International Biochar Initiative (IBI), www.biochar-international.org; Full Circle Biochar, www.fullcirclebiochar.com.

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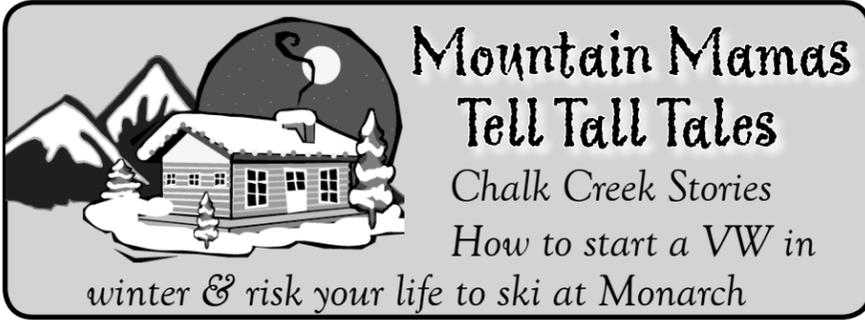


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Mountain Mamas Tell Tall Tales

Chalk Creek Stories

How to start a VW in

winter & risk your life to ski at Monarch

by **Kizzen Laki**

It was a bitterly cold winter morning, and getting that 1963 VW bug to start was getting harder and harder. Air-cooled engines just weren't designed for sub-zero temps. For a month I had run an extension cord out to the bug and hung a light bulb over the engine, then covered the engine lid with old blankets. That had been working very well. I could look out at night and see a soft glow coming from the ladybug—she looked all snug and cozy. A little gas, a little love, and she'd fire up.

It was the mid 1970s and I was living in a cluster of old cabins up Chalk Creek Canyon among the Collegiate Peaks. I had been working at the Monarch Ski Area, a trip of about 45 miles one way. It wasn't great money, but it was a job and the kids and I got to have free passes to ski. But getting an early start to get there was a real challenge. Besides the pass often being "chain law" bad, getting the VW dug out

and going was a must.

It had been a rough winter. Heavy snow blew, drifting in around the cabins and cars. As the weather got colder, that VW bug got harder to start, even with a "night light", even with a jump, even with pushing it halfway down the road. But I had to get to work or lose my job. Finally, one brittle morning when the bug sat there dead in the driveway, I grabbed an old cake pan, filled it with kindling, set it on fire and slid it under the engine block. I had to lie in the snow and feed it bits of wood—making sure the flames didn't reach too high. As the engine warmed, drops of oil dripped onto the wood causing momentary flashes of fire. A friend came by to see what the heck I was doing. "You are going to set that car on fire Kizzen!", he said. At that point, I really didn't care. It was either gonna start or it was gonna burn.

It started. Just like that.

It became my new deep win-



Kizzen with her intrepid "lady bug" at the Monarch Ski Area.

ter VW bug starting technique. Had to watch out for the fuel lines and dripping oil. Had to keep the fire small and steady. Had to be half-crazed and desperately determined. But it worked.

And I seriously do NOT recommend this technique—do not try this at home with *any* vehicle—unless you want to blow it up and risk serious injury!

I loved that VW bug. She was painted orange and black with ladybug spots on her and even had long eyelashes around the headlights. If she could start, she went anywhere. I already told you my blizzard story with her, but here is a Monarch Pass one:

It was a very snow-packed day (great skiing) when my very gutsy friend Georgene, who also lived in the cabins, brought her 3 young boys and came with me and my two kids to go skiing at Monarch with the free passes. How did we fit them all in the bug you ask? 4 on the back seat with one in the way back, all bundled in blankets. "Air-cooled engine" means "no measureable heat".

The stretch of road from the town of Monarch up to the ski area was one of the worse stretches of the highway. Long steep uphill with thousand-foot drops over the side. No guard rails in those days. You had to count on the plowed snowbanks to keep you from ca-reening off the edge.

As we came around the final curve below the ski area and hit that last long straightaway we came upon a long line of traffic. The far right hand lane was at a dead stop. They were stuck in the snow or couldn't get traction to get up the hill. Some were trying to chain up. The center lane, the uphill "passing" lane was barely moving as vehicles struggled and skidded up the hill. I had to make a quick decision. I was moving along quite well revved up high in 2nd gear and I knew that if I slowed down to join the line of slow moving cars I would falter and soon join the stalled out lane. What to do? No cars coming

downhill at me. Can't see around the top curve. But I could maybe squeeze back into the line if I *really* had to.

Go for it? "YEAH Go for it!" says fearless Georgene. I gunned that bug, darn near maxing the tach, pulled out into the oncoming lane, saw the depths of the canyon below over the tops of the snow bank and went for it. Now, as we all know, old bugs don't go very fast uphill. But, with pedal to the metal we grabbed traction in the snow, passing pickup trucks and Broncos and Jeeps. Kids' breath frosting up the windows. My heart was racing faster than the bug. Push, push, push, come on baby, almost there, don't look down! Getting closer to the end of the line and here comes downhill traffic. As they came around the top curve, there I was like the little engine that could blowing steam. Their eyes went as wide as mine as they slowed way down, giving me just enough time to pull into the top of the traffic line, casually put on my right blinkers and quickly duck into the Monarch Ski area turnoff. Whoo Hoo!

What's that saying about fools and angels? You have to have a bit of the crazy if you love to ski.

Other than the oldest white-knuckled boy (who grew up to be a submariner), the kids didn't know what had just happened on that wild mountain ride. And telling this story now, for my kids to read about how I risked their lives, is kinda my revenge for them as adults telling me scary tales of the things they did as teenagers that I hadn't a clue about.

Georgene and her boys seemed to factor into a few "kids all loaded up in the VW bug" stories. Like the time the rear wheel came off while driving down highway 24. But, that's another "that the angels" story I'll tell you sometime.

In the 1970's Kizzen lived with her family and other assorted young folk in a cluster of old log cabins up Chalk Creek Canyon. They chopped wood and hauled water. This is a story from those days.



Kizzen's cabin in Chalk Creek during the 1970s.

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DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

Wolves had never been a presence in my life. I had never lived around them so I didn't know much about their biology or natural history. Then, early on a November morning about ten years ago, a chance encounter here in the Sangre de Cristos changed that. I have never talked much about the experience only because the biological details were so sketchy. I'll explain that later. First, here are some facts about wolves in Colorado, most of which were gleaned from Division of Wildlife Publications. (Note: Just because it's in a government document doesn't mean it's true, but most of these events are well documented and not at all controversial.)

From "Guidelines for Response to Gray Wolf Reports in Col-

orado, Colorado Division of Wildlife, January 2005," a report that was issued to advise wildlife officers on possible wolf sighting in Colorado, there is this statement: "It is likely that gray wolves, particularly single, young adults, may wander from wolf populations either north or south of Colorado into our State." In March of 2005, a wolf that migrated south from Yellowstone was found dead on Interstate 70 about five miles west of Idaho Springs. It was the first "wild" wolf seen in Colorado since 1935. (Another Division of Wildlife document says the last Colorado wolf was killed in 1943, so I'm not sure which is true).

In 2009, another wolf from Yellowstone was found dead in Eagle County. According to the data from her GPS collar, this lone female traveled through five states, covering over a hundred miles after leaving her Montana home in September of 2008. After traversing Yellowstone National Park, the Bridger-Teton National Forest, western Wyoming, southeastern Idaho, and northeastern Utah, she arrived Eagle County in February of 2009. Her bones were discovered in March 2009. Circumstances of death: uncertain.

Since then, in that same region of western Colorado, on the 300-square-mile High Lonesome Ranch up in the Piceance Basin near the Book Cliffs, biologists have found signs—mostly scat—that suggest some wolves may be settling in to stay. While they agree that wolves could find suitable habitat in Colorado, they acknowledge that it is fragmented. In an article that appeared in the *High Country News* (February, 2010) wildlife

biologist Carlos Carroll, who has done several studies of potential wolf habitat in the state, says that "a wolf population would depend largely on three distinct swaths of public land in western Colorado—one in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, one southwest of Aspen, and one in the Flat-top Mountains, just northeast of the High Lonesome Ranch."

Now back to the Division of Wildlife document that I mentioned earlier. "Due to topography, vegetation, and distances from existing populations," it says, "certain areas of Colorado have a greater chance of wild wolf occurrence. In southern Colorado these include areas west of Highway 285 and south of Highway 50, with portions of Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Conejos, Dolores, San Juan, Hinsdale, Mineral, or Rio Grande Counties most probable." Notice that this list of more likely places for wild wolf sightings does not include Saguache County, or for that matter the Sangre de Cristos. Even though counties like Rio Grande and Mineral over in the San Juans aren't that far away, one wouldn't expect a wayward wolf to end up over here, but neither would you expect to find one on I-70.

Anyhow, I saw something one November morning about ten years ago, that I still cannot explain. I had gotten an early start, just before daybreak, and drove up the North Crestone Creek trailhead. No one else was parked there. An

early snow had fallen. It was wicked cold. But I had vowed to log in some good mountain miles before a Thanksgiving Day feast. Wearing just about every warm layer I had, I began walking up the mountain into an icy breeze. As I made my way up the switchbacks and broke out of the trees, I was warming up and hitting my stride, and I figured I had enough time to take another trail north toward Ground Hog Basin. Coming out of a creek-side swale, I heard a sound that I would describe as a high moaning howl. I stopped. And listened. And then I heard it again, so I walked up around a clump of spruce and the trail opened out into a high meadow. There, maybe 100 feet up the trail, was an animal of the canine clan. Like I said, my knowledge of wolf biology was limited. I couldn't unequivocally identify this animal, but it didn't appear to be a dog and it was too big to be coyote. Not to mention that unusual howl.

I didn't try to get any closer. The animal looked over my way. Its eyes were not especially orange or yellow as one might find in a wolf or a wolf-hybrid, but neither were they the blue eyes one might see in a domestic dog. After a fairly long encounter—maybe standoff is a better word—I turned away and started back down the mountain, unsure of what I was leaving behind, but certain that it was something I had never seen or heard before.



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JAN 2015 Listings



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UNDER CONTRACT



381CR Del Sol Lane - NOW \$59,999
Casita Park-Immaculate 3bd/2ba bath 1624 sf home located on 0.819 acres (5 cons. lots). Includes attached 2 car garage, storage + appliances. Magnificent views & privacy. Includes attached 660sf 2 car garage

Retreat Property



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

Commercial Property



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

Historic Hotel



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

Town of Crestone



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

Town of Crestone



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



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

Baca Meadows



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

Baca Grande - Chalets



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



1967 Rockyview Way - \$465,000
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck.



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



923C Blue Spruce OL - \$399,000
Handcrafted home w/ spectacular views. ~2350sf on 1.92 acres. 2bd/2ba, spacious artist studio & meditation room. Surround windows & south facing 2nd floor deck.



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



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



22 Alpine OL - \$295,000
CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!



483C Point of Rock OL - \$285,000
Built by Teahen Construction. Beautiful 1745sf 3BD/2BA 2-story contemporary home on 1.946 acres. Attached 2-car garage, detached studio. High energy efficiency & quality throughout.



149 Moonlight Way - \$269,000
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. Great space for entertaining!



1255C Eagle OL - \$267,000
Beautiful 2075sf 2-story home with 2BD/2BA/Office/Sunroom in a private cul-de-sac on 1.766 acres in Chalets 1. Dramatic view windows, vaulted ceilings, master suite w/soak tub.



4454C Ridgecrest Way - \$259,000
Beautiful custom 2-story, 3BD/2.5BA/Office on 1.508 acres backs to Cottonwood Creek gmbit. Master Ste w/ attached sun room & meditation room. Energy-efficient quality construction.



909C Brookview Way - \$240,000
Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca waiting for the right person to complete the vision. 2324sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576sf guest house w/ kitchen.



1216C Chaparral Way - \$235,000
Custom built 2005-Teahen home, 1710sf 2-story, 3bd/2.5b home on 1.132 acres is immaculate! Great kitchen, master suite w/ elegant master bath. Upstairs sitting room, bonus room and balcony.



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



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



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



3704 Carefree Way - \$179,000
Immaculate like new 3 bd/1.75ba, 1316sf home has wood floors, stucco privacy wall, single car garage, beautiful views of the mountains.



1479 Badger Rd - \$175,000
Custom 3BD/1.75BA home, built in 2004, backs to open space. Immaculate condition. Beautifully crafted w/diamond plastered walls, wood ceilings, wood floors, in-floor radiant heat, & wood stove.



198C Evergreen OL - \$159,500
Renovated 3BD/1.75BA 1740sf home on .998 acre. Spacious decks w/beautiful views. Huge, attached garage w/ woodstove, RV bay, and tons of storage space. ETS heat. Many interior updates.



1573C Kings Hill OL - \$159,000
Light & bright 3bd/2ba, 1480sf, 1.5 level stucco with large south facing windows and view deck on .84 acres. Easy access off paved road. Hot water baseboard heat/ passive solar. New roof.



3732C Cordial Way - \$159,000
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.

Baca Grande - Grants



2776 N. Carefree Way - \$133,000
2-story, 2BD/1BA 1338sf wood & stone home set in the trees high in Chalet II. Great mountain & valley views, close to retreat centers. A cozy mountain feel, very private & quiet. Unfinished master bath.



29 Sunset OL - \$125,000
2BD/1BA A-Frame 1248sf remodeled w/ new kitchen appliances, cabinets, & flooring. Option to purchase furnished. Propane heat. Wood cathedral ceiling in LR. Large loft Ma. Bed. Fenced yard.



36 Camino Baca Grande - \$98,000
This lovely chalet style home with soaring windows and high ceilings has 3bd/1.75ba, a loft sitting area and attached sunroom. Wood fireplace, Toyostove heater.



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



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



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



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



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.



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



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



1372 N Saddlerock Trail - \$134,900
This 1960 sf 3 bed 1.75 bath has a three room master suite & a 200sf sunroom. Panoramic views of three mountain ranges on 2.03 acres bordering the Willow Creek greenbelt. Well & septic.



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

SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM
THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The season of smoke alarms & CO detectors
by Chris Botz

Key to smoke alarms and CO detectors is batteries. They say replace batteries yearly. What we see is they can run safely for several years. Just be sure and check that they are still charged.

Woodstoves are a year-round thing here. If you can't clean and maintain your stove, there are several good contractors locally. Please check this newspaper for their ads. Maintained stoves generate fewer smoke alarms, CO warnings and flue fires.

If the smoke or CO alarm goes off, immediately evacuate children, then open up the home.

In advance, generate an agreement with several of your

neighbors (several, because just one may go on retreat) to provide temporary shelter, should the need arise. Everyone here is acquainted with Jack Frost, that windchill guy; hate him but respect him as well.

Chimney and flue fires:
Shut the door and the damper.
Dial 911.

Don't aim a pressurized fire extinguisher into the fire, which will result in further exposure and injury.

This brings another issue to mind. Your fire extinguisher is likely to be out of its service date, more on that next month.

Another thing to be aware of is that stove ashes can conceal live embers for several days. Benign piles of ash can creep fire into the woods. Please use metal containers for the ashes. Before you dump them, look for the oracle of fire, stir them, look for their ruby gleam.

Should you wish, you can make the fire department aware of additional factors in your home: O₂ use, tanks or concentrators, et cetera.

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719-256-4781 Firehouse
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Thanks to Steve and Elaine for that lit tree.

Ranching in the San Luis Valley

continued from page 1

mutton inspired some nefarious cowboys to rustle sheep from native flocks in Texas and to bring them to Fort Garland to sell. Range wars were on and the Medano Zapata Ranch just south and west of the Great Sand Dunes was one of the largest and most productive. The Dickey brothers made the headquarters of their cattle operations Medano Ranch. The site may be visited today.

Try as they might the Dickey brothers could not persuade Teofilo Trujillo to sell out. They began quickly buying and leasing land from their predominantly Mexican American neighbors who ran sheep. The story goes that some cowboys working for the Dickey brothers decided to run the Trujillos off their land.

While most of the men were gone a cowboy who worked for the Dickey outfit came up and knocked on the door of the Trujillo homestead. He distracted the women at the front door while other cowboys surrounded the house breaking windows and hurling flaming jars of kerosene through

them. They slaughtered the prize ram and hung his bloody head from the ranch entrance. Teofilo Trujillo came home to find his ranch in ruins and his family scared. He pulled up stakes and relocated to San Luis where he is buried.

The Dickey brothers did end up with some of the Trujillo land. Teofilo Trujillo's son Pedro stayed on and built a home just a mile from his father's burned-out residence. The house still stands and is known as the Trujillo Homestead. Although he ran cattle and no sheep, pressure from Anglo ranchers drove Pedro Trujillo to sell out for \$30,000.00 in 1902. Pedro and his wife Sofia moved northwest to the area near Sargent where they established a four hundred-acre ranch. Pedro served for a time as a deputy sheriff. His descendants still call the SLV home.



A tent city of immigrant Anglo Americans near Alamosa eager to begin a new life in the SLV.

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2014 Home Sales

SOLD!	3926 Cordial Way	\$499,000*
SOLD!	1234C Brookview Way	\$419,000 *
SOLD!	4376 Twinview OL	\$239,000 *
SOLD!	1647C Willow Creek Way	\$229,000 *
SOLD!	764 Indian Hill OL	\$229,000 *
SOLD!	4511C Ridgcrest Way	\$217,000 *
SOLD!	1468C Horseshoe Trail	\$209,500 *
SOLD!	1540C Willow Creek Way	\$199,000 *
SOLD!	3869 Jubilant Terrace	\$185,000
SOLD!	2747CR Easy Way	\$169,000 *
SOLD!	1615 Willow Creek	\$165,000

SOLD!	1280 Echo Point OL	\$159,900
SOLD!	3766C Carefree Way	\$159,000 *
SOLD!	4327 & 4328 Tranquil Way	\$150,000 *
SOLD!	1004C Badger Road	\$149,000 *
SOLD!	4406C Twin View Terrace	\$139,000
SOLD!	936 Spanish Creek Trail	\$139,000
SOLD!	2681C Happy Hollow Way	\$139,000
SOLD!	4246 Serene Way	\$134,900
SOLD!	375 S. Cedar Avenue	\$134,500 *
SOLD!	98 Skyview Way	\$134,000 *
SOLD!	13 Camino De La Plata	\$ 43,500 *

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* Denotes Listed and Sold

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As the Worm Turns

The origin of tomatoes

by Leigh Mills

Catsup, pico de gallo, marinara sauce, gazpacho, gumbo, chicken (or tofu) cacciatore, BLT, Caprese salad, V-8, and lasagna or pizza with red sauce: these and others are among the numerous recipes that contain tomatoes. Tomatoes, whether fresh or cooked, are a common food for many people all over the world. I knew a little about the origin of tomatoes, but dug a little deeper to satisfy my curiosity.

I learned that the original tomatoes were indigenous to the southern Andes of Peru and were small and yellow. After the Spanish conquered the then-Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, (Mexico City), in 1521 AD, tomato seeds were spread

to the Caribbean Islands, Philippines and on to Europe where they were cultivated and the tomatoes eaten by the Spanish and southern Italians. However, in other parts of Europe, the tomato was considered poisonous and admired only as an ornamental plant. It took many years before tomatoes were invited into the European kitchen, but by the end of the 1700s, they were being used daily. Details of how the tomato arrived in North America vary, but it is thought that they could've entered British North America in 1710 by way of the Caribbean Islands since they were seen growing in what is now present day South Carolina by William Salmon—an herbalist. Thomas Jefferson ate some tomatoes in Paris during the mid-18th century and sent some seeds back to be grown at his Monticello estate in Virginia.

Once the tomato became accepted, its cultivation and use spread like the vine plant it is. There are over 7000 varieties grown for different purposes. Commercial breeding developed smoother, uniform shapes with thicker skin that ripened after picking but has little flavor. Heirloom varieties are popular among gardeners who appreciate the range of colors, shapes, and deep, rich flavors. This popular vegetable is actually a fruit in its botanical classification similar to peas, beans, cucumbers, and other vine fruits. But during a U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in 1887, tomatoes were classified as vegetables so they could be taxed with tariffs (fruit wasn't included in this tax). The decision to classify them as vegetables was decided because tomatoes are eaten along with other vegetables in main dinner courses and not desserts—like most fruits;



Our garden is at 8400' altitude. I always start my tomato seeds by mid-February at the latest to ensure a bountiful tomato harvest by early September. Both our greenhouse and hoop house are used grow the seedlings and protect the ripening tomatoes during the summer. Last year I successfully grew tomatoes outdoors, but installed tall row covers to protect them from damaging hail storms.



This cluster of Jaune Flamme tomatoes grew outdoors in the Heyokah Homestead garden during the summer of 2013. They are bigger than cherry tomatoes and get as large as apricots. When ripe, they are a rich orange color with a terrific sweet taste. It's an indeterminate vine that produces lots of fruit.

therefore . . . a tomato is a vegetable.

A very popular vegetable, er, fruit indeed! Other tomato research took me to the USDA website where I found some statistics from 2012 that listed tomatoes as the second most eaten vegetable (fruit) in the US, behind potatoes, and those who eat tomatoes eat an average of over 30 pounds a year. More than 50% of consumed tomatoes are processed, with pizza being the favorite tomato food.

I know I love tomatoes and am also happy to hear that they are also beneficial to our health. Tomatoes have good amounts of vitamin C, A, potassium, and folic acid; and they also have various antioxidants like beta carotene and lycopene. They are low-calorie, low-fat, and can be incorporated into endless tasty dishes.

There is a lot more information about the origin and history of tomatoes on the internet and in books. Here are the ones I used for this article:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomato>
- www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-availability-and-consumption.aspx
- www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/273031.php
- www.delallo.com/articles/you-say-tomato-i-say-pomodoro
- www.growtomatoes.com/historical-background/



One of our favorite dishes is basil pesto made with homegrown basil and garlic over rice pasta and garnished with plenty of chopped, fresh tomatoes and sprinkled with homegrown, ground cayenne pepper.

www.britishtomatoes.co.uk/history
Indian Givers by Jack Weatherford

Leigh Mills has lived and gardened in the San Luis Valley since 2002 and written the "As the Worm Turns" column since 2010. If you enjoy reading her monthly, visit her website, TheInfiniteBee.com, 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.



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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root
Coming back to balance



Often, this time of year, we feel a need to bring our lives back to balance. Perhaps there was some overindulgence during the holidays, or just a desire to begin anew with the New Year. We feel the need to do a cleanse, or lose weight, or just change eating habits and this is the stuff of many New Year's resolutions. This can also be the stuff of a lot of frustration if we find it difficult to shift old habits. This is where our herbal friends can be very helpful.

Candida can be an issue for many of us today. Even though it's a natural part of our intestinal flora, this yeast can get out of balance with consumption of too much sugar and simple carbohydrates; after a round of antibiotics; and several other factors that throw our digestive systems out of balance. We may find ourselves trying to give up sweets and have millions of little voices in our gut screaming to be fed sugar (or alcohol, as it metabolizes down to sugar)!

There are many herbs that can be used to balance the intestinal flora, but the ones that I have found to be most effective are two of our southwest desert plants—Desert Willow and Chaparro Amargosa. I was introduced to this formula by herbalist Stephen Buhner 21 years ago and it has been my mainstay for bringing the gut back to balance (I have also used this combination for Giardia). Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

grows in southern New Mexico and Arizona. It's anti-fungal and specifically anti-Candida. The leaves and bark are used for this purpose.

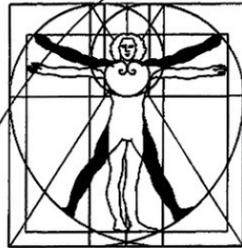
Chaparro Amargosa (*Castela emoryi*) (not to be confused with Chaparral) grows in southern California, Arizona, and northern Mexico. As the name implies, this is a very bitter-tasting herb. My youngest daughter developed a taste for nasty tasting herbs in utero and never had a problem taking any tincture I might give her. But when I had occasion to give her this formula her comment was, "Mom, that's really yucky Echinacea!"

I should mention that in any herbal cleansing protocol, be sure to drink ample quantities of good quality water (less than one quart a day is not considered ample!) before, during and after to flush stuff out.

The caveat with this formula is that in order to clear the Candida overgrowth, it really is necessary to pretty much eliminate sugar, refined carbohydrates, and alcohol for at least a period of time to avoid feeding the bugs while trying to inhibit them. But those millions of tiny voices will quiet sooner, and the task will be much easier with these herbal allies helping out.

Dorje Root is an herbalist and natural healer, also working with Plant Spirit Medicine, Intuitive Energy Healing and 'The Journey' cellular healing. For an appointment call 719-937-7786 or visit www.rootsofhealing.com.

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HOUSE FOR SALE 1474 E. Badger Rd. (Baca in Chalet 1)

Custom home by Lee Mitchell on 1.56 acres on Willow Creek greenbelt. 1650 square feet. Great room, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, study, sunroom. Cempo exterior walls (R32) with stucco finish. Concrete barrel style tile roof. European exterior rolling shutters on windows. Corian counter tops. Ceramic tile floors with in-floor radiant heating. Double car attached heated garage. Xeriscaped yard with drip system.

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1454 WAGON WHEEL RD

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



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305 PALOMINO WAY

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



Solar w/Artistic Touches

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. Single level. Very sweet home. \$186,000



\$98,500!

20C BACA GRANT WAY

2 br, 1 ba, delightful screen porch with great room design, over-size 2-car garage with workshop space, 1/2 acre lot on greenbelt walking distance to Charter school. \$119,000 now \$98,500



1,200 sf Garage & Workshop

83C IBERIA CT

3 br, 2 bath, 1190 sf. + huge 30' x 40' insulated workshop & garage. Workshop is bright with windows, and solid steel beam construction. Well-insulated & pleasant. Move-in ready. Beautiful landscaping, on greenbelt. \$98,500



Now \$134,900!

4246 SERENE WAY

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



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In Search of Economic Reality

Virtuous cycle versus vicious cycle

by Ed Lyell

A year ago I wrote a column describing the many changes needed to bring the USA back to a healthy capitalistic society permitting us to empower and improve the middle class while re-imposing tax burdens on the existing super wealthy and powerful. Surprise! None of those changes has occurred. The wealthy are happier than ever while the working class is upset since they are the losers in the present system, both Democrats and Republicans. However those in power try to make the conflict between R and D, when the real battle is the super wealthy versus the rest of us.

According to Robert Reich, we're talking about 16,000 people, each worth at least \$110 million.

One way to get your mind around this is to compare their wealth to that of the average family. In 1978, the typical wealth holder in the top .01% was 220 times richer than the average American. By 2012, he or she was 1,120 times richer.

It's hard to spend this kind of money.

Whether a southern Republican poor white who blames Democrats, or a northern urban unemployed and underemployed, the workers are all losing jobs and income. The American middle class has gone back to the family income of the 1990's. Meanwhile the super wealthy, especially the richest 400 families, have never had it so good, even in the old "Robber Baron" years one hundred years ago. Today people in more than a

dozen other countries have higher income, wealth, and opportunity for learning, good health, and are moving up the social mobility ladder. If the average worker had received wage increases matching their productivity gain since 1970 the average family income would be \$96,000, not today's \$73,000. If minimum wage had gone up with productivity gain it would now be \$18 per hour. (www.epi.org/publication/the-top-10-charts-of-2014). The street riots reflect a middle class that has lost faith and hope in the economic and political structure of the USA.

Robert Reich describes the needed changes in his DVD "Inequality in America". He focuses on the shift from virtuous cycles to vicious cycles. We have become a country of vicious cycles. The already-rich get richer through income tax cuts and deductions. Industries that harm the environment like oil, coal and gas get the tax incentives, while renewable energy is shut down by regulations bought and paid for by the fossil fuel industry. This week's new "Cromnibus" 2015 budget law gives new millions to the fossil fuel industry while cutting millions from renewable energy research. It also maintains \$1,500 billion in tax cuts for big corporations and the super-wealthy.

With our declining public education quality and declining access to higher education we have more people out of work, creating higher tax-paid expenditures for food, housing, clothing, vacations, and education. After WWII it was universal public education and

free higher education that gave us the economic competitive advantage to be the world's leader in most every area of world society. Now, northern Europe has quality schooling starting at 3 years old. Research has proven that one dollar invested in high quality early education saves seven dollars later, while permitting new groups to be economically successful. Europe invests in education from preschool through doctorates, and we do less than decades ago. Free higher education after WWII created the best educated and most innovative workforce in the world. Yet now we price students out of universities and saddle those who do attend with student debt paid to the already wealthy. It is as if the wealthy and powerful do not want their children competing for the better jobs against smarter poor children.

It is a vicious cycle when we fail to raise gas taxes to maintain our roads and bridges. We give out over a trillion dollars in tax breaks to millionaires creating reduced government revenue which curtails building our physical and human capital infrastructure. Both private and public spending on innovation, research and development have been cut as corporation CEO's have incentives to

maximize short term profit, even if it destroys a company or country in the long run. What do they care, they get their millions and purchase island homes to escape to when the bubble breaks. Their multiple homes, corporate jets, and entertainment are all tax deductible. Even the professional sports Americans so love are in a vicious cycle. The billionaire owners extort local tax payers to build them a new stadium or they will move the team. Yet the profit from the new stadium all goes to the billionaire owners while the cost is borne by the middle class taxpayer. The new sky boxes give corporations new tax deductible entertainment for themselves and their friends, while the working class fan pays twice as much and cannot afford to purchase tickets that have been in the family for generations.

We must go back to the old virtuous cycle that made America the best place to live and raise children. This includes improved education quality and free university paid for by eliminating all corporate tax deductions and credits. Re-creating a highly tiered income tax system in which the super wealthy pay over 50%, while treating income from investments the same as working income will generate over a trillion dollars to help the middle class. Either we return to a capitalism that works for the majority or the rising power of the socialists will replace the crony capitalism that is only rewarding the top one percent.

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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

First of all we would like to thank all the folks who contributed to and attended our Holiday Open House last month. We all look forward to this annual event and the

opportunity to visit with friends and catch up on news. We had lots of good food, laughter, and over 100 guests. Blessings and best wishes to everyone that 2015 is full of joy, serenity, balance, and many exciting adventures for you—and we hope one of these will be visiting your library regularly, as we have some great selections for all ages. We love being of service to our community members by offering such a valuable resource for you to use.

Most of you have heard that we are in the planning stages for a new library to be located in town. But we cannot do this without help

from our community members. Please do not assume that “someone else is doing it” or that your input and active support are not needed. This project will be hindered if the workload is not shared—so please say “yes” to requests to assist with getting the new library that we all want!

One of the traditions of bringing in the New Year is making a list of resolutions—the setting of intentions to do a bit better in areas of our lives that could be improved. One of the library’s resolutions is to fix the glitch that occasionally misses checking in one of your

items, and we find it sitting on the shelf (just like you said). The staff of the library would like to suggest a resolution to you that would really help us out. This resolution is: “I will take care of the items I check out of the library, and I will return them in the same condition they were in when I checked them out.” As we are borrowing from other libraries through interlibrary loans, we are sure they would appreciate this resolution as well.

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

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you can link to these lodging websites online at www.crestoneeagle.com

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The problem with being sure that God is on your side is that you can't change your mind, because God sure isn't going to change His.
-Roger Ebert

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Houses & Property for Sale

GRANTS LOT 495 FOR SALE

Grants Lot: 4.5 acres +/- Off the grid. On NW corner of Camino Real and Camino Del Ray. Owner will hold mortgage with down payment. Motivated seller. 256 5110

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David W. Walker, Accountant, 37 years experience. Personal & Business Income Tax Assistance. Call for appointment in your area: 719-379-2988.

Recycle-Creede Recycling Services

Recycle-Creede provides drop-off recycling services in Crestone the 1st & 3rd Saturday of every month from 10am-2pm in the parking lot across from Aventa on Alder Streeede.org. We take almost everything! For more details call 303-503-9975; visit us on Facebook and at recyclecreede.org.

Help Wanted

Mountain Valley School is Hiring MSW, LMHC or LPC

Mountain Valley School District is hiring a School Health Professional. Must have or be eligible for a School Social Worker or

School Counselor License in the State of Colorado. For more information visit www.mountainvalleyschool.org

Part Time Graphic Designer/ Tech support

Solution-oriented person need to perform monthly page layout and provide basic office tech support. Many perks, including office lunches, flexible schedule and a dog-friendly environment.

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- Web design/maintenance experience with CMS (Wordpress or other)
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- Backup systems management

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Saguache County Landfill New hours beginning February 1, 2015:

Monday – 8:00am to 3:00pm
Tuesday – 8:00am to 3:00pm
Wednesday – 8:00am to 3:00pm
Thursday – Closed
Friday – 8:00am to 3:00pm
Saturday – 8:00am to 3:00pm
Sunday - Closed

SAGUACHE COUNTY DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

OPENS Friday, December 12, 2014

CLOSES Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 3pm

Saguache County invites and encourages citizens to comment on the DRAFT Strategic Plan.

TWO WAYS TO COMMENT ...

In writing - Please submit your written comments in person, or by mail TO BE RECEIVED no later than 3pm on January 8, 2015.

Deliver to: County Administration - lower level, 501 4th Street, Saguache, CO

Mail to: Saguache County Administration, P.O. Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149

Email to: administrator@saguachecounty-co.gov

Written comments do not require presence at the public meeting; all comments will be considered, whether in writing, or verbal comment at the public meeting.

At the Public Meeting - Friday, January 10 from 10am to 2 pm at the Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149

In addition to comments of your choice, it would be helpful and we'd appreciate receiving your feedback on a few specifics:

Are the Strategic Priorities clear and understandable?

Are there additional measurable results that you would like to see in the Plan? In which Priority?

Do you have ideas for making us more One County, One Community?

Which parts of the Plan would you or your organization be willing to devote time to achieving?

Are there additional implementation strategies that may help achieve the strategic plan goals in:

- Tourism
- Research and Development
- Alternative Energy
- Infrastructure
- Grow the Workforce
- Small Business Development

What would you change to improve the Plan overall?

Thank you for your time and contribution to the Saguache County Strategic Plan!



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Please do not contact the Eagle offices.
All inquiries will be mutually confidential.*

...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

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

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

COOK NEEDED
The Yak 'n' Cracker is in need of a cook. Please apply at the cafe. Call 719-256-4700 for more information. Blessings to all.

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

Home for Trade
DEAR UNIVERSE: Willing to trade Urban Homestead in Prescott, Az. (near Sedona) for home in Crestone, if it's meant to be. Details at: trees4free.org

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

Misc. for Sale
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Lodgepole Pine \$195.00 per Cord ~ 2 Cord Min. Pinion Pine \$350.00 per Cord ~ Cash Only ~ No Checks or Credit Cards. Free Delivery. Call or Tx 719-293-5968

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

Need a Caregiver?
I can help you find a local caregiver for you or a loved one. I have several names and numbers of individuals with a variety of skills and experience. (I am also looking for more trained caregivers/CNA) For in-home assistance, elderly care, ongoing illness, etc. email Marta at martashoman@gmail.com

Lost and Found
lost love of my life
LOST: love of my life 14 year old partially deaf, name is sassy, red and white border collie, pink and white collar last seen at Camino Real and Camino Del Rey, November 26th. Nice dog, no threat. Call

Dustin at 719 937 1950 or 719 529 0490.

Lost Pedestal
LOST: Gray carpeted pedestal, left outside

TOWN OF CRESTONE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a supplemental budget appropriation to increase expenditures in the Town of Crestone 2015 Budget will be reviewed and considered for adoption at a Public Hearing in the Crestone Town Hall, 108 West Galena Avenue in Crestone, Colorado, on Monday, January 12, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.
A copy of said proposed supplemental appropriation will be available for public inspection in the Town Hall beginning January 1, 2015. Any elector of the Town of Crestone may file with the Town Clerk any objections or other comments regarding the proposed budget amendment, in writing, at any time prior to the final adoption of the supplemental appropriation.
Akia Tanara, Town Clerk
Published January 1, 2015
Crestone Eagle

the old schoolhouse on November 8th. If found, please call 480-4747.

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

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116 S. Alder Street, Suite D

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COLUMBINE TELECOM COMPANY D/B/A FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS/ COLUMBINE TELECOM COMPANY TELEPHONE SERVICE

Columbine Telecom Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company provides a wide variety of products and services including the following basic service offerings in the Crestone (256) and Mosca (378) exchanges:

	Monthly Rates*	One-Time Charges*
Single Party Residential Service	\$18.98	\$40.00**
Single Party Business Service	\$32.28	\$40.00**

In addition to the above monthly rates, a Federal Subscriber Line Charge applies to each line as follows:
\$6.50* Residential lines and businesses with single lines
\$9.20* Businesses with more than one line.

An Access Recovery Charge also applies to each line as follows:
\$.50-1.50* Residential lines (except Lifeline qualified lines) and businesses with single lines
\$3.00* Businesses with more than one line.

* Does not include applicable taxes, fees and surcharges
**Premises Visit Charge not included

The above rates include the following:
• Voice grade access to the public switched network
• Local Usage
• Access to emergency 911 services
• Toll Limitation for qualified low income customers

FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company provides a Lifeline Program discount for residential service for eligible low-income customers with federal monthly support of \$9.25. In addition, Lifeline customers may also qualify for free toll blocking to help them control long-distance usage. Customers using this offering can still use pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services to place long-distance calls from their homes.

The Lifeline Program is a government benefit program that provides discounted service to eligible low-income residential customers. The Lifeline Program benefit is non-transferable and is open to eligible customers only. To receive the Lifeline Program discount, residential customers must provide a completed application proving eligibility to FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company. Documentation proving enrollment in a qualified government benefit program or establishing household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines must also be provided. Only one Lifeline Program discount is available per household on either a wireless or wireline telephone service. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment, can be de-enrolled or can be barred from the Lifeline Program.

All customers who receive the Lifeline Program discount must now recertify eligibility annually. If you receive a recertification package from FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company, you must respond within 30 days or FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company is required to remove the Lifeline Program discount from your account.

WOODMAN DESIGN

Time to

- remodel the bath?
- add another bedroom?
- make a landscape plan?
- plan your dream home?

Home design in the Moffat/Crestone/Baca area for 25 years; local references.

Janet Woodman
719-937-3767
woodmandesign@fairpoint.net



by Keno
What different types of snow are there?

One might be surprised with how many different definitions there are for snow. I don't have enough room here to go over all the different types of snow, but here are a few, starting off with falling snow and snowflakes before they hit the ground:

The term "thundersnow" describes a thunderstorm which produces snow as the form of precipitation. A blizzard is a long-lasting snow storm with intense snowfall and usually high winds. A snow storm is a long storm of relatively heavy snow, similar to a blizzard but without any wind. A snowsquall is a brief, very intense snowstorm. Snow flurries describe a period of light snow with usually no or little accumulation.

For snowflakes, they have many different shapes. Here are a few: Columns are a class of snowflakes that are shaped like a six-sided column. Dendrites are the most common shaped snowflakes. They have 6 points, making them somewhat star shaped. Graupel (aka snow pellets, popcorn snow) is formed when freezing fog condenses on a snowflake, forming a ball of rime ice. Needles are a class of snowflakes where their length is much longer than their diameter, like a needle.



9am rush hour traffic in downtown Crestone on Dec. 22.

Now, for snow on the ground we have: Champagne powder (aka powder, dry snow), which is smooth and dry snow and makes for great skiing and also is very easy to remove from walkways. The term originates from ski resorts here in Colorado. The ski resort in Steamboat Springs actually holds the trademark for this term.

Firn snow is snow which has been on the ground for at least a year but which has not yet consolidated into glacier ice. So it's snow that is at an intermediate stage between snow and glacial ice.

Artificial snow is manufactured by man using snow cannons, which actually create tiny granules more like soft hail. In recent years, snow cannons have been produced that create more natural-looking snow.

Blowing snow is snow on ground that is being moved around by wind, and the same deal as what a ground blizzard is.

Watermelon snow is reddish/pink-colored snow that smells like watermelons, and is caused by red-colored green algae called "Chlamydomonas nivalis". Crust snow is a layer of snow on the surface of the snowpack that is stronger than the snow below. Crusts often result from partial melting of the snow surface by direct sunlight or warm air followed by re-freezing.

Packed powder describes the snow cover on ski slopes, consisting of powder snow that has been on the ground long enough to become compressed by ski traffic, but is still somewhat soft.

Slush is snow which partially melts upon reaching the ground, to the point that it accumulates in puddles of partially frozen water.

Zastrugi is snow sculpted by wind into ridges and grooves on the snow surface. Penitentes are tall blades of snow found only at high altitudes.

Snirt (aka dirty snow, black snow) is snow covered with dirt. Not seen too much around here, but often seen in cities, it's simply snow that is dirty.

Spring snow is granular snow formed by alternate freezing and thawing late in the season. Corn snow is coarse, granular wet snow. It is also the result of cycles of melting during the day and refreezing at night.

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

November 21 to December 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.79"

Snow: 9.6"

Measurable precipitation fell on 5 days.

Measurable snow fell on 5 days.

A trace of snow fell on 4 days.

No rain, hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 13.59"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 52.2"

Snow Season*: 14.5"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 56.0°F on November 29

Low temp: 7.4°F on November 24

Avg. high: 41.7°F

Avg. low: 17.8°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 3 (all in November)

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 40°: 20

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: all 30

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 3

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 2.0 mph

Highest gust: 30 mph on November 30

Main direction: Out of the east.

Weather summary:

Above average temperatures closed out one of the warmest Novembers on record, which would continue right into the month of December, where up to the reporting date of the 20th saw every day of the month above average, with the first 12 days with near-record highs. Yet the only record we saw was set in November, when on the 29th we tied the high for the date with a reading of 56°, first set in 1999.

Precipitation-wise, we were slightly above normal. On December 14 we set a new daily high for precip when .39" was recorded. The old record was .25", set in 2012. Also on the same day, a record snowfall was tied with 4.3" falling. This record was first reached in 2012.

Outlook for January:

The first month of the year is usually a dry one. We average 0.56" of liquid precip, with only February drier. Snow wise, we should see around 9.6" fall on average. Record snowfall for the month is 23.4", in 2005. Record precip in the liquid form was set in 2005 at 1.73".

January is our coldest month of the year, with the average high and low for the first at 32° and 6°, and warming just a bit by the end of the month with readings of 35° and 10°.

The 30-day outlook for January is calling for both average temperatures and precipitation.

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