

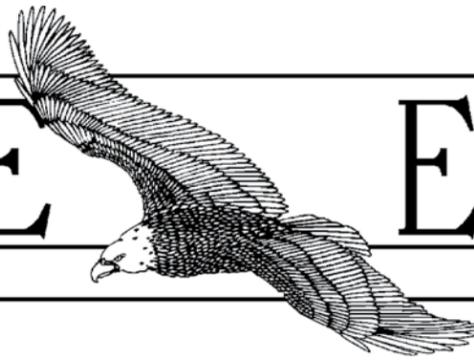
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 26, Number 2

February, 2015 \$1

26 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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"A winter walk on the wild side: lower Cottonwood Creek." A porcupine and a bob cat peek down from the cottonwood trees. photo by John Conrad
To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Forest Service reduces substantially payments for local schools & roads *Program reauthorization not passed by new Congress*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in January that around \$50 million will be paid to 41 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to support local schools and roads under the Twenty-Five Percent Fund Act of 1908 as compared to \$300 million last year. The 1908 Act requiring 25% payments to the states from receipts from national forests in

each state is permanent law and will guide 2014 distribution of payments, as the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act authority expired on September 30, 2014. The drop in revenue is expected to greatly affect many rural counties.

The Obama Administration supported a 5-year reauthorization of the program to transition pay-

ments to counties in the fiscal year 2015 President's Budget. However, it has not been reauthorized by the new Republican Congress, and in the absence of SRS, payments to states revert to pre-existing law under the 1908 Act that mandates only 25% payments. Seven-year rolling averages of receipts from national forests located in each

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Camels in Saguache County! See our feature story about the Mudita camel dairy on page B-1 photo by Leigh Mills

Subzero temps burst water pipe & flood Charter School

by Carrie Caverly

The coldest recorded temperatures of 2014 inflicted destruction on the Charter School in Crestone. Subzero temperatures (-8) on December 27 and 28 froze an external hose bib and burst an interior plumbing pipe at the school, flooding Rainbow Hall with approximately 20,000 gallons of water.

Thanks to the community's quick response and an unwitting construction flaw cum design fea-

ture in the concrete floor of Rainbow Hall, the damage was contained to that one room, the main community gathering space at the school.

Ann Bunting, an employee of Crestone's Water Department and a parent of a Charter School student, noticed approximately 20,000 extra gallons of water usage during a routine water plant check the morning of December 29. Bunting promptly set out to check all the

meters around town and locate the potential leakage. Isolating the leak to the Charter School, she discovered the source of the flooding though, mysteriously, no standing water. Bunting contacted Kirk Banghart, Moffat Superintendent of Schools.

Banghart immediately called in KW Restoration of Salida and Leadville who responded within 24 hours, assessing the damage, re-

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The Crestone Eagle

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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.



Love, blessings & gratitude

Dear Community,
 Scot & Ava would like to bid all our beloved friends and patrons from the Bliss Cafe a fond farewell! It's been five years since we built and opened the cafe and we're both longing to fulfill other dreams and goals. So, look out for Scot's documentary on neuroplasticity: the brain's ability to create new neural pathways, and for one of Ava's books to be published. While it took us months to make our decision to move on, our hearts decided some time ago that we were ready to choose a new life! First step: heading to California in our brand new 1994 RV to lounge, study, write and be creative.

We are very grateful and excited that three delightful employees have taken over the business. Bennett Italia, Trevor Welch and Jordan Roberts are the happy new owners of the cafe, while Scot & I will retain and develop the hotel side of the business. We hope you'll welcome the new guys warmly! They're fresh and excited to be taking over.

Thank you for your laughter, lessons, love, growth and money. We felt like a bridge for townspeople to come and have fun and eat good food! If nothing else we hope (as our signs said), that you learned

Optimism is key ~ Complaint is futile. And that Patience is a virtue. You were often rich in virtuosity by the time you left the Bliss!

With ever so much love, blessings and gratitude,
 Ava Lowe & Scot Swordy

Election thank you

Dear Editor:

First, I would like to publicly say thank you to the residents of Saguache County for taking time out of your busy schedules to cast your votes of confidence for me on November 4, 2014. I have had the privilege of serving you, the people of this county for the past 20 years as your County Treasurer/Public Trustee. Every vote was very much appreciated.

I have always said that I would continue to run and serve this county in this position as long as I felt that I was making a difference and enjoying my job. I continue to feel that I am making a difference in the things that I do and am still enjoying my job. Each day

brings new challenges with budgetary constraints and laws that change. Every day continues to be a learning experience. I have met so many wonderful, good, and kind people, most who live right in our county.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family and my staff for all the support and help you have given me the past four years. My staff is amazing and I could not do it without each one of them. Thank you, Lynn, Aileen and Regina—you are the best and I am nothing without you!

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve you, the people of Saguache County, for the past 20 years and I am honored to serve you for another four.

Sincerely,

Connie A. Trujillo

Saguache County Treasurer/
 Public Trustee

Special thanks from Friends of the Library

Dear Editor,

The Crestone Baca Grande Friends of the Library wish to extend our sincere thanks for the generous donations and hard work that made it possible to conduct the following events: A Gathering of Poets, conducted in October 2014 at the 'Ol School House,' here in Crestone. Special thanks to Peter Anderson and Dave Miller, who promoted and directed the very successful event. Proceeds to the Friends of the Library.

Also, the very recent event on 24th & 25th of January 2015 by Matthew Crowley, held at Dharma Ocean Shrine Hall. This event was a celebration of Matthew's recently published book of poetry, titled 'Limitlessness,' and included Poetry Recitation (by Matthew), a Silent Auction, a Book Signing, and a Art Exhibit by our own Marika Popovits. The event was a overwhelming success and obviously enjoyed by all.

Many, many thanks for your though-full and generous donations to the Crestone Baca Grande Friends of the Library, and toward our community's new library facility.

— Thom Ontko, Chair.

p.s. Next FOL Meeting scheduled for 20th February 2015, @ 1:30, Crestone Town Hall.



Seed Exchange to happen Feb. 15

Fifth annual seed exchange is happening! Sunday February 15 from 10am to 3pm at Joyful Journey Hot Springs conference center. This event is about sharing seeds. Many people save and collect seed from heirloom plants. This event offers a venue for the community to get together, share, and learn. Gardening in the San Luis valley has its special challenges so getting seed that grows here is wonderful.

It is a way to take control of our food, the most basic and essential element of our daily lives. There will be information available as well as food and fun. Please join us for this event, show your love of gardening, present it, continue precedent! An endeavor with a lot of help from my friends Joyful Journey, Leigh Mills ChoKuRei. Ranch, and many more. For more information please contact Laura at (719)246-0350.

No alfalfa for deer, please

by Rick Basagoitia
 Area Wildlife Manager

It is illegal to feed all big game animals in Colorado, and deer are big game. In the case of deer, well meaning persons are tempted to lend a hand, especially in winter. The problem is that physiologically the deer's system changes and can't properly process rich foods such as alfalfa, and/or grain. We found decades ago that many deer die with full stomachs because their systems can't take it. The best thing for them is to not stress them for the remainder of the winter and help protect their summer and fall ranges. These are the best food sources that allow them to build the fat reserves that will get them through tough Colorado winters that they are adapted to survive.

Ceremony of Gratitude at cremation site Feb. 22

As part of the annual retreat for Crestone End of Life Volunteers, held at Dragon Mountain, a "Ceremony of Gratitude" will be held, beginning at 3pm at the site. All are invited to participate in this event at which the name of each person whom we have served over the years is read, and appreciation for their life is expressed. The retreat and ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 22. For more information call Stephanie, 588-7415.

The CEOLP Training, held last month, was attended by more than twenty people. There are many skills and tasks involved in serving a cremation or green burial, and the CEOLP circle was delighted to have so many new members participating.

To learn more about CEOLP and Informed Final Choices service to the community, and how you can participate, attend our monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 11, at 33 Sunset Overlook. Call Wayne 256-4247 for directions/information.

Editor's Notes

Deal with the dogs

On page 3 we have a news story about a pack of 4 dogs chasing, taking down and fatally injuring 3 elk in the Baca Grants.

I was contacted while this was happening and immediately posted notices on Facebook hoping that whoever owned these dogs would go get them and stop the rampage. The several people witnessing the event tried to chase the dogs off—fearful and horrified by what they were seeing. They took photos to document the dogs and elk and sent me at least a dozen pictures of the dogs and dying and dead elk.

The numerous comments on the fb page "Crestonians", after my postings, were very revealing. People started telling their own stories of problems with loose dogs in the Baca—being chased while walking or on a bike, fears for their children or own pets. Others defended the "right" of dogs to run "free". Someone even said that dog packs were taking the place of wolves in thinning the herd. (By maiming in a way a wolf pack would never do?) A couple posts suggested that running dogs should be shot.

Person after person wrote about the problem of dogs running loose. How it is dangerous when these pets pack up and become aggressive with the thrill of the chase. And how it has to stop. All three dog owners were heavily fined. One of the owners had their dog put down.

We have a serious problem with loose dogs. While the POA may be able to become stricter in their enforcement (Crestone enforces an "at large" and leash law), the solution will ultimately come from people taking responsibility—creating fenced yards or making sure their dog does not leave the property. I pray that they will do so before a person, a child or more wildlife are hurt.

—Kizzen

Join us for a 90-minute SACRED SOUND GONG BATH

with Richard Rudis. Bliss for your body, mind and soul. Lie down, relax & heal.

When: **Sunday, February 22. Arrive by 3:30.** Where: the Charter School.

Cost: \$35 paid in advance, \$40 at the door. **Contact us in advance to register**

and reserve your space. Bring a yoga mat or something of equal size to lie down on, a blanket & pillow and water. Refrain from eating a heavy meal beforehand.

RSVP to Judie at YES! 937.7788 or Kristin 719.429.8463

Portion of proceeds to benefit YES! | SacredGongBath.com

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

A Casita Park man called the Saguache County Sheriff's Office when he received two suspicious and threatening phone call from 649-918-5884. The message left on the man's phone said that he should retain "legal help" because he had a "very serious problem" that had "serious consequences". According to the Sheriff's Office, these calls are part of a "serious scam". Citizens are advised to completely ignore this sort of call. A couple of people in the county were conned out of at least \$10,000 as a result of this sort of fraudulent phone scam.

A Center man, 22, was jailed on a failure to appear in court charge. His bail was set at \$500. A failure to appear charge was the reason a Saguache man, 56, was taken into custody in Villa Grove. His bail was set at \$1000. A Saguache man, 46, was taken into custody for first degree criminal trespass, false reporting to authorities, criminal mischief, criminal attempt, disorderly conduct relating to offensive utterances, and second degree assault. He was taken into the county jail and held on \$5,000 bond. A Center man, 29, was taken to jail and held on \$500 bond for charges including harassment, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct for offensive utterances. A Center man, 31, was taken in for aggravated motor vehicle theft, false imprisonment and harassment. His bond was set at \$5000. No bail amount was listed for a 35-year-old Moffat man who was jailed for disorderly conduct involving offensive utterances.

A Saguache man, 70, was jailed for careless driving and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. His bond was set at \$500. A Baca man, 50, was ticketed in the Baca Grande and summoned to appear in court for driving a defective vehicle while his license was revoked. For failure to comply with a warrant a Denver man, 21, was jailed in Saguache on \$10,000 bond.

A Saguache man, 46, was held in jail on charges of domestic violence and harassment. A Baca man, 29, was jailed on charges of sexual assault on a child by a person of trust. His bail was set at \$50,000. A man, 46, formally residing in Saguache and currently a Steamboat Springs resident, was arrested in Saguache on charges including second degree burglary, theft, harassment, and violation of a restraining order. His bond was set at \$10,000. A fifty-year-old consultant from Walsenburg was taken into custody in Saguache County as a fugitive from justice who was charged with sexual assault. His bond was set at \$55,000.

Quite a few speeding citations were issued this past month, including several in the Baca Grande.



Dogs attacked this elk, which later died, in the Baca Grande on Jan 2. courtesy photo

4 dogs chase & kill 3 elk in the Baca Grande, owners fined

On January 2nd, several people reported seeing a pack of four dogs out in the Baca Grande chasing the herd of elk that winters in that region. They witnessed the dogs bring down the elk and fatally wound them. The Saguache County Sheriff and the Colorado Division of Wildlife were called. Rick Basagoitia the DOW Area Wildlife Manager investigated. Three people were fined \$276 each for having their dogs harass and kill wildlife.

Said one of the witnesses who tried to stop the elk attack "The first elk was downed and didn't get up. The 2nd was on its feet when we came upon it with all 4 dogs tearing into it. Sounding the horn, banging on the car, shouting did not stop the dogs till the elk was torn down. We saw it lift its head then fall down, up and down for several minutes before its head no longer came up. The 3rd elk was dead when we came upon it on Pinon Road." Another person who saw the attack said "I chased four dogs away from one of the elk that was taken down. It happened on our property. My wife and I watched the calf cut from the herd. There were two other people who watched this elk being killed and photographed the event."

If you see dogs chasing wildlife you can call the DOW at 719-587-6900 or report it to the Saguache County Sheriff at 719-655-2525.

As the Crestone Eagle posted photos and ongoing coverage of the event on facebook on the day it happened, numerous community members commented and expressed outrage over loose dogs, irresponsible dog owners, and the killing of the elk. The Baca Grande Property Owner's Association requires dogs to be kept on their owner's property. The Town of Crestone enforces its leash law and will issue citations for free-running dogs.

Deer killed by arrows in Baca

by Mary Lowers

Tree Ravenwolf lives up Moonlight Way on the Baca Grande. Her home backs up to the greenbelt. In early January she looked out to discover a young buck with a trophy rack of antlers dying in her backyard from injuries made by an arrow that was still piercing the animal. After seeing nothing could be done for the animal, Tree called the Department of Wildlife (DOW).

According to Tree the DOW investigated the deer death for two days. An autopsy was conducted on the deer carcass. It turns out the deer had actually been shot twice; one of the arrows had fallen out before the buck died. The second arrow pierced the animal's lung which caused his death. Rick Basagoitia spokesman for the DOW said that fines for poaching deer range from \$100 to \$10,000 depending on the value of the animal. The deer in this case was worth quite a bit as it sported a large "trophy" rack of antlers.

Tree said the DOW investigators told her that the poachers in this case were "spotlighting" the buck. This illegal hunting practice involves using a bright light, probably in this case a flashlight, to blind the deer and make it easier to kill. Charges for these poachers mount when in addition to illegal out-of-season hunting they can be cited for spotlighting and abandon-

ing a kill. Rick Basagoitia of the DOW said, "We have no suspects now. The investigation is ongoing. You can make an anonymous report to the DOW online by going to Operation Game Thief on the internet. We are asking the public for any information they might have about this incident."

Tree said, "My anger is not just that they killed this deer but they could have easily hit someone," due to population density on that part of the Baca Grande. If you see suspicious hunting you can call the DOW at 719-587-6900 or report it to the Saguache County Sheriff at 719-655-2525.

TB health alert

by Mary Lowers

Saguache County Public Health Department issued a notice in mid-January that an area resident had tested positive for Tuberculosis (TB). The risk of transmission was declared to be low by county authorities. Symptoms of TB may include weakness, feeling sick, weight loss, fever or night sweats. If the TB has progressed to the lungs it can cause coughing and chest pains. If you are concerned about this, a private doctor or the county health department can check for TB. Saguache County Public Health Department can be reached at 719-655-2533.

Attempted murder in Saguache

by Mary Lowers

Two Saguache men face charges of second degree attempted murder. According to the arrest affidavit, James Walker, 49, called 911 to report he had confronted Richard Helmick, 58, near his vehicle parked on Pitkin Ave. Evidently he thought Helmick was messing with his vehicle. Walker tried to stop Helmick with an air rifle when he fell on ice. A male, 17, who cannot be identified because of his age, with Walker, grabbed a bat and according to the *Pueblo Chieftain*, "persued him (Helmick) hitting him with the bat." Walker was taken into the Saguache County Jail and the unidentified minor was taken to a juvenile facility in Alamosa.

Saguache Sheriff Dan Warrick said there may be additional charges filed against the pair as the investigation proceeds. The sheriff indicated that charges of felony menacing maybe added to the murder charge which may end up a first degree rather than second degree felony charge. The sheriff told me that, because neither party in the incident would comment, additional facts will come out during the investigation.

Helmick was transported to the Del Norte Hospital bleeding from a severe cut on the head. He was later transferred to Denver where he remains in the hospital. Sheriff Warrick said this case would begin the court process January 21.

The CAMINO de CRESTONE

Three pilgrimages in 2015:

June 6-13

August 22-29

September 12-19

www.caminodecrestone.com



"Life-affirming and life-transforming"

Saguache County News

The County has a new look for 2015

by Sandia Belgrade
Judge swears in new County officials

Prior to the first meeting of 2015 of the Saguache County Board of Commissioners (BOCC), Judge Patty Swift presided over an official swearing-in of newly elected County officials. The upstairs County courtroom was very crowded as one-by-one they came up to be sworn in: Tim Lovato, County Commissioner; Pete Peterson, Assessor; Tom Perrin, Coroner; Connie Trujillo, Treasurer; Carla Gomez, County Clerk; and Dan Warwick, the new sheriff who received a warm hug of congratulations from retiring Sheriff Mike Norris.

Board re-organization

As the first order of new business, there were appointments to mark the transition and re-organization of the board. Ken Anderson was elected as chairperson and Jason Anderson as vice chair. Linda Joseph ceded the chair to Tim Lovato and on behalf of the county, Jason gave her a plaque and wished her the best of luck. The board approved the reorganization of the many positions and responsibilities that it takes to run the government. Joseph's previous assignments were delegated among the present board members.

Tuberculosis notice for county

Marcy Gardunio, Public Health Director, reported that there is an active case of tuberculosis (TB) in the county. Saguache County has posted an informal Public Health informational notice on their website announcing that a resident in our area has tested positive for TB. It is not an emergency. TB is a serious communicable disease but treatable, and residents should note that the risk of transmission to others is low, though children can't always mount a good response. Public Health officials will contact those who may be at risk of exposure in order to see if testing is needed.

Protocols put in place

Gardunio said that the procedures are very time-consuming, requiring strict medication guidelines. The patient is quarantined and medicated 5 days/week for 9 months. Saguache County Public Health Agency is working with regional and state partners to conduct an investigation to identify others who may have been exposed to the disease. TB is caused by bacteria, and germs are spread from person to person through the air when a person with TB of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, laughs, or sings which results in droplets. It is NOT spread by sharing silverware or cups, sharing cigarettes, or shar-

ing saliva when kissing someone. On their website San Luis Valley Emergency Operations Center reports that symptoms of TB include severe and long-lasting cough, pain in the chest, coughing up blood or sputum, weakness, fatigue, weight loss, loss of appetite, chills, fever, and night sweats. Colorado is a

low-risk state for TB. Commissioner Jason Anderson is now the health and quarantine officer. If residents have questions, call Saguache County Public Health at 719-655-2533 or visit www.SLVEmergency.org

Commissioners challenged on allowing ample public comment

On two issues, county residents asserted that the board has not provided sufficient opportunities for public comment on plans or budgets until matters were well along in the process. At a public session to hear comments on the strategic plan, residents said the board didn't allow timely input. One, a former County employee who asked not to be named, said many felt like the board didn't encourage public input from the beginning of the process but only after a draft was already in place. At a work session those present couldn't hear them, and when she requested a copy of the document, she couldn't get one. The BOCC has acknowledged difficulties with the website. In response, the public comment period was extended until 1pm on January 26. In actuality the plan is still in a draft stage; it has not been finalized or adopted, and the board is still taking comments through the February 10 work session. It would not be implemented until after that time.

Crestone resident Lisa Cyriacks notified Saguache County that she was formally objecting to the 2015 proposed budget as allowed under Colorado Revised Statute 29-1-107 because the County failed to publish a notice of a public hearing on the budget. State law requires the preliminary budget be submitted to the governing body

no later than Oct. 15 each year, followed by a public hearing. According to Cyriacks, statutes expressly grant this right to any elector to file or register a protest with the governing body prior to the time of the adoption of the budget. The County responded saying they published notice of the budget in the *Saguache Crescent*, and it was posted online so residents could comment. However, Dean Combs, publisher of the *Saguache Crescent*, the legal newspaper in Saguache County, said that no notice of budget was submitted to him at that time. When the County received Cyriacks' letter at the beginning of December, the budget was emailed to her. Cyriacks did not attend any meetings or make specific comments on the budget, but she held to the right of citizens to have ample notice and make comments.

Gunnison sage grouse

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced they are listing the Gunnison sage grouse as a threatened species and not endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The ruling is fueling dissent on both sides. With a threatened designation, it might be difficult to revoke or suspend drilling leases that have already been issued. Some say it leaves the door open for more development in the bird's diminishing range. Ranchers, local governments, and the energy industry complained that the decision to list the grouse ignored voluntary agreements to protect sagebrush habitat. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper has threatened to sue the feds for listing the bird. Some conservationists say the grouse could face extinction in a few decades, especially if wildfire or disease knocks back the main population in Gunnison. Jenny Nearing, a biologist who is part of the Poncha Pass group, expected the ruling. Nearing says it doesn't warrant being listed as endangered because of steps the land use agencies and county governments have put in place. Follow-through will be significant. Ben Gibbons, Saguache County lawyer, will investigate how and whether the County should respond. Ken Anderson will take over

Linda Joseph's place on the Gunnison sage grouse committee.

Colorado counties

Jason Anderson reported that Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) is at a crucial point regarding membership. Some large counties like Arapahoe County might drop out. Larger, more urban counties may have different needs than rural ones. CCI states their intent is to present a united voice to the Colorado General Assembly and other government and regulatory bodies to help shape Colorado's future. If the larger counties leave, Saguache will need to reconsider its position so it has a voice in State resolutions.

Short takes

WSM Computer Services put in a proposal for computer services. The County hasn't received any other proposals. Lyn Lambert, co-administrator, said this contract works best with flat rate of \$1650 each month, but she needs a directive or policy set up at next work session. In her Year End report Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer, indicated very few foreclosures in the county, but that may increase once legal modifications are in place.

Land use report

Wendi Maez, Land Use Administrator, said that Jonathan Billingsley, whose application to operate The Pot Shop LLC in Sargents, denied on grounds of not being 1,000' from a liquor store, is contesting that the store doesn't fit the Colorado statute's definition of a liquor store. He is requesting the decision be reconsidered. Maez will notify the public of the issue being on agenda for January 27 meeting.

Correction to Saguache County news in January

Hats off to Barbara Tidd for catching an error. Browns Canyon would not be the second National Monument in Colorado. The website www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments lists Colorado National Monument, Florissant Fossil Beds Nat'l. Monument, Chimney Rock, Hovenweep Nat'l. Monument, Canyons of the Ancients Nat'l Monument, Dinosaur Nat'l Monument, and Yucca House Nat'l. Monument.

HRRMC Joint Replacement Prep Class

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

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 4 p.m.
HRRMC second-floor conference rooms
1000 Rush Drive, Salida



Robert Hunter, M.D.



E. Andrew Jonassen, M.D.



For more information about this free class, call 530-2217.

Meet Tim Lovato, new Saguache County commissioner

Tim Lovato is the new Saguache County Commissioner representing District 3. He replaces Linda Joseph whose term ended in 2014. Lovato, a Democrat, is a lifelong resident of Saguache County. He has a ranch just south of Saguache. His background includes being a State employee in water resources for 30 years, and water commissioner for 25 years. He was the well commissioner for division 3 and administered decrees on Saguache Creek. This experience in water should serve the county well. Lovato said that improving communications with the public and transparency are priorities for him.



County Commissioner Tim Lovato.

He believes the airport could help bring business to Saguache County, but doesn't think the County needs to be in the airport business. He feels more testing is needed on unmanned aircraft but believes there is a good future for them.

Dan Warwick, Saguache County's new Sheriff

Our county was privileged to have Mike Norris as our sheriff for over a decade. And while he will certainly be missed, the person elected as his successor certainly has strong qualifications.

Dan Warwick has served with the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for over 17 years. Warwick has been in Colorado 25+ years, is married and raised a family here. He has moved through the ranks as a sergeant and a lieutenant and was the undersheriff for 9 years of this time. Additionally he was employed by the Center Police Department for 9 months as their interim chief when they were hiring their sheriff. When asked in a telephone interview how it could be following Mike Norris who was very respected, Warwick said he recognizes the challenge to "gain the public's trust," and he stated at the outset that trust is important to him. He believes Saguache County deserves to have "prompt and professional service" from their law enforcement/peace keepers. He said he will do everything possible to gain that trust and believes that everyone should be held accountable for their actions. He repeated that trust was important to him and wants county residents to know their input is appreciated. He added that trust comes from having a safe community. Given the vastness of the county, he and his staff have to cover a lot of ground to as-



Dan Warwick, Saguache County's new Sheriff.

sure safety.

In response to questions about whether there is a drug problem in Saguache County and how it will be handled, Warwick said "Yes, there is a drug problem in the county. Drugs are a big problem in our communities in a way they haven't been before." There's been a spike in meth and heroin in particular. Warwick hopes residents will come forward and report if they have any knowledge or suspicions about drug use. He believes residents can all help by calling in any unusual behavior or incidents.



Charter School flooding

continued from page 1

moving the destroyed maple tongue-and-groove wood flooring, and drying the space within four days of initial discovery of the flooding. By the time school reconvened January 5, Rainbow Hall was stripped down to the concrete slab, dried out and ready for students to resume classes.

So how did 20,000 gallons of water—weighing 83 tons (equivalent to 40 Jeep Wranglers)—magically disappear? 20,000 gallons of water, without a means of escape, would have stood 2-1/2 feet deep in a 1,000 square foot room. Instead, the flooded water didn't rise above the 3/4" recess in the concrete slab where the wood flooring was installed.

When KW Restoration was pulling up the wood flooring after the flooding they discovered holes in the concrete floor beneath. During the school's construction the concrete slab in Rainbow Hall had to be jack hammered to allow for the passage of plumbing pipes that weren't installed prior to pouring the concrete. Unwittingly, this minor construction flaw provided drains in the concrete slab, allowing the flooded water to escape through the floor, seep out the gravel underlay that supports the building, and flow into the ground below. It is believed that no damage was done to the foundation of the building.

The Charter School is awaiting bids for the cost of replacing the destroyed wood flooring with damages estimated to be approximately \$70,000-\$80,000. Charter School Director Michael Hayes noted that burst pipes on the inside of the building was not ideal, but couldn't say what entities, if any,

were at fault for the burst pipe, and thankfully, insurance will cover the costs of the repairs. Hayes noted that numerous schools in Colorado faced similar experiences over the winter break when subzero temperatures challenged plumbing systems to the breaking point.

The solar hot water heating system and radiant in-floor heat was not damaged, and while the leak might have been noticed sooner had school been in session, the temperatures inside the school over winter break were consistent with temperatures maintained while school was in session.

Michael Hayes would like to thank the community for its quick response. Hayes noted that it was a team effort. The Town of Crestone's Water Department was crucial, especially Ann Bunting, who noticed and tracked down the approximately 20,000-gallon leak and notified school officials. Moffat School's Superintendent Kirk Banghart was the first person Bunting was able to reach and he was immediately managing the demolition and cleanup work. Charter School Office Manager Deb Morley was also on-site. KW Restoration was quick to respond with assessment, demolition and drying efforts. This team effort from the community ensured that students were able to resume classes as usual after the winter break despite the damages inflicted by subzero temperatures.

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POA board begins planning for 2015

January 8 meeting

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held a regularly scheduled meeting on January 8. The full five-member board was present as Director McDonald returned after a lengthy medical absence. Although the agenda promised an interesting and important program of goals-setting, the membership didn't agree that the prospects were so appealing and of the 10 people who did show up about half had left before the meeting was half over. The public meeting was followed by the customary Executive Session at about 9pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. This is a marked improvement in the production of the minutes, an assigned responsibility of the Community Manager, so praise to her.

The Members' Forum, where time is set aside for members to comment on non-agenda issues, was modified by President Lakish so that members could also participate in the main agenda item, "Board Goals, Projects, and Future Agenda Items for 2015". Her efforts were initially opposed by Director McDonald as he felt this meeting was supposed to be where the board itself discussed these subjects and shouldn't have to be

delayed by lengthy input from the audience. Director Fuller offered a compromise where most of the time allotted to the Members' Forum was transferred to the "Goals" discussion time, which was accepted by McDonald. This ambitious topic might be thought to be based in part on the wants and opinions of the membership. However, lacking has been any publicity to solicit member opinion via mailings, newsletter, or community meetings. Of course, technically the only true input of the membership of a not-for-profit corporation is at the ballot box, but in this community perhaps the leadership should make more efforts to attract the members' involvement in goal-setting, as well as other important decisions. (In home owners associations formed after July, 1992, the board must submit the budget to the membership, which has the ability to veto it; in older associations such as ours the board has no responsibility to consult with the membership on the budget. The POA budget for 2015 may be viewed on the POA website.)

The approach selected by the president was for each director to state, in turn, his or her preferred issues. Among the five directors there were some topics which appeared more than once, as recorded by Manager McClure. However, as discussion proceeded, that smaller

list expanded. With Ms. McClure's wise guidance, based on likely prompt success of the project, priorities and effort were assigned: (1) Getting a new server for the POA's technical heart (present one is almost 10 years old, has 1 of 4 hard drives that is about to fail); (2) Upgrading of Yak-N-Cracker building (money already appropriated and plans semi-formed); (3) Action on delinquent dues (see your current dues statement, impending action on placement of liens).

The marked range of issues noted by the directors was impressive. Most agreed that further study of the desirability of a management company (currently Hammersmith) versus an ad hoc assembly of suitably skilled employees is an urgent need. Several directors expressed concern regarding seemingly unregulated marijuana growing. Environmental and Architectural Committee chair and Planning Commission member Charles Sommers said that his committee will no longer approve greenhouses of commercial capacity, over 500 square feet in area, and he reports that the Saguache County Commissioners are poised to create the same restriction for the county (barring the granting of a conditional use permit, which wouldn't occur in the Baca because of the precedence of our regulations). The idea of instituting quarterly community forums seemed favored as a board/mem-

ber interface to address particular issues. Of course, identifying the best way to engage non-resident owners, who comprise the majority of members, remains difficult. Suggestions were to get their e-mails and to employ frequent, short surveys. The wealth of ideas of all of the directors was encouraging and led to the suggestion that a small number of members and directors form action groups to collect information and formulate plans to address these issues. Among issues brought up by the directors which could be included were loose dogs; changing the POA lawyer; leasing assets; developing a reserve fund; fixing the identified risks for financial fraud; planning a Newsletter; meetings with local entities such as the Town of Crestone, the Water and Sanitation District, Board of County Commissioners, and the Fire District; local law enforcement support; and the care of greenbelts.

The Executive Session was said to have covered the Hammersmith contract (no vote emerging) and the legal matters of liens and the Goodnight storage units, both widely discussed in the last (open) meeting, leading one to wonder why Mr. Schwiesow's utterances must be withheld from public view whatever the circumstance.

A meeting such as this was a pretty good way to start the year. May we have others like it, with more members in attendance.

POA board productive, co-operative as they tackle a long agenda

January 21 meeting

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held a rescheduled regular meeting on Jan. 21. The full board was present as well as Community Manager McClure and four department heads. Only eight audience members were present. The public meeting ran three hours until the board adjourned to executive session at 9pm. Future executive sessions will revert to the previous 6 to 6:30pm before the open meeting.

Pam Gripp, leader of the ambulance service, will retire as of this coming August and provided board members with materials to aid in the transition. She's planned a tour of the ambulance facilities especially for the new members of the board, followed by a lunch and talk about the service. There has been discussion about the continued integration of fire and ambulance services.

Chris Botz, interim fire chief, reports that a refresher course for 131-90 certification will be held at the Baca firehouse over four weekends this spring; details are elsewhere in this *Crestone Eagle*. New insurance ratings ("ISO") for the Baca still have not been performed, but are expected. There was brief discussion of the circumstances for the release of Baca fire equipment to travel out of area, but the complexity of this matter prevented any conclusions. The advantages for the volunteers are the training benefits of exposure to novel situations as well as the

opportunity to earn some money. Disadvantages to the fire department are the uncertain needs here in the Baca for equipment and personnel.

Shawn Hollmer, Chief of Maintenance, briefly cited ongoing work of his department. Alerted from the last meeting that there is a consideration (felt by Director Lakish to be a requirement to maintain all amenities) to re-expand the golf course to nine holes, Hollmer estimated that the project could be completed for under \$1000 for grass seed and sprinklers. This amount was authorized by the board. In the past there has been discussion of converting the expensive and little-used golf course to another function, but there has been a recent surge in affection for the Challenger golfing facility.

Joe Heilig, Land Use Management Director, reported that 22 building permits were issued for the Baca in 2014, a figure which is about average, not markedly depressed as some had feared. Due to consolidation there are now just under 3900 dues-billable lots. More information was offered on liens, which are estimated to cost \$25 each. The best approach to the lien-foreclosure process to be imposed on properties with outstanding dues and fines will be discussed with General Counsel Erich Schwiesow.

Interim Manager Alison McClure reported from administration. The failure of telephone service to the POA office which began 1/16 was not related to Fairpoint Communications, but to problems within the POA building's system.

New equipment was to be installed 1/22 at a cost of about \$3100. A couple from Creede wants to re-institute the waste recycling project and they were approved for a trial period.

The 2013 audit by Waugh and Goodwin was received. It was noted that there was no mention in it of POA financial practices identified as faulty by Dennis Crown, the fraud risk evaluator. It is planned to obtain three quotes for the 2014 audit, not to include Waugh and Goodwin, who've done it seven years in a row.

A new server for the POA's computer system was decided upon. It's from WSB in Alamosa and costs \$11,362, including a three-year service warranty. An issue in deciding which system to adopt was whether the POA would mainly perform its own work or whether it would utilize the resources of a management company such as is done now with Hammersmith. It was felt that the selected server can be adequate for either role.

The proposal to hold quarterly meetings of the community and board members was clarified to specify that the impetus should come from the community and that attending members of the board represent themselves as community members, not in their official capacities. The first one will be sought for late February or early March. Two leading topics were Hammersmith Management and the fire district. Member Kate Steichen offered that besides specific topics, it was important that a strategic vision be formed of where we should head. Alternatives oth-

er than Hammersmith or other management company might be independent staffing or even some even more imaginative arrangement. This is something the entire community might generate over a year or more.

A committee consisting of interested members and directors will be formed to study management alternatives for the POA, under the urging of Director Sugandha Brooks. A charter is under preparation and volunteers for the committee will be sought through an ad in *The Crestone Eagle*.

Law enforcement in the Baca and the town of Crestone will be the subject of collaborative efforts. One aspect of this could be to facilitate housing for a sheriff's deputy in the Crestone/Baca. Meetings are planned with the new sheriff.

The Crestone Fire Protection District is coming up for re-appraisal, championed by President Lakish. A full discussion is planned for the Feb. 26 meeting of the board. In the interval all previous data will be collated, including legal opinions. An important question to answer is, What is the need for a Fire District?

This evening's agenda was huge, but President Lakish's approach of biting off a small piece of each of the large topics, of a size that can be managed by the board's capacities, seems a promising one. This is how real organizations ought to work. It would be grand if more members came to see how well all the board members can work together and to show their support for the board's efforts.

Create a brand for our community and win \$100

The Crestone Creative District is tasked to create a brand, which tells in a few words, who we are as a community and what makes us unique. Towards this end we are sponsoring a contest, with \$100 going to the winning entry. It is part of our journey towards the goal of Crestone becoming a certified creative district, like some of Colorado's most artistic and celebrated communities. Certification brings with it national and even international recognition, help for our local artists, economic development, increased tourism, and an enhanced quality of life for all of us.

The mission of our creative arts district, messaging and programming all build on the brand concept. Everyone is asked to help up create the perfect brand in the form of a short "tag line" of a few words. As an option the submitted brand can include a

drawings or artwork to exemplify that idea.

Entries should be submitted to crestone.branding.contest@gmail.com or mailed to Crestone Creative District, Attn: K. Danforth, PO Box 331, Crestone, CO 81131. For questions call 719-239-1327. Examples of brands used by other certified Creative Districts include "From our hands to yours", "Classically Unexpected", "Growing Together" and "Corazón de Trinidad", just to name a few. Deadline for entries is February 14, 5pm. The winner will receive a voucher for \$100, which may be redeemed with any business or businesses within the Crestone commercial district (Downtown businesses). Create a lasting legacy, win \$100, and become a valued part of our journey to share our path with others near and far away. What's your idea?



Icicles and snow on the mountain. It's winter in Crestone. photo by M. Diane Bairstow



by Gretchen Nelson
Update on downtown revitalization project

The Town has finally received a contract from the Department of Local Affairs for the Pedestrian Pathway Network Project, scheduled for development in 2015. There were many pre-contractual deliverables that had to be met before a contract could be issued. This contract is for \$500,000 and is matched by local funds in the amount of \$73,763. Architect Burt Wadman will be providing updates on the project as construction and development nears.

New Public Works Coordinator

The Town of Crestone would like to welcome Jim Vanderpool as our new Public Works Coordinator. Jim has many years of general maintenance experience and we are happy to have him working for the Town.

Resolutions

Resolution 001-2015 "General Fund 2015 Supplemental Appropriation" was adopted providing additional funds from the reserve account to fund ongoing programs for 2015.

Resolution 002-2015 "A Resolution Encouraging Registration And

Use Of 9-1-1 Emergency Notification System" was adopted to support the Montrose Emergency Telephone Service Authority (METSA), who is recommending that all cell phone information and geographic locations be added to the 9-1-1 Emergency Notification System.

New ordinance

Ordinance 001-2015 was adopted to correct the enumeration of specific sections of the Nuisance Code that had been duplicated in previous ordinances.

Crestone Conglomerate

LarryCalloway.com

a reporter's blog...

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?
 CREATE A BRAND FOR CRESTONE AND WIN
\$100

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As you can see, Crestone is a lot of things. Submit Your Ideas for a tagline (and optional artwork) that best captures who we are, and what makes us unique as a Community to Crestone.Branding.Contest@gmail.com, or go to our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CrestoneCreatives/>
 Contest ends February 14 at 5pm. Winner receives \$100 Voucher good at all downtown businesses.

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View of the new Moffat PK-12 gymnasium (facing southeast).



View of the new Moffat PK-12 classroom wing (facing north).

New Moffat School construction moving right along—despite winter cold

by Kirk Banghart

Construction for the new Moffat PK-12 is now well underway. The foundation work for the project is 100% complete and the CM/GC still has a few portions of slab-on-grade concrete with radiant floor heat tubing to finish pouring, but the majority of the slab-on-grade is complete. The masonry for the project is roughly 70% complete, with the major components (the gym and elevator core) now in place. The majority of the underground plumbing and electrical utilities are also in place, ready to receive final ties as the project gets closer to the staff and student move-in date.

The District's third-party material tester continues to be on site, inspecting and observing the concrete and masonry scopes of work as well as inspecting the welding for the structural steel components that started toward the end of December. Steel erection for the job is still in progress, with a good portion of the east wing now in place. The team is targeting February 11 for a topping-out ceremony with the District and the project team. As part of this, the District students will be invited to do a beam signing starting on January 26—that beam will then be put into place during the ceremony, pending weather conditions. NV5 and the School District will work together to finalize the program for this ceremony.

Overall, the master construction schedule is updated with the project team monthly and discussed weekly—this master schedule still shows a move-in date of mid-July for this year, though the team has asked to target an even earlier move in. The structural steel work will continue until mid-February, along with the start of the exterior framing. The CM/GC is on track to dry-in the building by March 15, but will always target to dry-in sooner if possible. Over the course of the next two months, the CM/GC team is targeting to complete all of the project concrete, structural steel, and framing for the project, leaving interior framing, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC work to be completed by the move-in date, in addition to the project finishes. The cold temperatures of Moffat continue to be a factor in regards to finishing some of the concrete and masonry work, but the construction team is doing what they can, within their winter protection measures, to keep the work moving, even on below-

freezing days.

Since the last newsletter update, the District has selected three additional team members to be a part of the new school project. OfficeScapes, out of Colorado Springs, was selected to be the furniture vendor and will be supplying all the new desks, chairs, tables, etc. for the new school. Beacon Communications was selected to provide all the access control, security, sound, and intercom systems for the project. Finally, Rocky Mountain Telecom and Data was selected to provide all the low voltage cabling for the project. All three of these team members were determined to be the best-value-fit for the District, with each company offering significant school experience for each of their respective scopes as well as fair pricing.

Currently, the District is soliciting bids for playground and weight room equipment, as well as wireless access points and IT/Telecom/Data equipment. The District will have these final three team members (playground, weight room, and IT/data equipment) on board by February 16, 2015. If you have any questions related to budget, construction progress, or the project in general, feel free to contact Desi Navarro, the owner's representative, at Desi.Navarro@NV5.com.

Get ready for a great time! Cabin Fever happens Feb. 28

by Ashlee Jernigan

Cabin Fever will be hosted by the Crestone Charter Middle School this February. This is an amazing opportunity for the students to learn what efforts are required to run a performance, in order to raise money for their Washington DC learning adventure. We are excited for the chance to continue this tradition together. It will help fund a life-changing urban experience for our CCS middle schoolers.

Cabin Fever will be held the evening of February 28 and is \$10 at the door. Mark Jacobi will be the MC, with Tom Dessain on sound. Performances will include music, dance, poetry and more. The students will be providing child care, as well as baked goods. A cake auction will end the night of fun. The performers and the middle schoolers will be working hard to make this a one-of-a-kind Cabin Fever, so make sure not to miss it.

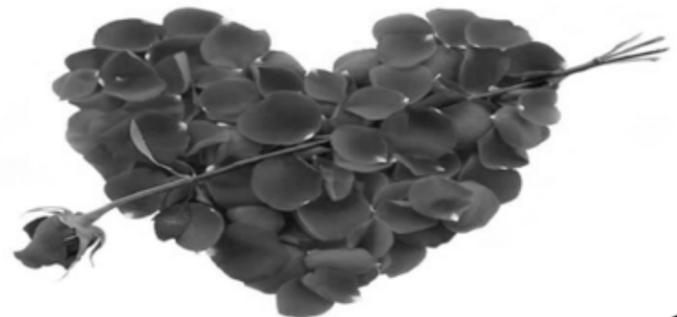
The proceeds of Cabin Fever will be funding the CCS middle school students' field trip to Washington, DC. The middle school takes yearly spring learning adventures to various U.S. cities and wilderness areas. This year

they will be flying to Washington in April. The 8th grade students have been preparing by studying the history of our U.S. government and Constitution. While the students are in DC, they will be staying in a hostel in the downtown area, experiencing urban culture.

The White House tour will be a highlight of this learning adventure. The students will also tour the Capitol Building, the Smithsonian Museums of Art and History, and many monuments in our capital. They will witness first hand how our government functions and study our federal history. The students will be involved in learning opportunities and lessons the whole trip—a life experience they will never forget.

Every year the Charter School provides amazing learning opportunities for all ages. We have big dreams for an unforgettable learning adventure in Washington, DC this year, and all the support that we can get is appreciated. The students have been working on various fundraising projects this year, but this could be our big event! Come see the talent all around us, and support the performers and students of this community.

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Crestone Charter School Presents...

CABIN FEVER

A showcase of local talent

Please join us for an unforgettable evening
of music, dance, comedy, poetry, and so much more!

With Master of Ceremonies Mark Jacobi

Saturday, February 28
6:30 pm

This year's talent show will take place in the Crestone Charter School's Rainbow Hall
Suggested Donation: \$10
All proceeds will benefit
the Crestone Charter School's Travel Learning Program

San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund 4th Annual Concert for Cancer Relief

Music inspired by the country's heartland, Austin and Memphis, and the high southwest will fill Leon Memorial Hall as Dana Cooper, Kelley Mickwee, and Don Richmond share their talents in a songwriter-in-the-round format to benefit the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund on Saturday, February 14, at 7:30pm in Leon Hall on the Adams State University campus. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for 18 & younger and can be purchased at The Green Spot in Alamosa and The Windsor Hotel in Del Norte or by emailing wellspring@att.net.

In addition to an incredible night of music, the SLV Brewery will be sharing 50% of their wine and beer sales from February 14, 5:30-7:30pm with the CRF, and the Bistro Rialto is offering a free beverage on February 14 to those showing a concert ticket. Make it a date night and have dinner and a beverage before the show.

The late Tony Ross established the SLV Cancer Relief Fund in 2006 with the purpose of "lifting the spirits" of those dealing with cancer after he received emotional and monetary support during his treatment. The fund continues to grow and assisted 94 patients in 2014, up from 59 in 2013. The annual Concert for Cancer Relief is its biggest fundraiser of the year. According to Teri McCartney, Chair of the SLVCRF, "The growth of the Fund in the past year is phenomenal. We all know and love someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. It's not an easy journey and being able to give even this small stipend shows community support and good wishes".

Dana Cooper grew up in the heartland of America, "the stomping grounds of Truman and Twain", and his music reflects the poetry of his homeland and his travels. After touring the country and a lengthy stint in Texas, Cooper settled in Nashville, becoming an integral figure in Nashville's songwriting community. Cooper is known as a virtuoso on guitar and harmonica. He has released 20 solo albums, won numerous awards, and continues to tour the US and Europe making new fans wherever he goes.

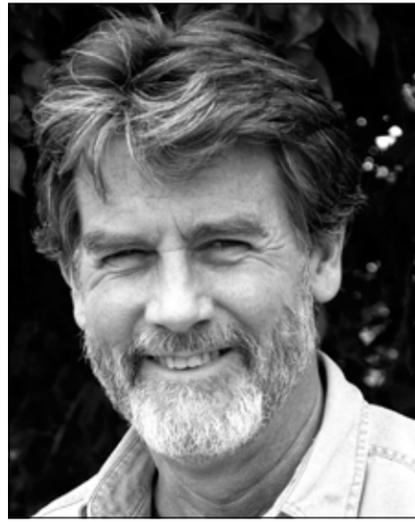
Originally from Memphis, Kelley Mickwee is best known for her work in the Texas-based, all-female band the Trishas, and the Memphis-based Americana duo, Jed and Kelley. As Mickwee states, starting her solo career was a matter of survival, but she has taken to songwriting and solo performances like an old pro. Accompanied by her solid and creative guitar and mandolin work, her vocals are gritty and soulful.

Alamosa's own Don Richmond has been playing music for

more than 40 years and has been described as a "musician's musician" and as "practically peerless as a picker, singer, producer, and arranger". Richmond is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist who plays just about anything with strings and because of this, is often in demand to accompany musicians traveling through the southern Colorado, northern New Mexico area, including the likes of Eliza Gilkyson, Susan Gibson, Chuck Pyle, Trout Fishing in America, Bob Livingston, and Tish Hinojosa. Richmond has become a staple of the annual concert having been through the cancer journey himself. "I received incredible community support when I was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. It meant so much to me and I really think it helped me get better." Because of that, Richmond is committed to giving back.

McCartney states that "all of the money stays right here in the Valley going directly to cancer patients. The Fund acts as a channel raising money from those who can give and dispersing it to those in need. Even a small gift can help people know others are thinking of them and they are not alone."

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



"Way of the Current" with Stewart S. Warren & Paul E. Trujillo at Shumei Friday Feb 20 at 7pm.

Poetry & music at Shumei Friday February 20

"Way of the Current" with Stewart S. Warren & Paul E. Trujillo is a fluid and dynamic presentation of spoken word with original music. Come join us Friday February 20 at 7pm. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

With leaps and connections that play poignantly and ecstatically between eternal time and shattered time, Stewart Warren and Paul Trujillo create improvisational ceremony that is often transcendent but always the deeply personal experience of the listener. Stewart will recite and perform work from *humanKind: poems from inner and outer space* and from other writings that honor the divine feminine, the necessary trials and delights of earthly existence, and modern scientism in its proper perspective. The guitar work of Paul Trujillo draws on both Spanish and Persian mo-

dalities that interact and weave within the poem-space while creating rhythmic universes of unvisited realms. The tone is visceral; the ideas expressed convey peaceful hope.

Stewart S. Warren, writer and evocateur, is author of twenty poetry collections, four of which explore antique Tarot decks. His newest title, *Morning Glow: recitals*, is a poetic exploration of wisdom teachings in the Hermetic Tradition. Stewart's writing is both personal and transpersonal with a mystic undercurrent, and his performances create sanctuary and energized mind-space for soulful pilgrims through spoken word recitations. As writing coach he helps others to deepen their creative experience and to realize their artistic visions. Stewart is the owner of Mercury HeartLink, a small press that works with discriminating writers. www.heartlink.com. Books by Stewart S. Warren will be available.

Contact Shumei at 256-5284 or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for more information about the event.

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appointment

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vwhs.org



4TH Annual Concert FOR CANCER RELIEF
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Restaurant staff from left to right: Nikki Parker, (Jade Montoya not pictured) server; Ram Ji, cook; Matt Johnson, Mercantile partner; and Jim Price, all-around helper.



Satisfied customer gives the food a thumbs up.

Bob's Diner opens in Crestone

by Mary Lowers

Bob's Diner is open for business across from Crestone Mercantile in the north end of the Hardware store on Galena Ave. The hours of operation are from 7am to 3pm seven day a week. Breakfast is served all day. Lunch service begins at 11am and daily specials will be featured. The owners of Crestone Mercantile, Elaine Johnson, Matt Johnson, and Steve McDowell, "are all hands-on in each of our businesses and Matt is focusing on the diner right now." The cook at the diner is Ramji, who cooked at Shambala and "has years of experience in various restaurant settings," according to Elaine.

The diner reminds me of many small town or neighborhood

eateries in the west. Elaine says, "The diner is essentially a traditional diner with conventional food." As a happy consumer at Bob's Diner I would add that the food is good and service is timely. Biscuits and gravy, huge breakfast burritos, burgers and sandwiches are served with fries or you can upgrade to onion rings. Let me tell you they have great onion rings, which are just a sampling of the comfort foods on the menu. Hot soup will be offered every day to take winter chills away. Items for children are featured on the menu, including the ever popular corn dog, and to cap things off the coffee from Mirage Trading Company is excellent. "Our goal is good quality food at very reasonable prices

in a family-friendly atmosphere. We want everyone to feel as though they just walked through the back door of their grandma's kitchen," Elaine shared.

Bob's Diner tips its hat to local history with menu items named after various mines from the boom days, and soon historic Crestone photos will be part of the décor. Elaine's family has been in Crestone since the late 1800s. The Bob for whom the restaurant is named is Elaine's dad Bob Sisemore. He was born in 1923 and raised in Crestone. His early education took place in the little schoolhouse in Crestone and he graduated from Moffat High School. The house he grew up in burned down, but another family home is now the Shambala building. "The building was my grandmother's home and where we would always gather for

Sunday and holiday meals. My father loved Crestone and he loved to eat!" Elaine told me. The diner is certainly a fitting tribute to its namesake. Bob Sisemore sadly passed away in 2009 but ground had been broken up on the hill for the grocery, laundry, hardware and diner. Elaine's mother still lives in Crestone and sees the diner where friends and family can gather as a fitting tribute to her late husband.

To-go orders are welcome and Bob's encourages folks in a hurry to go ahead and call an order in so the food will be ready when you arrive. The phone number is easily remembered, 256-BOBS (2677). "Virtually any item on our menu can be taken out." Elaine told me. "We will run the diner much like our other stores . . . predictable hours, good quality at modest prices, with friendly, helpful service."

CRESTONE MERCANTILE

Grocery Store: 191 E Galena Ave
Open 7 Days a Week 8a.m. to 8 p.m.
(719) 256-5887

Hardware Store: 182 E Galena Ave
Open Mon.-Sat. 8a.m to 5p.m.
(719) 256-5885

Bob's Place: 182 E Galena Ave
Open 7 days 7a.m to 3p.m.
(719) 256-2627

Laundromat: 191 E Galena Ave
Open 7 Days a Week
8a.m to 7p.m.



Hooper, 1927



Moffat, 1941

WHO IS BOB???



Crestone, 1944



Husband, 1948



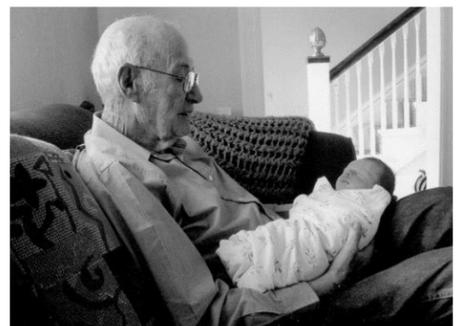
Father, 1955



Grandfather, 2000



Grandfather 2006



Great-grandfather 2009

*Bob's Place - a place that Bob would love!
Open 7 days/week 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*



Jordan Roberts, Trevor Welch, and Bennett Italia are the proud new owners of The Bliss restaurant in Crestone. Here's a picture of them at their first of many "Locals Nights" on Tuesday, January 20. photo by Lori Nagel

New owners at the Bliss Café

by Lori Nagel

We've got some new owners in town and they're shakin' things up a bit! By now, most of you are probably aware that our local restaurant, the Bliss Café, has recently undergone a change of ownership. And these three entrepreneurs have plans to take this existing local restaurant to a whole new level of speedy service with a smile; healthy, delicious and organic cuisine; and a variety of fun and interesting events.

Bennett Italia, Trevor Welch and Jordan Roberts recently bought the business. They have lots of exciting plans, capitalizing on their individual strengths and working together to bring us a rockin' new venue here in Crestone.

The food

The menu is going to change 3-4 times per year, adding a lot more variety to Crestone's dining out entrée choices. Most of the food is made in-house, and organic vegetables are used as much as possible. They also use organic milk, and have a variety of tasty gluten-free options, including pizza, pasta, and bread.

A brand new menu is currently in the works, to be completed any time now, in which even more vegetarian/vegan options will be available. They will also offer

pizza slices, soup, and other items after 9pm, when the kitchen closes.

Homemade desserts will be making their debut this month as well. And at some point, Trevor also has plans to start making homemade ice cream.

Specials are currently available on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. More days will be added in the spring and summer. Breakfast is also coming back into the picture as the days start warming.

The guys

Jordan Roberts is the Business Manager of the group. From Kansas originally, Roberts has been in the San Luis Valley for 5 years and in Crestone for about a year. He loves to cook and has worked in restaurants—both front & back—his entire life.

Trevor Welch is the Kitchen Manager, which is appropriate, since he's been cooking in restaurants for 25 years now. The art of cooking is completely & totally his passion, and he loves to see people taste his food with a smile. He's been here in Crestone for about 10 years, although he left for a couple years in the middle of that. From Rhode Island originally, Welch started working his first restaurant job when he was just 13, where he began as a dishwasher and worked his way up.

Bennett Italia is the Front Manager, having prior experience as a Barista, and has worked in health food stores all his life. He is also a massage therapist and a truly gifted artist. He's been working at the Bliss for 4 years now, and is really excited about this new business venture.

The events

A lot of events are in the works, such as sushi night and a fried chicken night with guest chef, Big Tom. Wine- and beer-tastings and food pairing suggestions are also on the horizon. The 3 owners are completely open to feedback from the community—that means *you!* Don't be shy about offering them feedback and/or suggestions about events, food, or any other aspect of the business. They really are enthusiastic about making the Bliss Café the best café that it can be!

The place

As far as physical changes go, there are plans to put some booths in the dining area and do some other minor renovations. They'll be filling the walls with all local artists and they've also got some room to display and sell locally made crafts/jewelry.

The experience

I was lucky enough to be selected as the inaugural reviewer at this establishment. The experience included courteous, prompt service with a smile, while I was served a sampler platter of their favorite dishes. I got to try the Thai Coconut Curry, the Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Fries, and the Chicken Penne, all of which were delicious. From the rich, creamy curry sauce to the crunchy softness of the chicken sandwich bread, my 2 dining companions and I enjoyed every bite!

The first big special event

The Bliss Café will be serving a very special meal this Valentine's Day. Regular operations will close down at 5pm that day, and will reopen with romantic ambience for the 5:30pm seating; second seating is at 7:30. They are taking reservations ahead of time, at which point diners will specify choice of steak/fish/vegetarian entrees. This special gourmet 3-course meal will include an appetizer, entree, dessert, and a glass of wine. For more information, please check out their new web site at theblisscafecrestone.com or their Facebook page, which is called The Bliss Café

The hours

The café is open daily from 11am to 9pm. The bar usually stays open until 10 or 11pm, and sometimes as late as 2am, depending on the night. Daily Happy Hour is from 3:30 to 5:30pm.

The Crestone Eagle would like to welcome these 3 new proprietors to Crestone's business sector—we wish you much success!

New library district board member needed from Crestone/Baca

The Northern Saguache County Library District has a managing board of trustees, and two of the trustees are from the Crestone region. One of these positions is open, to begin a term at the March 11 board meeting. Regular meetings are generally held monthly, on the second Wednesday of the month, and there are other meetings and special tasks. The term of the assignment is two years.

Qualifications to be on the library board: You must be at least 18 years old and you must reside in the library district. In the case of a board member representing the Crestone area, you must live in community of Crestone or the Baca Grande subdivision.

How to apply: Pick up and fill out the application for new board members. Copies of this are available at the Baca Grande Library. This application is also available in pdf form on the website at <http://nscld.colibraries.org>.

The Handbook for Trustees and the Bylaws of the Library District Board, as pdfs, are also on the website and a reading copy of each is at the Baca Grande Library. The application asks if you have read them, as they will give you an idea of what is involved in the position. In a nutshell, members of the board are mandated by Colorado law to adopt and oversee the budget, develop and adopt policies, conduct strategic planning, and hire and evaluate the Library Director.

Return your application to the Library District Director, Sarah Koehn Frey, at the Saguache Public Library, 702 Pitkin Ave, Saguache, or mail it to P.O. Box 448, Saguache, CO 81149.

Applications are due by February 15 and you will be emailed or phoned regarding your application. Thanks for thinking of the Library District!

As You Go About Your Day, Please Remember . . .

The Ripples You Create Today



Bring About the Changes for Tomorrow

**Support
Crestone Youth Plaza
By Shopping At The
CYP THRIFT STORE**

**On the corner of Alder & Galena
(719) 256-5500**

ALMA & Friends Benefit Concert

February 6th @ 7:00 p.m. Bistro Rialto, Alamosa

Featuring the Rippah Shreddahs, Sky Choice, Nolan Smith, Rhonda & Charlie, Eli Dokson and Dale Smith



2015 Members: FREE / General Admission: \$15





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COST: \$55, DISCOUNTS FOR REBOUND P.T. CLIENTS & CHAFFEE COUNTY RUNNING CLUB

INFO: CALL 719-221-6259
HAROLD KASPER
HAROLD.KASPER@GMAIL.COM

Please Register

Community Calendar—February 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

Friday, January 30

- Beatles tribute, Wildwood Sounds, Del Norte 7-10pm www.doctorroberttribute.com 719-657-4757
- Alamosa Ice Fest – Downtown Alamosa 7:00 pm alamosa.org

Saturday, January 31

- Alamosa Ice Fest – Downtown Alamosa All Day alamosa.org

Monday, February 2

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Center 6-8pm 719-256-4313

Tuesday, February 3

- Full Moon
- Saguache Co. Board meeting, County Courthouse 9am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231
- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am 256-5224

Thursday, February 5

- Health Equity & Community Engagement webinar, Valley Wide Admin. Bldg. 8-10am Free 719-589-4977
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome, 3-5pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, February 6

- Governor's Creative Leadership Award nominations due, <http://bit.ly/1JZFVOt>
- Bob Long artist's reception, Maverick Potter Studio, 5-7pm Free maverickpotter.com 719-539-5112

Sunday, February 8

- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am 256-5224
- Shumei's Monthly Sampai, Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free www.shumricrestone.org 256-5284
- Crestone/Baca Village pot luck – Cloud Station 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

Monday, February 9

- Commissioner J Anderson Crestone office hours – Former Farm Table Bldg 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- Town of Crestone Board Regular meeting – Crestone Town Ctr 1:30-6:30pm 719-256-4313

- New home buyer clinic – Crestone Realty 3:00 pm-6:00 pm 719-256-4444
- Fortnightly Mon. Night Dharma Ocean Meditation, Charter School 5:30-6:30pm Free dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210
- Democrats' reorganizational meeting, Saguache Road & Bridge 6:15pm 719-754-9163, 719-221-8434

Wednesday, February 11

- CCS Valentine candy & bake sale – Bob's Diner 10:30 am-1:30 pm
- No. SLV Conservation Roundtable, Saguache Road & Bridge 4-6:30pm Free www.scseed.org/roundtable
- Crestone End of Life Project Open Meeting – Topping House 7-9pm Crestone-end-of-life.org 719.256.4247/588.7415

Thursday, February 12

- Moffat School Parent/Teacher conferences – Moffat School All Day
- State Historical Fund Community Roundtable, Alamosa Masonic Lodge Free 303-866-3493
- CCS Valentine candy & bake sale – Bob's Diner 10:30 am-1:30 pm
- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting – Baca Grande POA Hall 6:30pm bacapoa.org 256-4171

Friday, February 13

- Movie "Some Like It Hot" Charter School 6:30 pm Adults \$5, Teens \$2, Under 12 free 256-4533

Saturday, February 14

- Valentine's Day – All Day
- Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm 719-588-0365
- SLV Cancer Relief Fund 4th Annual Concert, Leon Memorial Hall, ASU 7:30pm Adults \$25, 18 & under \$15 slvcrcf.org

Sunday, February 15

- SLV Seed Exchange – Joyful Journey Hot Springs 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 17

- Saguache Co. Board meeting, County Courthouse 9am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231

Wednesday, February 18

- New Moon

Thursday, February 19

- Losar Celebration (Tibetan New Year) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am 719-256-5224
- Sufi Dhikr + Potluck. All Welcome, 3-6pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, February 20

- Poetry & Music at Shumei 7-9pm \$10 Suggested Donation www.shumricrestone.org 256-5284

Sunday, February 22

- CEOLP Ceremony of Gratitude – CEOLP cremation site 3:00 pm 719-588-7415
- Sacred Sound Gong Bath, Charter School 3:30pm \$35 advance, \$40 door SacredGong-Bath.com 719-937-7788, 719-429-8463

Monday, February 23

- Fortnightly Monday Night Dharma Ocean Meditation – Crestone Charter School 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Free dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210

Thursday, February 26

- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting, POA Hall 6:30 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, February 27

- Enrich Colorado Agriculture Grants Due – All Day www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmarkets/enrich-colorado-ag-grant-program

Saturday, February 28

- Ca\$hing in on Tourism – Alamosa Armory 8am-1:30 pm www.slv-sbdc.com
- Cabin Fever Talent Show – Crestone Charter School 6:30 pm \$10

Tuesday, March 3

- Saguache Co. Board meeting, County Courthouse 9am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231

Saturday, March 7

- CD Release party – Salida SteamPlant

Sunday, March 8

- International Women's Day – All Day

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

Sunday

- Crestone A Course in Miracles Christa's house 6:00 pm-7:00 pm none 719-849-1399
- Sunday mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719 256 4778
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

Monday

- Crestone Mtn. Karate Club Early Bird Training Charter School 6-7am \$30 413-219-7774

Tuesday

- Crestone Mtn. Karate Club Regular Training Crestone Charter School 4:30-5:30pm \$30 413-219-7774
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5pm-6:45pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Library 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970 309 0710

Wednesday

- Crestone Food Bank Crestone Town Hall 1-3pm
- Crestone Mtn. Karate Club Early Bird Training Charter School 6-7am \$30 413-219-7774

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- iNtEgRaTive yoga w/Cynthia YES Bldg (Formerly CCS bldg) 9:15 am-10:30am 719-298-0306
- Gentle Yoga w Cynthia YES Building 11:00 am-12:30 am Free 719-298-0360
- Yoga & soak Joyful Journey Hot Springs 4:00 pm-5:00 pm \$10 yoga, \$10 soak 719-256-4328

Thursday

- Crestone Mtn. Karate Club Regular Training Charter School 4:30-5:30pm \$30 413-219-7774
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5pm-6:45pm By donation 256-5668

Friday

- Crestone Mtn. Karate Club Early Bird Training Charter School 6-7am \$30 413-219-7774

go digital.

www.crestoneeagle.com

Current News • Classifieds • Digital Editions • Past Issues • Calendar

HAPS

Sacred Sound Gong Bath

Join us for a 90-minute Sacred Sound Gong Bath with Richard Rudis. Bliss for your body, mind and soul. Lie down, relax & heal.

Sunday, February 22; arrive by 3:30 at the Crestone Charter School. \$35 paid in advance, \$40 at the door. Contact us in advance to register and reserve your space. Bring a yoga mat or something of equal size to lie on, a blanket & pillow and water. Refrain from eating a heavy meal beforehand.

RSVP to Judie at YES! at 937-7788 or Kristin at 719-429-8463. A portion of the proceeds will benefit YES! SacredGongBath.com.

Feb. 9 Democrats' reorganizational meeting

The Saguache County Democrats reorganizational meeting will be held at the Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd St., on Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30pm. Registration is from 6:10 to 6:30pm and the call to order is at 6:30pm.

We will be electing the following positions: County Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and selecting a vacancy committee authorized to fill vacancies in the county central committee and Democrat elected official positions. We may also approve appointed precinct committee people.

Those eligible to vote at the meeting are members of the County Central Committee: officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the County Democratic Party. The meeting is open to the public. All are welcome! Please join us! For more information, contact Lynne Thompson, 754-9163, sheebalt@yahoo.com; or Barb Tidd, 719-221-8434, slvbarb498@gmail.com.

Crestone/Baca Village pot luck Feb. 8

Our mid-winter potluck get-together is coming up soon! Please block out the date on your calendar. We would love to see all at the CB/Village members there. This year it is on Sunday, February 8 from 1:30-3:30pm at the Cloud Station. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. This gathering is for members only but anyone who would like to come who is not a member is certainly welcome, provided you sign up for membership at the door. We have an extra-special treat this year as several members of the world famous Crestone Tribal Dance Project will perform for us.

Should be a lot of fun.

Yoga n' soak

Sacred Heart Vinyasa Yoga with Charity Love every Wednesday 4-5pm at Joyful Journey. A journey being with your sacred heart as you flow to each pose . . . \$10 suggested donation for yoga class, discounted soaks (\$10) for yoga class participants.

Bob Long artist reception Feb. 7 in Salida

The Maverick Potter Studio & Gallery in Salida will host an artist's reception for Bob Long on Friday, Feb. 6, 5-7pm. Bob specializes in stone sculpture and jewelry. Many will know him from Mirage in Moffat. He has now devoted himself full time to his artwork and encourages all to come see his creations.

Crestone Charter School receives award

The Colorado Department of Education recognized the first-ever Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP Awards). The awards honor those who best demonstrate a meaningful ICAP process within a school or district. Educators nominated administrators, school counselors and teachers. The award winners are: Falcon School District 49 for culture change; Jeffco Public Schools for ICAP leadership; Mesa County Valley District 51 for an exemplary ICAP team; and Crestone Charter School, in the Moffat Consolidated School District 2, for innovation.



There's a new band in town! They're called Blue Rooster and they were jammin' on their opening night. The event was "Boogie for Bread," a fundraiser for our local food bank. L to R: Eli Dockson, Dale Smith (on drums), Tedd Brumm, Peter Taylor, John Hefty. photo by Lori Nagel



It was a happenin' night out on the dance floor at the Boogie for Bread fundraiser on January 24! photo by Lori Nagel

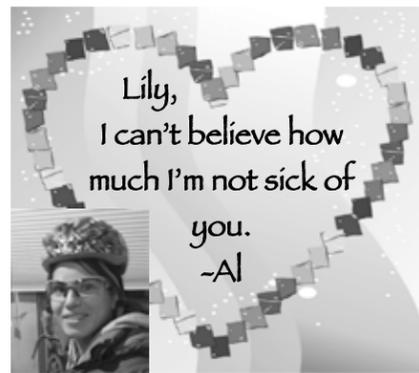
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COUPLES YOGA PRIVATE SESSION

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Crestone End of Life Project

Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment

Call 937.7802 for CEOLP registration forms, NOW!

www.crestone-end-of-life.org • email: ceolp.info@gmail.com

Show the people you love with love,
Show them the way that you feel,
Things are going to work out fine,
If only you will!

Attend our meeting **Wednesday, February 11** at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left behind former Century 21 office). Call 256.4247 for information/directions.



Artists at work (& play). Jennifer Thomson will be holding an art retreat August 7 thru 11 at her Crestone studio.

Jennifer Thomson to hold art retreat August 7-11

Blue . . . infinite . . . Lustre of the soul . . . Blue's character moving inward, lighter on the inside and darker on the periphery. What happens when other colors interact with blue? Create inner balance as you experience peacefulness through working with blue.

Mornings: 9am, our color work begins with a given blue study that will develop into a painting over the 5 days. We will practice the veiling technique with watercolor, and motif with various artistic methods.

Our focus in the mornings will be to develop form and motif "out of the color", an approach inspired by Goethe and Steiner that perceives colors as the visible outer garments of invisible forces.

Afternoons: One afternoon session sketching in charcoal or ink, in Colorado's magnificent nature. Drawing upon the art of Kandinsky and Franz Marc, we will develop landscape sketches into paintings and explore color exercises inspired by Marc's animal paintings. We will practice animal gestures with light/dark composition in ink. Create your own color studies. Material: watercolor, gouache, ink, pencil or charcoal

Evening Presentations: Franz Marc & the Blue Rider group, Artistic presentation Jennifer & Ammi, Health through Anthroposophy with Philip Incao.

Tuition: \$355 includes supplies, plus 5 organic veggie lunches & snacks

Deposit: \$75, nonrefundable, to reserve a space

Accommodations: B&B, Ho-

tel, Camping www.crestonecolorado.com www.crestoneeagle.com

Meals: nearby cafes & organic food stores.

Location: Sun Studio in Crestone, Colorado

Sign up & info: Jennifer Thomson, PO Box 894, Crestone, Colorado, 81131, 719-937-7694, sunstudio.thomson1@gmail.com, www.jenniferthomson.net

Spend 5 artistic rejuvenation days at the foot of sacred mountains: Time for mineral hot spring soaks & swims. Hike in the National Forest or Sand Dunes National Park or visit Crestone's spiritual centers. See wildlife. Renew yourself and your life path in contemplation and color in nature's beauty in Crestone 8000' alpine valley.

Art is, after all, only a trace . . . like a footprint which shows that one has walked bravely and in great happiness. —Robert Henri

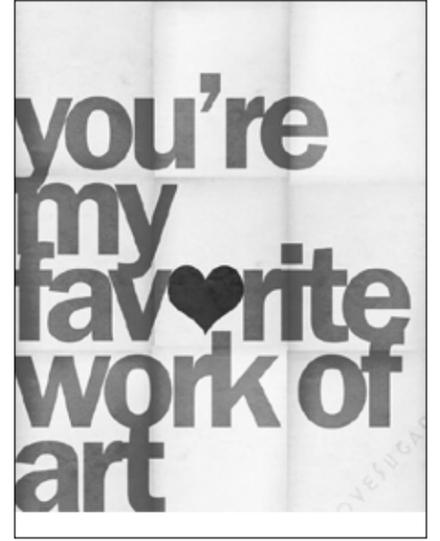


Artists make love News & events at Crestone's Artisans Gallery

Every work of art contains a bit of the soul and love of the artist. It is part of the artistic process and is inevitable. It's what animates a work of art and creates that "feeling" you get when you view certain art. It's as though artists take a little bit of their awesomeness and love and make it manifest! Artists make love.

Celebrate love!

In celebration of this love, the gallery will host a Valentine's Day Soiree this Valentine's Day, Saturday February 14, from 2 to 4pm at the gallery. It will be an old-fashion romantic celebration of love with poets, a mandolin musician, wine, snacks and a gathering of community. The poets include Stephen Furtral (Ish), Matthew Crowley, Peter Anderson, Cristina Cabeza and others, all reading original compositions. Alycia Chambers will imbue the entire gathering with romance through her masterful mandolin accompaniment. And of course, the art-



ists will be there to discuss your feelings (about their works of art). We personally and wholeheartedly invite you to come surround yourselves with love at our Valentine's Day Soiree. Bring your love and don't be afraid to wear red.

Share the love

Master woodworker Bob Adler has been sharing the love through his gorgeous works for close to three decades. For many years he has been a master cabinet maker. Much of his work can be seen in our community. He now devotes his time and love to magnificent wooden boxes and sculptures, made of multiple exotic woods, skillfully joined to make a single beautiful work of art. Come to the Valentine's Day Soiree to see Bob's latest works of love along with those of all the other artists.

CRESTONE ARTISANS GALLERY

FINE ART & GIFTS

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

Winter Hours
Friday-Sunday
12pm - 4pm

Open every day Valentines week!
February 8-14, 12pm-4pm

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

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Classical Five-Element
ACUPUNCTURE
Jan Foster Miller, M.Ac., L.Ac.
Treating the whole person-body, mind & spirit
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Sharing Natural Agriculture, Art & Beauty, and Healing Jyorei with the world.....

Save The Date!
This year's Anniversary is
May 23rd & 24th

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

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

ART RETREAT

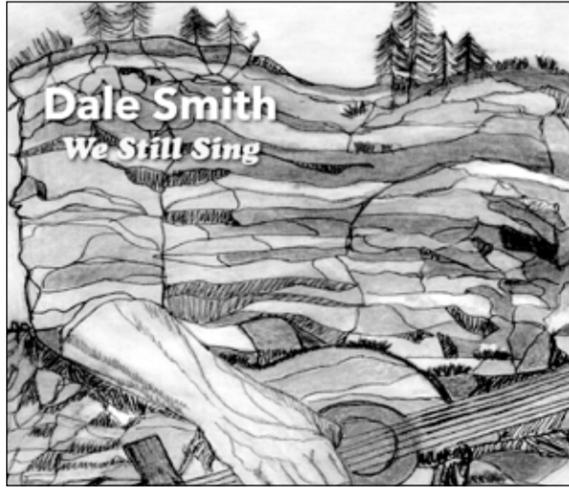
August 7-11, 2015

More information: Jennifer Thomson
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Dale Smith and Eli Dokson.

photo by Lori Nagel



Dale Smith's new CD We Still Sing



Eli Dokson's new CD A Dream I Can't Forget

Eli Dokson & Dale Smith release their solo albums of original songs

A Dream I Can't Forget (Eli Dokson) and *We Still Sing* (Dale Smith) are the titles of the new CDs that Eli and Dale have just put out—separately and together. Eli and Dale have been making music together for almost two decades, first in the rock band Earthmen, which formed in 1997, and in their current band, 2 Weeks in Fiji. While most of their musical projects have been in the electric vein, for the past couple of years Eli and Dale have been playing acoustic music as well, with the Fiji offshoot, Fiji Acoustic.

Eli came to Crestone in 1995 to be the principal at Moffat School, and when Dale Smith walked in to the office to interview for the 2nd

Grade teacher position, Eli burst out “You’re the drummer!” and Dale laughed, “You’re the guitar player!”—they had played together at an open mic at a bar in Alamosa the previous week. They talked music a long time before the conversation turned to education. Dale got the job (he’s an incredible teacher, but that’s a different article!), and Eli and Dale have been friends and colleagues, musical and educational, ever since.

Earthmen’s 2001 album of original songs, *Touch*, included several songs by Dokson and Smith. Both have been writing for many years, and when the time was right to produce another studio recording, it was clear to both of them that these were personal projects with definite differences in the way each heard their own compositions and how they wanted them to sound. The fun part is that Dale played cajon and percussion and sang harmony on Eli’s album, and Eli added guitar and vocals to Dale’s.

We Still Sing was recorded at Waverly Recording in Alamosa, and features Dale on vocals, cajon, percussion and guitar, Eli on guitar and vocals, Mike Noonan and Scott Swartz, also from 2 Weeks in Fiji, on vocals and standup bass and guitar respectively, Scott Russell on guitar and bass, and guest fiddler on the title cut, Don Richmond.

Also featured on some background vocals are Dale’s wife Patte, Renee Hill and Candye Dawson. Patte painted the beautiful cover art for *We Still Sing*.

Eli recorded the initial tracks for *A Dream I Can't Forget* at Scott Russell’s Waverly Recording and completed the project at Don Richmond’s Howlin’ Dog Studio also in Alamosa. *A Dream I Can't Forget* features Eli on guitar and vocals, Dale on percussion and vocals, Mike Noonan on bass and vocals, Dexter Payne of Boulder on various woodwinds, Caleb Clark on organ, and Don Richmond on several string instruments and vocal harmonies. Eli’s cover is a photo of our local night sky by well-known photographer Bill Ellzey.

To hear for yourself how these two rock ‘n rollers are also inspired songwriters, singing about life’s

challenges and joys, you can catch one of their live performances in the Crestone area or purchase their CDs at several local stores, including the Crestone Mercantile, Mirage Trading Company, Villa Grove Trade, Narrow Gauge Book Store, Treasure Alley and the Valley Food Coop. Both *A Dream I Can't Forget* and *We Still Sing* can also be downloaded at CD Baby, iTunes and Amazon.com.

Look for the announcement of their joint CD-release party, coming soon. Dale and Eli will be performing at the Alamosa Live Music Association member appreciation evening (ALMA and Friends) on February 6 in Alamosa. 2 Weeks in Fiji will be at the Little Bear in Evergreen on February 26 and at the Hippie Radio Party at the Steamplant in Salida on March 7. Come on by!

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Who We Are

Cathy Amenta: Passion for bodywork and the outdoors

by Gussie Fauntleroy

It's funny how an apparent crisis so often kicks open a door we didn't even know was there, but which turns out to be a gateway into the perfect unfolding of our life's path. In Cathy Amenta's case, there were a couple of doors, both revealed through injury and physical pain. Eventually both doors led to the same place: a deep connection with mountain life, especially hiking and telemark/Nordic skiing, and alternative healing modalities to keep her body in shape for doing the things she loves—one of which is using massage therapy to help others do the same.

In a woody area at the edge of town, the front porch of Cathy's house announces her love of the outdoors even before I knock—telemark and cross-country skis lined up beside the door, and comfortable chairs and a table ready for summer days and nights in the fresh mountain air. Inside, her other loves, Chihuahuas Tigger and Orzo, offer enthusiastic greetings, while Kitty hangs back. Equally close to her massage therapy office downtown and to mountain trails, it's a warm, cozy place, with a pot of soup and a teakettle on the stove.

Solace & joy in movement

That sense of nurturing is something Cathy remembers as missing in her childhood and is one reason she entered a profession where she provides it for others. As the youngest of four children with her closest sibling ten years older, she sought out companionship and comfort with animals and the outdoors. A lifetime athlete, she found joy in movement, running track beginning in elementary school and winning the high school state championship in hurdles. Until her junior year her family lived in Littleton, which in the early 1970s sat beside open plains, or at "the edge of existence," as Cathy puts it. The family moved to Bailey for her last two years of high school, where she earned a full track scholarship to Western State University in Gunnison.



At Western State, Cathy made all-conference in high jump and hurdles and began pursuing a degree in business administration, the academic path strongly encouraged by her father. Then came the first derailling of her plans. She developed stress fractures in her legs from running, and had to quit track. Consequently she lost her scholarship and had to quit school. For two years she worked as a Houston-based Continental flight attendant, but the "ungrounded" suitcase life was not a good fit for a mountain woman. Still suffering from pain, she wasn't yet familiar with al-

ternative healing modalities. But at a deep level she knew there had to be something more than the allopathic approach. She was primed for the missing piece of the healthcare puzzle, which a few years later would fall into place.

The path to bodywork

In the early 1990s Cathy moved to Summit County, took up telemark skiing, worked at Keystone Resort and met the man with whom she would be married for 10 years. Then came the second pivotal event, a car wreck on I-70 in a snowstorm. Seeking relief from painful injuries, she

followed the advice of a friend who recommended massage therapy. "It was the only thing that gave me relief from the pain," she recalls. "I saw the overall health benefits of massage and a light bulb went on—This is what I want to do!" In 1998 she graduated with top academic honors from an 1100-hour program at the Massage Therapy Institute of Colorado in Denver.

While attending the Institute, Cathy moved with her husband into a tiny former mining cabin with no electricity or running water, above the town of Montezuma at 11,000 feet. For two years they carried all their food and water 800 vertical feet up the mountain, hiking the steep road in summer and skiing up and back in winter, using skins on their skis for the climb—all while Cathy was going to school and also working



1985 State Champion 100 Meter Hurdles.



Cathy Amenta at Search & Rescue training mission for "Flight Week" in Villa Grove.

at Keystone Resort's spa doing massage. "It was full-on," she says. "It also made me appreciate that I can live that way, with very little." The experience is one reason she now is an experienced climber and expert skier who over the years has climbed up and skied down 10 of Colorado's 14ers.

A full and nurturing life

In 2002, Cathy and her husband moved to Crestone. They divorced in 2006. For four years Cathy taught at Trinidad State Junior College in Alamosa, where she was instrumental in establishing the school's therapeutic massage training program. Immersing herself in outdoor and community life here, she opened Crestone Massage, served for a time on the board of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and is a member of the Saguache County Search & Rescue team. She also eventually found a spiritual tradition with which she resonates on many levels. Bön, represented in Crestone by the Chamma Ling retreat center, is the ancient indigenous antecedent to Tibetan Buddhism. It emphasizes a deep relationship with the sacred elemental forces of nature. "It's what I've been doing all along, but I didn't know it," Cathy says. "Outdoors is where I recharge myself. It's where I've connected with God/Source."

This spiritual practice was especially meaningful in 2013 when Cathy was diagnosed with Castleman's disease, a very rare form of cancer, with only 81 reported cases worldwide. It was successfully treated through the removal of the enlarged lymph node on her neck. The experience profoundly enhanced her appreciation for life and the people

she loves. It also reinforced her belief in the importance of maintaining a strong immune system and good health through bodywork and exercise. "Turning 48, I wouldn't be able to do what I do otherwise. I want to be skiing when I'm 100," she says, smiling. Through Crestone Mas-



Crestone Massage sponsors the yearly event "Everybody Deserves A Massage Week". Money raised is donated to a local charity.

sage (CrestoneMassage.com), Cathy draws on almost 20 years of experience and intuitive insight to provide bodywork that focuses on stress reduction and relief from acute and chronic pain. "So many people view massage as a luxury, but it's not; it's integral in overall body health," she says. "It really is my passion: helping people find relief from physical pain so they can be fully active in their lives again is really a wonderful gift to give to others."

(Note: Cathy took first place for the women's Telemark division up at Monarch for the week on Friday, January 16 and her Crestone team took first place as well in the Town Challenge Series! She then traveled down to Chama NM and on Sunday competed in the 6K classic race. She said "I chose to do it on wood skis. To my surprise I ended up taking 8th overall for the women with about 30 total competitors. I also took 2nd place in my age division for females (40-49) and came home with a medal!" Go Cathy!)

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



2014 Monarch Town Challenge Race Series, 1st place Team, 2nd place Individual.



Maha Shivaratri at the ashram on Tuesday night, February 17. Chanting from 10pm until 4am with the new-moon fire ceremony the next day, Wednesday, February 18 at 10am.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

January has been a great month with a tour to Florida to be with devotees from January 8 through January 16. It is always a great blessing to be with them all and to have fire ceremonies and chanting evenings in the warm climate of Florida.

The big event in February is Maha Shivaratri which will be celebrated at the Ashram on Tuesday night, February 17 with chanting from 10pm until 4am. The following morning we will have our new-moon fire ceremony at 10am followed by a feast. Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Tuesday, February 3. The fire ceremonies begins at 10am and are followed by a meal. To honor the tradition, please arrive freshly bathed, with shoulders and legs covered, and having refrained from eating heavy food that morning (fruits, veges, liquids, yogurt, nuts are all fine to eat). Moon-time for a woman is not the appropriate time to participate in ashram celebrations. Morning aarati is at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 6:30am

there is a paduka puja (washing of Shri Babaji's sandals) in His kutir (just to the west of the temple) followed by chandan.

This year our Spring Navratri falls a bit earlier. It will begin on March 21 and complete on March 29. There are daily fire ceremonies, pujas, discourses, and special chanting. We hope you can join us.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full of wonderful items from India 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 purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has been updated and you may view many items online at <http://mahalakshishop.wazala.com>.

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

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

One must be calm

Between World War I and World War II, many children came to live in the ashram. A devotee who was five when she met the Mother said the children flocked around her, played games with her in the cool halls of the ashram building, and the little girls wanted to be just like her. The Mother taught French to the children. Her classes were so popular that adult devotees sat in with the children, to ask questions and learn French:

"For each one the means (to be calm) is different, but first one must feel the need of this quietude, this peace in the mind. Now, one quickly perceives that there is another quietude which is necessary, the absence of desire. Quietude is a very positive state; there is a positive peace which is not the opposite of conflict—an active peace, contagious, powerful, which control and calms, which puts everything in order, organizes. When I tell someone 'Be calm', I don't mean 'Go to sleep, be inert and passive . . .' far from that. True quietude is a very great force, a very great strength. And this is true even in the physical field. I don't know if you have observed animals like lions, tigers, elephants, but when they are not in action, they are always so perfectly still. A lion sitting and looking at you seems always (to say), 'Oh, how fidgety you are!' It looks at you with such a peaceful air of wisdom.

"I have seen people who could not sit still for half an hour without fidgeting. They had to move a foot or an arm or their head; they had to stir restlessly all the time, for they did not have the power to remain quiet. This capacity to remain still when one wants to, to gather all one's energies and spend them as one wishes, is always the sign of strength. Make your mind quiet, don't get restless all the time in your head, don't rake up lots of ideas, calm yourself."

Currently, the Savitri Circle, in its Tuesday evening meetings, is working on the question of quietude. Some members have learned ways to silence the mind and Marika is leading us in a very effective mini-workshop. We meet for a potluck meal at 5pm during the winter, at Savitri House: 83 Baca Grant Way. Call 256-4917 for information.



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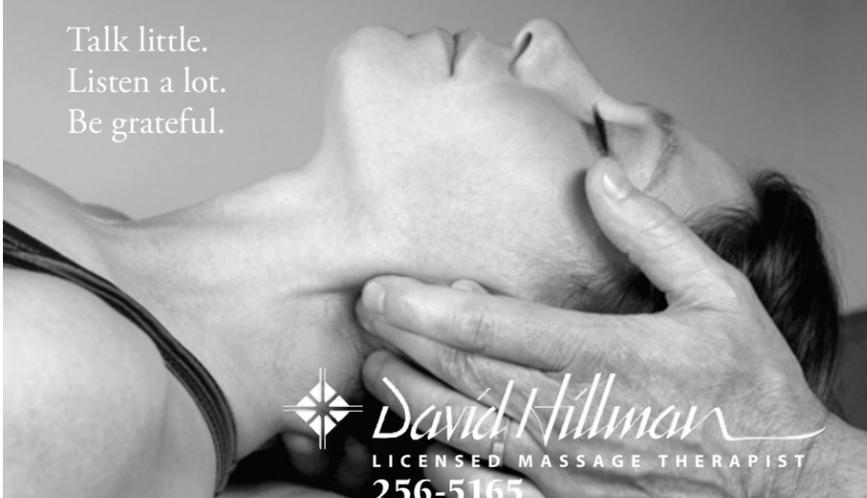
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Moving Up Higher Enjoying Everyday Life



by Joyce Meyer

A season of preparation: Getting ready for all God has for you

Winter is a dormant season. It's a time when trees become bare and most of the grass, plants and flowers die off. But winter is also a time of preparation—as roots and tree saps respond to soil and temperature changes to prepare for growth that comes in the spring.

In much the same way, you and I go through spiritually dormant seasons. These are the seasons when God seems silent . . . when our dreams and visions for the future seem lifeless. But although we may not see or feel anything exciting, it doesn't mean nothing is happening. A lot has to happen on the inside of us before we are ready to handle the future God has for us.

Just as winter prepares plants and trees for warmer weather, a spiritually dormant season is a time of preparation—when our inner character is developed and strengthened. Strong character is essential for withstanding storms that will come during seasons of growth and harvest. I find there are a lot of people who have the gifts and talents to take them somewhere exciting, but if they don't have strong, Christlike character, all the talent in the world won't keep them there.

Here are three insights I've learned that can help you make progress toward your goals, plans and visions during dormant seasons.

Examine your motives

It seems that many people don't really know themselves and understand why they do what they do. Self-deception is easy to fall into, and one of the hardest things to face. But when we are willing to face the truth about ourselves and examine our motives, God will help us change for the better and get on track with His will for our lives.

Get out of your comfort zone

Before we can move forward into a new thing, we usually have to let go of something we've been doing awhile. God nudges us outside of our comfort zones toward unfamiliar experiences to encourage us to rely on Him. And all too often, we try to hang on to what is familiar before we have confidence that the new thing is right for us. We wrestle with ourselves, wondering if we really heard from God or if we can really trust Him.

If you keep one foot where you are while the other foot stretches toward someplace new, you will eventually lose your footing and fall over. We must learn to let go of what we have before we take hold of something new, and learn to rely on God to meet all our needs.

Embrace discipline

Self-discipline is a fruit of the Spirit that requires time to develop properly. Self-discipline is developed when we do the right thing consistently, over and over again for a long time. It may include paying off debts, not over-spending, getting proper nutrition and exercise, changing the way you speak about yourself and others, and spending quality time with God and in His Word every day. As you become disciplined in every area of your life, you will be better equipped to handle bigger responsibilities in the future.

God has amazing plans for your life! He wants you to fulfill your dreams and live a life of blessing, hope and promise. I hope you're encouraged today. You will get there—as long as you are willing to do your part and trust God to do His part. And the more you lean on and trust in Him through that process, the sooner you'll be ready for whatever He has prepared for you.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY —MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Bangkok Revenge:

★★★
A young boy witnesses his parents' brutal murder and is raised by a martial arts master. His abilities are well groomed as a lethal killer seeking revenge.

2/ Klimt:

★★★★
(2006) I love the art of Gustav Klimt but John Malkovich does a wonderful job of being Klimt in dreamy visions told from the artist's deathbed. They juxtapose back and forth from past to present, fantasy to reality. It portrays his battle for artistic freedom and passion for various women. Also stars Veronica Ferres and Saffron Burrows.

3/ White Collar:

★★★★★
Streamable 5-season TV serial: Here's one you can binge on relentlessly. I loved this one. A suave handsome debonair forger, con man and artist who is highly intelligent, Neal Caffrey is caught by FBI agent Peter Burke. After some time in jail (almost 4 years) he is willing to make a deal with Peter to get out of jail by helping the FBI solve white collar crimes. The characters get interesting and endear themselves to you with elements of intrigue, the Masons, art and elegance.

4/ A Bird of the Air:

★★★
In this Indie romantic drama Lyman's job is to patrol the highways, assisting stranded motorists and saving the occasional animal. Life takes a weird turn when he comes upon a chatty parrot with strange messages. He has a librarian help him find the owners.

5/ Pandemonium:

★★★
In this period-piece drama based on real life events, we have the stormy relationship between famed English poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. Coleridge recounts the early days of their relationship, living together in the country, to his own eventual addiction to opium, which influenced his writing of "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," spurring Wordsworth's jealousy.

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February Movie Night *Some Like It Hot*

by Tom Dessain

In celebration of Valentines Day, Crestone Performances will be presenting the classic movie *Some Like it Hot* starring Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis. The movie will be shown at the Crestone Charter school Friday, February 13 at 6:30pm.

This all-time outrageous, satirical, comedy farce favorite, is one of the most hilarious, raucous films ever made with non-stop action, slapstick, entangled and deceptive identities, reversed sex roles and cross-dressing. This exceptional film was the all-time highest-grossing comedy up to its time and is about two down-on-their-luck, unemployed jazz musicians who dress up as women in order to work in an all-women's dance band and escape the Mafia. Very funny and very hot!

In March we will recognize the end of ski season with the movie "Downhill Racer" starring Robert Redford and Gene Hackman.

In April we will celebrate April fools with the Mel Brooks classic *Blazing Saddles!* We will serve Al's fabulous chili, popcorn and drinks. Al's chili sold out at the last movie night, so come and get it! We missed the January movie night due to the flood at the Charter School, but the room is available for us again.

Suggested admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for teens and under 12 are free. 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, PO Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. CPI is a 501c3 community service organization. So come in from the cold and get hot!

Crestone Performances gears up

Local acts notice

The 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival is accepting applications from local performing artists to perform at this year's festival August 7-9. Local means that half the act lives in or has a house in Saguache County. Applications are available at local stores and on-line at crestfest.org. We are interested in any performing art including music, dance, drama and comedy. Locals get paid \$25 each with a maximum of \$100 per act. They also get in free on their day of performance. The application is mandatory and should be postmarked by May 10. You can also drop it off at our office at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications can be mailed to CPI, PO Box 6, Crestone CO 81131, or call 719-256-4533 for more information.

suite 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications can be mailed to CPI, PO Box 6, Crestone CO 81131 or call 719-256-4533 for more information.

T-shirt design call

The Crestone Music Festival is soliciting T-shirt designs from local artists. We will pay \$200 to the winning design plus free admission to the festival and a write-up in the festival program. The design should include somewhere our distinctive molar mountain and say Crestone Music Festival and 17th Annual. Please contact us at 719-256-4533 to discuss your ideas or mail what you got to P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. You can also drop by the office at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location.

Local Vendors Notice

The 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival is accepting applications from local vendors for this year's festival August 7-9. Categories include food, arts and crafts, healing, merchandise or ????. Applications are available at local businesses and on-line at crestfest.org. The application is mandatory and should be postmarked by May 10. You can also drop it off at our office at 120 W. Silver ave.





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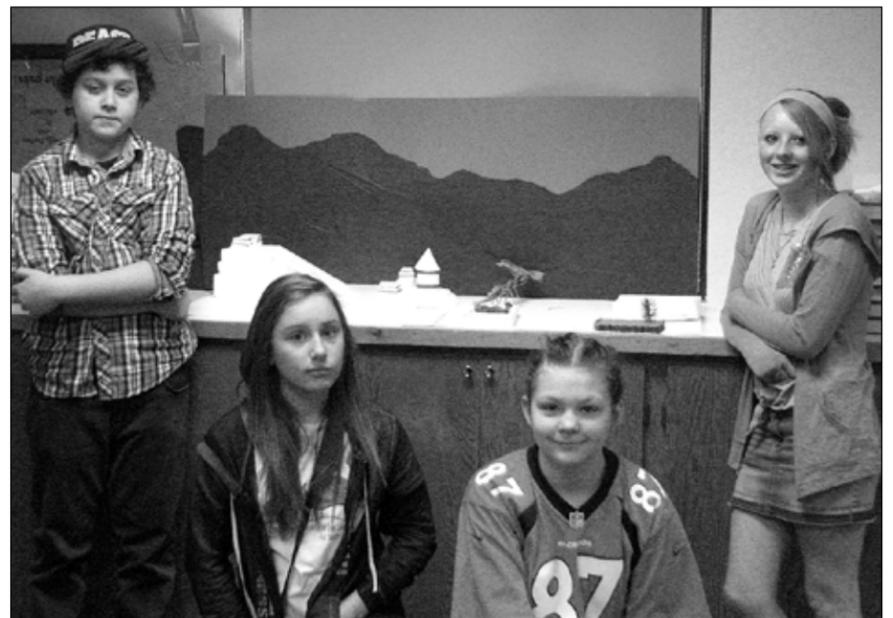
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Moffat students honor Martin Luther King Day with a study of Selma, 1965

Secondary students at Moffat School learned about the historic marches that took place in Selma, Alabama fifty years ago this March. Many were surprised to learn that even after King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech and being honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, MLK and his followers had much yet to accomplish in the American Civil Rights movement. In many ways the struggle continues to this day. Students were shocked to see how 600 voters' rights marchers were turned back by police using billy clubs and tear gas. This would become known as "Bloody Sunday". Two days later MLK and a larger organized crowd made a symbolic march to further national attention on racist practices that blocked voting rights for blacks in the deep South. Finally, on March 21, after seeking and receiving court protection, the group set off for the intended destination of Alabama's capital city of Montgomery. Traveling twelve miles a day, the march started with 3,200 and grew to 25,000 over the four day trek. People of all colors and

backgrounds and from all parts of America joined in sending a message that was loud and clear. Five months later President Johnson would sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Students also learned about pacifistic strategies that activists held to during some very volatile times.

This was a perfect springboard for students to study and discuss recent protests and marches that have brought thousands to the streets to make their numbers known. There are questions that are not easy to answer. Are protests that break out into riots and destroy property ever justified? Can we find examples in history? What is "allowable" when we talk about civil disobedience? In the age of technology, what are new forms of joining together to protest or show support in today's world? What have been some of the big marches in the past five years? Have they been effective? Most importantly, what measures can we take as individuals to realize true equality in our lifetimes and create a meaningful and lasting peace?



Moffat 6th and 7th grade students pose with their diorama of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlan.

Moffat 6th & 7th graders create Tenochtitlan diorama

by Lyndal Smith

As part of their unit on New World Civilizations, Moffat Middle School 6th and 7th graders have been busy creating a version of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. Students have spent the past few weeks researching facts, artifacts, and primary documents in an investigative effort to determine what the city might have looked like at the peak of the Aztec civilization. Each student has been assigned a special element to be represented on a diorama. This will be displayed for other K-12 students and Moffat visitors to view and gain some cultural knowledge. The young historians have written informative "plaques" which will guide the curious into a further understanding of this unique and interesting culture.

The Aztec people were very ingenious and developed techniques to utilize existing resources. They improvised and adapted their surrounding environment to accommodate thousands of people. At the time the Spaniards arrived, it was one of the largest cities in the world with a population of well over 200,000. Built on an island in Lake Texcoco, it had a system of canals for transportation and removal of waste by barges. Technological adaptations included chinampas, floating gardens of sorts, for growing their fruits and vegetables using compost collected from the city. They also built aqueducts that brought fresh water to the metropolis so they could survive and thrive in the middle of a brackish lake.

Designing all of these elements for display have required some difficult problem-solving skills as our young architects/historians strive to create an accurate model built to scale which provides a realistic image of key components of the city. The project will be on display February 9-12.

Moffat District continues successful run at Regional Knowledge Bowl meet

by Lyndal Smith

Moffat School District enjoyed another successful month competing against other valley and regional districts this past Thursday. Earning second place in the Small Schools Division, our Varsity held their own during a very competitive and fast moving day. Our JV team blazed along, earning another first place for the team. Competing for Varsity were Jam Young Dorji, William Higgenbotham, Jacob Smith, and Taru Gouldberg. Competing Junior Varsity members included Marlon Jacobi, Nicholas Meisman, Sierra Swartz and Joedeelee Rigdon (who alternated into JV to create two full teams for our district). This was possibly the toughest meet yet this year as all districts prepare for the regional competition on Tuesday, February 3. This meet, which involves only varsity teams, will determine who will advance to State competition in April. We wish you all the best at Regionals!



The Moffat District Knowledge Team took time out to pose for a picture in front of the Adams State University Grizzly Bear.

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Moffat School honor roll

Moffat School would like to congratulate the following students for making the 2nd nine weeks Superintendent's (GPA of 3.50-4.00) and Principal's Honor Roll (GPA of 3.00- 3.49), as well as those who made the First Semester Superintendent's and Principal's Honor Roll. Your dedication and hard work has paid off! Great job students!

2nd 9 weeks - Principal's Honor Roll

Goodhart, Cooper 3.1250
Heater, Chelsea 3.2500
Merryman, Xavier 3.3750
Richardson, Dakotah 3.2500
Richardson, Michael 3.2500
Wellman-Wheeler, Isiah 3.2500

Baker, Marcie 3.0000
Bayes, Demetrius 3.1430
Chavez, Christina 3.4290
Faust, Anton 3.2860
Gonzales, Justin 3.0000
High, Chelsea 3.0000
Rude, Destiny 3.1430
Saenz, Guadalupe 3.2860
Wellman-Flick, Elaine 3.2000

1st Semester - Principal's Honor Roll

Goodhart, Cooper 3.0670
Heater, Chelsea 3.3750

Merryman, Xavier 3.3750
Richardson, Dakotah 3.2670
Richardson, Michael 3.1250
Wellman-Wheeler, Isiah 3.3330

Burns, Michael 3.0770
Chavez, Christina 3.4290
Faust, Anton 3.1430
Rude, Destiny 3.1430
Saenz, Guadalupe 3.1430
Wellman-Flick, Elaine 3.0000

2nd 9 weeks - Superintendent's Honor Roll

Chavez, Alyssa 3.8570
Harrell, Isaiah 3.6250
Horn, Ian 3.7500
Taylor, Sheridan 3.8750
Freel, Renee 3.8330
Rigdon, Joedeelee 4.0000
Swartz, Sierra 4.0000
Tran, Kristian 3.7500
Williamson, Ellyon 4.0000

1st Semester - Superintendent's Honor Roll

Chavez, Alyssa 3.8570
Harrell, Isaiah 3.7330
Horn, Ian 3.8750
Taylor, Sheridan 3.7330
Freel, Renee 3.6670
Rigdon, Joedeelee 4.0000
Swartz, Sierra 4.0000
Tran, Kristian 3.7500
Williamson, Ellyon 4.0000



The newly-formed Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance drew a good turnout on January 7. They are working on grooming cross-country ski trails above the Willow Creek gate at the upper end of Galena Ave.

LEAP says 'Prevent home heating fires'

Home heating is a saving grace this time of year. But for as much comfort as it provides us, it also exposes us to certain safety hazards.

According to the American Red Cross, home heating is one of the leading causes of house fires in the U.S. We at LEAP want to make sure you keep warm safely during these next few months. LEAP is the Colorado Department of Human Services' Low-income Energy Assistance Program that provides cash assistance to help Coloradans pay a portion of winter home heating costs.

"Home heating safety is simple but crucial," LEAP Manager Aggie Berens says. "We encourage everyone to follow a few simple steps to make sure their home heating doesn't put them at risk."

The following home heating safety tips come from the American Red Cross, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Fire Protection Association.

- Keep anything flammable at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.

- Never leave portable heaters or fireplaces unattended. Turn off space heaters and make sure any fireplace embers are extinguished before going to bed or leaving your home.

- Place space heaters on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (like a ceramic tile floor). Keep them off of carpets or rugs and away from bedding or drapes. Also keep children and pets away from space heaters.

- Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.

- Use a glass or metal fire screen to keep fire in your fireplace and catch sparks and rolling logs.

- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and furnaces professionally inspected and cleaned once a year. Ensure that these devices are properly vented.

- Use only the type of fuel your heater is designed to use. Don't substitute.

- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation by installing battery-operated detectors. Test these alarms regularly.

- Defer to skilled profession-

als to install permanent heating equipment, water heaters and central heating units to ensure code and manufacturer's instructions are properly followed.

Home heating help

Heating your home during wintertime is expensive. If you're struggling to pay your heating bills, LEAP can help.

LEAP provides cash assistance to help hard-working families and individuals pay winter home heating costs or help with broken furnaces or wood stoves. This year the average benefit for people who qualify is expected to be \$439 per household.

The program has several eligibility requirements. Applicants must be Colorado residents and U.S. citizens or legal aliens. They also need to provide a copy of a valid identification and a completed affidavit to comply with Colorado Revised Statutes regarding documentation of lawful presence.

Applicants also must be responsible for paying heating costs, either directly to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent. Applicants' income cannot exceed 150% of the federal poverty index.

People interested in applying can call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to order a mailed application. Alternatively, applications are available at every county department of social or human services, most utility companies, and many community agencies, like Catholic Charities. Applications also can be downloaded from www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

LEAP accepts applications until April 30

People eligible for LEAP may also qualify for other benefits, like the Crisis Intervention Program, which helps repair or replace the home's primary heating system; or the Weatherization Program, which improves energy efficiency in homes. Colorado also offers a rebate of property tax, rent and heat expenses to low-income seniors and disabled persons. Please visit the Colorado Department of Revenue's website at www.colorado.gov/pacific/tax/property-tax-rent-heat-credit-ptc-rebate-file for more information and the rebate application booklet.

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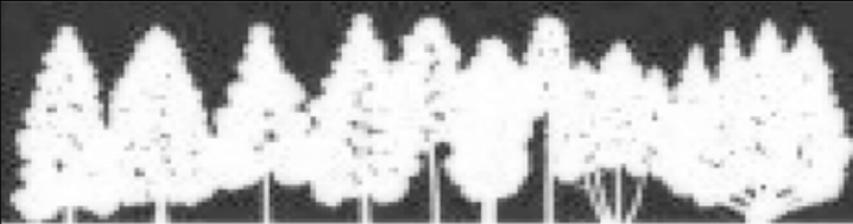
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The Washington Beat

The 2015 State of the Union

by David Nicholas

The shadow of crisis has passed: The SOTU

President Barack Obama gave his seventh State of the Union address (SOTU) to the joint sitting of The 114th Congress on January 20. The speech was one of the most dynamic State of the Union addresses this writer has heard in forty years. It was as if Mr. Obama took a victory lap and the victory was us being us and ain't that a good thing?

The President took stands and issued challenges to the nation, as well as being optimistic. The address was high on atmospheric and feel-good moments. One wondered why he wasn't talking like this a year ago, but that was then.

Turning the page the President said: "America, for all that we've endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong."

"At this moment—with a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production—we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come."

Best line of the night was unscripted and came towards the end of the address. It occurred after this line: "I have no more campaigns to run . . ." (cheers, jeers. Applause from Republicans) "I know because I won both of them!" It was a biggest putdown in a State of the Union, again, in the last 40 years.

There were other great moments such as the last pillar of leadership:

"As Americans, we respect human dignity, even when we're threatened, which is why I've prohibited torture, and worked to make sure our use of new technology like drones is properly constrained. It's why we speak out against the deplorable anti-Semitism that has resurfaced in certain parts of the world. It's why we continue to reject offensive stereotypes of Muslims—the vast majority of whom share our commitment to peace. That's why we defend free speech, and advocate for political prisoners, and condemn the persecution of women, or religious minorities, or people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. We do these things not only because they're right, but because they make us safer."

The President took a tough stance on Republicans who would try to interfere on the US negotiations with Iran. He said, "Our diplomacy is at work with respect to Iran, where, for the first time in a decade, we've halted the progress of its nuclear program and reduced its stockpile of nuclear material. Between now and this spring, we have a chance to negotiate a comprehensive agreement that prevents a nuclear-armed Iran; secures America and our allies—including Israel; while avoiding yet another Middle East conflict. There are no

guarantees that negotiations will succeed, and I keep all options on the table to prevent a nuclear Iran. But new sanctions passed by this Congress, at this moment in time, will all but guarantee that diplomacy fails—alienating America from its allies; and ensuring that Iran starts up its nuclear program again. It doesn't make sense. That is why I will veto any new sanctions bill that threatens to undo this progress. The American people expect us to only go to war as a last resort, and I intend to stay true to that wisdom."

On the XL Keystone pipeline in case you missed, the President said, "21st century businesses need 21st century infrastructure—modern ports, stronger bridges, faster trains and the fastest internet. Democrats and Republicans used to agree on this. So let's set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline. Let's pass a bipartisan infrastructure plan that could create more than thirty times as many jobs per year, and make this country stronger for decades to come."

Mr. Obama used the address to call on Congress to raise taxes and fees on the wealthiest taxpayers and the largest financial firms to finance tax cuts for the middle class.

So where are we? The President over-shadowed the Republicans as they sat in their seats listening to the speech sitting on their hands but time and again they had to stand and applaud along with the Democrats. Of the two arms of government, the President won the narrative for January. The Congress just looks morose.

Of the CNN/ORC snap poll of viewers who watched the address, 51% liked the speech, 30% were somewhat positive, 18% hated it. We will see if the President gets a bump with the formal polls and takes his popularity to above the 50% mark. That's in the future. Onward.

Congress & Keystone

Herding cats has been a better business than the Congressional Republicans holding majorities in both houses of the 114th trying to get GOP members to agree on anything that looks like unity of purpose.

The election of the Speaker looked messy in that at least 20 Tea Party Republicans said that John Boehner (R-OH) wasn't fit to be Speaker, which has been the opinion of yours truly for as long as he had been Speaker, but their effort to dump Speaker Boehner played out in full view of the media trying to find a headline. There was never any doubt that Boehner would be elected, but not having the loyalty the Speaker needs on his side of the House, he's going to need Democrats to get bills through the House. Such as passing the budget that the Senate could pass with the required 60 votes needed to avoid a filibuster, and then getting the President to sign it.

But the symbolic "getting tough" with Mr. Obama was the bill



for the XL Keystone pipeline. Which passed the House on January 9, 266-153 with 28 Democrats voting to support it. The Senate voted 63-32 (60 votes required to beat a filibuster) to consider the bill on January 12, which would indicate eight or nine Democrats will vote for it.

So the Senate is deliberating, taking up new Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) vow (sort of) to run the Senate differently by allowing senators to offer up amendments on the bill.

Senate Democrats opposed to the pipeline are offering amendments that they think will be tough for the GOP to vote against or that will play well in the 2016 elections. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT, who caucuses with the Democrats), for example, plans to offer a nonbinding resolution on whether lawmakers agree with the 95% of scientists who say human activities contribute to climate change. Also amendments on which impose a two-year moratorium on U.S. Postal Service cuts as well as inserting regulations that pipeline contractors will be required to cover the entire costs of clean up for any spills that occur.

So with bad narratives already hitting Republicans and a veto from the President on the bill, 2015 isn't shaping up to be good for Republicans.

Oh, and about the veto, the reasons Mr. Obama has outlined many times before. The pipeline only creates 50 permanent jobs if completed and only benefits Canada, which plans to export this oil from the Alberta oil sand fields to foreign lands. Please see "The Price of Oil" below.

SCOTUS & gay marriage

It was an election promise, which Mr. Obama has kept albeit reluctantly at first, but support it he did. The President may not have had a law passed but the influence on society by just putting an issue into the public discourse changed the nation's perception of itself.

Looking back one is hard-pressed to wonder what the furor was all about. But two years after Vice President Biden said on NBC's Meet The Press in May 2012 that he was comfortable with same-sex couples marrying which was endorsed by Mr. Obama days later, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will consider whether it should be the law of the land and not just in the 36 states which have passed laws to date.

Presidential endorsements always change the narrative, and

so it did with same-sex/gay marriage no matter how belatedly the President's decision to do so. The President gave Same-Sex marriage national legitimacy giving the issue momentum and courage to states to act. Seventy percent of people thought the President was right.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson did it with civil rights in the 1960s. The turmoil and the debate was in full swing but when he spoke in support of civil rights for black Americans, the nation took stock and it culminated with the Civil Rights Act of 1968 becoming the law of the land.

So, the US Supreme Court on January 16, agreed to decide whether all 50 states must allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, positioning it to resolve one of the great civil rights questions in a generation before its current term ends in June.

The decision came just months after the justices ducked the issue, refusing in October to hear appeals from rulings allowing same-sex marriage in five states. That decision, which was considered a major surprise, delivered a tacit victory for gay rights, immediately expanding the number of state of same-sex marriage to 24, along with the District of Columbia.

Largely as a consequence of the Supreme Court's decision not to act, the number of states allowing same-sex marriage has since grown to 36, and more than 70% of Americans live in places where gay couples can marry.

The Court has decided to allot two-and-a-half hours to argument, probably in the last week of April. The first 90 minutes will be devoted to the question of whether the Constitution requires states "to license a marriage between two people of the same sex."

The last hour will concern a question that will be moot if the answer to the first one is yes: whether states must "recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out of state."

The price of oil: Punishing politics

There was a moment on January 21 with the death of Saudi King Abdullah at age 90, that Saudi aggression might change, but no. His successor Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, age 79, and King Abdullah's half brother is promising nothing will change Saudi Arabia's current course.

Saudi Arabia is a vengeful rad-

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ical Islamic nation and for decades has been quite happy to let Americans shed our blood and treasure so they could oppress and maintain their extreme version of Islam over its hapless population along with some of the neighbors, such as Bahrain. The real fear of the Saudis is that the mythic notion of the Arab Spring (long since officially dead and buried thanks to Egypt, Libya and Syria) nevertheless lies dormant just below the surface of the Arab street and can one day cause Saudi Arabia to go up in flames.

Wahabi Sunnis, to which the House of Saud belongs, fear Shias. Shias are vastly outnumbered in the Middle East, except in and around Baghdad and Basra in southern Iraq, the Houthis in northern Yemen, and Iran where they dominate. In terms of prayer, Shias strictly interpret the Quran according to Mohammed's son-in-law and cousin Ali, whereas Sunnis tend to be more "flexible" on what Mohammed said and acknowledge Ab Bakr—the first Caliph of Islam—as Mohammed's successor. Wahabis are Sunnis but very extreme. In fact more extreme than Shias in their social behavior. Beheadings in the name of Allah is their deal, and the guerrilla fighters/insurgents the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)/Islamic State in Iraq and AL Sham (ISIS) operating in Syria, northern Iraq and with some still in Lebanon, take the Wahabi lead in word and deed as well as their money.

The price of oil is now a political weapon being used by the Saudis against those nations whose economies depend on oil and who need this price to be at \$100 a barrel or greater. These nations are—in no particular order—Iran, Russia and Venezuela.

The collapse of the price of oil—which for years has been above \$100—suddenly started in November last year and the price now sits at less than half what it was then. On the three markets where oil is traded (West Texas Crude on New York Commodities Exchange, Brent/North Sea Oil on the London Exchange, and Tapis on the Singapore exchange) prices are hovering at \$45-\$50. All three prices determine what consumers pay at the pump in various regions around the world.

The US no longer will engage and respond to the pressure the Saudis "demand"—to act militarily in Syria, Iran and Russia. At the OPEC meeting in early December 2014 they decided not to curb oil production in order to use its economic power to bring these countries to their knees.

Of course, Russia may well choose to obliterate Saudi oil production if push comes to shove. One should be wary of President Putin when you put him in a corner. Right now Mr. Putin is weighing his options, and while this looks like a long shot, 2015 is year of uncertainty and you can't rule out the extreme. So we will see.

The price of oil: US interests

Officially, the administration sees this as windfall on several levels. The first is the domestic market where our unleaded gasoline is selling for under \$2.00 a gallon for the first time in six years. Consumers were happy that things didn't appear as bleak as they seemed

at the beginning of November, a Christmas bonus, which also gave the economy a needed boost and set the confidence meter in a northern direction for the first time since the global financial crisis of 2008.

The second level for the administration is that cheap oil ravages new arch-enemy Vladimir Putin's Russia (if you can, watch PBS Frontline's "Putin's Way") punishing him for the annex of Crimea and exercising military pressure on Ukraine. It ensures economic restrictions on Mr Putin and his cronies have double the effect as well as causing the collapse of the ruble against our Dollar.

Cheap oil also brings Venezuela to its knees, which is more important for us. Most of our oil imports come from that country as crude, which is refined for the gas we put in our cars. As opposed to the crude which would be transported through the Keystone XL pipeline to New Orleans to be used in foreign lands for industry, manufacturing and domestic heating. This also plays into the many justifications that President Obama will use to nix the pipeline and veto the bill from Congress.

Cuba

As of January 16 the rules about travelling to Cuba have been relaxed. The relaxation comes the day after Cuba released the last of 53 political prisoners on January 15. This happened without much fanfare, so now with demonstrations of goodwill there is now a formal pact between the United States and Cuba to ease and formalize relations. A policy a long time in coming but one which has been sorely needed.

Travel restrictions have been eased. While you can't go as a tourist *per se* to Havana, if you have a special reason for travelling to the island—there are twelve you can give if Homeland Security asks when you return—you can have a good time. Those categories include family visits; official business of the U.S. government; foreign governments, and certain intergovernmental organizations; journalistic activity; professional research and professional meetings; educational activities; religious activities; public performances, clinics and workshops; athletic and other competitions; and exhibitions.

United Airlines announced on Thursday it plans to begin flying to Cuba from its terminals in Houston and Newark. US credit and debit cards can be used in Cuba and there will be no limits on how much money US citizens can spend in Cuba.

US firms will also find it easier to export mobile phones and software to Cuba, as well as provide internet services there. Cuba currently has one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world—estimated at about 5% by the White House. A change in the regulations will also allow US investments in some small businesses and agricultural operations.

All of this makes Congressional Republicans look positively out of step with prevailing American attitudes toward Cuba, which are much more "live and let live."

Je Suis Charlie

The *Charlie Hebdo* cartoonists knew they were targets for at least 10 years. It's a pact you make when you know the risks of taking a stand. You weigh all the consequences

Keystone Pipeline: State of the Union gives opposition new energy and momentum

by Lisa Cyriacks

While President Obama did not mention "Keystone XL" by name in his State of the Union, the speech only solidified the feeling that the pipeline is doomed.

President Obama: "21st century businesses need 21st century infrastructure—modern ports, stronger bridges, faster trains and the fastest internet. Democrats and Republicans used to agree on this. So let's set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline."

At this point, the President Obama knows that his climate legacy depends on rejecting Keystone XL. Years of demonstrations against the project, along with multiple letters from the nation's top climate scientists highlighting the climate impacts of the pipeline, have transformed Keystone XL into the highest-profile environmental decision of Obama's presidency.

Environmentalists oppose the pipeline because of climate change concerns. US construction companies support the pipeline because it creates jobs.

On January 9, 2015 the House passed legislation (266 to 153 to approve the measure, with 28 Democrats joining all but one Republican voting yes) in support of constructing the Keystone XL pipeline. Hours before the vote, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a Nebraska law giving the governor the authority to approve the pipeline's route through the state, overturning a lower-court ruling.

The Nebraska property owners, whose case lost by one vote, have asked the seven-member court to reconsider.

On January 20, TransCanada filed paperwork in nine counties in Nebraska to acquire access to the remaining land needed to construct, operate and maintain the Keystone XL pipeline—two days before the two-year window to invoke eminent domain closed.

By law, TransCanada can use the courts to force Nebraska landowners to sell access. Holdouts have said they won't negotiate no matter how much TransCanada offers.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association is also urging President Obama to reject the pipeline permit application. The association represents tribes in North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.

In a letter dated January 11, 2015, the GPTCA asserts, "The pipeline is planned to traverse through our homelands that still possess substantial treaty obligations, cultural and natural resources and water rights for all the Great Plains tribes."

Opposition to the pipeline has made a coalition of Dakota/Lakota tribes, and farmers and ranchers from the Great Plains. They have found common cause over protection of clean water and a mistrust of TransCanada.

If approved, the Keystone XL would cross the Canadian border into Montana and pass through the states of South Dakota and Nebraska to join the southern leg of the pipeline in Kansas. It would traverse privately-owned ranches and farms and native lands. Crucially, it would pass over the huge Ogallala aquifer, a major source of fresh water for drinking and irrigation.

Fait Spotted Eagle, Yankton Sioux, "We are writing a new history by standing on common ground preventing the black snake of Keystone XL from risking our land our water."

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the Keystone XL pipeline soon, despite the threat of veto from President Barack Obama, who has questioned how beneficial it will be for the country.

of your actions and the making of dedicated and unrelenting enemies. I thought *Charlie Hebdo* was pretty gutsy, knowing what was happening to cartoonists in Scandinavia who drew pictures of Mohammed—they were getting killed. So *vale* to those who died; they didn't deserve it, but they knew the risks.

The wisdom I would question is whether to continue to caricature Mohammed insultingly, further inciting radical Islam. Radical Islam is in its ascendancy right now, and this just exacerbates the tension and strengthens the will of those who would attack and attempt to vanquish the infidel, which is us.

Free speech requires discernment because it's always under attack no matter where we live. When we get careless with it gets whittled away. News channels' blather has been centred on the spurious and the specious. As were the 40+ world leaders who walked through Paris, at least half of whom allow free speech that borders on the non-existent or are medieval in their draconian measures to silence voic-

es. Saudi Arabia, for example, sentenced a blogger to 1,000 lashes to be applied 50 lashes at a time every Friday. So I thought it was a very smart move not to send the President nor the Vice President. Some things don't need the symbol of US prestige for legitimacy.

The Iran negotiations are in play at the time of writing; US Secretary of State John Kerry is in Vienna talking with his Iranian opposite number, Foreign Minister Mohammed Zarif. President Obama warned Congressional leaders on January 16, not to toughen existing restrictions. GOP Senate hawks seriously want to do that, but negotiations are in a delicate stage and could fail. More on that next time.

2014: the hottest year on record

No surprise to anyone but 2014 was the hottest on record for the planet, with global temperatures 1.03°F higher than the 1961-to-1990 averages, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization. So it goes.

The Beat goes on.



The valley's been getting lots of snow this year! These low-lying mountain clouds were captured on December 27 after our Christmas snow. photo by Lori Nagel

Congress cuts funding

continued from page 1

state are required to calculate the 25% payments for the benefit of public schools and public roads. Unlike SRS, these payments do not allow states an election to allocate funds for work similar to Title II (conservation work on national forests) or Title III (county projects for Firewise programs, emergency services or community wildfire protection plans) authorized in the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

This year, the estimated total amount of all 25% payments to all eligible states is about \$50 million, compared to around \$300 million available for the entire SRS program last year.

In the late 1980s, due largely to declines in timber sale receipts, 1908 Act payments began to drop significantly and fluctuate. In 1994, Congress responded by providing "safety net payments" to counties in northern California, western Oregon and western Washington. In 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act that provided enhanced, stabilized pay-

ments to more states. It also created a forum for community interests to participate collaboratively in the selection of natural resource projects on the National Forests, and has assisted in community wildfire protection planning. This is the first year since then that the act was not reauthorized. For information on funding amounts by state visit www.fs.fed.us/news/2014-2015-payments-roads-schools.

The mission of the Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20% of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80% of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

Objection filed on proposed land exchange at Wolf Creek Pass

On January 6, a coalition of conservation organizations announce the filing of a 96-page objection with the Forest Service concerning a proposed land exchange near Wolf Creek Pass. The land exchange would allow construction of a city in a high-altitude location that receives an average of 428" of snow annually, and is an important wildlife corridor for many species. The development, called the Village at Wolf Creek, has been at the center of controversy since 1986.

The Forest Service proposal would trade approximately 205 federal acres for 177 acres of private land within the boundaries of the Rio Grande National Forest. As a part of this exchange, the U.S. Government is also paying Texas billionaire Red McComb \$70,000 as a "cash equalization payment." The land exchange would connect the private land to U.S. Highway 160, thus securing the ability for a larger population to access to the developer's private inholding.

"Our Objection makes clear that the Forest Service has added insult to injury by proposing to give away more land with valuable resources to a rich private interest," said Matt Sandler, staff attorney for Rocky Mountain Wild who led the preparation of the objection. "Instead, the agency should consider protecting a biologically rich and important portion of the National Forest and represent the best interests of the American public," stated Sandler.

Opponents to the land exchange argue that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that provides the basis for the Forest Service decision is inadequate and incomplete. Of special concern is the lack of analysis of the impacts of the development on the rare Canada lynx.

"If the land exchange is ultimately implemented, it could lead to a city of up to 10,000 people being constructed near the top of Wolf Creek Pass, right in the middle of

a corridor for lynx," said Christine Canaly, Executive Director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council. "Such activity in this area could seriously impair the chances for this threatened species to recover to a full, secure population in Colorado," noted Canaly.

Additionally, opponents note in their objection that the land exchange violates the Forest Service mandate to manage lands in a sustainable manner for the public at large.

"The Forest Service's Record of Decision for the proposed megadevelopment on Wolf Creek Pass constitutes yet another denial of the public interest, both through their continued refusal to acknowledge their legal standing to curtail this grotesque project and also in refusing to concede that most local citizens stand in strong opposition to it," adds Jimbo Buickerood, Public Land Coordinator for the San Juan Citizens Alliance.

The Forest Service now has 45 days to review and react to objections on the land exchange proposal. The Service may take an additional 30 days if they deem it necessary to provide an adequate response.

"Given the delays and foot dragging we have seen to date, I anticipate the Forest Service will take the maximum amount of time to complete its review," states Sandler. "Whenever they finish, we will still be here. We intend to keep challenging this project."

The objection was submitted by Rocky Mountain Wild, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, Wilderness Workshop, Colorado Mountain Club, EcoFlight, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative.

The objection and 38 supporting exhibits can be found at: <http://friendsofwolfcreek.org/wolf-creek-access-project-administrative-objection-exhibits>.

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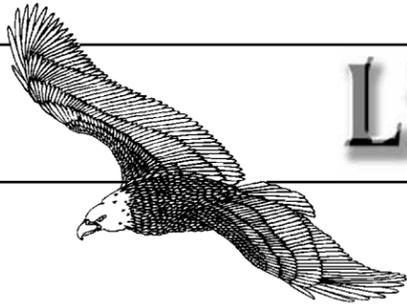
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Living on the Earth

Homesteading with camels

A recipe for success

by Leigh Mills

My husband and I have lived in the San Luis Valley for 13 years; in that time we've seen some unusual things. When I heard of the new camel dairy in Moffat, I thought "Camel dairy here? That's pretty strange . . . how perfect!" As someone who's practiced a little animal husbandry, I was curious about how Matt and Meghan Stalzer of the Mudita (Sanskrit for "Our happiness comes from your happiness") Camel Dairy raise camels in our area.

Camel homesteads and dairies in the US are fairly new compared to the Bedouins and other nomads of the Middle and Far East deserts who have been successfully using camels (and goats) as work and food animals for thousands of years. "Using camels as a homestead animal is a recipe for success," Matt remarked "they are a no-waste animal—the king of conservation." Camels in Colorado do seem a little strange, but after hanging out with Matt, Meghan, Big Mama, and Dora, I've learned



Big Mama and yearling Niam last summer after arriving at the homestead. What a cute pair!

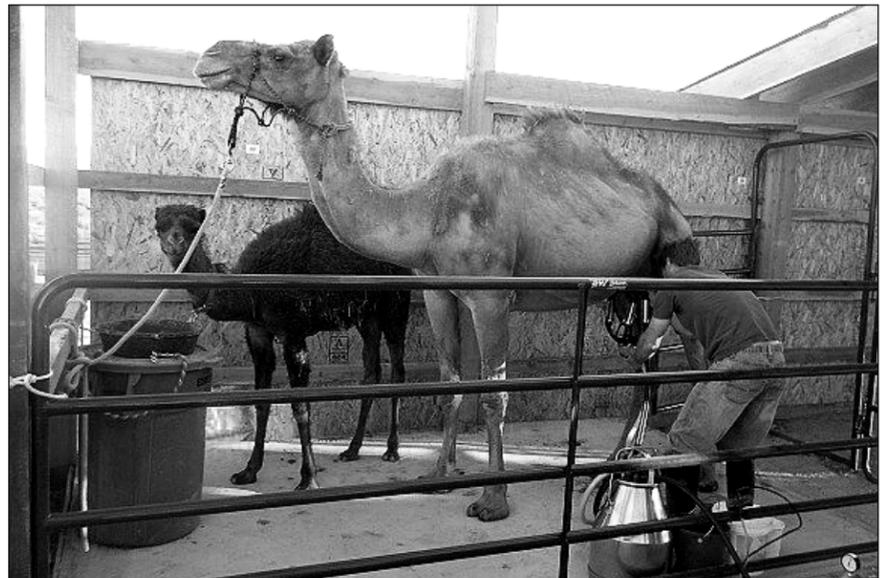
that the San Luis Valley is actually a very good place to raise camels. Camels are desert animals and the SLV is a high desert. When I asked if they were concerned about the poor soil and inedible vegetation, Matt quipped "we want the nasty soil nobody wants." What is considered wasteland in our county is prime camel range since they can eat and digest chiko!

If you want to homestead with camels, it would be advisable to study up. While they are similar to other domesticated farm animals in care and feeding, there are some practical considerations. One is the initial cost. US camel prices vary from \$10,000 for a mature, trained gelding and can exceed \$17,000 for a healthy pregnant female. Once you get your camel, you might have it until the camel . . . or you . . . dies, since camels can live from 35-50 years, "A fact I would like to test!" proclaimed Matt.

Another consideration is training. A camel, or camel owner, can be dangerous without proper training. Matt and Meghan did extensive research on camels, attended several workshops, and interned at a camel dairy in Michigan for a year before acquiring Big Mama. They understand how important a good, trained camel, (and camel owner), is to homestead happiness. "Through proper training and lots of love and care, you get camels like Big Mama and Dora who love affection." Matt explains. Big Mama and Dora arrived very well trained, but Niam, Big Mama's young bull, is being trained at home. Meghan works a lot with Niam and says



Matt and Meghan Stalzer have always wanted to homestead. Camels "could be one of the most powerful homesteading animals," Matt stated. Pregnant Dora the camel is expecting any day and they are excited to know their herd is growing.



Here are Big Mama and Niam in the milking parlor. Camels need their babies nearby for their milk to flow. Once the milk machine is hooked up, it takes 1-5 minutes. If Meghan and Matt were just feeding themselves, chores would take about 15 minutes. But since they are offering raw milk to their members, it takes about 2 hours each feeding (twice a day) to clean and sanitize the equipment and bottle the orders.

"When he was a little guy, he was easy to work with, but now that he's starting to mature, he's a bit more difficult . . . like a teenager always testing boundaries." Matt added that you can hook an untrained camel to a trained one, and the former will learn from the latter, so Big Mama and Dora also help train Niam.

Once acquired, caring for camels seems easy. They need to stay dry, so a big barn with lots of clean straw is best for our cold winter seasons. During the day, the camels require lots of exercise; so they wander around the Mudita's 35 fenced-in acres; sometimes walking up to 10 miles a day in the summer. Being nomadic animals, they need plenty of space to move around and don't do well penned up. Camel maintenance consists of brushing their hair once a year during the spring and trimming toenails if necessary. Vet bills can be avoided by providing adequate nutrients to supplement their feed, especially selenium and calcium. Additionally, Matt and Meghan give their camels loose salt minerals and add probiotics to their water.

A multi-use animal is valued on the homestead. Camels

make good work animals and can carry hundreds of pounds on their backs. Matt's original dream was to have a camel trekking business. He says camels would be great pack animals and do very well in our mountain settings since they can handle rocky terrains, and are surefooted, except on slick, muddy or wet surfaces. Camels can be ridden, too. Matt and Meghan have a camel saddle and know how to ride. When I asked about public camel rides, they said that having a camel ride business would be full time and they are focused on their dairy operations.

Similar to other dairy animals, camels are milked twice a day, each day. But unlike goats or cows, camel mamas need their babies nearby so their milk will flow. The Mudita Dairy has a special, two-sided stall which separates the baby, yet keeps it close to the mama during milking. Dairy camels can produce 2-3 gallons at their peak, (compared to a family cow: 6-8 gallons, or goat: up to 1+ gallons a day) and will give milk for about a year before drying off. Matt says if they were just homesteading for themselves, the milking would

continued on page B-9

Cool camel facts

1. Camel jargon for lying down – 'Cush' or 'Koosh'
2. Camels slurp their water and can drink up to 5 gallons a minute or 30-40 gallons at a time if needed.
3. Camels can go up to a week without water.
4. Camels can adjust the blood pressure in their feet pads so they can walk on soft, sharp, or very hard surfaces. They can step on cactus!
5. Camels make noises—a low guttural throat sounds in normal communications; grunts and growls from bulls when in season.
6. Camels are smart, sensitive creatures who can read body language & vibes.
7. Camels can bite and spit when angry or defensive. Some breeds spit more easily than others. Mudita camels rarely spit because they are so gentle.
8. Camels are very hardy and self-sufficient. Their intelligence helps them avoid injuries.
9. Camels can digest almost any plant material, even wood, but they don't overeat.
10. Camels mature between 4-7 years of age and can live 35-50 years if healthy.
11. Camels die in old age because of malnutrition due to worn teeth—they can't properly chew and digest nutrients.
12. Camel population in the US is estimated at 3,000-4,000 animals.
13. Camels with one hump are known as Arabian or dromedaries—two humps are bactrains.
14. Camels gestate for about 13 months.
15. Camels like Big Mama and Dora weigh about 1600 lbs and their height at the hump is approx 7'-8'.
16. Camels need to be brushed during the spring. The hair of one camel can fill a 33-gallon bag.



The skies this month

February 1: Mercury is visible below the thin crescent moon low in the western skies about 45 minutes after sunset.

February 3: Full moon

February 10: The moon lies in the Milky Way just below Jupiter in the constellation of Gemini. To the left of Jupiter you will find the bright twin stars, Castor and Pollux

February 11: Last quarter moon

The winter triangle

The Milky Way is brilliant this month in Crestone skies. Orion, the Hunter, is halfway up toward the zenith in the south. It contains the unmistakable three stars of his belt. His sword, which contains the Great Nebula of Orion, is hanging from belt. The upper brilliant red star is Betelgeuse and the lower star on the right is Rigel. Follow the three stars of the belt to Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest star in our northern skies, lying a modest distance of 8.75 light years away. Up above Sirius is the small dog Canis Minor, of which Procyon its brightest star. To the right is the beautiful bright red star Betelgeuse. These three stars form the Winter Triangle.

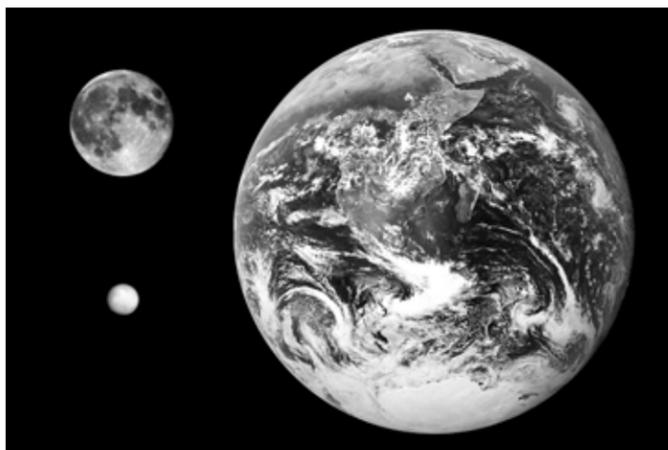
The winter Milky Way

Lying between Procyon and Betelgeuse is our wintery view of the Milky Way Galaxy, our home in the universe. Our galaxy has spiral arms, and our solar system lies on the inner edge of one of its arms. The summer Milky Way is in the direction of the center of the galaxy, some 27,000 light years away, obscured from our view by gas and dust. But in winter, we are looking away from the center of the galaxy and seeing the nearby stars in our own spiral arm, which is the reason that the region of Orion, Canis Major, Canis Minor, etc is so rich in bright stars.

Following the Milky Way upward, you come to Jupiter, currently residing in Gemini. Above it is the bright star, Capella, in the constellation of Auriga at the top of the sky. Continue to the north, and you will come to the two fuzzy spots of the double cluster of Perseus. Their visibility is one of the great tests for the darkness and clarity of the sky, and they are normally easily visible in the skies of Crestone. Even though each of these clusters contain more than 500 bright, young stars, they lie across the vast expanse of space between our spiral arm and the next one, at a distance of 8000 light years.

Dawn comes to Ceres

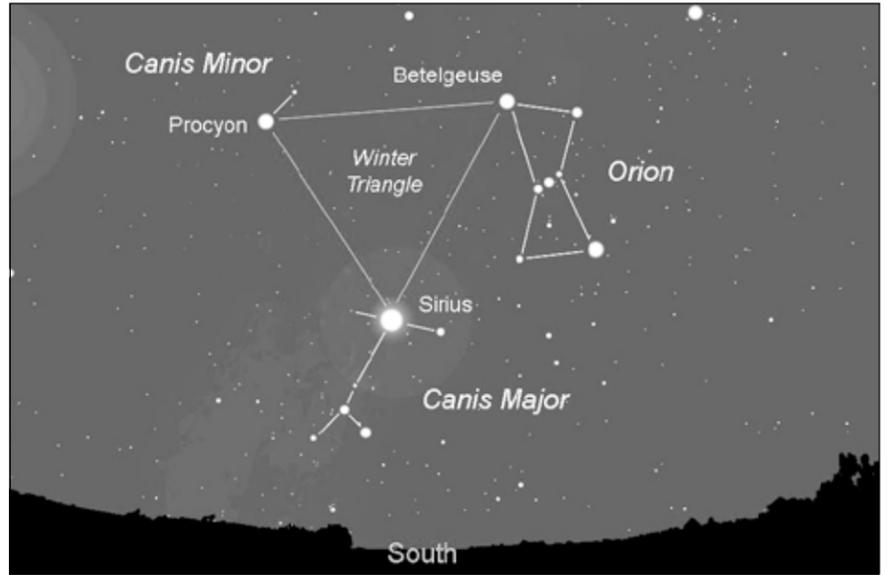
We've been occupied during the past few month with the European Space Agency's Rosetta Spacecraft and the comet it is orbiting. Meanwhile, our NASA has been very busy with another kind of exploration. Its spacecraft Dawn, which was launched in September 2007, has been orbiting the asteroid Vesta for 14 months and is now on its way to do the same with Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt. It will reach Ceres on March 6, 2015 and then go into orbit for 16 months. Like the erstwhile planet Pluto, Ceres is designated as a dwarf planet. Never before visited by space craft, Ceres may contain an ocean of liquid water under its surface. Plumes of water vapor have been detected from several regions of Ceres. Water means the possibility of life, which we might be able to explore and sample in the future. It is closer to the earth than other floating oceans in the solar system. Take Europa, the moon of Jupiter, for example. It appears to have a huge hidden ocean. Unfortunately, Europa is contained in the radiation belt of Jupiter. High energy electrons and protons are raining down on its surface, making it a very unattractive place for human, or even robotic, exploration. Enceladus, a moon of Saturn, also has lakes of



Comparison of Earth, Moon, and Ceres.

water under its surface, but it is very far away. Ceres will be the first dwarf planet to be visited by space craft. The second encounter with a dwarf planet will come in July when the New Horizons spacecraft flies past Pluto. Dawn is supposed to undertake a 16-month study of Ceres once it gets into orbit, coming as close as 250 miles to its surface. When the fuel of Dawn is exhausted, it will be left as an artificial satellite orbiting Ceres. Models predicting its orbit have been run for the next hundred years and it appears to have a very stable orbit. It looks like Dawn will become a perpetual artificial satellite of Ceres: something for the ages!

Dawn is arriving at Ceres after a very successful sojourn orbiting Vesta, which is the second largest object in the asteroid belt. This 330-mile-wide rock has the appearance of an underinflated football, which, dare I say, looks slightly like a Patriot's deflated football. The

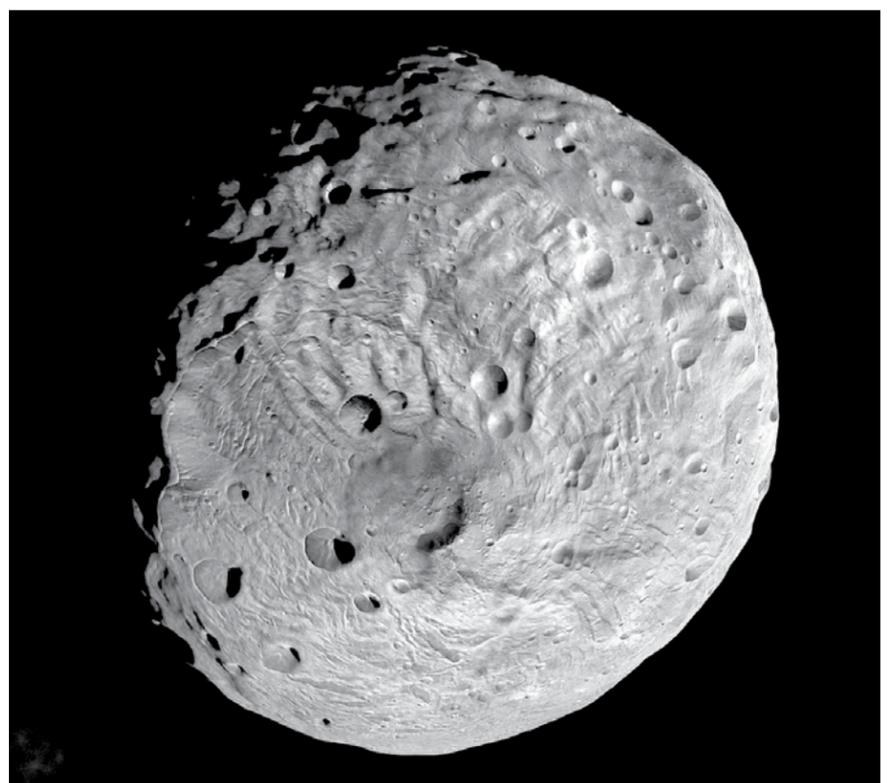


The Winter Triangle.

shape of Ceres is the result of a colossal collision that ripped away a big chunk out of its southern polar region. It is a special place. Vesta appears to have an inner core of iron. With the exception of the four inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) and Jupiter's moon Io, Vesta has the highest density of all known objects in the Solar System. Its surface area is approximately the same as that of Pakistan. Temperatures on the surface lie between about relatively balmy -4°F when the sun is overhead, to a low of -310°F at the pole at winter.

A fascinating discovery made by Dawn is the connection between Vesta and a class of meteorites, known as HED, which make up 6% of all meteorites that have fallen on the earth. Pyroxene, a mineral rich in iron and magnesium, is found in these meteorites and measurements of light reflected off the surface of Vesta show the presence of that same mineral. How absolutely wonderful! We don't need to visit Vesta in the future and bring home some of its surface. Bits and pieces have already arrived and haven't cost a cent!

It is likely that these meteorites were thrown off Vesta in big impacts at the southern pole. The Rhea Silvia crater measures some 475km in diameter, almost as large as the asteroid itself. About 250,000 cubic miles were excavated from Rhea Silvia, which is enough to fill the Grand Canyon a thousand times over. Some of that excavated material lies scattered across the surface of Vesta outside Rhea Silvia crater. Some have been propelled into space to form other asteroids. And finally, some of those fragments have reached (and will continue to reach) the earth as meteorites. We can estimate the age of surfaces of asteroids by counting the number of impact craters. Few such craters means that the surface is young; lots indicate battering over millennia. The pattern of craters on Vesta reveals that the great hole on its southern pole was gouged out a billion years ago.



South pole of Vesta.

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E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Are there still outspoken global warming deniers in Congress or the mainstream media? If so, what do they say when presented with scientific facts and anecdotal evidence pointing to an increasingly warming atmosphere?

—Ben

Charles, Cary, NC

Given the preponderance of data showing rising temperatures around the globe in recent decades—along with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events—it's hard to believe there are still any climate change deniers. But a recent survey by the non-profit Center for American Progress found that some 58% of Republicans in the U.S. Congress still "refuse to accept climate change." Meanwhile, still others acknowledge the existence of global warming but cling to the scientifically debunked notion that the cause is natural forces, not greenhouse gas pollution by humans.

One of the chief doubters in the U.S. House of Representatives is Texas Republican John Carter, who reports on his website that the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the East Anglia Climatic Research Unit in Great Britain—two of the world's foremost authorities

on the extent and severity of global warming—hid their own research results showing that world temperatures have not actually been rising, but in fact have been falling, over the past several years.

"We may or may not even be in a warming cycle," says Carter. "Even if we are, scientific evidence does not conclude that activity by man plays any significant role." Regardless, Carter supports more research and development of solar, wind, tidal and geothermal energy, along with the continued development of hybrid, natural gas and all-electric vehicles.

Another outspoken climate naysayer in Congress is House Science, Space & Technology Committee chair Lamar Smith, another Texas Republican, who calls the Obama administration's 2014 National Climate Assessment (which squarely pins the blame for global warming on human emissions) "a political document intended to frighten Americans into believing that any abnormal weather we experience is the direct result of human CO₂ emissions." He adds that "the Obama administration feels compelled to stretch the truth in order to drum up support for more costly and unnecessary regulations and subsidies."

Of course, the right side of the aisle in Congress isn't the only place you'll find climate change deniers. In a recent op-ed article that appeared on FoxNews.com, scientist and author Daniel Botkin comments that the 2014 National Climate Assessment "ignores . . . the real history of life itself: endlessly changing, highly adaptable, and never subject to the kind of stasis that the climate change consensus imagines, wrongly, to be Nature's ideal state." Plenty of other conservative media voices on Fox News and elsewhere are vocal in their skepticism about humans' (leading) role in climate change.



Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX), chair of the House Science, Space & Technology Committee, calls the Obama administration's 2014 National Climate Assessment—"a political document intended to frighten Americans into believing that any abnormal weather we experience is the direct result of human CO₂ emissions." NASA HQ, Flickr CC

But regardless of how persuasive some of these pundits might sound, the facts speak for themselves. IPCC reports that human influence on the climate system is "clear," with greenhouse gas emissions driven largely by economic and population growth skyrocketing to record levels and leading to atmospheric conditions unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. IPCC adds that greenhouse gas emissions are "extremely likely to have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century" and that warm-

ing will be a "very likely" catalyst for increased heat waves, extreme precipitation events, warmer oceans and higher sea levels.

CONTACTS: U.S. Representative John Carter (R-TX), carter.house.gov; U.S. Representative Lamar Smith, lamarsmith.house.gov; FoxNews, www.foxnews.com; IPCC, www.ipcc.ch.

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Weather recap for 2014

by Keno

Below is a wrap-up of the different kinds of weather Crestone experienced during 2014.

On **January 5**, the first new weather record of the year was set at the Baca/Crestone weather station with a record low high temperature reading of 15°, breaking the old record low high for the date of 16°. Then for the second day in a row, another record low high temperature was set on January 6 with a reading of 17°, breaking the old record for that date of 18°.

Two weather records were broken on January 24. First, the morning low temperature of -5.2° broke the old record low for the date of -4° set in 1991. Then in the afternoon, the high was only 20°, breaking the old record low high for the date of 22°.

A new daily record for precipitation of 0.16" was set on January 31. That broke the old record of 0.13", which was record in 2007. With only .25" of precipitation for the entire month of January, Crestone/Baca, for the seventh year in a row, started a new year off with below average precipitation.

February 1 saw 2 daily records broken. For the second day in a row a new daily record for precipitation was set with 0.10", barely breaking the record for the date of 0.09", reached in 1993. Then a new daily record snowfall of 2.1" was also reached. That broke the old record of 1.0", set in 2011.

On February 4, 2 more daily records were broken. First, a new record for precipitation was set with 0.11", breaking the record for the date of 0.10", reached in 2005. Plus a new daily record snowfall of 2.9" was also reached. That broke the old record of 1.8", set in 2005.

On February 9, and for the first time in 2014, the temperature went into the 40s. This was the first time temperatures went above the 40° mark since November 21, 2013. A record high temperature was tied on February 15 when the high went up to 55°; this record was first set in 1996. The low temp for the day of 32° also tied a record for the highest low for the date.

The first trace of rain for the year fell early for our area, on **March 1**. Then the first thunderstorm of 2014 occurred on March 7, but no rain fell, as the several claps of thunder heard took place as snow was falling. March, with only 3.6" of snow, turned out to have the fourth lowest snowfall totals ever for the month. It was also a very dry month, with 3 days recording humidity readings below 10%.

In **April 12** the low temperature (35°) never went below freezing. This marked the first time Crestone did not drop below freezing in a 24-hour period since October 29, 2013.

On April 13, 2 new records were set. First, a record snowfall



Crestone got a light dusting of snow that beautified all the trees, and we've had so many icicles this year! This shot was captured on 1/11/15. photo by Lori Nagel

was reached with 6.2" accumulating on the ground, breaking the old record for the date of 4.0", set in 1983. Also broken was the total liquid precip recorded, which came to .52", smashing the old record of .23", also set in 1983. On another snow note for this day was something unusual, yet something we've seen several times before in the springtime in greater Crestone, snow pellets falling with the temp at 51°; this took place around noon. Finally, we also saw blowing dust around 1pm, before a cold front hit town.

The first hail of the year, along with the first measurable rain of 2014, occurred on the same day, April 20, although only 0.01" of rain fell. Record snowfall took place on April 27, with 2.7" accumulating on the ground, breaking the old record for the date of 2.6", set in 2012.

On **May 12**, a record low high temperature was broken when the high only reach 46°, breaking the old mark of 48°. Then the next morning (May 13), a record low temperature was reach when the temperature fell to 22°, breaking the old record of 27°, first set back in 2008 and also reached in earlier years.

Two weather records were set on May 13. First, a record low high temp of only 39°, breaking the old mark of 46° for the day, set in 1982. Plus a record amount of snowfall for the date, as 1.2" accumulated. The old record was 1", also set in 1982. For May 14, a new record low temp was set at 20°; the old record was 23°, set in 2008.

On May 24, the Crestone/Baca weather station set a new record for precipitation for the date, when 0.68" of rain and hail fell in the afternoon. The old record was

.40", set in 2009. May ended up seeing 6 days with humidity values below 10%, including a 5% reading on May 5.

Two record high low temperatures were set in **June**; first on June 3, when the record of 52° was tied. That was first reached in 1994. Then on June 22 the record was broken when the temp only fell to 54°, eclipsing the old mark of 52° set in 2012.

June saw 12 days with the relative humidity below 10%, including a low of 4% on 2 days—June 4 and 5. This June was the second driest June on record, with only .09" of precipitation falling. The driest June ever was .07" of precip in 1998.

A record low high temperature was reached on **July 16** at 70°. The old record of 74° was reached in 2013. On July 19, the Crestone/Baca weather station tied a record low high temperature for the date at 73°. The old record was first reached in 1999.

On July 18, a record amount of precipitation fell for the date, at .33". The old record was .22", reached in 1984. On July 27, 0.48" of rain and hail fell during a 45-minute period starting around 3pm.

The warmest temperature of the year was reached on July 23 when it hit 90°. This marked 15 years in a row with at least one day of 90° or higher for Crestone/Baca, and also for 22 out of the last 23 years. Before that time, Crestone would see temperatures below 90° for an entire summer every other year on average.

A record low high of 71° was set on July 31; the old mark was 72°, set in 2009. July, with 3.53" of precip, turned out to be the sixth

continued on page B-5



Lotsa mamas hangin' out with their babies in spring 2014! This one of these cows and calves was taken on 3/22, just east of Crestone on Road T. photo by Lori Nagel



Daisies at the Artisans Gallery in 2014—a sure sign of summer!

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.

\$359,900



Listed by Home Savings Realty 719-588-4369



Beautiful fall colors near O'Haver Lake. Photo taken Sept. 21. photo by David Hillman

continued from page B-4

wettest July on record.

Two weather records were broken on **August 1**. First a record low high temperature for the date was set at 70°. The old record low high was 75°, set in 1999. Then a record amount of rain also fell, as 0.84" was recorded for the day, with .80" falling in less than an hour's time. The old record for the day was 0.42", set in 1998. On Aug 3, 0.41" of rain and hail fell in one hour's time.

On Aug 22, the record for the lowest high temperature for the date was smashed when the high only reached 59°. The old record was 69°, set in 1996. The 9% humidity value on Aug 17 was the first time since June 28 that Crestone/Baca saw a humidity reading below 10% and the only time this would occur in the month of August. This July was the first July in several years not to see such a reading.

Not a whole lot to report for **September** except that temperatures were very much above normal and on September 17 the first and only dry thunderstorm of the year occurred.

The first freezing date for the new season (2014-15) was reached on **October 1**, making it the ninth latest start to the season where we have seen this happen, and only the ninth time in 33 years that the first freeze has taken place in the month of October, instead of it happening in September. The normal first freeze date is around September 15.

On October 9, a record amount of precipitation was recorded (0.46") for the date, thanks from moisture leftover from former Hurricane Simon. The old record was 0.37", set in 2006. Hail fell for about 10 minutes on October 12 in the afternoon just before 1pm, with half an inch covering the ground by the time it ended.

The Crestone/Baca weather station tied a record high temperature at 69° for October 25, which

was first reached in 1999. A new record high low temperature was set for the date on October 26, at 41°, smashing the old record of 37°, reached way back in 1985. October turned out to be the 5th warmest October ever and the warmest in 11 years.

It wasn't much, but a record snowfall of 0.8" was recorded on **November 16**. The old mark was 0.5" in 2010. A record high temperature was tied for November 29 at 56°. This reading was first reached back in 1999.

On **December 14**, a new record for liquid precipitation was set for the date with .39" recorded. The old record was 0.25" reached in 2012. Also, a record snowfall for the date was tied with 4.3" falling. This record was first reached in 2012.

Although most years in Crestone see a white Christmas, it's usually because of snow that is already on the ground from previous storms. It rarely snows on Christmas Day here, and when it does, the snow is light. For Xmas 2014, it not only snowed, but a record snowfall of 6.6" was recorded, breaking the old record of 1.4", set in 2008. Also broken was the daily precipitation for the date, as .26" was collected in the rain gauge, breaking the old mark of .09", also reached in 2008.

On December 26, the Crestone/Baca weather station broke another 2 records for snowfall and precipitation for the date. The 5.3" of snow that fell broke the old record amount of 2.0", set in 1987. Also broken was the total precipitation amount for the date which was also set in 1987, that being .10"; the new mark is .18".

December ended with new record high for snowfall set for in the month, with 25.0" falling, breaking the old record of 21.6", set back in 1983. **For the entire year, 14.36"** of liquid precipitation was recorded, making it 2 years in a row of above average precipitation falling in our area.

Adoption—random acts of love News from Crestone's PetPartners

Adoption, the act of taking responsibility to care for and nurture another creature in need, whether a child, dog, cat or other, is probably one of the greatest acts of love. During the past year PetPartners has placed about fifty dogs, cats and horses in new homes in our community. Cheers to these acts of love by members of our community. Here's a heartwarming story of a recent adoption.

Nikki & Milo—a love story

Nikki is my 17-year-old Husky mix. She lived about 8 years alone on the streets of Houston before a group I belonged to rescued her, and I adopted her nearly 10 years ago. She has been an awesome, loving, very maternal dog. For the past year she has been showing her age: poor eyesight, pain in her hind legs, lower energy and mental confusion. In spite of all this, she's still a very happy, loving dog.



Nikki and Milo.

A little over two months ago a PetPartners friend rescued a small, starving, injured cat on Hwy. 17 and brought him to us. Though he

was about 8 or 9 months old, he only weighed a little more than 4 pounds and had an open coyote bite on his rear quarters. He was a pitiful little guy.

I thought I would nurture and foster him until he was healthy and we could find a permanent home for him. Nikki thought differently. When I brought him home Nikki immediately sensed that he was injured and frail. She went up to him, sniffed out the situation and then started to lick him like a mother dog would do to one of her small puppies. She let him sleep on her back that first night, and let him eat from her bowl, something she would never let a dog do. He seemed to know Nikki would take care of him.

After a day or two of watching Nikki's behavior and the cat's response, it occurred to me that Nikki wanted to nurture and love him and that he felt safe and comforted by her. Then I thought, "Well, why can't she adopt him?" I have never had a cat (don't know the first thing about caring for them) and Nikki and our other dog, Ollie, generally avoid them (because they know they're not supposed to chase cats). On the other hand, Nikki is an extremely instinctually nurturing animal, and taking care of a new "baby" at this stage of her life would be healthy and joyful for her, and he obviously needed nurturing. So Nikki adopted a cat.

We named him Milo. He's healthy now and weighs about 10 pounds. The wound has healed completely. Now he plays with Nikki, biting her face or tail. She tolerates it for brief periods, then shoos him off. She still lets him eat from her bowl, and he still sleeps with her every night. Like most adoptions, it has been positive and beneficial all the way around. Even Ollie and I think Nikki's cat is kind of cool. (We call him the "Cog" because we're raising him like a dog). Nikki loves her kitty.

Adoption & fostering—opportunities for random acts of love

Adoption and fostering are important aspects of the successful husbandry of animals in our small community. Please call PetPartners at 719-588-6431 if you are available to adopt or foster during 2015, and tell us whether you're interested in a dog, puppy, cat, kitten, other or any in need. We maintain an on-going list so when a home is needed we have loving friends to call. Opportunities for random acts of love await you!

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As the Worm Turns Honeybee forage flowers

by Leigh Mills

I didn't grow many flowers during my early gardening years. If it wasn't food, I wasn't growing it. After we got our first colony of honeybees, I started growing lots of flowers because I realized they were food . . . for the bees! During the next few years I noticed which flowers the honeybees frequented and which ones they didn't and started adding more honeybee-friendly varieties into the garden. I also realized that having the flowers also attracted pollinators to my vegetable flowers, thereby increasing my vegetable and fruit harvests.

Internet research provided websites that listed honeybee forage plants with the amount of pollen and/or nectar (listed below). One website

listed the "Top 5 Honeybee Favorites" and two of them can be "noxious" or invasive: Goldenrod and Tansy. Motherwort is another great honeybee plant, but it easily spreads. Be mindful of these different characteristics when choosing forage plants.

There is a wide selection of plants that support honeybees. The photos show a handful of popular honeybee flowers at our homestead and here are a few more that could grow in our area:

- Fruit trees are a good source of early pollen and nectar. The ornamental varieties are best avoided since they don't give the same kind of nutrition needed—do some research to see what kinds are best for the bees and your garden.

- Milkweed is another awesome plant that feeds butterflies and bees (but beware—it can be toxic to grazing animals -Ed.). It grows wild in our area and is easy to cultivate in home gardens.

- Clover is an excellent, reliable source of food for honeybees. There are several varieties of clover. Yellow and White Sweet Clover honey is flavorful, abundant, and popular. It also makes a great cover crop.

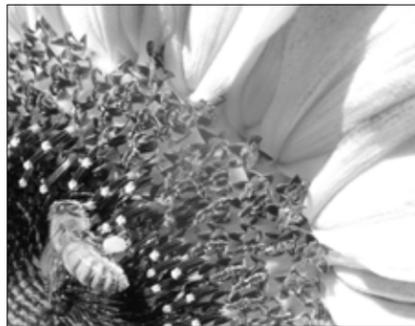
- Melissa, or Lemon Balm, is a medicinal herb containing lots of nec-



Dandelion: Many gardeners despise this plant, but it offers some of the best spring nutrition to honeybees . . . and humans.



Rocky Mountain Bee Plant: This long-blooming plant grows well all over our area and feeds all kinds of pollinators throughout the growing season.



All varieties of sunflowers provide nectar and pollen for the honeybees. It's great seeing the bees crawl around the sunflower heads and coat themselves with pollen.



Poppies: All kinds of poppies are a good source of pollen, especially the bigger flowers (Papaver somniferum). When my purple poppies are blooming, the honeybees rarely visit any other flower.

tar which the bees transform into a delicate honey.

There are many internet sources to help you research honeybee forage plants. Here are the ones I used for this article:

- For the Love of Bees - www.fortheloveofbees.com/planting-for-bees
- Wikipedia - <http://bit.ly/1Cvh8RQ>
- The Melissa Garden - <http://bit.ly/1BkgTF9>
- USDA National Agroforestry Center - <http://1.usa.gov/1uxQotr>

This spring and summer, add or increase the amount of pollinator plants in your yard, garden, field or



Bachelor Buttons (Cornflower)—I've noticed the bees will ignore these flowers until the end of the season in our garden. Then they are all over them, gathering nectar for the hive's winter stores. These are some of the last flowers the bees will visit before the Heyokah garden goes to sleep.

farm and help strengthen the honeybee populations.

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 about how Leigh cultivates life with Adventures, Homestead Skills, and Life Practices.



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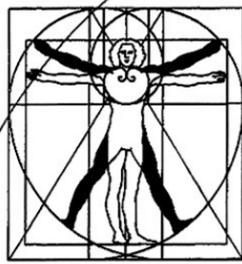


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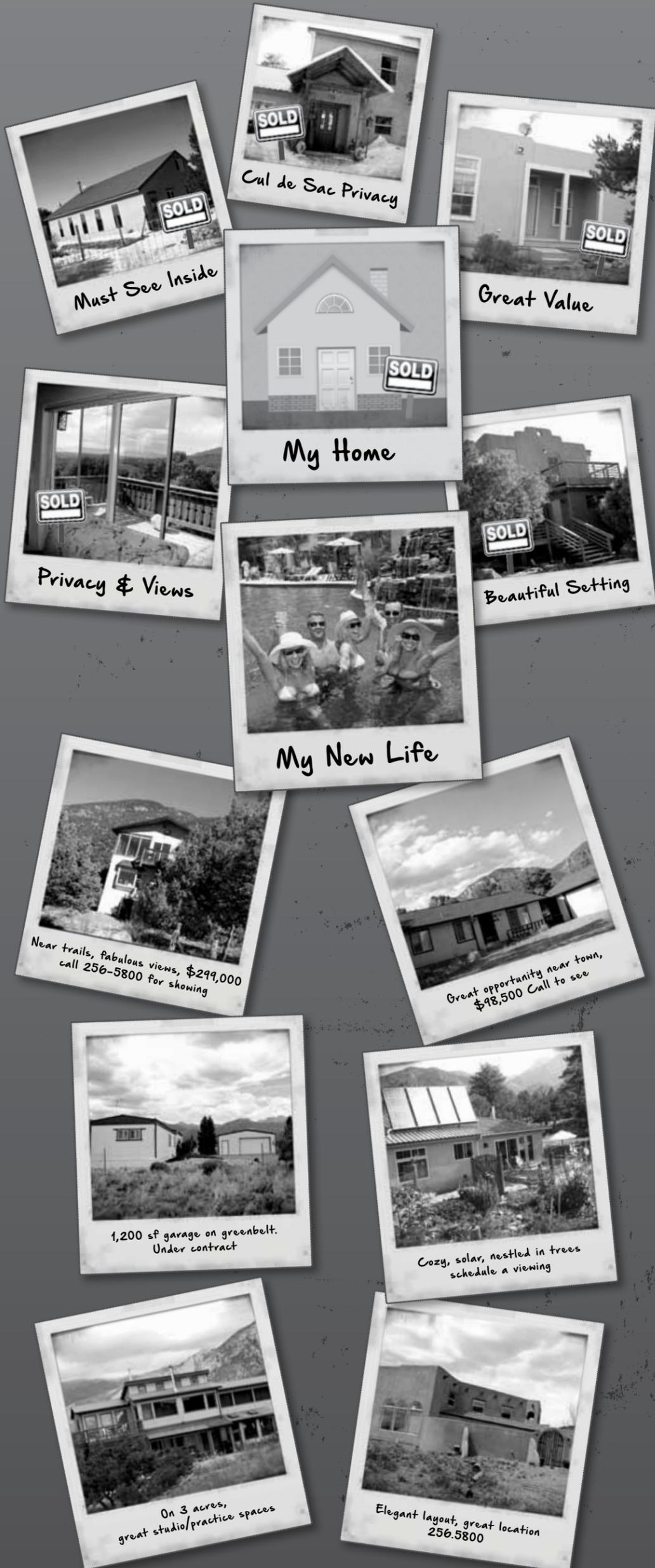
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"Building in the Baca Grande"

SAMANTHA HALL - BRANCH MANAGER - SAN LUIS VALLEY FEDERAL
"Qualifying for a home mortgage & new loan programs"

JEFF MOTZ & SHERYL DURAN - SOUTHWEST TITLE & MOTZ LAW FIRM
"Real estate law and title issues"

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\$475,000 Owner Financing. Established B&B retreat business. Property features main house 2 bedrooms and an exquisite master suite. Attached apartment and meditation yurt. 699777



\$450,000. 12 acres, creek runs through, on greenbelt. Trees & spectacular mountain views. Prime equestrian property, facilities. Massive log hogan, cabin & additional small retreat hogan. 699735



\$395,000 Unique property with two units and office space, 3BD, 2.3/4BA, full sauna, 33' grow dome, orchard. Borders greenbelt, and Cottonwood Creek. 699764



\$330,000 Amazing contemporary home on 1 acre with separate 1BD apartment above the detached garage. Kitchen features all the modern amenities. 699754



\$275,000 Historic 1910 adirondack-style lodge. 3643 sq. ft. 2 acre homestead. Walk to town. Great room with mineral stone fireplace. Gardens, orchards and outbuildings. 699741



\$269,500 Just north of town, 5 acres with North Crestone Creek running through it! Secluded 960 sq. ft. home. About 200 feet of creek. 681507



\$255,000 4BD 2 BA 2519 sq. ft. home. Oversized 2 car garage on 1.5 acres. Located next to the national Park with panoramic views and quietude. 699753



\$249,500 Large home on 7+ acres in the Grants, tons of charm! Built in 1998, 2555 sq. ft. with additional guest cottage, out-buildings, off-grid for self-sustainability. 699783



\$245,000 2BD 2BA Large contemporary-style home with an additional studio. 2 propane fireplaces & one wood hearthstone fireplace. 699732



\$245,000 Cozy energy efficient straw bale home on 2.5 acres near Cottonwood Creek and greenbelt. Elegant feel as you enter the front door. 2 car oversized carport with workshop area. 700945



\$239,000 2BD 2BA, spacious straw bale home. Radiant heat and a wood burning stove. Amazing views off decks and patio. Creek meanders through the property! 699757



\$229,000 5BD 3.75 BA with additional room off Master suite. Kitchen has plenty of cabinet space. Attached 2 car garage. 699746



\$215,000 This home has 40 acres with an artesian well. The lovely home has 3BD 3BA. Horse set-up, equipment barn and fenced pastures. 699756



\$199,000 Secluded beautiful home on 40 acres. Completely off-grid with top-of-the-line solar system. Two bedrooms, office, formal dining room, nice outbuilding. 360 degree views. 700012



\$199,900 New construction, 2BD 1.5BA. Backs to greenbelt & Cottonwood Creek. Passive solar, earth mass floor warm, year round. Custom kitchen with Maple cabinets. Bathroom has a garden tub. 699761



\$195,000 Superbly constructed monolithic dome with R-60 energy efficiency. Extremely fire and element resistant structure. 5BD 2BA. Has large quonset for multiple uses. 699782



\$189,500 Cozy 3BD 2BA 1500 sq. ft. beautifully situated Victorian Ross Chapin cottage. ETS & baseboard heat. Built with attention to detail, has high ceilings, sky-lights & fenced-in back yard. 699770



\$189,000 3BD 2BA home with a larger Master in the upstairs loft. With amazing views from porch. Kitchen features built-in range oven, refrigerator, and dishwasher. 699742



\$179,500 3BD 2BA 1434 sq. ft. cute Victorian Ross Chapin cottage home. ETS & baseboard heat. High ceilings, skylights, private balcony with amazing views. Convenient to town. 699771



\$179,500 Recently remodeled, bright, spacious, cozy duplex with private patios 5BD 3BA. Conveniently located on the edge of town. close to charter school & grocery stores 699772



\$179,000 Creek side home! Large fireplace, spacious kitchen. Great vacation home, deck with hot tub views of the Sangre De Cristos. 699746



\$179,000 Great 5.25 acres for horses or dogs. Backs to Willow Creek greenbelt for trail riding. Thoughtfully built straw bale, 3BR, 2BA home. Solar hot water. 699780



\$169,900 Walking distance to Dharma Ocean Institute. High up on the mountain with amazing panoramic views. 2BD 1.5BA and office. 699803



\$165,000 Charming home! 4BD 2BA, newly painted, new wood laminate floors upstairs. Large green house in the back of the house. 699751



\$158,000 Great getaway home near Cottonwood Creek. Builders own home, great room with vaulted ceilings, quality craftsmanship, loft could be guest area. 6997324



\$150,000 Nestled in between the town of Crestone and Chalets I. 2 floors containing 2bd, 2ba, bright spacious living room with high ceilings, private balcony and patio areas. 699773



\$147,000 Beautiful Baca Meadows Town Home. 2 floors containing 2BD and 2BA, spacious living room with high ceilings, private balcony and patio areas. Convenient to town 699781



\$68,000 Mechanics Special! Garage has a pit for changing oil, and lots of room for tools, and the car buff! Additional storage & garage area on back of home. 1 acre in Lazy KV. 699778



\$54,900 Ranch style home on 75 acres, 2 bedroom 2 bath nice mountain views. County maintained road, close to the Town of Saguache. Great for mini farm, horses and gardening. 699789



\$49,500 Great price for Casita Park. Walking distance to the Library, tennis courts, golf and restaurant. Great retirement home! Nice stucco finish and sweeping views. 699736



\$44,900 Handyman special on 1.85 acres, tremendous views, on private cul-de-sac, household well. 699739



\$44,900 Nice open floor plan, with spacious kitchen, separate dining room, and wood burning stove in living room. There is a community fishing pond and clubhouse. 699737



\$44,500 Bank foreclosure on lot with fantastic views, in a secluded area. Large living room and kitchen, walk-in pantry, 3 BD 2 BA, near golf course. 699740

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I was thrilled to be so close to these gentle animals. This is Dora, who is expecting any day now. We had all gathered by the barn entrance and she kept putting her head down to see if I had treats for her.

Camels

continued from page B-1

take about 10 minutes or so. But since they are operating a raw milk dairy, it takes up to 2 hours at a time to milk, clean, prep, sterilize, and bottle. The demand for camel's milk makes it all worthwhile, though.

Meghan and Matt were inspired to homestead and run a dairy operation with camels after reading an article in *Grit* magazine. Many people are starting to drink camels' milk, which helps them heal from various physical illnesses. "Camel milk is easy to digest, is nourishing, and has been shown to help and rehabilitate immune systems." According to the Mudita brochure, it is reported to help with diabetes, autism, multiple sclerosis, and milk and food allergies. Since the dairy's milk is raw, its sale is restricted. Matt and Meghan studied the pros and cons of herd shares and decided to organize as a Private Member Association (PMA) instead. Life-time membership fees are nominal and members can purchase raw camel's milk, Kefir, or Meghan's homemade chocolate fudge when available. Demand is high and production low right now, but that will be changing soon when Dora gives birth.

Homestead animals are expected to be well-rounded in their gifts and talents. Camels are similar to ruminants, so their poop can be used in the garden without having to cure (I enjoyed having rabbits and goats on our homestead for this purpose). Meghan hand-felts camel fiber into hats, booties, and wine koosies, and Meghan's mom likes making soap from the milk.

The camels themselves can become a return on the initial investment, too, since a well-trained gelding can fetch up to \$10,000. I asked Matt about eating camel meat and he shook his head and said "While some cultures eat camels, they aren't traditionally eaten in the US because they are so unique".

Matt and Meghan are dedicated to their camel homesteading vision ("There's no turning back!") and have plans to expand the herd to accommodate the rising demand for camels' milk and other camel products. Check out their Indiegogo campaign, too: <http://igg.me/at/Mudita-Camels>, where you can support the dairy and receive your choice of perks in return. "Big Mama's" camel milk soap is available in local stores and the dairy welcomes visitors (by appointment). On Saturdays, you can find Matt and/or Meghan at the Elephant Cloud market in Crestone where they network with community members about the health benefits of camels' milk and sign up new members. The dairy has a facebook page: MuditaCamels and their website is www.MuditaCamels.com.

I learned a lot visiting with Matt and Meghan and deeply appreciated them sharing their time, space, and camels with me. Thank you!

Here are some of the people and resources that helped Matt and Meghan achieve their success so far, and maybe they can help you achieve yours:

Marlin Troyer: Camel Milk Association - www.camelmilkassociation.org

Gil and Nancy Riegler: Oasis Camel Dairy - www.cameldairy.com/home.html

Doug Baum: Texas Camel Corps - <http://texascamelcorps.com>

Kyle Hendrix - Camelot Camel Dairy - www.camelotcameldairy.com

Joseph and Nicole Henderson: Colorado Camel Milk - www.coloradocamelmilk.com

Health benefits of camel milk: www.nrtoday.com/news/12332626-113/milk-camel-dairy-com

Camel Milk Magic: www.camelmilkmagic.com

Camel Milk for Health - www.facebook.com/pages/Camel-Milk-for-Health/130614673682246

Grit magazine: www.grit.com/departments/camel-milk-dairy.aspx#axzz3PeSOmGZX



Skullcap

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Herbs for stress



Stress seems to be epidemic in our society today, and even our beautiful little part of the world is not immune to it. Whether it's financial stress, situational stress or cabin fever, it takes a toll on our health and enjoyment of life. While our plant alliances can't take away the cause of our stress, they can certainly help us relax and deal with things in a better way. As humans we tend to be very hard on ourselves, especially when things are not going the way we think they should. Bringing herbs into our lives is a way to treat ourselves more gently.

I've mentioned Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*) before and it deserves another mention. It's one of my favorites for stress, as its very grounding and helps us to be more present in our lives without getting sleepy. The Latin name literally means "lion hearted". A few droppers full of the tincture is all that's needed.

Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) is another favorite. Chamomile is best as a tea, and is mild enough for babies. Its benefits also include being a digestive tonic. The homeopathic version is commonly used for teething babies. Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is another herb best used as a tea. It has been called the "happy herb" and has been used for mild depression. Use Lemon Balm fresh or freshly dried as its potency fades quickly.

None of these three herbs is

native to this area, but Motherwort has made itself quite at home in the moister places and the other two can easily be grown in gardens or container gardens. Wild lettuce (*Lactuca spp.*), however, is local. I've seen it growing many places in town. It is a mild sedative herb, which I use in my sleep formula along with Skullcap (*Scutellaria spp.*) and Valerian (*Valeriana spp.*)

There are so many fabulous herbs that can help with stress—these are just a few of my favorites. Honorable mention goes to St. John's Wort, Lavender, Pulsatilla, Oatstraw and Oatseed.

Last, but not least, be sure to take extra good care of yourself during times of stress. The body's need for nutrients rises during these times and paying extra attention to eating well, staying well hydrated, and getting ample sleep can prevent some of the negative effects of stress. And since stress contracts the body (and mind!) look for ways to increase flow in all areas of life. Yoga, Tai Chi, brisk walks in nature, and cardio workouts are a few suggestions, all of which are amply available to us in Crestone!

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

Mudita Camel Dairy Help Get Us Over the Hump!



The Mudita Camel Dairy had a great first year!

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Check out our Indiegogo Campaign at: <http://igg.me/at/Mudita-Camels>.

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- Handcrafted Camel Keepsake Box or Special Glass Piece.

Contact the Mudita Camel Dairy for more information:

www.MuditaCamels.com - 303-550-1482 - muditacamels@gmail.com

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FEB 2015 Listings



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Casita Park
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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

Under Contract



UNDER CONTRACT!
WAS \$669,000
4460C Ridgecrest Way - NOW \$375,000
Residential Retreat Complex w/3025sf central complex w/Chartres labyrinth as the centerpiece. 1000sf 2/1 home; 450sf office; 707sf yurt plus grow dome. A beautiful property.

WAS UNDER CONTRACT!



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.

New Listing



3615CR Splendid Terrace - \$275,000
1938sf 3BD/2.5BA, meticulous, Southwestern style home with arched windows & doorways sits on 1.719 acres. 400sf detached Casita Apt w/kitchenette & full bath.

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 Forbes Hotel. 9bd/3BA 3600sf; detached 22x24 studio, 500ft artesian well. Great business potential for B&B, hotel /retreat center.

Town of Crestone



Reduced! Was \$499,000
Crescentia in 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!



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!



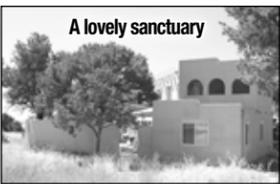
1967 Rockyview Way - \$465,000
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck.



Was \$459,000
786C Panorama Way - \$427,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w/ 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!



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.



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



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!



Was \$349,000
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.



WAS \$279,000
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!



WAS \$297,000
Very Private
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.



MILLION \$ VIEWS!
Reduced! Was \$299,000
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/ kitch.



A lovely sanctuary
WAS \$245,000
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.



Great Reduction! Was \$259,000
4454C Ridgecrest Way - \$229,000
Beautiful custom 2-story, 3BD/2.5BA/Office on 1.508 acres backs to Cottonwood Creek gmbt. Master Ste w/ attached sun room & meditation room. Energy-efficient quality construction.



Was \$169,000
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.



Reduced! - Was \$212,000
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.



Reduced! Was \$209,000
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!



WAS \$195,000
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.



Was \$169,000
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.



Was \$169,000
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.



WAS \$139,000
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.

Baca Grande - Grants



Was \$115,000
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.



Grants in Trees
20+ acres!
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.



Reduced! Was \$355,000
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.



11.94 Acres + Garage/Apt!
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.



Was \$249,000
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.



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



Reduced! - WAS \$149,000
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!

Happy Valentines Day!

"You have a 30 year mortgage, a 5 year car lease, and a lifetime gym membership...but you're afraid of commitment?"



DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

The recurring dream I've been having is about a new state, somewhere in the area where Washington, Oregon, and Idaho meet. This new state is in between the mountains of central Idaho and the rolling Palouse wheat country of eastern Washington. It is arid, wild, and full of alluring and isolated mountain ranges. Its far flung towns remind me of vibrant university communities like Lawrence, Kansas, only a little more rugged and out on the edge. I'm not sure how I know this state is fresh territory, a state somehow left out of the Rand McNally Road Atlas, but I do.

When I moved out west forty years ago, I spent many hours pouring over a tattered Rand McNally. I wondered about place names like Laramie, Meeteetse, Yaak River, Walla Walla, The Badlands, Winnemucca, Show Low. What were those places like? Who lived there? What was the road like between Afton and Smoot, Wyoming or Boulder and Escalante, Utah, or Ouray and Silverton, Colorado? Now I have traveled most western highways, as well as many washboarded, boulder-laden, dust-clouded dirt roads that are too obscure to earn a color on any roadmap.

I mention all of this to help explain the great excitement I felt in dreaming up some fresh geography. I felt euphoric like a newcomer to Crestone. We listen to their plans for self-fulfillment in this end-of-the-road Shangri-la, all the while thinking, "give it a year or two, and then we'll talk." Nevertheless that initial excitement is real and pure—a kind of geographical intoxication that I've certainly known.

Further reflecting on my own dream, I acknowledged my attachment to the southwest. Much as I like the northern Rockies, I would prefer to dream up a state closer to this neighborhood, one that would extend our home geography—the Sangre de Cristos, the south San Juans, and the high llanos down by Ute and San Antonio Mountains. If I had driven my dream into the geography of a new and relatively

unknown state, full of artisans, and small ranchers and farmers, mountain people, lots of wild places, and a bright blue political demographic, I would have felt even more euphoric.

And so began a little parlor game. I began to ask friends and family, where they would place their imagined state. What would it look like? Who would be living there? What would its boundaries be? What would they name it? One friend said they would annex British Columbia after which I made a new rule forbidding international land grabs. My daughter's boyfriend said his new state would spread from Texas further into the Gulf of Mexico to take advantage of oil resources. My wife Grace, showing her true Coloradan colors, suggested a major mountain range along the western border of Texas, so that wealthy Texans wouldn't have to colonize northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. They could build their own ski villages and frack themselves silly on the other side of those mountains.

As far as my own dream state is concerned, it would be a one-hundred-mile extension of what we have in southern Colorado. I would lengthen the Sangres, the Rio Grande, the south San Juan Mountains, and the San Juan River. I would extend the La Plata Range near Durango to the south and I would stretch the Lukuchukai Mountains in New Mexico farther north. We would have more mountains, more rivers, more llano, more hot springs. More of everything and everyone we already have. New land. Tierra Nueva.

SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Chris Botz

The pendulum of heartbeats has brought us to another year. This year's formal training will be opened with Peter May, teaching the basic wildland firefighting course (130/190), plus the review for those already having the courses, at the Baca Firehouse in March. The schedule will be in the March Smoke Column. All personnel already having taken the course are cordially invited to attend the review and there will be slots available for members of the public. There will be a pack test in early April.

2014 was a good year for the community since there were only eight fires, all of them small, quickly controlled and extinguished. There were no serious injuries or extensive damage to property.

The last year's training has the average firefighter at two hundred hours or more of training, ten months every Saturday for five hours, plus two Tuesdays a month taught by Robin Durance on the basics of ICS and firefighting. Thanks Raboon.

Thanks to Todd Ryker for working with the POA administration and board to get us Engine 1. The fire department will be undergoing the ISO review and inspection this February. Hopefully we will lower our rating for the insurance industry.

We have strengthened our Mutual Aid responses and Automatic Response with the

Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District (NSCFPD). Which brings us to the good news/bad news for us as firefighters and as a community: The good news is for Erin, Talmath, Mica and Samuel Lakai. They are moving to the Front Range to take good jobs. The bad news is that we lose Talmath's detailed knowledge and physical experience at the Crestone Firehouse. Thank you so much Talmath and Erin, and best wishes for this next chapter in your lives.

Remember: your wood stove ashes are the most likely cause of a fire at this time of year. In the case of stove fires, close the stove door, dial 911 and move outside.

Student roll call: Ivan Lakish in Paramedic School at St. Anthony's, Lakewood, CO; Brissa Storey, Darrell Rollins and Amadou Ndao in EMT basic course in Center. Thanks to them for their commitment and thanks to Pam Gripp and the POA for sending them.

Again we would like to encourage anyone who has special circumstances at their home, such as O₂, to feel free to stop by or call to let us know. 719-256-4781, or 719-256-4171 x16.

Our sincere invitation still stands to drop by the Baca Firehouse any time you see us there. We are happy to answer your questions or accept your suggestions.



Chimney Sweep Service

by David Lindsey
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In Search of Economic Reality

The super wealthy have taken over the world

by Ed Lyell

Oxfam released its annual report on world wealth concentration the week before the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. This is the annual meeting of the richest and most powerful people in the world. The invited attendees include corporate CEOs, national political leaders, top academics, and the central bankers of the world. It is where, according to many people, the big economic deals are made each year. The public meetings are ok, but since press are not allowed it is alleged that many private meetings are held leading to regional monopolies and cartels which are prohibited by anti-trust laws in the USA and Europe.

The world's economy is now a global entity with multiple industries controlled by a few big companies who seem to agree to raise prices, increase profit, and shut down competition. Think airlines, soda pop, alcohol, food, and so many other products and services. A few top accounting firms control both the books and the audits of these multi-national corporations. A few

big banks dominate both retail and investment banking and compete on the margin while acting much like a cartel. Their investors do not have their own money at risk and make money from the millions of little people's deposits while having taxpayers pay for losses from risky behavior. Thus profit goes to the already wealthy, and cyclical economic loss is picked up by middle class tax payers, worldwide.

The Oxfam report clarifies how well this top-down system works for those on top. The healthy capitalism that expanded the middle class 70 years ago is gone. The world no longer has a healthy form of capitalism but has reverted to the top-down dynasties that have ruled the world for centuries. Today's difference is that the wealth and power is global and no longer regional. Thus the elite powerful Chinese leaders cut deals with Middle Eastern oil dictators, while making agreements with CEOs and elected officials from the USA, Europe and other parts of the world.

The world's richest 1% have more than half of the globe's total

wealth, as Oxfam reported in their study. The 80 wealthiest people in the world altogether own \$1.9 trillion, nearly the same amount shared by the 3.5 billion people who occupy the bottom half of the world's income scale. (Last year, it took 85 billionaires to equal that figure.)

Worldwide it is dysfunctional government that has been corrupted by the money, whether so called democracies, dictatorships, or Chinese communist leaders. Look at the billions of US dollars that were sent to Iraq and Afghanistan and vanished into the hands of their leaders. This concentrated wealth and power keeps expanding police states, including the USA. Heavily-armed local and state police are paid twice as much as teachers and others who have more years of training. In San Francisco the police average over \$100,000 a year in pay with just two years of training. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show municipal police make more than civil engineers (\$87,090), architects (\$85,050) and rank-and-file firefighters (\$71,810). With overtime many police make over \$200,000 a year. A dysfunctional retirement system permits their retirement to be based on their last year's salary, which can be doubled by cashing in stored vacation and sick leave. Thus police and fire in many cities retire after twenty

years on more than \$100,000 per year, some with totally free health care for life. This sweetheart deal separates police and fire workers from other workers and makes them beholden to protect the wealthy and powerful. The specifics are unclear, yet history shows that every time wealth and power is so concentrated, and most people are worse off each year, they rise up, look around, and cause dramatic change, peacefully, politically, or through violence. In my mind the US, and many other countries, are on the verge of armed revolution, like the Arab Spring in the Middle East.

Around 1992 the famous author and Quaker James Michener talked to some of us at a Quaker meeting. He was asked what he thought would be the future of America. His answer seemed strange at the time but is playing out in our reality. Michener said that the so called race riots of the 1960's were really about poverty and lost opportunity but were labeled as racial to avoid discussing the real economic causes. Recently we have experienced similar uprisings. Michener said that the real test would be when the police and national guard were called out to put down urban riots by hopeless poor people; would the police and military shoot into a crowd that looked like them, or turn around and shoot their richer white officers and thus start the next revolution.

Is this our future?

Ed Lyell PhD. Professor of Business and Economics, Adams State University (edlyell@amigo.net) Facebook- dredlyell

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WOODMAN DESIGN



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- add another bedroom?
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Home design in the Moffat/Crestone/Baca area for 25 years; local references.

Janet Woodman
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woodmandesign@fairpoint.net

Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Some of our long-time patrons are just discovering the advantages of being able to access their library accounts online. It is possible to see

what items are checked out with their due dates, to renew items, and to order books and videos from other libraries to be delivered here. Setting up the online account is easy—if you need help just call us at the library, and we can give you instructions over the phone at 256-4100. We will also verify that your information is correct if you are having problems logging in. Our union catalog (AspenCat) includes over seventy other Colorado libraries with over a million holdings, so the chances are high that you can find what you want—and more!

Our current weekly reading program, “Stories for Little Ones,” geared towards infants through age 4, is still going strong. It is facilitated by our favorite storyteller Penny from the Saguache Public Library and is held each Tuesday morning from 10am to 10:45am (or until everyone gets cranky!). Please bring your little one(s) to this program and get an early start on a love of reading that can last a lifetime. There is no registration required—just come when you can.

For the newcomers in town, we extend a warm invitation to come

visit the library. We look small from the outside, but many treasures lie within! There is a resource center with public computers and printer, and we offer copying, laminating and faxing services (fees apply). There is an entire video room and a children’s reading room, plus a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books. Our alternative building and spirituality sections are among the best in the valley. We would love to show you around.

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

LOCAL LODGING

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

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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

New Home for YOU

Chalet I home, 3bd/2b, detached garage/workshop, grow-dome, propane heat, wood-stove, decks. Circular driveway/quiet cul-de-sac. Two extra lots, tap fee paid. Motivated seller, all offers considered. \$129,900, 719-256-4016

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Furnished 2 BR, 2 BA house in Chalet 1

Furnished 2 BR, 2 BA house in Chalet 1. Pellet stove and ETS, large screened porch. Walking distance to Charter School. \$650 plus utilities, 6-12 month lease. No pets. 719-937-7786. Photos: <http://www.crestonegenie.com/houses-for-rent.html>

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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 2014-008, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2002-02 (An Ordinance Adopting a Sewage Collection System for the Town of Crestone, Colorado)" was adopted December 8, 2014.

Approved: Kairina Danforth, Mayor

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 St. We take almost everything! For more details call 303-503-9975; visit us on Facebook and at recyclecreede.org.

Computer Service/Repairs

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

IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN!

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

Outlets, Wiring, Network and Satellite: Home and Office

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

Help Wanted

FT Maintenance Assistant

The Baca POA is seeking a FT Maintenance Assistant. Must be 21 years of age with a valid CO Driver's License. Knowledge of mowers and golf course equipment, turf watering systems and maintenance is desirable. Some carpentry, plumbing and electrical skills are required. Contact the Baca POA for application.

Software Company in Crestone!

We are hiring.

Seeking: 1) Bootstrap Web Developer 2) SaaS Client Manager 3) enterprise software Sales. Needed skills: E-Commerce, database experience, & technical onboarding. Fast learners only need apply. Long-term opportunity. www.SilverEarth.com

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After 25 great years, it is time to retire, and, yes, *The Crestone Eagle* is for sale. Small town newspapers are important and profitable businesses, especially in towns with a strong sense of community. The Eagle speaks to a place and a lifestyle that will continue to attract people no matter how the world changes in the future. This is a singular opportunity to make a difference in a community through print and digital media. We need a good steward for the future. Please call if you think you may be the one.

*Please direct all inquiries to our broker,
Vivia Lawson: (719) 256-5800
Please do not contact the Eagle offices.
All inquiries will be mutually confidential.*

...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

Misc. Wanted

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.

WANTED: Bodhisattvas

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

Misc. for Sale

Items for Sale

Nearly new Gia Wellness i-H2o system \$450 BO, exercise bike \$30, stainless steel Maytag range vent \$50, weight bench \$30, 100+ one gallon plastic jugs \$20. Call 937-7942.

Queen size mattress for sale

Queen size mattress for sale. Excellent condition,\$75. Pics at Merc & Cloud. Call Mae @ 719-588-6471 if interested.

Aeroponic Indoor Growing Systems

Grow your own organics indoors year round. Completely automatic and easy setup. From \$49 per month, Contact Rich Adams: (720)560-6782 richardadams4724@comcast.net, www.richardadams.towergarden.com

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94 Honda Accord \$1,600 Excellent mechanical shape. automatic, good tires. Front wheel drive good in snow. 719 937 1419 gudfraym@mac.com

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Community Service

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

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

Need a Caregiver?

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

Lost and Found

Lost Pedestal

LOST: Gray carpeted pedestal, left outside the old schoolhouse on November 8th. If found, please call 480-4747.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 2015-001, "An Ordinance Correcting The Enumeration Of A Specific Section Relating To Ordinance 2003-005 (An Ordinance Identifying, Making Illegal, And Abating Certain Nuisances In The Town Of Crestone, CO)" was adopted January 12, 2015

Approved: Kairina Danforth, Mayor

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

Free

Free Manure

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

Marvelous Mattress!

Full size BeautyRest mattress, Firm Plush, less than a year old. Turns out I need Extra-Firm, so this one has to go. 256-5657.

Designing the Earth Anew Together:

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

**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

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by Keno
What exactly is the wind chill factor?

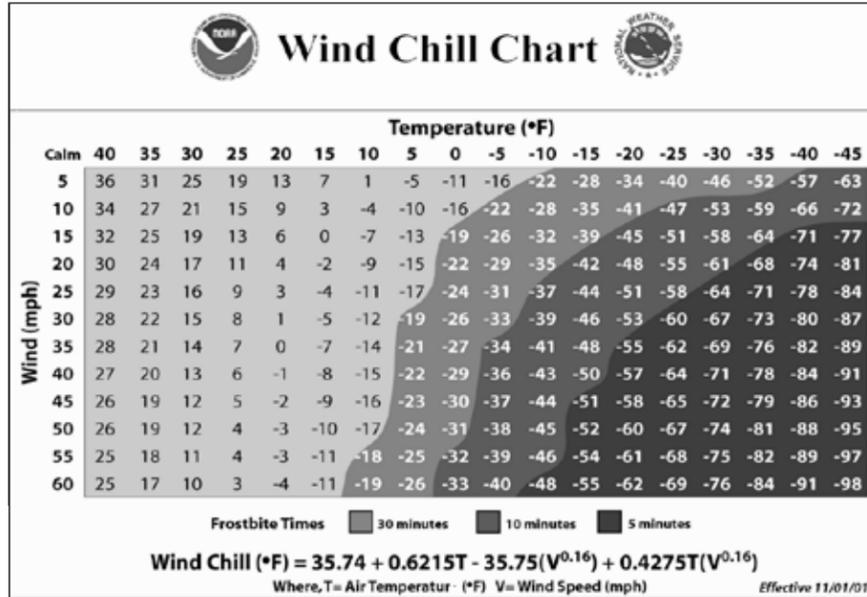
The simple layman meaning would be that the wind chill factor is a measurement of how cold people feel due to the combined effect of wind and cold temperatures. Officially, the wind chill is the term used to describe the rate of heat loss on the human body resulting from the combined effect of low temperature and wind.

As winds increase, heat is carried away from the body at a faster rate, driving down both the skin temperature and eventually the internal body temperature. Eventually, because of this, hypothermia can develop. Animals also feel the effects of wind chill, but inanimate objects, such as vehicles and buildings, do not.

How is the wind chill calculated and what is a wind chill chart?

The wind speed is calculated at an average height of 5 feet; this is the average height of an adult's face. It assumes no impact of the warmth from the sun during the day.

The official Wind Chill Chart (aka and officially called "the Windchill Temperature index", online at www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/winter-images/windchill.gif) uses advances in science, technology, and computer modelling to provide an accurate, understandable, and a useful formula for calculating the



dangers from winter winds and freezing temperatures. When using the chart, the calm wind threshold is lowered to 3mph.

The first wind chill formula and tables were developed by Paul Allman Siple and Charles Passel, who were working in the Antarctic in the late 1930s. It became known first as the "Windchill Index" and it provided a pretty good indication of the severity of the weather. In November 2001, The National Weather Service implemented a new, improved Wind Chill Temperature Index, and the new index usually is a bit warmer than the old index.

What's the difference between Wind Chill Warnings and Watches?

In Colorado, when conditions are favorable for wind chill temperatures to meet or exceed local Wind Chill Warning criteria during the next 12 to 36 hours, a Wind Chill Watch is issued. A Wind Chill Advisory is issued when wind and temperature combine to produce wind chill values of -18° to -24° across the plains and high valleys, and values of -25° to -35° across the mountains. A Wind Chill Warning

is issued for wind chills of more than -25° on the plains, and more than -35° in the mountains. Note, these definitions only apply to Colorado. Different criteria is used in other areas.

What is the coldest wind chill ever recorded in Colorado, and in the world?

Officially, no such records are kept. The 1936 North American cold wave ranks among the most intense cold waves to ever hit the US, lasting for weeks on end. Wind chills in the midwest during this cold wave were said to go down to as low as -100°, but this was based on the old wind chill chart which is no longer used, and which was replaced after being deemed to support inaccurate readings which were too cold.

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

December 21 to January 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 1.13"

Snow: 21.6"

Measurable precipitation fell on 13 days.

Measurable snow fell on 13 days.

A trace of snow fell on 3 days.

Ice crystals fell on 1 day

No rain, hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 0.36"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 4.7"

Snow Season*: 36.1"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 40.9°F on January 19

Low temp: -7.7°F on December 28

Avg. high: 27.5°F

Avg. low: 8.1°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 40°: 1

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: all 31

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 16

Number of days with the low temperature at or below zero: 8

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.0 mph

Highest gust: 30 mph on January 1

Main direction: Out of the south.

Weather summary:

Precipitation-wise, for the last 11 days in December, we saw very much above-normal snowfall, but for January, snowfall was slightly below normal. December ended up being the snowiest on record since record keeping started in 1982, with 25.0" falling, breaking the old record of 21.6" set in 1983. The 1.49" of liquid precip that we saw in the month after the snow was melted down, was the third highest total for December. Two other records for snowfall were set in December, with 6.6" falling on Christmas day, and a second record snowfall set on the 27th of the month with 5.3" accumulating on the ground.

Temperature-wise, it wasn't all that cold, with temperatures averaging around normal in December, and slightly above normal for the first 20 days in January, with average nighttime temps in January a good 6° above normal.

Outlook for February:

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

The average highs and lows for the first week in February are 36° and 10°, and we will see a slight warmup by month's end with averages of 42° and 17°. Coldest recorded temperature in Crestone was set on February 1, 1985, when the morning low hit -26°, while the highest temp for the month was 63°, set on February 28, 2006.

The 30-day outlook for February is calling for normal temperatures along with slightly above-average snowfall.

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