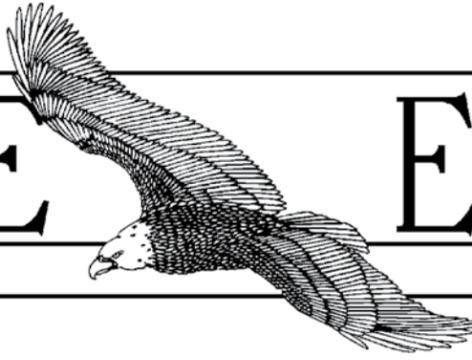


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 26, Number 4

April, 2015 \$1

26 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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Springtime is the time for babies, like these cute (and hungry) mountain lion kittens. photo by Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinsky
To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Under Secretary highlights forest restoration, wildfires draining budget

Washington—In testimony in March before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resource and Environment Robert Bonnie said the Obama Administration continues to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and management on public forest lands, but the shift of funds from management, recreation, and conservation programs to fight wildfires threatens to cripple the agency.

“The U.S. Forest Service is accelerating restoration and manage-

ment of the national forests, despite budgetary challenges, though we agree more must be done,” said Bonnie. “The good news is that the agency is making significant progress.”

Bonnie said the Forest Service is achieving results despite the fact that since 1998, National Forest System staff has been reduced by over a third. Last year, he said, the Forest Service met or exceeded all of its targets related to forest management on the National Forests.

Across the country, said the Under Secretary, the Forest Service

is investing in collaboration, landscape scale projects and innovative approaches to restore our forests:

The agency has funded 23 projects through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Through the CFLRP, the agency and partners have made significant progress in reducing wildfire threats while exceeding the five-year target for timber volume sold by nearly 25%. In addition to making 1.45 million acres more resilient to wildfire, the program improved the health of 1.33 million acres of wildlife habitat,

and helped local economies support an average of 4,360 jobs each year.

The Forest Service is developing larger, landscape-scale projects like the 200,000 acre project in the Black Hills to restore Ponderosa pine.

The Forest Service is implementing new authorities in the Farm Bill. With input from Governors, last summer the Forest Service identified 46 million acres of lands to be designated as impacted by insects and disease, and recently added more than 700,000 acres

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Colo. snowpack report: Sangres at 91% of normal

by Keno

From the most recent reports of Colorado’s SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update, of the eight basins in the state, our south-central Upper Rio Grande basin is doing much better than earlier in the year, thanks to the near-record snows that fell in the last 2 weeks of February. Yet for the first 2+ weeks in March, almost no real snow at all fell. This is supposed to be the snowiest month for snow in our area; you never know for sure until the snow season is over. Our snowpack is where we get our wa-

ter, and it is so very important to keep an eye on it, even if we can’t control it.

The Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range’s basin’s index as of March 17 was at 91% of normal; slightly off where it should be, but not bad at all considering how things have been for the last several years. Some areas in our basin alone are far better than others. Of the two closest to Crestone, Medano Pass at 9,600’, as of March 17 was seeing the second lowest amount of snowpack in this range, at 82% of average; while South Colony, at

10,800 feet, was doing much better, at 96% of average; and North Costilla, at 10,600’, the highest in the range, at 110% of normal average. You can compare these totals to a few years back when our basins were as low as 0% of average, so we should be in decent shape this summer. Totals have gone down this March, when they should be rising; time will tell how this all turns out.

As far as the rest of the Upper Rio Grande basin goes, it’s at 77% of normal as of March 17, a

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The Crestone Eagle

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

Contributing Photographers:

Lori A. Nagel, Dan Haynes, Kate Steichen, Lisa Bodey
 Pat Richmond, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski
Digital Subscription Rate: 12 issues \$15 digital.pdf
 Paper Subscription Rates: 12 issues \$20 Bulk mail.
 For 1st class postage \$32. Foreign \$75.
 Back issues \$3.50 each by mail.

The Crestone Eagle is an independent monthly publication. POB 101, Crestone, CO 81131.

Telephone (719) 256-4956

Email: info@crestoneeagle.com

www.crestoneeagle.com

No junk mail or solicitations please!

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

but are solely those of the writer.

Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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



Neighbors Helping Neighbors for Amenta

Dear Editor,

There is a new account with Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Everyone wants to help Cathy Amenta during her health crisis, so we have opened an account through NHN in her name at Aventa Credit Union. Send contributions to P.O. Box 822 and put her name on the check. I know it will be appreciated because she won't be able to work for 2 months.

Also remember we are still collecting funds for Kalisama. She has an account with NHN as well. It's one way we can send her our love.

Thank you,
 NHN board

Chloe thanks

Dear Community,

Our family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to all in this caring community. You have sent prayers, conducted fundraisers, and sent encouragement to Chloe.

Chloe is now out of the hospital and is in the second phase of healing. She is receiving rehab and is doing well. This is no less than a miracle.

Bless you,
 Bon Dellegar

Library fundraiser a success

The Northern Saguache County Library District extends our deep thanks to Tshering Dorji, Ling Wang and Bill Ellzey for the fundraiser they put together for the Crestone-Baca Grande Library project. About 70 people gathered at the Desert Sage on March 12 for an evening of incredible food (a Himalayan buffet prepared by Tshering) and stunning photos of Zambia, Tibet and Bhutan (shot and presented by Bill). The evening was a success, with the proceeds going toward the new library project.

The NSCLD thanks all who came and supported this fundraiser, and we're especially grateful to Tshering, Ling and Bill!

CEOLP says thanks

To the Eagle staff and the Crestone-Baca community,

On behalf of the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP) and Informed Final Choices, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Gussie Fauntleroy, Kizzen and the Eagle staff for publishing the full page article on the services provided by CEOLP as well as including a sidebar on the March 14 Registration Event. As a result, the event was a wonderful success!

Special thanks go to Dick Blumenhein for offering the cafe space in the Galena Street building as

the event location. Appreciation to Dara and Shirley at the Crestone Realty Office for their assistance in setting things up for us.

More than 40 community members came to register (and a few out-of-towners who were disappointed to find that they couldn't.) The mood was jolly, David Lindsey and Michael Divine singing disco songs as they completed their forms while Rainbow Adler, Jeanie Krogh and Marilyn Bunker answered questions and guided registrants through the process.

If you weren't able to attend and do want to register, call Lorraine Cazier at 937-7802 for information.

Remember: Statistics show that human mortality rates are holding steady at 100%! No fooling! Stephanie Gaines
 Crestone End of Life Project
 Informed Final Choices

Don't let cats outdoors

Dear Editor,

As cat owners and bird lovers, we write to strongly disagree with one aspect of the "As the Worm Turns" column in the March issue. The suggestion given is that one should use cats to protect one's garden from destructive animals, such as rabbits, chipmunks (and "robins"?!). The author says it is "unfortunate" that in the process her cat killed birds.

One should be alert to the fact that outdoor cats have a devastating effect on bird populations. Recent studies involving tiny video cameras on cats indicate that cats kill as many as 1 billion birds in a year in the U.S. alone. There is no greater cause of the decline of the songbird populations. www.sciencenews.org/article/cats-kill-more-one-billion-birds-each-year.

One should note that Tabby does not bring home all she kills.



The study showed that the "trophies" returned home only represented a small percentage of the devastation. So, the author's assessment of the carnage wrought by her cat is probably understated.

In Saguache County, we are blessed with a diversity of resident and migratory bird species, some of which are threatened, and most of which exist at the edge of survival in our desert ecosystem. The cumulative impact of free roaming cats on our ecosystem is catastrophic. (For more information see: www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html)

As an antidote to the unnatural forces threatening our avifauna, why not create your landscaping and garden to attract and assist birds? In fact, according to an article in the March 11 New York Times entitled "A Chickadee's Guide to Gardening" by Douglas Tallamy, birds may protect your garden far more than cats!

Thus we urge all gardeners and all of us: Please keep your cats indoors!

Thank you,
 John & Bayard Cobb

Ivan needs help

by Mary Lowers

Crestone/Baca EMT Ivan Lakish is, as all who know him will agree, a great guy to have around in an emergency. Since this Crestone Charter School graduate joined the ambulance crew in January 2007 he's been busy learning more to better serve his community as an emergency responder.

Many of us have stories in which Ivan along with the other EMTs played a heroic role. Without our ambulance service it would be difficult for many of us to live here. Ivan is currently in school in Lakewood studying hard to pass his paramedic course. The paramedic course in Lakewood will be finished in the middle of June. This would give the Crestone/Baca ambulance another paramedic besides Pam Gripp who will still be part of the ambulance crew but will be retiring as head of the ambulance service in July.

It's expensive to live on the eastern slope. The Baca Grande POA has come forward with a stipend to help Ivan pay the high Lakewood rents. He's working hard on his course but keeping up with day-to-day expenses is difficult. In support of Ivan there's a donation site set up at www.gofundme.com/o3qw34. Folks can also help Ivan by donating funds directly into his account at Aventa Credit Union.

Editor's Notes Shhhhhh

Janet and I took a vacation in March, travelling far away, seeing new places, visiting friends. We love to travel. But this time we were especially glad to get home to our peaceful valley. Why? Noise.

The world is becoming louder and louder as people move into all the corners of the world, filling up the spaces. Even at the "restful" beach, there was music blaring from multiple sources, taxis honking, motorbikes revving, dogs barking. Cacophony.

Quiet is an endangered resource.

We came home and stood outside and soaked up the brilliance of a dark night sky. In the early morning there was a hush broken only by the sounds of birds singing.

Many Crestonians moved here for the quiet, for a contemplative life, for beauty, wildlife, and for getting away from the rush and buzz of urban living.

We bemoan those "outsiders" who would harm our cherished landscape. But, I see as our own population grows, that we ourselves can be our biggest threat. Those from more urban areas may have gotten used to noise as much as us mountain hermits have gotten used to quiet.

We all make noise, sure. I like it when my pooch lets me know there is a bear in the yard. I may run a generator mid-winter on snowy days or fire up a chainsaw. We may have the occasional yard party. Music and sound is part of a vibrant downtown life.

All things in moderation.

After experiencing unrelenting sound for two weeks I know that I am even more aware of the noise I may make. Thank you to all who are aware of the great value of quiet.

Happy spring,
 —Kizzen

Crestone End of Life Project
 Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment
POB 734, Crestone, CO 841131
www.crestone-end-of-life.org • 719.588.7415 • ceolp.info@gmail.com

Conversation between community resident and Rainbow Adler:
 "I'm still young, when should I register with CEOLP?"
 Rainbow- "While you're still in your body."

Attend our meeting **Wednesday, April 8** at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook (first left behind former Century 21 office). Call 256.4247 for information/directions.



Carrie Caverly joins the Eagle production staff. The Eagle thanks Erin Lakai for ten years of production work and wishes her well in her new endeavor.

Eagle welcomes Carrie Caverly

The Crestone Eagle is happy to announce the induction of Carrie Caverly as its new Production Manager. She helps lay out the newspaper on computer; updates the Eagle website; prepares and sends the newspaper, through the internet, to the printer in Salida; and makes sure that digital versions of the Eagle (digisubs) arrive in the mailboxes of our online subscribers. Carrie is also a writer and contributing articles to the newspaper. The Eagle is happy to find more and more things that she is able to do! Multi-talented, Carrie has experience in both 2D and 3D design: graphics, commercial interiors, residential architecture, construction management and sustainable design. When she's not at the Eagle, she does design/build work with Crestone Mountain Builders.

The Eagle wishes former Production Manager Erin Lakai good luck and all the best in her new Front Range position. She was the Eagle layout and production whiz for ten years. Erin helped to move the Eagle into the 21st century by designing and maintaining our website, upgrading our systems, training us all (as much as she could) in all things techie, wrestling balky software into submission and keeping the computers talking to each other. We will miss her greatly!

Court consequences of dogs attacking elk

by Mary Lowers

Our community was saddened and horrified when three elk were taken down and killed by dogs in a pack on the Baca Grants. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) issued tickets to the owners of the dogs involved in the incident. Will Baca who did not have to appear in Saguache County Court, paid his \$50 fine and put his dog down. William Bartley, the other dog owner cited, pled guilty in court and received a deferred sentence. This means that if he pays fines and court costs amounting to \$193.50, builds a fence within six months to keep dogs contained; and if the DOW receives no complaints about his dogs in that time, the incident will be over. A second incident involving Bartley's dogs could result in higher fines and penalties as well as possibly having to euthanize his canines.

The sad thing is no matter how sweet our pets may be at home, dogs have an instinct to pack together when running loose. Just a couple of dogs can bring down and kill wildlife as large as an elk. Fines can be as steep as \$200 and the cost of the dead animal may run \$1000 or more. The DOW advises pet owners when walking near wildlife to keep their dogs on a leash no longer than six feet.

Deer die from being fed hay

by Mary Lowers

DOW Wildlife Manager Trina Lynch says, "People who feed deer do more harm than good."

Feeding big game is bad for animals and humans. It is illegal in Colorado to intentionally place or distribute feed, salt blocks or other attractants for wildlife. There's a \$50 fine for feeding deer, elk, pronghorn, mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bear. Feeding the wild animals can spread devastating wildlife diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis to the human population. Feeding deer attracts predators like coyotes and mountain lion that will kill and eat pets and, given the correct circumstances, could attack people.

The complex digestive systems of wildlife have evolved over thousands of years. Deer, elk, and pronghorns are ruminants (they have four-chambered stomachs) and human food will stop up their digestive systems. Hay, in particular alfalfa hay, is too rich for these critters to digest and will cause them to bloat and then die painfully.

Sources at the POA tell me that they have found quite a few dead deer on and around the Baca Grande who have died because of bloating.

Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

The early warmth of spring has not relaxed the pace of crime in the county. Contempt of Court charges were filed against a Del Norte man, 32, who was held on \$5000 bail and a La Jara woman, 26, was jailed on the same charge with \$1000 bail. A woman, 61, living in the unincorporated county was summoned to appear in Saguache County Court on charges of obstructing government operations at the County Jail. The same woman was also charged with Driving under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol. Charges of Failure to Comply with a Warrant sent a Center woman, 43, to jail with \$10,000 bail listed. Two charges of Failure to Appear in Court landed a Center woman, 20, in jail with \$1000 bail listed. Failing to appear for a court date led to the arrest of a La Jara man, 23, who was arrested, jailed and held on \$500 bail.

Assault charges were on the rise last month, particularly in domestic situations. A Center man, 48, was arrested and held without bail on charges including third degree assault, child abuse and violation of a restraining order. Charges of felony Menacing with a Weapon, False Imprisonment, Obstruction of Phone Service, Reckless Endangerment and Child Abuse landed a Center man, 36, in jail with no bail amount listed following his arrest at his residence. A Baca man, 33, was jailed in Saguache on charges of Felony Intimidation of a Witness/Victim and Domestic Violence with no bail listed.

Other arrests include a Center man, 28, jailed on \$50,000 bail for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Unlawful Manufacture, Distribution and Sale of that substance. Driving Under the Influence of Drugs/Alcohol and Prohibited Use of a Weapon along with a signaling violation sent a disabled vet, 43, living in the unincorporated county to jail. A Monte Vista man, 19, was arrested at a Center residence for Failure to obey a Traffic Control Device, Driving while Intoxicated, Illegal Possession/Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor, and Driving While License is Under Restraint. His bail was listed as \$500. A Crestone woman was summoned to court on charges including: Defective License Plates and Failure to Display a Valid Registration.

Lots of speeding tickets were issued last month particularly on Hwy. 285. Don't let spring fever cause you any trouble with the law.

Prescribed burns scheduled for this spring

The San Luis Valley Interagency Fire Management Unit will conduct prescribed burns in several locations across the San Luis Valley this spring. The prescribed burns will include lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Specific locations and timing of these burns will depend on fuels and weather conditions.

Locations to be burned include:

- Monte Vista Refuge (USFWS) 1300 acres – waterfowl habitat improvement
- Blanca Wetlands (BLM) 120 acres – waterfowl habitat improvement
- English Valley (USFS) 900 acres – pronghorn habitat improvement
- Blue Creek (USFS) 170 acres – bighorn sheep habitat improvement
- Baca Refuge (USFWS) 720 acres – wet meadow restoration

Smoke may be visible in these areas for several days during and following the burns. For more information, contact the Rio Grande National Forest at 719-852-5941.

Motorcyclist, passenger killed in accident on US 285

A motorcyclist and his passenger died after their bike collided with a vehicle that crossed into the oncoming lanes on US 285 near Shaffers Crossing early Saturday evening, March 21, a state trooper reported.

Lakewood resident Levi Sanford, 34, and Littleton resident Stephanie Webb, 30, were heading north on US 285 about 5pm Saturday, March 21. Both were thrown from the 1999 Buell motorcycle when the bike collided head-on with a southbound Jeep Cherokee that had crossed into the northbound lanes, Trooper Nate Reid said.

Sanford and Webb died at the scene; both were wearing helmets.

Crestone resident Nina Gonzalez, 43, the driver of the Jeep, was not injured.

Gonzalez had not yet been issued any citations related to the accident. "Charges are pending," Reid said. "But we want to make sure we do an accurate reconstruction and get all the facts." No drugs or alcohol were involved.

The Shaffers Crossing interchange has been the site of several

serious accidents in recent years.

According to The Denver Channel, the problems in the area started in 2011 after the Colorado Department of Transportation built the current interchange at Shaffers Crossing and U.S. 285. Within three to four months of building this intersection, CDOT said they noticed instances of drivers crossing the double yellow lines at the curve in the roadway. CDOT is now planning to put concrete dividers along this stretch.

Said Gonzalez, "The highway there is very confusing and has had multiple horrible accidents. I offer my prayers and deep condolences to the families and friends of those who died. I offer support to the citizens of Elk Cove, who have had to deal with these accidents and have pushed for several years for road safety improvements. It is good to know that the highway department is finally going to make this stretch of highway safer."

A report in the Evergreen Newspapers and reporter Gabrielle Porter contributed to this article.



Saguache County News

County Treasurer & Assessor weather Pueblo County problems

by Sandia Belgrade

Connie Trujillo, Treasurer, and Pete Peterson, Assessor, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to report on the problems they have been facing with the mainframe computer in Pueblo. Their offices are handled through Pueblo as are other small counties such as Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, San Juan, and Costilla. Having the treasurer and assessor services on the same shared system allows things to flow better.

The trouble began in February when the person in Pueblo County who had written the program was put on administrative leave. Staff on the main help desk also left. They were down 4 employees and a small crew was doing the work of 10. The Pueblo BOCC supposedly wouldn't let them hire replacement staff because of a hiring freeze. There was a period of several weeks when that mainframe was down more than it was up, which meant at times the Saguache Treasurer and Assessor couldn't function. This would be a problem any time, but it's pressure tax time, and they are bound by statutes to get reports done on time. This is also a reappraisal time. In short, Trujillo and Peterson have had their backs to the wall. Things have improved as of the last few weeks of March. Trujillo said it's going much better in the Treasurer's office. The Assessor side is still not working up to snuff. Auditors are coming from the division of property taxation. Peterson said they will have notices out by May 1, but they're having to do a lot by hand. Pueblo is just one of several vendors and Saguache is entertaining offers from other vendors.

Chokurei Ranch conditional use approved

The BOCC approved the Conditional Use request of Chokurei Ranch, LLC—Sacred Valley Medicine—to cultivate recreational marijuana as a cash crop in the greenhouses previously used to cultivate vegetables. Grote's original intent was to grow food, but he found that financially he couldn't make it that way. When Kyle and Teanna Grote addressed the BOCC, he stated they have met and are in compliance with all the state requirements including paying fees, retrofitting, a separate office, cameras for security, and employees' approved badge. All state permits are complete and on file. The ranch will do just cultivation, no retail or storefront. The distance from greenhouse to nearest neighbor is 1 mile. There is no road access. Grote likes how Colorado is do-

ing the business, which is the most monitored business in the state. It uses a "metrics" system which Grote has trained in (see side bar) allowing for constant communication with state. Cameras can see everything that happens. Grote wants to grow this season and year-round. There is no food preparation, just cultivation, processing, and selling wholesale. County Attorney Ben Gibbon said Grote has met all requirements. Two neighbors to the southwest were present. They had written a letter expressing concern about it being in their neighborhood and how it will be monitored. Grote responded to their questions, saying he has been trained in the METRICS system. Tim Lovato commented on water usage: Grote will use irrigation wells during the season; the rest of the time water will be trucked in. The Saguache County Planning Commission recommended unanimous approval of the request as presented with no conditions.

Suit filed against the Commissioners

Jonathan Billingsley, represented by Rob Corey of the law firm Corry and Associates of Denver, is suing Saguache County Commissioners and the Planning Commission for refusing to support his application to run a pot shop in Sargents. As of the March 17 meeting, Land Use Administrator Wendi Maez said no one in County has been served or handed papers. The suit was filed in Saguache District court, contending that the Tomichi Creek trading post is not a liquor store. They have asked for a jury trial to force a decision about how the state of Colorado defines a liquor store and if the BOCC can deny Billingsley's application for the pot shop.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Dan Warwick needs to know who has marijuana licenses in the county. Maez will give him a list of medical growers to help with monitoring. The Governor proposed a percentage from marijuana sales be used for law enforcement, and the Sheriff hopes to see some of that. Warwick needs to hire and will follow policy and advertise the opening. He met with the Crestone Town Board to discuss an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for law enforcement services to be there, but Crestone has not as yet offered to provide any funding for this service. Law enforcement is a responsibility of a municipality, and the Town will have to come up with funds to have a deputy in Crestone. Currently a deputy is living in the Crestone Area temporarily assuming he finds a place his family of five can afford. Warwick explained that regarding concealed weapons, the procedure for checking on mental health backgrounds isn't fully in place yet.

Better forest management

Jason Anderson reported that he had attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference in Washington. He sponsored a proposal which gives local land managers the ability to reclassify diseased and infested forest tree and timber products. This will allow for removal of these products with less burden and costs for oversight and tracking. It

is estimated that over 4.5 million acres of federal lands are infected, dead or dying which affects public safety, ecosystems and economies as well as promoting catastrophic wildfires. Managing forests better means that money that would go into fighting fires can go into best management processes. With this new resolution forest products, historically classified as national assets, can now be processed in the local county creating biomass, jobs and economic development.

Hooper Pools expanding

The BOCC approved the application of Sharie Harmon to obtain a license to sell beer and wine. She has owned Sand Dunes Recreation in Hooper since 1995, a well-established business in the county. Harmon is turning the greenhouse into a soaking area with 3 hot tubs which will provide adults a chance to be in a quiet space. The soaking area will be restricted to those 21 and over and there will be a three drink limit.

Old Cow Town conditional use request

David Wendl, who owns the Old Cow Town Ranch, an authentic reproduction of an 1880's Old West town, requested a Conditional Use modification. Wendl couldn't make it profitable with health issues in the family; and, the ranch does most of its business only during tourist season. When he met before the planning commission he asked it be reclassified as residential. They voted to recommend denial, their concern being there was no way to monitor if it was being used for commercial purposes. There is a main house, saloon and restaurant, motel and RV park. Tim Lovato offered that Wendl could split 1/2 residential, 1/2 commercial, but the water issue is key. He'd need to have two separate wells, one for residential and one for commercial. There is also the concern that if he sells it, he'd have to change it back to commercial. The board recommended that he postpone a decision and go back to the Planning Commission and ask a continuance.

Social Services' focus on kids

April is Child Welfare Awareness Month, focusing on mentoring and foster care. According to Linda Warsh, Director of Social Services, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) can be used to fund recreational services and children's activities as a component of after-school programs, summer programs and other Youth Development activities. The Alpine Achievers free after-school program at Mountain Valley School is getting ready to start up for the year. Other after school programs include outdoor activities such as the Adams State College climbing wall and mountain biking.

Everyone in the community plays a role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. To report suspected abuse and neglect, residents can call the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-844-CO-4-KIDS (1-844-264-5437) 24/7, 365 days a year to report concerns about a child's well-being. All calls are confidential and will be routed to the county where the child resides. If it is an emergency or you are witnessing a child in a life-threatening situation, call 911 immediately.

METRICS

Of interest not only to potential cultivators, but to residents wanting to know how the growing of marijuana is tracked and monitored, is the Marijuana Inventory Tracking System, or METRICS. Colorado introduced this "seed-to-sale" tracking system a year ago. It allows every legally grown plant or marijuana product to be tracked in the state through the entire growth cycle. In the METRICS system, each plant or product will have a small tag that can be scanned by a scanner gun using radio-frequency identification technology. It does not track anything beyond the point of sale. Once the marijuana is purchased, the tracking stops.

New website

Check out the new Saguache County website. It not only looks good, but is more user-friendly. Residents can download forms, and there is a section for the most commonly asked questions. Another advantage is that there is trained in-house staff to manage it, so the County doesn't have to pay outside contractors.

County Road 10xx

Sometimes the hour is late. The issue has gone on for months and is being ardently argued. The true test of the Commissioners is times like these. Case in point: On road 10xx, Marshall and Jane Milam want a cattle guard; Gene Hollenbeck, knowing a cattle guard is dangerous for his herd, wants a gate which will be open less than 1 month a year. Both sides had reasonable points of view. When a resolution seemed nowhere in sight, creative solutions appeared. The Commissioners and Randy Arredondo, Road and Bridge Supervisor, presented alternative cattle guard designs. These will be explored and will allow a solution to be reached.

Health watch: Hantavirus

The hantavirus is carried by deer mice which move into barns, sheds, crawlspaces, and attics to keep warm through the winter. The virus is found in their urine, saliva and droppings. Warm weather brings increased risk through spring cleaning. Residents are urged not to sweep or vacuum mice droppings or nesting materials because breathing dust containing infected droppings or urine is the most common way to be exposed to the virus. Hantavirus is relatively rare but results in death for more than one-third of those who become infected. Early medical care is crucial. First symptoms appear 1-6 weeks after exposure and are flu-like. Difficulty breathing develops and progresses very quickly to the inability to breathe.



Health
Food
Store

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



Newborn elk calf. Please be aware of the new baby wildlife in our region's fields, meadows and woods and keep your doggies close. photo by Dan Haynes



by Gretchen Nelson
Crestone Town Clerk
Crestone town center is finally getting a face lift

The Town is delighted to report that official notification was received in March from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) stating that the application submitted by the Town for State Energy and Impact Assistance Funds was approved, and DOLA has awarded the Town grant funds in the amount of \$139,125 for the CTC building exterior renovation project. This grant will be matched by funds from the Town, and completion of this project will align with downtown redevelopment.

Downtown revitalization update

Contracts for Project Architect Burt Wadman, Russell Surveyors, contract administration and soil testing have been signed and the Pedestrian Pathway Network Project is now underway. Burt Wadman has begun work on construction documents and anticipates that the construction portion of the project will go out for bid by mid-May. There will be various surveyors and other professionals working in the community, particularly the commercial district, in the next few months.

Code enforcement

The Town of Crestone is very pleased to announce that Jim Vanderpool has accepted the position of Code Enforcement Officer. As a

friendly reminder, all dogs must be leashed at all times, and drinking of alcohol and/or smoking marijuana on public property is strictly prohibited by state law. Please take part in continuing to preserve the safe and healthy community environment.

Free branch & brush pickup

In May, fire mitigation workers will collect dead wood, scrap wood, branches, dead weeds and brush that town residents have on their properties. It is very important to continue reducing the amount of combustible materials in our forested town. Please gather it into a pile (or piles) accessible at the road and phone Gretchen at Town Hall, 256-4313, to report the location and approximate quantity. The date in May has not been confirmed as of now, but will be posted once it has been confirmed.

Town Park improvements

Parents will be happy to hear that Public Works Coordinator Jim Vanderpool has begun work on improvements to the play ship area and the skate ramp located at the Town Park. The play ship repairs consist of tightening the fastening hardware; and sanding, staining and resealing the entire surface area, in order to help prevent splinters. Required by the Town's insurance provider, new safety features will be added to the skate ramp. Enjoy the improvements, and if you see Jim please thank him for his efforts.

Moffat attempts town makeover

The Town of Moffat, galvanized by its shiny new state-of-the-art PK-12 school rising west of the highway, has given itself a new lease on life.

Working with the assistance of the organization ScSESS, The Moffat Downtown Improvement Board (MDIB) has embarked on a community-building and tourism-attraction drive that will eventually include replicas of the livestock holding pens from Moffat's high point as a cattle-shipping center, traffic-stopping "authentic" cattle drives twice a day across Rt. 17 (with motorists' needs attended to by mobile espresso vendors), a bridge over the highway built in the style of an Old West board sidewalk, and a laundromat decorated like the sheriff's office and jail.

Moffat is also looking to bolster its population with an infusion of down-to-earth new residents. To this end, they've adopted the catchy slogan "Oh, Come Moffat!" (say it fast...), designed to attract those tired of Crestone's pretensions. Jean Deere of MDIB reminded us of the old joke "How many Crestonians does it take to change a light bulb? . . . None, they're already enlightened." She says, "Here in Moffat we have enough distance from the mountains to get some perspective on things."

The wait for change in Moffat may be longer than indicated, however. When further explored, it was found to be a mere foolish fantasy sparked among the *Crestone Eagle* staff, by April 1 of course.

Happy Birthday
Diane!
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Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District: interior of the waste water treatment facility.



From the water tower The mostly downhill journey

by **Judy Deluca**
& **Justin Debon**

When I lived in a big city, there was no thought or concern regarding the source or the loss of water from our home; now, living in this beautiful, dry, sparsely populated valley, water has become “everything”. I wanted to learn about the concerns and discourse across the southwest, in Colorado and in our valley.

Beginning closer to home, I wondered what happens when we take a shower, wash a load of clothes or flush the toilet.

Waste water from our homes, and there are approximately 656 of us, travels in PVC piping down to sewer lines under or near the road; these 6” lines ultimately reach the Aspen Waste Water Treatment Facility (AWWTF). This journey through some 45 miles of pipe is mostly downhill, but along the way there are areas which require assistance to flow.

The district owns 5 underground lift stations which pump the waste water along. They are located strategically, near Casita Park, Baca Grande Stables, Dharma Ocean, on Wagon Wheel Rd. and adjacent to the treatment plant. Supporting this flow are 798 manholes which allow staff to flush the system.

The district field staff flushes approximately one-fourth of the sewer lines each year.

Treatment of waste water occurs in the AWWTF, a large green building filled with a series of concrete tanks, pumps, multiple electric gauges, monitors and a laboratory. A field operator, Justin DeBon, is responsible for monitoring the operations here and begins and ends his daily shift at the plant.

Influent enters the AWWTF

and flows into anaerobic tanks. Much of the solid waste settles during this time and naturally occurring bacteria affect decomposition. Then the waste water moves between aerobic and anoxic tanks, into which magnesium hydroxide is introduced in order to maintain a pH of 7.2.

After a 90-minute settlement period, the relatively clean water which has risen to the top of the tanks moves into a large equalization tank and finally, the water pumps through a disinfection system where it is exposed to ultraviolet light which sterilizes and/or deactivates any remaining bacteria.

The water, approximately 80 gal/minute, which flows back into the aquifer via a dry wash, is checked every month for E. Coli, fecal coliform, suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand. Tests for ammonia, pH and temperature are done weekly. When Justin tests the treated water against that from a nearby creek, the former is much more pure than the latter.

Since the district doesn't have the ability to process biosolids, a contractor removes that sediment at regular intervals.

In summary, each day our district collects and treats approximately 60,000 gallons of waste water from those 45 miles of pipes and returns much of that to the aquifer as clean water.

Being aware of these processes, we can understand the expenses incurred: expenses for utilities, chemicals (magnesium hydroxide), repair and maintenance, biosolid removal and salaries. We can also appreciate the hard work performed by the Baca Water field staff.



POA NEWS

Baca welcomes
Recycle Creede; update
on Dog Violation Policy

by the POA
Board of Directors
Recycle Creede for Crestone/Baca Community

The Baca Grande Property Owners' Association (POA) would like to welcome Chad and Deanna Fairchild of Recycle Creede to the Crestone/Baca community! Recycle Creede is reopening the recycle center near the POA soccer fields. The POA Board has approved a short term agreement with Recycle Creede. The agreement is based on a three-month trial period from April-June 2015. The projected opening date will be sometime in April 2015. The POA Board of Directors backs this project 100% and hopes to enter into a longer agreement once the three-month trial period is over and the center is deemed successful.

The plan: Recycle Creede will bring a metal container that will have bins for the different types of recyclables and will be more user friendly than the old center. Once the bins for each recyclable is full, they will be removed and replaced with empty bins. They will recycle plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, paper and paper board, newspaper, cardboard, plastic trash and grocery bags, glass of all colors, and scrap metal. The recycle center will be monitored weekly to insure that none of the bins gets too full, thus eliminating overflow. Recycle Creede will pick up once a week, and more often if needed. They plan on having security cameras and may have one of their employees occasionally man the center to help insure trash dumping does not occur. The center may also be locked and secured in the evening hours to help alleviate the temptation to dump regular household trash.

This is a temporary arrangement (April-June) with Recycle Creede not only so they can prove themselves, but an opportunity

for the community to prove ourselves and show our appreciation as well. If we want this center to succeed it needs to be a partnership between the Community and Recycle Creede. If we, the community, can follow the rules and show common courtesy, then the opportunity for a new recycle center will be successful!

Until the new recycle center opens, the first and third Saturday pick up in Crestone (10am-2pm) will continue.

Covenant Enforcement and Hearing Policy—Revised

During the March 12 Board meeting, it was decided that there will not be a separate Dog at Large Violation Policy, but revisions to the current Covenant Enforcement and Hearing Policy. The foremost revisions made to the policy were:

- Reduction of time to respond to a complaint is now 10 days instead of 20
- Any Respondent who desires a hearing shall be afforded a fair and impartial hearing before the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC)
- If the Respondent does not agree with the decision of the EAC hearing, they have 20 days to appeal that decision to the Compliance Violations Appeals Panel (VAP)

Revised Fine Schedule

- First violation: \$50 - \$150
- Second violation: \$100 - \$250
- Third violation: \$200 - \$350

If you would like to read the revised Policy in its entirety, you can request a copy at the POA office or view it at www.bacapoa.org. The goal is to resolve the violation by working with the Community Manager and the Land Use Administrator before it progresses to a hearing or fines. The Baca Grande POA hopes that this revised policy can resolve current and future violations in a fair, just and timely manner.

PROCESS FOR REPORTING DOG VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE BACA GRANDE POA

1. Members, residents, guests, employees, Board and Committee members may file a dog at large complaint in three ways:
 - a. Phone the POA Office at 719-256-4171 and a staff member will record the complaint on the standard complaint form. You will be asked if you were able to take pictures of the dog. If pictures are available, the POA staff will instruct you on how to forward the pictures to the POA.
 - b. You may email a complaint to info@bacapoa.org. If you choose to email a complaint please include date of the incident, your name, your phone number, your lot number, the location and lot number (if possible) where the dog resides, what you witnessed, and attach pictures of the dog if possible.
 - c. You may come to the POA and fill out the form yourself. Please bring pictures with you so the staff can download or copy your pictures.
2. If a dog acts aggressive, vicious, or bites you, a family member, friend, guest, tenant, or causes injuries to your dog, please call the Saguache County Sheriff at 719-655-2525. Please take pictures if possible. Do not call the Sheriff for barking dogs or dogs at large, they will not respond to those offenses.
3. If you see a dog(s) harassing wildlife, please take pictures if possible, and contact the Division of Wildlife at 719-587-6900.

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POA Board enacts new violations policy & fire agreement with spiritual centers

by E. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) met as regularly scheduled on March 12. All board members were present and there were eleven people in the audience. The public meeting began at 7:15 and was adjourned a little after 9pm.

The open meeting was preceded by a secret session in which past legal opinions concerning the Crestone Fire Protection District were aired. As a result of this executive session, the item, "Discussion of the Fire District" was eliminated from the night's agenda. Nor will the subject appear on the March 26 agenda, for unstated reasons. A community gathering to discuss the Fire District, as well as dog-control, was to be held on March 15 at the POA hall.

Since the last meeting a lengthy new policy for the handling of all manner of violations of the governing documents has been crafted. The revision was instigated by an increasing frequency of undesired experiences with unconstrained dogs. The Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC) will evaluate complaints lodged at the POA office and potentially assess fines or other penalties. These actions of the EAC may be referred by the one fined to a Violation Appeal Panel, which will act to affirm or to mitigate the fine. The EAC may also cancel active building permits if fines remain unpaid. The amount of the fine is meant to bear a relation to the seriousness of the violation and is greater for repeated similar violations. Referral to the POA board is reserved for those violators who are deemed liable for legal action, as only the board is so empowered. The policy will appear in *The Crestone Eagle* and will become available through the POA website. Although the policies have already been decided by their authors with the unanimous approval of the board, there was an opportunity for the local membership to discuss aspects of the subject at the above cited meeting on March 15.

It was planned to select members for the Management Strategies Committee, but nobody has yet applied. Members in good standing can state in writing why they'd like to participate in this interesting and important activity. The committee is expected to have completed its study of management options by July. The main options to be evaluated are (1) continuation of the services of a management company such as Hammersmith, our current agent, whose contract ends this year, or some other similar company; (2) assembling a corps of qualified employees or agents of the POA, wherein the management would be wholly POA-based; (3) other possibilities, such as some combination of (1) and (2). Contact the POA office (719-256-4171) for more information or registration.

President Lakish announced that some members of the board would meet with the Town of Cre-

stone Council on March 16 for exploratory discussion of the possibility of collaboration in the facilitation of a greater county law enforcement presence in this area.

Agreements and resolutions were unanimously approved concerning fire management by the Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department (BGVFD) and three of the spiritual centers, Dharma Ocean, Shumei International, and Zen Mountain Center. There are mutual benefits for the arrangements, which could come to include more of the spiritual centers. For the POA, the current policy is to combat fires on the immediate borders of the Baca Grande, and the agreement clarifies the liabilities of the BGVFD in this regard. The centers will be charged for the individual fire incident and must, therefore, carry insurance. The centers will benefit from the existence of a formal contractual agreement with a fire department, especially as regards their insurability.

This was an efficiently run meeting which scarcely needed any audience, since there was little or no opportunity to understand the materials being voted on, as their contents were unknown and had not been placed before the members for input or discussion. In an earlier meeting of this current board there were expressions of the need for better communication with the members. One proposal was to emit frequent brief surveys of opinions via e-mail on matters of current interest. This would be accompanied by a campaign for more members to supply their e-mail address so they could participate in helping the board make better/more fully informed decisions. It's still a good idea. Maybe members just need encouragement to intensify their involvement.



A sure sign of spring is this wild baby bunny.

photo by Kate Steichen

Community meeting: fire district & dogs

by Earl W. Sutherland

A meeting of Baca Grande residents occurred on 3/15/2015 to talk about the Crestone Fire District and dogs. Twenty-four persons attended, including all five members of the Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) and three of the five Directors of the Board of the Crestone Fire District (which included the author of this report). The meeting ran three hours in the afternoon.

Although scheduled for equal time for each subject, less than an hour seemed to satisfy the need for discussion of dogs. This may have been due to the recent fines against owners of dogs and the appropriate efforts recently made by those violators to avoid future incidents. A new policy for covenant enforcement and violation hearing was made available. One resident wondered how renters who violate the dog control policies are dealt with: in general, the owner of the property is responsible. However, several people spoke to the idea of all dog owners' ethical responsibility to act in a way which is good for everyone, respecting the situation of others. Acting in such a way could head off unwanted canine encounters. Keeping the issue of controlling one's dog repeated in public may help. Another idea was to develop a dog park where pets could roam off-leash.

The topic of the Fire District brought forth more animated discussion. Pros and cons of the District were trotted out and some clarifications made. For example, Saguache County cannot increase the mill levy attributable to the

Fire District; only the voters of the Fire District can. The payout for civil lawsuits successful against the POA arising from fire incidents can't exceed the amount of (required) liability insurance the (non-profit corporation) POA carries. Possibly, certain other kinds of fire-related expenses (e.g., having to pay outside fire-fighters in a huge fire) could devolve to the members if they exceeded the POA board's resources (Colorado Revised Nonprofit Act 7-126-203).

One attendee made the important point that we need to create and focus on how we want the future to look rather than mainly discussing the rights and wrongs of the past.

Fairness is a major advantage to being in the District, at least for the majority of the POA members, whose lots are undeveloped. Under the current system owners of lots with homes and owners of vacant lots pay the same amount for fire (and ambulance) service. Under the Fire District the charges would be based on real estate valuation, that is, on what's at risk for the owner. Concerns whether a board that only serves the emergency services or one that has additionally all the other tasks of a property-owners association are probably hard to resolve. Some current problems, like communication systems, seem able to be improved. Various of the fire fighters in attendance expressed that while the present cadre of volunteers lacks the training and experience of those that left, everyone present hoped the best for the existing, much smaller teams as they move gradually toward the competencies of their predecessors.

At present there seems little left of the communal energy that promoted the original formation of the District. Unless the POA board actively supports the District it is probable that this structure of fire management, used virtually everywhere else in Colorado, will not be part of the Baca Grande.

It was a disappointment to this reporter that almost everyone in attendance was either a member of the board of the POA or Fire District or a past or present volunteer firefighter. Here was an opportunity for community input but hardly anyone was there to put it in. Apathy is us!

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Crestone Music Festival announces 2015 headliners

Legendary Robben Ford headlines Saturday, Lunar Fire Friday, the Young Dubliners Sunday

by Tom Dessain

Yeah! We got headliners! Crestone Performances Inc. is proud to announce that the headliners are booked for the 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival. The festival will be held at the Baca Grande Golf Club in Crestone Colorado August 7, 8, & 9. It's a three-day, two-stage, multi-genre, multi-cultural event with a Kids' Zone, family activities, all-age contests, arts & crafts, international cuisine and great libations. So the headliners are . . . drum roll please:



Catch Lunar Fire Friday night at the festival.

Friday night will feature the return of a crowd favorite from 2010, Lunar Fire, who take audiences to new heights with spectacular dance and musical performances. Pre-Columbian flutes, multilingual vocalists, powerful drummers and a wide range of bass and guitar styles tell stories reflected in dance. Aerialists fly and drop from the sky; multiple dancers meld into one multi-armed being; paintings come to life, mysteriously hovering in the air. This is a multimedia trans-cultural musical spectacle whose aim is to inspire, connect and empower people to create positive change in the world. World-class musicians glide smoothly from structured song to improv, exploring Latin hip-hop, tribal drumming and

gypsy rock. Lunar Fire originated in 2002 on Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Multiple members of Lunar Fire have toured over a decade together in various projects, played at hundreds of festivals and eco-communities, and have traveled deep into the jungles of Hawaii, southeast Asia, Mexico and Central America. This should be a very unusual and fascinating show.

Saturday night will also be extra special with 5-time Grammy-nominated renowned guitarist Robben Ford. Robben began his career supporting harmonica virtuoso Charlie Musselwhite. Later, Robben played with blues giant Jimmy Witherspoon on festival stages. In 1974, Robben joined the historic fusion group Tom Scott & The L.A. Express and began touring with Joni Mitchell. Later that year ex-Beatle George Harrison enlisted Ford and Scott to join him on his Dark Horse tour, which was followed by more touring with Joni Mitchell. Ford went on to record and tour with the likes of Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Phil Lesh and a host of



Robben Ford will appear Saturday at the Crestone Music Festival August 8.



The Young Dubliners will appear at the Crestone Music Festival Sunday August 9.

others including Ruthie Foster, our headliner last year. By the time he joined the Miles Davis group in the '80s, he'd developed a signature approach based on an axis of blues, jazz, pop and rock. Since leaving Davis' band, Ford has primarily forged his own path—touring and cutting a series of various albums. His latest release, *Into The Sun* has met with widespread critical acclaim. Robben says he got in a flow where he could, "bring some

of the best songs I've ever created to life." "For me," Ford says, "it's all about the art. If you work hard at something you're going to get better."

Sunday features the legendary Irish/American rock force, the Young Dubliners. These guys are quite possibly Celtic rock's hardest working band, playing hundreds of shows to thousands of fans across the US and Europe every year. In recent years they have twice appeared on ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live!, had songs featured in TV shows and toured extensively as a headliner and as the opener for such a diverse list of artists as The Flaming Lips, Collective Soul, Jethro Tull, Johnny Lang and many more. The Young Dubliners consider themselves to be ambassadors of Celtic and American rock. The band members' dual Irish and American heritage has always resulted in a distinctive and richly varied musical palette. "We've always defied pigeonholing because our sound is the grooving result of Irish and American guys coming together and drawing from a little bit of everything." They happened to be passing by—we're their only show in Colorado—and what a cool treat to end the weekend.

Tickets go on sale April 1 at last year's Early Bird Prices! Please go on-line at crestfest.org and order your tickets or call our office at 719-256-4533. Prices are: Under 12 free, teens are \$10 a day or \$25 for the weekend. Adults are \$25 for Friday and Sunday and \$35 for Saturday or \$70 for the weekend. Seniors are \$15 for Friday and Sunday and \$20 for Saturday or \$40 for the weekend.

Other acts booked at this time are Intuit, a big hit last year; Todo Mundo, an Afro Latin 8-piece from San Diego; and the Rifiers, featuring Don Richmond. Be sure to check out the May *Eagle* for more regional act information.

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David & Sara Crow bring aromatic treasures to Crestone

David and Sara Crow will return to Crestone in late April for several events celebrating essential oils and flower essences. David is well known in these parts, having taught and visited here many times. He is one of the world's foremost experts and leading speakers in the field of botanical medicine and grassroots healthcare. A master aromatherapist, acupuncturist, author and poet, David founded Floracoepia Aromatic Treasures as a way to promote the use of essential oils for healthcare, preservation of ethnobotanical knowledge, ecological restoration and economic development.

Sara, also an acupuncturist, has created and used flower essences for years. She brings a passionate reverence for their subtle yet powerful energetic capacity to promote health of emotions, mind and soul.

Monday April 20 from 4-7pm there will be an open sampling and sales of many of floracoepia's essential oils, flower essences, resins and hydrosols. David and Sara will be on hand to share their creations with all who attend.

The following day, Tuesday April 21 from 10am-1pm, Sara will present a workshop, Opening to Flowers, in which she will teach us how to prepare our own flower essences, their healing benefits, methods of application and how they differ from other botanicals. We'll learn about the energetics of various flowers and sample Floral-chemy's exquisite flower essence tinctures.



David and Sara Crow

Tuesday afternoon from 2-6pm David will share the Sacred Scents of rare fragrant woods such as sandalwood, agarwood, cedar, and juniper; purifying resins such as frankincenses, myrrh and copal; intoxicating flowers such as roses, jasmines and saffron; and perfumed roots such as vetiver and jatamansi. Together we'll explore these renowned aromatic plants and sacred oils, including their applications for increasing concentration and memory, relaxation and meditation.

Monday evening's sampling and sales event is open to the public. Tuesday's Opening to Flowers is \$40; Sacred Scents is \$55; or \$75 for both. Space is limited; reservations are recommended. A pre-reserved vegetarian lunch is available for \$15. Cash, checks and credit/debit cards accepted. To register or for questions, please contact Kathleen Willow 719-256-5469 or willow7@fairpoint.net.

All events will be held at Infinity Sacred Space at the corner of Enchanted Way and Splendid Way in Chalet II.

Beverly Donofrio to offer two memoir writing workshops in Crestone

by Kelly Hosner

I first met Beverly Donofrio in a movie theatre, her teenage-self was being played by Drew Barrymore. The story reminded me of my mother and raised a feeling of compassion in me for my own mother's struggles to raise a child in tough circumstances.

I met Bev again in my twenties when I picked up Looking for Mary at the local library. On a burgeoning journey towards the Divine Feminine, raised Catholic, Mary was where I began my search and her book stood out on the search engine of the Kansas City Library. I actually ordered it on an inter-library loan. When it arrived, I promptly took it home and read it cover to cover. It brought back memories for me of my childhood

babysitter, Donna, who would take us (her daughter, who was like a sister, and me) to Catholic revivals in people's houses. They spoke of the Lady of Medjugorje. It was the late 80s and Donna's friends were making pilgrimages. I remembered that when I was five or six, I was given a relic to wear around my neck that had been supposedly blessed by the same deity Beverly had gone looking for on her own journey.

In the light blue book with the image of Mary on it holding a red rose, she spoke in a voice much like my mother's but with a tenderness that so often is more easily expressed on the page. Reading it invoked in me a sense that one does not have to necessarily be graceful in order to experience Grace. The story, which started as an assignment for NPR, followed her from a world of questioning and unworthiness to a world where she felt

blessed and comforted.

It was after a few years in Crestone that I actually got to meet Beverly Donofrio for real. My mother was on retreat at the Nada Hermitages where the writer was a lay resident from 2008-10. Unsurprisingly, they became fast friends. Over the years, on the few occasions we have talked, her insightful eyes and interested questioning brought me to recognize her innate writer's soul and deep personal capacity for love. When my son was an infant, she came to see us. In the quietude that precious newborns evoke, we communed, grandmother to new mother. It is then I met her once more.

Beverly's most recent book, *Astonished*, comes to us as a continuation of her memoirs as she is

first becoming a grandmother. With a particular intimacy for Crestone residents, and wearing the mantle of a truly wise-woman she tells stories from her recent life that speak to the heart of all our fears and the rawness that accompanies almost all self-discoveries.

At the time I read *Astonished*, I had just begun collaborat-

ing with a group of local writers on a project called Tell Stories that Heal. We were bringing together personal experiences that had changed us in order to share them for the sake of collective healing.

Beverly's book is that. The bringing together of experiences that have changed us, in order to share them as collective healing, Beverly and her stories have always been that for me . . . and for my mother.

Two Memoir Writing Workshops will be held in Crestone. On Wednesday, April 8 Beverly will offer a one-day version of her very popular teachings. The day will start at 10am and go until 4pm with a short break mid-day. The cost for this one-day version will be \$90. Space is limited to 10.

On May 11 and 12 from 11am to 5pm Beverly will share her insights and experience as a Master Memoirist in a two-day session. For more information, please call Cheryl Waschenko: 719-480-2002, or email cwaschenko@gmail.com.



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TO REGISTER
Kathleen Willow 719.256.5469 | willow7@fairpoint.net
blog.floracoepia.com

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Crestone/Baca Wednesday, April 8

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There is always a table full of good food at the Ranching Celebration!

Ranching Celebration & film screening April 25-26

Celebrate the Ranching Way of Life and Frontier Spirit with a weekend of events in downtown Saguache. On Saturday April, 25 catch a screening of the film *Hanna Ranch* featuring Colorado cattleman and “eco-cowboy” Kirk Hanna. Then join ScSEED on Sunday April 26 for the 15th annual Celebration of Ranching and Frontier Spirit at the Saguache Community Building. This year’s celebration features poetry, music and stories about western heritage, plus dinner and a silent auction. Tickets will be available online at www.scseed.org and at the events.

Hanna Ranch is a feature documentary about visionary cattleman Kirk Hanna and his personal struggle to protect a once-prominent way of life in Colorado. Born into a life on the family ranch, Hanna became a leader in the environmental ranching movement that set out to protect the West from the relentless encroachment of development and misuse. Featured in the book *Fast Food Nation* and dubbed the “eco-cowboy,” he was an early adopter of Holistic Resource Management practices, sat on numerous environmental boards and was president of the Colorado Cattleman’s Association. The film screening will take place April 25 at 7pm at the Ute Theatre in Saguache and is brought to you by ScSEED, the Orient Land Trust and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. \$5 is the suggested donation.

Sunday April 26, the 15th Annual Ranching Celebration will kick off at 4pm and include family-friendly activities, dinner and a showcase of talented community performers. Renowned “Cowgirl-Poet” Peggy Godfrey will emcee the lineup of musicians, story-tellers and presenters who will highlight western culture, history, and life.

The silent auction will feature western art and antiques plus gift-certificates from local farmers, ranch stores, and adventure activities. A \$10 suggested donation includes a traditional chuck-wagon dinner. Proceeds will benefit ScSEED and the Northern San Luis Valley Conservation Roundtable. Please contact ScSEED at 719-966-7060 if

you are interested in sponsoring this event or donating an item to the silent auction.

Saguache County Sustainable Environment & Economic Development (ScSEED) is a community non-profit with a mission to promote local businesses and protect the environment, rural lifestyle and character of Saguache County. The Northern San Luis Valley Conservation Roundtable (NSLVCR) is a forum of diverse stakeholders collaborating to conserve natural resources and local agriculture. Proceed from the film screening and Ranching Celebration will help ScSEED continue to support the NSLVCR and bring environmental education and resources to Saguache County. Learn more at www.scseed.org.

Saguache Sagebrush Quilters’ meet April 25

The Saturday, April 25 meeting of the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters will be held at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Building community room at 10am. The building is on the southwest corner of San Juan Ave. and 3rd St., Saguache.

Fat Quarter Exchange [FQX] color for April: Green

Meeting topic: Zip It Quilt

In 1937 *Esquire* magazine endorsed the “Newest Tailoring idea for Men” a great new invention that promised to eliminate “The Possibility of Unintentional and Embarrassing Disarray”. What was this miracle of function and fashion? It was the zipper. There is even a Zipper Day—April 29.

So as not to be left out, Jenny Doan of Missouri Star Quilt Company has designed a Zip It Quilt. We will do a table runner to learn the quilt top technique as our nod of recognition to the almighty zipper. What’s wonderful about this quilt design is that there are no seams to match, and assembly sewing simplifies the process! If you wish to work on your own project, there are tables and outlets available to make that happen.

Supplies: Zip It Quilt call 719-850-0051 with questions and needed supplies.

Sew ‘n Swap Round Robin project that began at the March 28 meeting with five members continues. Be

sure that you bring your Round Robin Brown Bag to trade for the next round of sewing.

Bring: Your smile, a friend, a potluck dish to share, ideas and tips, finished or almost finished projects for sharing time. Contact Caroline at 719-850-0051 or email: cwqueen@gmail.com.



Zipper quilt.

photo by C. W. Irwin



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Caroline Pfohl is co-lineage holder of the Dharma Ocean lineage. She chairs the Dharma Ocean Foundation board of directors. Her spiritual journey has included three decades of study and practice in Chan, Taoism, and Tibetan Buddhism.

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Crestone Artisans Gallery 'springs' into bloom

by Moira

The emergence of greenery all around town is reflected in brilliance at the Crestone Artisans Gallery this month. Our artists have been creating new pieces all winter and are looking forward to sharing the joy of art and spring with our patrons.

This month's featured artist is Villa Grove potter Helen Martin, whose whimsical but practical stoneware includes bas relief images of flowers, leaves, cranes and springlike swirls. Subtle color washes of blues, greens and burgundy soothe the soul as tea is poured or treats are served. Helen combines form, function and artistry in ways that demand touching, holding and using her pieces with joy. Her current exploration of the inspirations from water are etched gracefully into her designs. Check out the full range of Helen's gorgeous creations at www.crestoneartisansgallery.org.

As you embrace the warmer weather, opening your windows, pulling back shades and adorning your own person for spring



Crestone Artisan's Gallery Artist of the Month potter Helen Martin.



events, come check out the art and jewelry that our artists have brought in. Rose Burek's outdoor mobiles celebrate the music made by spring winds, and fun furniture by Barbara Hoepfner and Carrie Caverly for brightening up your spring are all on hand for the taking. Bob Adler's serving pieces become a practical way to incorporate art into everyday routines. We also welcome 2 new wall artists, Paula Hudson and Carolyn Victoria, whose dramatic and beautiful pieces might inspire some spring redecorating in your home!

With Mother's Day fast approaching, the gallery is a plethora of inspiration and gift items that are sure to delight any mother's heart. Stroll over and check out Patrick's garden artistry as our invigorated gallery grounds begin to pop up color.

Expanded spring hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11am to 5pm. We look forward to seeing you! 719-256-5280.

It's date night time! 'Blazing Saddles' happens April 10

by Tom Dessain

In honor of April Fool's Day, Crestone Performances will be presenting the comedy cult classic *Blazing Saddles*. The show will be April 10 at the Crestone Charter School. Doors open at 6:30 with homemade chili, drinks and popcorn available.

This is a continuation of our Friday Movie Night fundraiser held every second Friday of each month. It's been fun so far and the fun goes on with this hilarious movie. Directed by and starring Mel Brooks, in 3 different roles, this western farce is an unsubtle spoof of all the clichés from the time-honored genre of westerns. The movie has all the main elements—a dance-hall girl, a gunslinger, a sheriff, a town full of pure folk, and more, but it twists them around so they become a black sheriff, a racist town, a sex-obsessed governor, and so forth. It is packed with famous actors, including: Gene Wilder, Gilda Radner, Cleavon Little, Madelyn Kahn, Harvey Korman, Slim Pickens, Alex Karris, Dom DeLuise, and of all people, Count Basie. Co-written by Richard Pryor, the movie earned

three Academy Award nominations.

This movie is Rated R for language including racial slurs and sexual innuendos, plus comic violence and partial nudity. It's tame by today's standards, but 16 and under year-olds need to be accompanied by an adult. So get a sitter, dag-nab-it, and make it a date!

Suggested admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for teens. 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. CPI annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, now in its 17th year; has produced free school performances for over 12 years; and provides free production and consultation to other organizations. For more information, please contact us at 719-256-4533, see our web site at crestfest.org or write to CPI, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. CPI is a 501c3 community service organization. All donations are tax deductible.

So saddle-up and mosey-on over!

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Crestone's Cloud Station

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-The New York Times

Community Calendar—April 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.
 It's free and easy to place an item on our online calendar any time of month. Just fill out the form at www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent.
 The print calendar is free for non-profit events; for-profit classes/events are \$5 per calendar listing, with a discount for *Eagle* display advertisers. For more information call us at 719-256-4956.
 To list your event in the upcoming edition of the *Eagle*, please submit it by the 22nd of the month via our website, www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent (preferred) ~or~ e-mail to: events@crestoneeagle.com ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131.

Monthly Events

Tuesday, March 31
 • "The Heart is Noble" discussion group, 97 Skyview Way 6:30-8pm Free 256-4141, 360-370-7770

Friday, April 3
 • Passover Seder – Crestone Charter School 6pm please bring vegetable or dessert
 • Celebration of Life – Baca Grande 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 256-5521

Saturday, April 4
 • Lunar eclipse – 4:15 am-6:30 am
 • Full Moon Fire Ceremony & Meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free babajashram.org 256-4108
 • Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am

Sunday, April 5
 • Easter Sunday Service – Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am
 • Easter Potluck & Egg Hunt, Earth Knack / Blankenship residence, 1-5pm www.earthknack.com

Monday, April 6
 • RG Nat'l Forest plan meeting, MVHS 5-7:30pm <http://riograndeplanning.mindmixer.com> 719-852-5941
 • Crestone Town Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Town Center 6-8pm 719-256-4313

Wednesday, April 8
 • Baca Grande Trails Task Force Meeting – BG-POA Meeting Room 4:30-6:30pm 719-298-3027
 • Memoir Writing Workshop – 10:00 am-4:00 pm 719-480-2002
 • Tea Circle – 4:30 pm 719-256-4656
 • Crestone End of Life & Informed Final Choices Monthly Open Meeting, Topping House 7-9pm crestone-end-of-life.org 719-256-4247 / 588-7415

Thursday, April 9
 • Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. – 4-6pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
 • BGPOA Board of Directors meeting, Baca Grande POA Hall 6:30pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, April 10
 • *Blazing Saddles* at Movie Night, Crestone Charter School 6:30pm Adults \$5, Teens \$2, Under 12 free

Sunday, April 12
 • National Library & Volunteer Weeks
 • Drop-in Meditation – Choying Dzong 10am-1pm
 • Shumei's Monthly Sampai, Sanctuary, 10:30 am-noon free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
 • SLV CROP Hunger Walk – 2:00 pm www.crop-hungerwalk.org/alamosaco 719-587-3499

Monday, April 13
 • Commissioner J Anderson Crestone office hours – Former Farm Table Bldg 8:00 am-12:00 pm
 • Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Town Center 1:30 pm-6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 14
 • RGRT meeting
 • Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Wednesday, April 15
 • Bake Sale – All Day

Thursday, April 16
 • Shamanic Journey – Naomi's home 6:30 pm-8:30 pm \$20 www.naomilake.com 505-982-1183

Friday, April 17
 • Bow-Making Class – Earth Knack All Day \$235 <http://www.earthknack.com> 719-256-4909
 • Health Fair in Center – Head Start Bldg. 7:00 am-11:00 am 719-754-3191
 • Crestone/Baca Grande Friends of Library meeting – Crestone Town Hall 1:30 pm

Saturday, April 18
 • Global Youth Service Day – Crestone Town Park 10:00 am-4:00 pm 719-480-5925
 • New Moon Fire Ceremony & Meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free babajashram.org 256-4108
 • Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am

Sunday, April 19
 • Drop-in Meditation – Choying Dzong 10am-1pm

Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.
 -William Shakespeare

Monday, April 20
 • Closed Basin Project Operations Comm. meeting – 10:00 am
 • Florecopeia sampling, sales & workshops – Infinity Sacred Space 4-7pm 719-256-5469

Tuesday, April 21
 • Saguache County Board of Commissioners meeting, County Courthouse 9am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231

Wednesday, April 22
 • Earth Day Celebration – Tashi Gomang Stupa 10:30 am-12:00 pm KTTG.org 360-370-7770

Thursday, April 23
 • Sufi Dhikr and Potluck. All welcome. – 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

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

Friday, April 24
 • Ashram Annual Online Auction – All Day www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram 719-256-4108

Saturday, April 25
 • Health Fair in Salida, Heart of Rockies Regional Medical Ctr. 6:30am-noon www.hrmc.com 719-530-2057
 • Saguache Sagebrush Quilters, Saguache County Rd. & Bridge Building 10:00 am 719-850-0051

Sunday, April 26
 • Ranching Way of Life Celebration – Saguache Community Center www.scseed.org/calendar

Tuesday, April 28
 • Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Wednesday, April 29
 • Zipper Day – All Day

Tuesday, May 5
 • Saguache County Board of Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Courthouse 9:00 am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231

Monday, May 11
 • Memoir Writing Workshop – 11:00 am-5:00 pm 719-480-200

Daily/Weekly Events

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

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

Sunday
 • Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

• Sunday morning Bible Study & Service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am

Tuesday
 • Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm donation shaktisharanam.com 256-5668
 • Narcotics Anon. open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Library 7:30-8:30pm crestone-ena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday
 • Crestone Food Bank Crestone Town Hall 1-3pm
 • Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668

• iNtEgRaTiVe YOGA YES Building 9:15 am-10:30 am donation 719.298.0360
 • Wednesday night Bible study Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am
 • Gentle Flow Yoga YES Bldg next to library 11am-12:30 pm 719.298.0360

Thursday
 • Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45 pm By donation 719-256-5668

Saturday
 • Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mtn. .5 mi. N of Camino del Rey 10am no charge 719 480-5403

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HAPS

Bush Foundation awards Library District \$2M for new Crestone library

Shortly before the *Eagle* went to press, Peter Anderson announced that the Library District has been awarded a \$2-million grant from the Bush Foundation. One of the *conditions* of the grant was that the new Crestone library be named after former president George W. Bush. This requirement caused some discussion among the library board, but a vote after debate resulted in a 4-3 decision in favor of accepting the grant.

"After all, the important thing is to have the best library we can, isn't it? Otherwise this just sounds like a poor April Fools joke" said board member Peter Anderson. He's right, it is.

Health Fair April 17 in Center

The 21st Annual Head Start Health Fair (in conjunction with Rio Grande Hospital) will be held on Friday, April 17 at the Head Start Building at 301 East Third Street in Center, CO. The Health Fair will be from 7 to 11am.

There will be several screenings/displays provided free of charge, including blood glucose, blood pressure and body fat composition.

The following tests will be available at the Health Fair:

- Blood Chemistry Profile - \$30.00
- Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) - \$25.00
- Hemoglobin A1C - \$25.00
- Vitamin D Level - \$40.00
- Complete Blood Cell Count (CBC) - \$15.00
- Osteoporosis - \$25.00

For best results please fast for 12 hours prior to the Health Fair. Please do not fast if you are a diabetic.

If you have any questions about the Health Fair or would like to volunteer, please call 754-3191.

Baca Grande Trails Task Force meets April 8

Everyone interested in planning, restoration and maintenance of walking, equestrian and bike trails in the Baca Grande, as well as stewardship of greenbelt habitats, is urged to attend the next meeting of the Trails Task Force, Wednesday April 8 at 4:30 in the POA Hall. Trail assessment and volunteer trail work for this season will be discussed and scheduled. The task force, which was initiated by the POA Natural Surroundings Committee, has been meeting since last September.

For more info and to send comments contact Margaret Vrana, maggyjv27@gmail.com, 719-298-3027 or Noah Baen, noahbaen@yahoo.com, 719-256-4182.

Tax Day is coming . . . you look like you need some chocolate

The Friends of the Baca Grande Library will be reprising their successful Tax Day Chocolate Sale on April 15. The location is yet to be determined, though it will be downtown somewhere—keep checking the post office for more details. Proceeds from this fundraiser go towards supporting our library and building a new one, so please show the library *and* yourself some love on April 15 by purchasing homemade chocolate goodies!

Advertising grants available from Saguache Tourism

The Saguache County Tourism Council announces the opening of its 2015 cycle for advertising grants. The Tourism Council offers grants to pay for advertising by organizations and groups that sponsor community events in Saguache County open to the public. The maximum award is \$250.

Downloadable applications are available at www.Saguachetourism.com, and can be completed in about 30 minutes. Applications are reviewed monthly at the regular meeting of the Tourism Council. Grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis until funds run out.



Congratulations to Peter May and Cathy Amenta members of Endurance Alchemy Lab/ Salida Surf Telemark Ski Team from Monarch's Town Challenge Race Series. Their team came in first. Additionally, Cathy came in first for individual telemark women and Peter came in second for individual telemark men. Other team members included Fraser Crenshaw and Kevin Off.

Shamanic Journey April 16

Experience a method used to meet your power animals or spirit teachers that you can connect with for the rest of your life and beyond. Guided by the steady beat of my drum, participants will move into an expanded state of awareness to meet these spirit helpers specific to individual intentions.

Facilitated by Naomi Lake. April 16, 6:30 -8:30, \$20, 719-937-7803. Space is limited so RSVP is suggested!

Nonviolent communication class April 15

A free introductory class, "How To Get Through Conflict Without Hurting or Hating", will be offered Wednesday, April 15, at 4:30-6:30pm by Paul Shippee, MA, Psychology.

This free NVC intro class is a prerequisite to an upcoming 10-week NVC class. Call Paul to pre-register 719-256-4656 or email: paul@paulshippee.com.

SLV Crisis Services expands

San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group (SLVBHG) has a mobile response team that will respond to crisis calls 24 hours a day. Those who are experiencing a mental health crisis or know someone in need of crisis services can call 1-844-493-8255 or call SLVBHG direct at 719-589-3671. "We are available 24/7 for anybody who needs us," CEO Kristina Daniel said.

Tea Circle April 8

The next Tea Circle is Wednesday, April 8 at 4:30, with a potluck dinner at 6pm . . . save the date, you are invited!

What is a Tea Circle gathering? Come find out . . . a way of being together to grow community and conversations of the heart.

Part 1: tea served in a circle (in silence)

Part 2: personal expression (optional)

Part 3: respectful dialogue (with talking stick)

Please bring a cushion to sit on and a teacup (for the circle), and a plate/bowl & spoon (for the potluck.)

RSVP yes or no so we know how to prepare: Paul 719-256-4656 (for questions and directions).



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New bistro at the Cloud Station connects market to music venue

by Lori Nagel

Benjamin Byer & Michelle Beelendorf-Byer had a dream – to spread healthfulness throughout Crestone. They opened the Elephant Cloud Tea Shop in the little white building at the entrance to town in 2010. As business boomed and more products and produce passed through those walls every day, they found themselves bursting at the seams in that location. In 2013, they purchased their current building at 200 Cottonwood St. They have really done some amazing things with that space.

In addition to their market being one of the cornerstones of Crestone's health, they launched their 1500sf fantastic music venue, Elephant Cloud Station a year ago. In October of last year, they opened their café in the same music space. Their latest development is the new gateway between Cloud Station and Elephant Cloud, serving customers on both sides.

The bistro, in the southwestern corner of the market/northwestern corner Cloud Station, consists of an espresso bar, teahouse and café, serving eggs, breakfast burritos, sandwiches and more. Every attempt is made to ensure your food is as organic as it can get. Pastries are locally made by Lynette Tieder of O.F.I.A., and include many gluten-free items.

The Cloud Station has been housing meetings for many of this town's organizations, such as Living Wisdom and the Crestone Library Steering Committee. At least one meeting per month is donated to one of these community organizations.

The Cloud Station is a venue for lots of live and DJ music. An exciting new addition to the monthly calendar is Rhythm Sanctuary, who regularly bring in over 300 people to their native Denver events. For

a schedule of Cloud events, please check out their web site at www.elephantcloudmarket.com, where you can also sign up to start receiving their email newsletter. Check back often, as events are constantly being created, some at the last minute! The Cloud Station is also on Facebook—like them there to get updates to live and local events, menu items, and more.

Open stage for the community is currently going through a reformation and will be starting back up as a monthly event as soon as possible. They've got 2 new instruments—a Wurlitzer Omni 6000 electric organ and a bass guitar—in addition to the standard collection of instruments they've had, including an acoustic guitar, drum kit, keyboard, mandolin, cajones, congas and lots of mics.

All these house instruments



Elephant Cloud family & staff gather in front of the new office/mezzanine in March. This new structure is located between the Elephant Cloud market and the Cloud Station, so that the Cloud Station bistro/teahouse can easily serve customers from either side. L to R: Sunia Beelendorf, Mahryan Beelendorf-Vaux, Benjamin Byer, Michelle Beelendorf-Byer, Charity Love and Kevin Matz. photo by Lori Nagel



Michelle Beelendorf-Byer, Charity Love and Benjamin Byer behind the counter at the Cloud Station Teashop & Bistro, which is now open for business daily from 7:30am until 12:30pm. photo by Lori Nagel

come in handy with the plethora of amazing musicians we have in this town. On any random morning, one or more of them have been known to get up on stage and provide some

entertainment for patrons enjoying all that healthy nourishment. The morning music has been mostly acoustic, and mostly fabulous.

The Cloud Station has the work of 6 local artists on display and available for sale, and there is more merchandise from local

artists available for purchase at the Elephant Cloud Market. The owners strongly believe that when we support our community artists, we support our community. The Elephant Cloud and Cloud Station wholeheartedly support this community.

Benjamin said he's been observing a lot of town growth lately, and is predicting a busier-than-usual tourist season. He encourages Crestone residents to "come check out our new look and teahouse!" The Elephant Cloud is proud of incorporating 3 generations of family into their family-owned-and-operated business.

The new mezzanine and office area was designed and built by Joe Michalek, local Crestone carpenter and designer.

New hours, 7 days a week

Cloud Station Teahouse/Café:
7:30am-12:30pm

Coffee counter in Market area: 8am-3:30pm

Elephant Cloud Market (and coffee available): 8am-8pm

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Easter Eve Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 4th 10am-5pm
(see kaltoys.com for details)

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Big City Quality with a Small Town Touch

Profiles in music: John Hefty

From Detroit to Crestone—A working bass player's 47-year career

by **Eli Dokson**

I have always been impressed by how many outstanding musicians live amongst us, here in our little town, and thought it would be fun to get to know their histories and to introduce them to the public. John Hefty, who is relatively new to Crestone, is the subject of this first musical profile.

If you've had the pleasure of hearing John play the electric bass guitar, then you know what it's supposed to sound like when you're "in the pocket." When John came to Crestone in 2012 with his wife Cindy (EMT, volunteer fire fighter) from Boulder, he had been playing with the New Classics on the Front Range and throughout the region for several years. John's specialty is rock and soul, but he has dedicated

himself to playing in many genres in order to make a living in a tough racket.

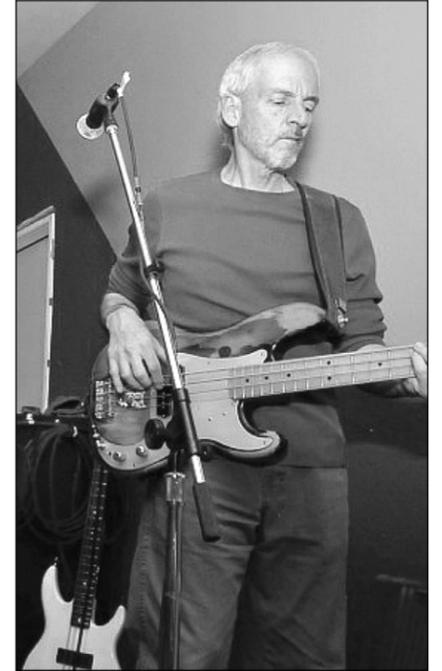
Being a working musician supporting a family is not for the timid, but John knew from about 9 years of age—after hearing Elvis, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis—that he was born to play. His mother bought him a small-bodied Gibson when he was 10, Beatlemania ensued, and he played his first paid gig at age 14 in 1965.

After a (very) brief stint in military school failed to cure him of his passion for music, John gravitated to the big city. While still commuting to high school in the suburbs of Detroit, as a 16-year-old living on his own, John began working at the historic Grande Ballroom. There he

was exposed to the likes of The Who, Procol Harum, Fleetwood Mac, Big Brother, Jefferson Airplane, Jeff Beck, and Led Zeppelin, to name but a few great acts of that era.

The house band at the Grande was a local group called the MC5 (as in "Motor City"). If you've never heard of this band, please check them out on YouTube and Wikipedia. They were on the cutting edge of hard, psychedelic and blues rock. John eventually became their bass player, toured with them towards the end of their run, and somehow lived to tell about the experience. He describes the MC5 as "a tribe of cave dwellers with Einstein brains."

John went on to play with many Michigan bands, touring the midwest, until he moved to Philadelphia in 1977, met his wife Cindy and enjoyed playing the Philly-Jersey coast circuit. The family moved back to northwest Michigan to a cabin in the woods, where John found work with well-known regional acts such as The Biggs and the Bihlman Brothers—the house band at the Timberlee Blues Club in Traverse City. There they opened for such blues luminaries as Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Son Seals, Koko Taylor and many more. In addition to sharing the bill at blues festivals with Ray Charles, B.B. King, Robben Ford, Robert Cray and others, John continued to cross genres, playing in coun-



The man on bass, John Hefty
photo by Lori Nagel

try bands and even the occasional jazz gig.

After visiting Colorado many times to take the kids snowboarding, John and Cindy made the big move to Boulder in 2004. In Crestone, John can now be heard holding down the rhythm section in two bands: Blue Rooster, where he is very gratified to be playing a bluesy-classic rock hybrid; and Teddy and the Tarantulas, which features original acoustic material. We are quite fortunate to have this very talented (and strangely funny) individual in the neighborhood.



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3:30pm

Come experience the power of Taiko
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6pm

Sampai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary

Sunday May 24th 2015

10:30am

11am Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Sanctuary

12pm

A delicious and healthy community lunch
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Garden Open 1 - 3pm

1:30 - 3pm

Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

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CCC youth begin painting the skate ramp in 2014 while parent Trevor Hollyer gives skate lessons.



Carrie Allen serves a cake baked for teen birthdays at CCC!

photo by Lisa Bodey

Global Youth Service Day Celebrate at the Crestone Town Park & the Youth Skate Ramp April 18

by Lisa Bodey

Join us for Global Youth Service Day which is celebrated each year in more than 135 countries with young people working together to address the world's most critical issues and change their communities. One of the goals of this day is to celebrate and raise public awareness of the year-round contributions of young people and youth service programs. For more information on this worldwide

event, please visit www.gysd.org.

One of our biggest local concerns is having clean and safe areas for our children and teens to play, and educating the rest of the community on what are appropriate behaviors and activities for our local parks. The focus of this event will be to create more awareness of our Town Park, skate ramp and playground equipment. Join us to celebrate local youth and work alongside them for Global Youth

Service Day on Saturday, April 18 from 10am-4pm in Town Park.

- Live music & singing on the boat playground by: Benny Roman, Tedd Brumm, River Burt, Theodore Pesqueira, John Luke Wall, Charity Love & more!

- Crestone Creative Council (CCC) will supply primer, paint and brushes for completing the "half-pipe" murals, general art supplies and trash bags for a general park clean-up.

- Local artists will help young people make public art that centers on caring for the environment, keeping the park clean, and recognizing it as a safe place for the children, families and community to enjoy.

- Potluck Picnic at Noon -

Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, cups and utensils.

- New Picnic Table - Please help us raise money to purchase a new, clean picnic table for kids and families to share.

This event is right in time for honoring Earth Day, so please come and connect, show your support and care for our kids and park! If you would like to volunteer or have a new idea to make this event a success, please contact Ara MacDonald at 719-429-1151 or fortuneteller69@yahoo.com. To make a donation for park improvements, art supplies or food for the community potluck, please contact Lisa Bodey at 719-480-5925 or bodeycrestone@gmail.com. Happy Spring!



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Who We Are

Lynda Kucin:

From a children's home to her heart's true home

by Gussie Fauntleroy

It was a far cry from Charles Dickens. The Superior, Wisconsin orphanage where Lynda Kucin spent much of her childhood contained a chapel with a sweeping arched ceiling adorned with chandeliers and gilded angels in elaborate Baroque-Rococo style. From the walls, more plaster angels and saints gazed down on boys and girls in rows of child-size mahogany pews. Elsewhere in the clean three-story building, children slept in rows of beds, took Saturday baths, folded laundry identified by each child's number, dusted angels, and ate simple, nutritious meals. Looking back on that time in her life, from age 5 to 13, Lynda recalls, "There were angels everywhere. I grew up with beauty." But she also remembers being very lonely. The nuns, for the most part, were gentle and caring, but they did not hug. They did not offer information or guidance and never celebrated birthdays; there were too many children for that.

Unlike most of the others, Lynda was not actually an orphan. Her mother, an unmarried nurse



Lynda as a child with her mother, Ann Morris, in Superior, Wisconsin. Looking back, Lynda now is more understanding and accepting of her mother's situation at the time and how she dealt with motherhood.

working in a tuberculosis sanatorium, lived in a room at the sanatorium and decided, for whatever reason, that she couldn't keep her daughter with her. Lynda's father was a mystery about whom Lynda was told nothing, no name, no photos, except that he "died in the war." Several decades later Lynda asked about him from a hairdresser friend of her mother's—"Hairdressers know things!" she says, smiling—and learned he had never been to war. Very likely he was married with his own family, although to Lynda he may as well have been dead.

Being "extra"

Until she was five Lynda was shuttled between a grandmother who had already raised seven chil-

dren, a friend of her mother's, and an aunt and uncle who took decent care of her but were "not warm and fuzzy." Her mother visited occasionally and sometimes had the grocery store send her a gift basket of fruit. Yet while Lynda often felt unwanted and "extra," that period also shaped her in positive ways. She remembers being aware of benefactors who supported the orphanage and brought the children gifts at Christmas. The "holy card" the nuns gave her featured a saint with a big basket full of bread for the poor.

These experiences deepened her natural inclination to kindness and compassion, and years later these qualities found expression through countless hours spent volunteering with Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN), the non-profit aimed at helping Crestone area families or individuals over the hump of financial crisis. From 1998 to 2010 Lynda was NHN board president—working closely with Joany Nelson and Robin Rosenberg—and now is serving in that role again. "It really warms your heart to be able to make a difference in a small way," she says. "It's a lot of work but an absolute joy."

Finding a vocation

Another lifelong natural predilection has been working with hair. By age 3 Lynda was combing and braiding her grandmother's long white tresses, and as a teen she taught herself to give home permanents to her mother's nurse friends. By then she was living in a cottage on the sanatorium grounds with her mother and stepfather, married when Lynda was 13. "I had a home then, like a normal family. My stepfather was a good guy," she says. Following high school, however, the lack of early guidance left her with no sense of direction. A too-young marriage lasted ten years and would have been shorter if not for the drilled-in Catholic stricture against divorce.

Yet it was through piggybacking on her air force husband's GI Bill that Lynda (and her husband) attended hairstyling school in Duluth, Minnesota. Shortly afterward her mother-in-law set them up with a small salon in Madison, South Dakota. And it was in Madison that Lynda first met Ken.



Unbeknownst to Lynda, the monks at Nada Hermitage built and installed a sign for the Desert Sage Restaurant. "We were so welcomed here," she says.



Lynda Kucin in her salon.

A priest at the time, he was teaching at a Catholic center on a college campus, and Lynda took his class on transactional analysis. "That got me interested in a different way of thinking," she says, adding that she was also reading books by Adelle Davis and Shirley MacLaine. (Later she and Ken studied Taoism together and jokingly called themselves Catholic-Taoists.) Eventually she left her marriage and Ken left the priesthood. They married and in the early 1970s moved to Colorado with their young son, Kyle. "Then my life really started," Lynda says.

Home in Colorado

For twenty years the Kucins enjoyed life in the small mountain community of Georgetown, where Ken worked in the restaurant and food service field and Lynda established a busy, full-service salon. Then, as Kyle was growing up and they were ready for a change, an article in the *Denver Post* caught their attention. With a photo of Father Dave Denny and two other priests kicking up their heels, it described the celebratory dedication of the newly built Nada hermitage. Words like joy, abandon, laughing, and dancing were not ones Lynda associated with Catholicism, and she and Ken were intrigued. They came to visit, were warmly welcomed, returned over the next few years, and made the move in 1992.

Soon the Kucins were running the Desert Sage, which they renamed from The Bistro and then purchased and expanded to include the large dining room. It was nonstop work but also "really fun times," Lynda says, remembering the many dances, speakers, and NHN fundraising events held there over the years. In 2003 they sold the restaurant and Ken retired, while Lynda continued to operate His & Hers salon in Crestone, which she'd opened in 1994. In 2010 Ken's health



Lynda and Ken shortly after they moved to Crestone.

was declining. As the Kucins were making arrangements to move to Minnesota near Kyle and his wife and children, Ken died. Leaning on an outpouring of love and support from the community, Lynda decided to stay. These days she remains connected through hairdressing two days a week—"It's a way of visiting with people I like a lot"—and volunteering with NHN. She gardens, reads, and for the first time in a lifetime of working, is learning to be comfortable with extended periods of leisure. "I've always been able to laugh and be happy," she says. "But now I'm finally learning how to play, and I'm going to keep on."

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



Steppin' out. Lynda and Ken enjoyed dressing in period costumes for fund raising parties and other events when they lived in Georgetown, Co.

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Change

The outer being is a means of expression only, not one's self. One must not identify with it, for what it expresses is a personality formed by the old ignorant nature. If not identified one can change so as to express the true inner personality of the Light.

-Sri Aurobindo



Sri Aurobindo at his writing desk.

“The individual is not limited to the physical body—it is only the external consciousness which feels like that. As soon as one gets over this feeling of limitation, one can feel first the inner consciousness which is connected with the body, but does not belong to it, afterwards the planes of consciousness above the body, also a consciousness surrounding the body, but part of oneself, part of the individual being, through which one is in contact with the cosmic forces and with other beings. The last is what I have called the environmental consciousness.

“By environmental consciousness I mean something that each man carries around him, outside his body, even when he is not aware of it, by which he is in touch with others and with the universal forces. It is through this that the thoughts, feelings, etc. of others pass to enter into one—it is through this also that waves of the universal force—desire, sex, etc. come in and take possession of the mind, vital or body.

“The subconscious and the environmental consciousness are two quite different things. What is stored in the subconscious—impressions, memories, rise up from there into the conscious parts. In the environmental things are not stored up and fixed, although they move about there. It is full of mobility, a field of vibration or passage of forces.”

Every Tuesday evening at 6, we gather for a potluck meal, study and meditation. Community members interested in the revolutionary Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo are welcome to join us. Please call 256-4917 for information or come by Savitri House at 83 Baca Grant Way.

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Ashram Annual Fundraiser on-line auction from April 24-May 3. Bertha bowl, JD Marston fine prints, signed Warrior basketball, Rita Berault's art and so much more. Go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram for all of the 100+ items.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

We had a beautiful March culminating with Spring Navratri, the Divine Mother Festival, which is always a special time.

Our big event for April is our 7th Annual on-line Auction Fundraiser. It will run from Friday, April 24 through Sunday, May 3. We already have over 100 great items with more to come (including a signed basketball by the NBA leaders, Golden State Warriors, an original bowl by Bertha Goterup, and two JD Marston framed fine prints). Many of the items are from our local community, including body workers, dental, restaurants, and bed and breakfast. They are great values and go to support the ashram. To view the items go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram. If you have something or a service you would like to donate, please let us know at 719-256-4108. Everyone's help has made this a big success over the years. Thank you so much for your support.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Saturday, April 4 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Saturday, April 18. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full to the brim with new items from India and Thailand. It is having a special sale this spring with all gently used suits, saris, and blouses 50% off. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your non-sale purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.wazala.com>.

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

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Spring & the Wood Element

by Jan Foster Miller, L.Ac.

It's spring. Even our high desert home has green shoots popping up and the rush of spring-melt in the creeks, signs of rebirth and renewal. These are hallmarks of spring and the Wood Element, its association in classical Chinese medicine. Hopefully, you too are feeling renewed and re-energized, especially if you have been able to replenish your reserves over the winter.

The Wood Element refers to anything that is living and growing: trees, plants, and us! Growth, movement, birth, creativity are all energies of Wood. Green, the color of new growth, is its color and we'll see more of it as the season progresses.

As movement and growth are happening outside, we want the same in ourselves. Now is the time for plans and creative ideas that have gestated over winter to come forward, like seeds sprouting from the ground. Just as each seed contains the blueprint for the plant it will become, spring offers us the vision to create a plan that will see us through the long term. Now is the time to put into action the reflections of winter. It is a particularly good time to look at old patterns with a new awareness and initiate change as needed.

Liver and gall bladder are the organs of Wood. The liver stores blood and is the body's master cleanser charged with clearing toxins. Spring is a natural time for cleansing. The juice of one-half lemon in a cup of warm water first thing every morning is a simple liver cleanse. The sour flavor nourishes and detoxifies. Dandelion leaf and root and other wild greens are traditionally eaten as salads or made into teas in spring for the same purpose. Signs of a sluggish liver can be morning grogginess, seasonal allergies, angry out-

bursts, or excess frustration.

In Western medicine, the gall bladder is seen mostly for its role in storing and concentrating bile, but in Chinese medicine the whole energy pathway (meridian) comes into play. This is the only meridian that runs fully down each side of the body and twice around the head, highlighting its importance in keeping us upright (physically and spiritually), allowing us to move forward, and making decisions. Now is an excellent time to start an exercise program that encourages movement and flexibility.

With spring we are drawn to lighter, more cleansing foods. Besides fresh greens from the garden and woods, other foods that nourish us in spring are barley (grain or grass), oats, green lentils, egg yolk, broccoli and avocado.

The energy of Wood and of spring is one-pointed and straight-ahead, aiming toward its goal: life and growth. When that energy is thwarted, anger or frustration can arise. A healthy Wood Element, like nature, is able to adapt and become stronger when challenged. This spring, why not allow yourself to be like a sapling whipped by the spring winds: strong enough to withstand the torrent and flexible enough to bend and flow? May we all enjoy the challenges and the new growth. Happy spring!



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Part of a herd of javelina spotted in a wash in the Baca Grande. Javelina have never been reported in Crestone before.

Another sign of global warming? Javelina spotted in Crestone

by Carrie Caverly

First it was roadrunners, now it's javelina. Local residents spotted a herd of around 18 javelina while hiking in the Baca Grande's Spanish Creek Meadows area. Moonlight Rivers and her two sons were hiking with their dogs when they stumbled upon the foraging herd. "We thought they were deer at first, but as soon as we realized they were javelina we called in the dogs and laid low until they moved on."

Traditionally found only in the high and low desert climes of Arizona, javelina presence in the Crestone area may be part of a widespread blurring of the lines between native and non-native species due to man-made global warming.

As our climate changes, Park Service biologist Randy Mulls notes that "species that can migrate have begun to move into regions where temperatures and humidity are more hospitable. We spotted javelina at the Sand Dunes last winter and it looks like they're continuing their northerly migration. People who deny the reality of climate change should see these pigs as proof," he said.

Javelina are most active at night, but do move around during the day in cooler temperatures like what we have here in Crestone. They generally aren't aggressive but can retaliate when surprised, and due to their very poor eyesight, javelina are easily surprised.

It is recommended that hikers use extra caution when traveling near washes or creek beds, and try to generate noise to warn the near-sighted javelina of your approach, perhaps by singing or clapping, banging pots and pans, or wearing bells on your ankles.

Javelina occasionally bite humans and can inflict a serious wound. Defensive javelina behavior may include charging, teeth clacking, or a barking, growling

sound. They may act defensively when cornered, or when they hear or smell a dog. Dogs and coyotes are natural predators of javelina, and they can seriously hurt or kill each other. Javelina around your home may also inadvertently attract mountain lions, because mountain lions prey on javelina.

Javelina are attracted to residential areas by the vegetation planted by many homeowners, compost, garbage, birdseed and water sources. They also gravitate toward homes to find shelter in crawl spaces, under porches, in meditation rooms, and any other cave-like area.

Scare off animals from around your house by making loud noises (bang pots, yell, stomp on the floor, etc.), throwing small rocks in their direction, or spraying with vinegar, water from a garden hose, or large squirt gun filled with diluted urine (1 part urine and 9 parts water). The ammonia in the urine and the nasal irritation it causes will encourage the javelina to leave. Avoid spraying urine in the eyes as it may cause damage even at this low concentration. Urine should not be used around wetlands because it is toxic to fish and amphibians.

Often thought of as wild pigs or boars, javelina are actually members of the peccary family, a group of hoofed mammals originating in South America.

Thankfully Crestone residents don't have to worry about clanging pots and pans while hiking to avoid being bitten by near-sighted javelina, because the reports of javelina in the Baca turned about to be a rather piggy April Fools joke. For now, we are safe from hordes of near-sighted, easily panicked wild peccaries roaming our neighborhood washes and creek beds. But, we're told by experts, the climate change is real!

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Enjoying Everyday Life

How to instantly increase your joy



by Joyce Meyer

Every word that comes out of our mouths has power in it—creative or destructive, positive or negative. Whether we murmur and complain or give thanks and keep a positive attitude, we are feeding our body, mind and spirit. So if you're not enjoying your life, the best thing you can do is think about what you've been talking about.

First Peter 3:10 says, "For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile." Our joy is connected to what we say. And one of the ways we can instantly increase our joy is to stop talking about all of our problems.

When we put our faith in God, we can stay in peace in every situation in our lives. The question is, when we pray and ask God to change something in our lives, are we releasing our faith?

We need to understand that the moment we pray, God goes to work on that situation. And after we pray, what we say while we're waiting to see the answer to our prayer is very, very important. So pray and then say something to enhance your prayers—speak faith-filled words. After I pray, I set myself to believe that God is working no matter what I see . . . no matter what it feels like. Because oftentimes when it seems nothing is happening, that's when God is doing what we need the most.

Another way we can instantly increase our joy is by using our words to encourage those around us. Every word is like a seed and it brings some kind of harvest in

our lives. If you give others joy with your words, you will increase your own joy. If you want to enjoy your life, let God use you to make other people happy. Because the happier you make other people, the happier you will be.

Encouraging words can also bring healing, by simply saying things like "I appreciate you. Forgive me. I'm sorry and I was wrong." I was not what I would call a natural encourager, but I made a commitment to God years ago to start encouraging people on purpose. Now I ask God every day, "Who can I encourage today? How can I build someone up?" It's amazing how much better life can be when you give someone an encouraging word every day.

We can also increase our joy by being thankful and saying it. I also thank God for my husband, children and grandchildren as well as all of our partners and all of the people who work with us in spreading the Gospel through our ministry.

God wants you to enjoy your life. I hope you will really get this message today and be encouraged to know that when you face challenges in life, you can make them better or worse by the way you talk about them. I don't believe we can change all of our circumstances into pleasant ones by making positive confessions, but we can increase our joy and peace in the midst of them when we choose to speak in agreement with God and learn to say what He says.

Ask Dr. B about pets Heartworm prevention for dogs

by Linda Behrns, DVM

A number of people have asked me recently if they need to give heartworm prevention to their dogs here in Crestone. While the risk of heartworms here is very low, there is still a small chance dogs could get infected. Heartworms have been found in all fifty states. Dogs travelling from areas where heartworms are much more common, and mass relocation of dogs after natural disasters such as Katrina, help spread the disease. Stray and neglected dogs and wildlife such as coyotes, wolves and foxes can also be sources of infection for pets.

The idea that environmental temperatures below 57°F prevent heartworms from spreading is due to the assumption that the mosquitoes will die when the temperature falls below 57°F, thus preventing transmission. I cannot find any data on this, but I think our species of mosquito can easily survive temperatures lower than that.

If not detected and treated early, heartworms can cause lasting damage to a dog's heart and lungs. As it is such an easy disease to prevent, especially in this environment, and so potentially devastating, I recommend giving dogs heartworm prevention at least June through November. Iverhart Max, the monthly preventative that I carry, also controls roundworms, hookworms and most importantly tapeworms. I have seen numerous cases of tapeworms here

in pets that catch rabbits and rodents. That may be the best reason to have your dog on heartworm prevention in this area.

Have a question you would like answered here? You can call Dr. Linda Behrns at Crestone Mobile Veterinary Service at 719-588-4024, or email her at CrestoneMobileVet.com.

Sweet Potato Dog Biscuits

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¾ cup mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 Tbsp flax seed
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup water

Directions

In a large bowl add the eggs, honey, water, flax seed and cinnamon. Mix until combined.

Add ½ cup of flour at a time, mixing on low.

Dough should be firm and only slightly moist. If it is sticky add a teaspoon of flour at a time, folding it in by hand until combined.

Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface until thin.

Cut out desired shapes and lay spaced apart on a non-greased cookie sheet.

Bake at 325°F for 35 minutes or until firm.

Let biscuits harden for 2 hours or overnight.

Recipe from CaninePantry.com

Joyce Meyer Article

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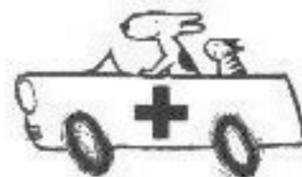
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* Please feel free to call Earl LeRoy at 719-650-9737 or Tim Brenner at 588-1857 if you have any questions.

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Lori Nagel

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The Living Wisdom community on March 8 was very well attended!

A full house for Living Wisdom Senior village idea well received

Cloud Station was “filled to the brim” on March 8 at a standing-room-only presentation by the Living Wisdom group of their concept for a senior village.

Burt Wadman presented the rationale behind the Living Wisdom Project, describing the concept as a tight-knit senior neighborhood based on successful traditional village models. From the archaic and mysterious to the southwestern indigenous, iconic communities incorporate common features and characteristics that foster harmony and encourage a sense of community and personal ownership. Interlaced with the presentation were quota-

tions from Dr. Atul Gawande’s recent book, *Being Mortal*, which underscores the approach taken by the Living Wisdom group.

The proposed not-for-profit development will require three to four acres and can be built in phases, with an ultimate build-out of approximately 44 senior residences and 20 additional spaces for staff housing and support services. The sustainably designed village radiates out from a central plaza, with higher care units encircling the core, followed by semi-independent and independent housing in successive rings.

It is anticipated that funding

for the project will include a combination of private unit sales, unit rentals, innovation grants, endowments, and community volunteerism. The project is not a public facility and therefore no mill levies will be involved in the project.

Living Wisdom intends to spend the next year in the development of key elements of the project, including a market study, medical services and housing programs research, a preliminary financial plan, and a legal framework, all of which are required to further assess feasibility.

A unique feature of the program is the formation of an ongoing “Focus Group” whose members will be interviewed during the project’s development. Ammi is seeking volunteers 65+ who resonate with the direction outlined in the

presentation, and can offer challenging questions and constructive criticism as the concept evolves. (Contact Ammi at 588-2064, or newammi2011@yahoo.com).

Much work lies ahead before architectural design can be commenced. This ambitious grass-roots project requires that many disciplines be integrated into one comprehensive vision. Living Wisdom derives its sense of purpose from the desire to create an innovative foundation that can have long term benefits for the community. LW extends heartfelt thanks to all who attended, and plans to update the community periodically as work progresses.

Barbara Hoepfner, Ammi Kohn, Vivia Lawson, Findly West, Steven Elliot, William Howell, and Burt Wadman.

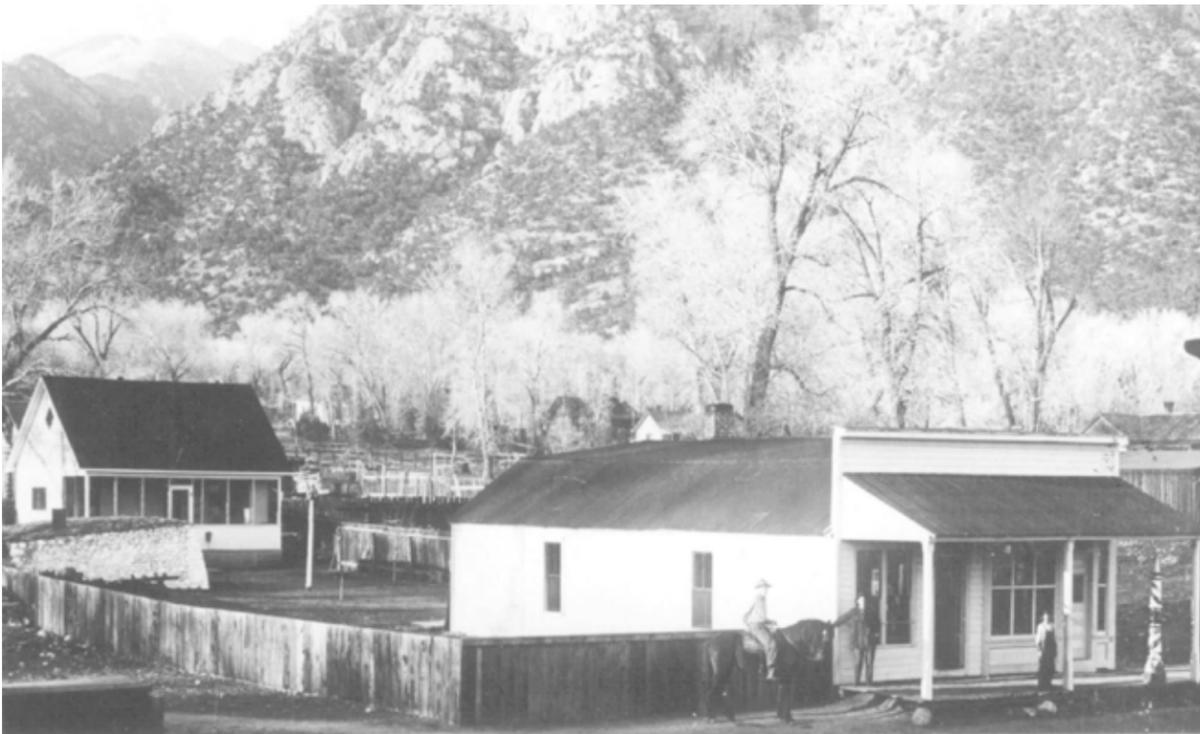
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Looking Northeast: 159 W. Galena - late 1880’s

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Camino de Crestone gains college credit

The Camino de Crestone, just in its third year, has attracted the notice of faculty at the University of Denver. D.U. students in the Religious Studies Department will be signing up for a special August 15-22 Camino de Crestone. Assistant Professor Ben Nourse and his wife Erin have created a 3-credit course called "The Many Faces of Religious Pilgrimage," aiming to provide direct experience to compliment what students will be reading about.

"College students making use of the Camino de Crestone is a milestone in the Camino's history," says Founder, William Howell, "and a dream come true. On the first Camino in 2013, one graduate-student pilgrim told me, 'The Camino de Crestone is life-affirming and life-transforming.' He'd read books about many of the sacred traditions represented in Crestone, but had never been to such centers as he encountered on the Camino. He had not sat in meditation nor had the opportunity to meet dedicated souls in these various paths of return.

"As an educator, seeing

the Camino gaining the attention of university professors feels just what this first interfaith pilgrimage in the world was designed for. This student pilgrimage will be an annual event, and I hope Colorado College, already having a presence in Crestone, will want to do the same."

The 2015 Camino season offers three pilgrimage dates: June 6-13, August 22-29 and September 12-19—all starting and ending on a Saturday. These dates should provide the bugless great weather that makes Colorado living so grand. All the details are at www.caminodecrestone.com.

Third year's a charm, feels William, who is confident that these participating D.U. students will, for the rest of their lives, be buoyed by the experiences of being a pilgrim and bringing their hopes and doubts to the sixteen different spiritual centers that they visit. The Camino de Crestone is meant for gaining authentic experience in this most subtle field of human activity—the inner journey which affords the greatest of all adventures.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY —MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ **Bitter/Sweet:**

★★★

A rather all-business American coffee exec goes to Thailand to sign off on a crop purchase but crosses paths with a lovely publicity professional. She leads him (James Brolin) to the coffee fields of Krabi and opens his heart to a softer way of thinking.

2/ **Musa the Warrior:**

★★★★

In keeping with my affection for action, adventure and intrigue, this Korean period piece is about a group of Korean envoys that have to venture into China on a diplomatic mission but run into capture and accusation of espionage. They are taken to a remote desert to die but instead make their way back to Korea along with rescuing a beautiful princess.

3/ **Steal:**

★★★

Slim puts together a group of extreme-sports risk takers to make 5 heists in 5 days. When one heist nets them \$20 million they decide to end it but a crooked cop forces them to continue.

4/ **The Big Wedding:**

★★★★

To please a special guest, his birth mother, at their son's nuptials, a long-divorced couple feigns marital bliss. The hoax naturally spins out of control amongst family and friends, leaving a meaningful and funny tale of ties that bind. Starring Robert DeNiro, Katherine Heigl, Diane Keaton, Amanda Seyfried, Topher Grace, Susan Sarandon, Robin Williams and Ben Barnes.

5/ **Friends with Kids:**

★★★

In this Indie rom-com best friends Jason and Julie decided the way to have kids without sacrificing their social lives or careers is to raise a child together platonically. Of course, romance and other complications fall upon their perfect plan.

6/ **The Moon Embracing the Sun:**

★★★★★

In my appreciation of Asian court principle and bushido and Samurai principles this series has it all plus wonderful romance, intrigue and court politics.

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Warmer weather brings hantavirus risk

Spring cleaning can increase your risk of exposure to hantavirus unless you take proper precautions. Hantavirus causes Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), a relatively rare but very serious disease that results in death for more than one-third of those who become infected.

In the San Luis Valley, hantavirus is carried by deer mice, which can move into barns, sheds, crawlspaces, and attics to keep warm through the winter. The virus can be found in the urine, saliva and droppings of infected mice. People are infected by breathing in the virus when stirring up dust from mouse nests or mouse droppings in areas with poor ventilation, or when handling mice.

To protect yourself and your family, do not sweep or vacuum mice droppings or nesting materials, because breathing dust containing infected droppings or urine is the most common way to be exposed to the virus. Before entering or cleaning enclosed buildings and other enclosed areas where mice may have been present, open them up to air out for 30 minutes. Wear gloves and consider wearing an N-100 rated respiratory mask (available at most hardware stores) when cleaning rodent-infested indoor areas. Spray mouse droppings and nesting materials

with a disinfectant and let them sit for a few minutes before disposing of them in a plastic bag. Take steps to keep rodents away from your home.

Early medical care is crucial for those who do become infected. First symptoms of HPS appear 1-6 weeks after exposure and are flu-like: fever, headache, muscle pain, and sometimes nausea and vomiting. A few days later, difficulty breathing develops and progresses very quickly to inability to breathe. Anyone who experiences early symptoms in the weeks following exposure to rodents, their droppings, or their nests, should seek medical care immediately and be sure to tell the medical provider about the exposure to rodents.

Since hantavirus was first identified in the Four Corners area in 1993, Colorado has had more confirmed cases of HPS than any other state except New Mexico. Last year there were two confirmed cases of HPS in the San Luis Valley.

For more information call your local public health agency (Alamosa County 589-6639; Conejos County 574-4307; Costilla County 672-3332; Mineral County 658-2416; Rio Grande County 657-3352; Saguache County 655-2533) or go to www.cdc.gov/hantavirus.



Lucy's Warbler

photo by Pat Richmond

11th Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival registration taking wing

Registration is underway for the 11th Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival, May 6-10, 2015. As a major spring event for the entire Four Corners region, the UMMV Birding Festival attracts participants from throughout Colorado, adjoining states, and communities spanning the United States from Florida to the Pacific Coast. Birding enthusiasts have travelled from as far away as Australia and Hawaii to attend the Cortez-based festival. Popularity of the UMMV Birding Festival centers around the variety of birding habitats in the Four Corners area, and species sightings (184 species in 2013) that may garner Colorado rarities like Acorn Woodpecker and Lucy's Warbler.

The 2015 UMMV Birding Festival features 25 tours with overnight trips to Moab, UT and Telluride, CO. The schedule includes several new tours as well as species-rich favorites. Birding destinations targeted for this year's tours range from Sub-Alpine and Ponderosa forests to Pinyon-Juniper scrub, the Great Sage Plain, riparian river corridors, and desert canyons. As in the past, a Beginning Birding and a Family

Birding Outing are offered free of charge through a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant. Since the festival provides transportation in vans donated by various local agencies, tour registrations are filled on a first-come basis according to van capacity. All tours depart from the Cortez Cultural Center at scheduled times and provide lunch, snacks and water.

Full registration for the festival includes presentations by well-qualified birding experts as well as the Saturday evening banquet. Wednesday evening, John Rawinski, San Luis Valley Birding Network Coordinator, unlocks the mysteries of Colorado's owls. Thursday afternoon Dr. Tony Apa, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Avian Research Biologist, discusses Ecology and Habitat Use of Gunnison Sage-Grouse in southwestern Colorado. Dr. Joseph Ortega, Biology Department Chair, Ft. Lewis College, shares his field studies on ecological factors, such as wildfires and cowbird parasitism, that affect breeding bird populations and nest success in southwestern Colorado. Birding by Ear is the topic of this year's banquet keynote speaker, Nathan Pieplow, author of the forthcoming Peterson's Field Guide to Bird Sounds. Daily festival registration is available, too. Pre-registration is required for tours and a Pasta and Film evening at the Mancos Public Library. For a nominal fee, the general public may attend the lectures and Saturday's keynote presentation.

A variety of local and regional agencies, businesses, and private entities help support the festival's activities through cash or in-kind donations. A volunteer committee meets regularly to prepare for the festival—developing promotional materials, selecting tour destinations, and securing expert tour guides. Proceeds from the not-for-profit event benefit the Cortez Cultural Center's mission of upholding the Creative Spirit, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Wonder of the Four Corners.

Details about the 11th Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival's daily activities, tours, and guides are available at www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com. For additional information, contact the Cortez Cultural Center, 970-565-1511.

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The crowd looks on as the beam is placed atop the new school structure.

New school on the horizon for the Moffat/Crestone community

Joint venture Haselden|Diesslin recently topped out the new Moffat PK-12 replacement school. This much-needed facility will replace the current school, which has experienced multiple issues concerning the building's structure over the last few years.

Representatives from Haselden|Diesslin and RTA Architects, and Moffat Consolidated School District #2 Superintendent Kirk Banghart led the topping out ceremony (placing the last beam). Beginning with the elementary-age students, Brendan Christiansen (Haselden Construction), Kevin Diesslin (Diesslin Structures), and Kirk Banghart held a Q&A session, followed by giving the students a tour of their new building, explaining each section of the building and how the final finishes will look. Similar meetings took place with the middle and high school students. The students then watched as the crane battled the wind to lift the topping out beam into place. As is tradition, an American flag was attached to the beam. Twice, elementary students broke into a spontaneous recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The new \$13M facility, designed by RTA Architects, will provide the students and staff with a stunning

new school. Slated for LEED® Gold certification, the new school—funded by a BEST grant and matching bond passed by the voters—features a unique, exposed glulam beam structure and houses art, music, votech, and metal shop classrooms in addition to standard school rooms. One of only two schools in the district, Moffat PK-12 averages an enrollment of 136 children, and serves the communities of Moffat and Crestone.

Students will be attending their new school this fall.

Haselden Construction was founded in Colorado in 1973 and delivers sustainable projects throughout the Western United States. They were recently named ENR Mountain States 2014 Contractor of the Year for Colorado and Wyoming.



Rendering of front entry way of the new Moffat PK-12 courtesy of RTA Architects.

Student leadership at Crestone Charter School

by Laura Karnes

Self-efficacy is the belief one has in one's ability to be successful, however that looks. It is critical to create environments that support the development of students' self-efficacy as this proactively ensures success in their adult lives. Putting leadership into the hands of children can be one of the most empowering and supportive acts for this development. It is an act that says, "I trust you and I believe in you, even if you aren't able to believe in your self, yet."

This winter Crestone Charter School put leadership into the hands of our children through creating a Student Leadership Council. Student Leadership Council has 2-3 representatives from each classroom chosen by their peers to represent them and to take roles of leadership in the school community.

The members of the Student Leadership Council are all trained in Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution techniques. They model and actively do peer mediations with individuals and entire classrooms. We actually have had conflicts in our 2nd/3rd grade classroom involving most of the 16 students in the classroom. SOS protocols were initiated and the Student Leadership Council arrived, en masse to listen, mediate and offer resolution. They did this with no adult input or assistance. All members participated equally, regardless of the 6-year age span between members. It was beautiful to watch the compassionate wisdom pour out of these individuals. It was impressive to see the respect afforded them by their younger peers in conflict. It was incredible to watch the effectiveness of peer mediation and hopeful to see how peaceful means can solve conflict.

Student Leadership Council is now leading our monthly all-school gatherings. One of its youngest members, a third grade student, piped up to be the main leader to MC their first all-school gathering in March. Student Leadership Council created an action plan of activities they would like to initiate and coordinate for the rest of this year and the upcoming school year. For their first charge

they created a Code of Cooperation for the school's playground. Next year they wish to create a program called Students Teach Students—a student tutoring and mentoring program. They wish to coordinate Service Learning Projects in the community and lastly they elected to create school guidelines for appropriate dress and public displays of affection between students.

Crestone Charter School is also working to increase student self-efficacy through offering more in-depth support to students to help them prepare for life after high school. In a lot of cases this means vocational training and in other cases it means finding meaningful volunteer options. Last month three AmeriCorps volunteers from Missouri, Maryland and Chicago did an incredible recruiting event to our high school students.

Life after high school can seem quite daunting for most students. To better support them we are planning a life pathways seminar next fall where each week students and the school counselor complete projects on various topics ranging from sexual health awareness and healthy activity choices to developing skills for job interviews, and writing resumes, to filling out college applications and acquiring scholarships.

Our last endeavor has been to support students who wish to have more challenge beyond the classroom level by partnering with Adams State University to offer concurrent enrollment. They are dually enrolled in both high school and at Adams State University where they may take 1-3 courses per semester as early as their sophomore year. Three years ago we didn't have any students participate in this program; two years ago we had one student participate in this program. This last year we had 6 students participate in the program and next year we have a record 11 students planning to concurrently enroll at Adams State University for next fall.

Supporting students through the development of self-efficacy is not a small task, however it is something we try to nurture through the creative environment and incredible resources that Crestone Charter School offers. Whether it is empowering students to lead, offering avenues for peaceful resolutions of conflict or supporting them to discover the best option that meets their individual needs for a successful life after high school, it is our hope that our students will grow into believing, "I trust myself, I am capable and I am the best I can be now and that is just perfect."

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Health Fair coming to Salida April 25

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center will introduce the HRRMC Health Fair on Saturday, April 25, 6:30am-noon at the hospital's main campus, 1000 Rush Drive, Salida. This is the first year the hospital is sponsoring its own health fair instead of hosting a 9Health Fair in Salida.

Similar to the 9Health Fair, the HRRMC Health Fair will offer several basic low-cost screenings and additional free screenings. Anyone 18 and older may participate in the fair's health screenings.

The low-cost screenings include blood chemistry for \$30, Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) for \$25, blood type for \$15, hemoglobin Alc for \$25, blood count for \$15, and screenings for vitamin D (\$40) and iron (\$10). Instead of sending the lab tests to be processed by an outside laboratory, the lab tests will be performed locally at HRRMC and the proceeds will be reinvested in Wellness U, the hospital's community wellness program.

Participants will receive their test results via mail within two weeks of the fair. HRRMC Health Fair results will not be posted to the hospital's online patient portal. Those with critical or alert health results will be called directly by the HRRMC Laboratory the same day the results are processed.

"Holding our own health fair is a natural outgrowth of the Direct Access Lab Testing (DALT) program that HRRMC's Wellness U introduced last year," said Jon Fritz, HRRMC's employee and community wellness supervisor. "We created DALT as an affordable way for patients to monitor their health. They can order lab tests without a doctor's order from a menu of standard tests at discounted prices throughout the year. The HRRMC Health

Fair offers another affordable way for community members to access health screenings."

There are three ways to register for the HRRMC Health Fair. Participants may preregister online at www.hrrmc.com with Visa, MasterCard or Discover by clicking on the Health Fair Registration button on the home page.

Participants may also preregister and prepay with cash or check only on Thursday, March 26, from 7am to 7pm, at the Masonic Temple, 140 West Third St., Salida.

Registration is also available on the day of the fair.

HRRMC is introducing a new option this year to enable participants to skip the lines for the blood draw. Early-draw appointments are available at the hospital during the two weeks prior to the HRRMC Health Fair. Appointments are being scheduled April 13-17 and April 20-24, 6-9am.

Participants may schedule their early-draw appointment at the Masonic Temple preregistration or check the "early-draw time slot" option on the online registration form and receive a call back scheduling the appointment. Those who take advantage of the early-draw appointment will receive an additional 20% off the already discounted HRRMC Health Fair prices above.

Attending the HRRMC Health Fair does not replace a regular checkup with your physician, and participants are advised to make an appointment with their medical provider to interpret test results.

For questions about the HRRMC Health Fair, call Jon Fritz at 719-530-2057. For more information about HRRMC's Wellness U programs, visit www.hrrmc.com.



This gigantic toddler was spotted climbing Crestone peak & playing peek-a-boo. Authorities are trying desperately to locate his monstrous parents. photo by Lori Nagel

Radon test kits available

All San Luis Valley residents are encouraged to protect their families from the serious health risks associated with radon by reducing any elevated radon levels found in their homes. Radon is a naturally-occurring, colorless and odorless radioactive gas which is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and contributes to as many as 500 lung cancer deaths in Colorado each year.

Approximately 50% of Colorado homes have radon levels in excess of the EPA recommended action level. Any house may have high levels of radon even if neighboring homes do not. The repairs can be effectively accomplished for the price of a typical home repair.

Alamosa County Public Health Department and the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership provide vouchers for free radon test kits at your local public health agency locations in Center, Del Norte, Creede, San Luis, La Jara or Alamosa. For more information, contact Regional Environmental Health at 719-587-5206.

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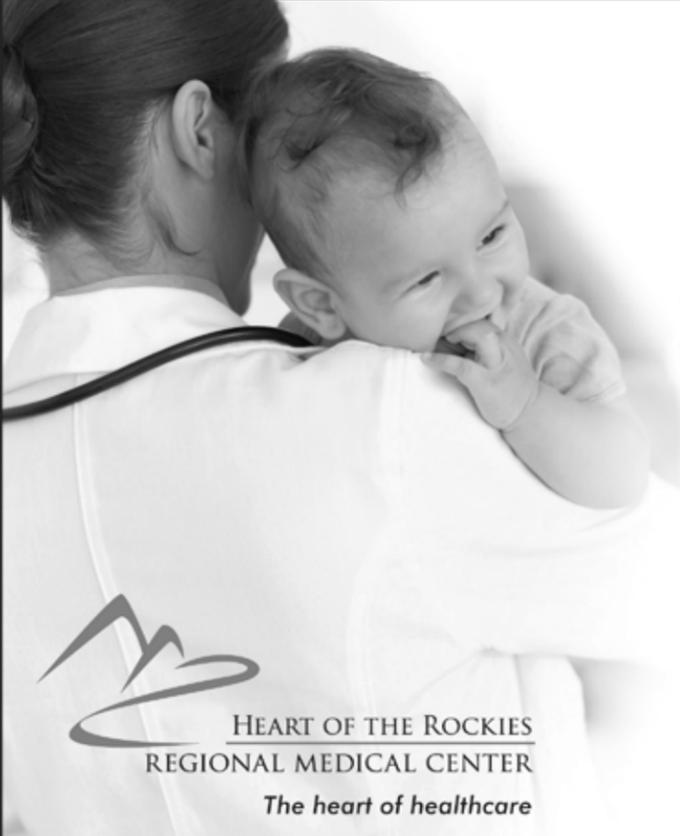
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The Washington Beat

Budget passed for the year

by David Nicholas

The 114th Congress: DHS budget passed for the year

The House on March 3 passed a bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the fiscal year, averting a partial shutdown of the agency after weeks of uncertainty, but inflaming conservative lawmakers. The legislation passed, 257 to 167, with only 75 Republican votes, and President Obama signed it.

The vote was an abrupt reversal of position by House Republicans. What started as an uprising by conservative lawmakers ended largely in a resigned whimper, with Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) pushing through a “clean” spending bill over the objections of his more hardline members. They had hoped to use the measure to fight what they say are Mr. Obama’s unconstitutional executive actions on immigration.

The Speaker’s decision, surprising in its timing, reduced the potential for the political fallout that Republicans would most likely have faced if Homeland Security’s operations were halted in a way that harmed public safety. The Speaker’s action was an effort to regain some of the lost prestige he suffered five days earlier, which made the House leadership look chaotic and disorganized.

A version of the bill failed to pass on February 27 when 52 Republicans voted with Democrats to defeat it (222-204). The version voted down included amendments which excluded funding areas of Homeland Security that would be used to implement the immigration reforms that President Obama put in place exercising his executive powers.

The rationale for passing the “clean” bill on March 3—without those amendments—was that the Federal District Court in Texas ruled on February 17 that the President’s use of executive powers in immigration reform were unconstitutional. That put them on hold, ensuring that the question of executive powers would be resolved in the courts sometime in the future.

The whole exercise was seen as a GOP disaster. The promise made by Republican leadership in Congress at the beginning of the year was to show America that it could govern effectively. If you graded the Congress on its performance, charitably it’s a D+. Maybe.

SCOTUS hears Obamacare arguments

On Wednesday, March 4, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) began deliberating on a case which could decide the future of the Affordable Health Care Act/Obamacare.

The central question in the case, *King v. Burwell*, No. 14-114, is whether the Affordable Care Act bars the subsidies in places where the federal government, rather than the states, runs the insurance marketplaces called for by the law.

The 80-minute hearing was heated and argumentative among the justices. The four liberal justices,

Ginsberg, Kagan, Sotomayor and Breyer, argued in support of looking at the law in its original intent and as a whole rather than just the four words which are the bone of contention in the case. Words apparently and inadvertently overlooked when the bill was before the Congress in 2009.

The court’s decision, expected by late June, will determine whether roughly seven million low- and middle-income people in some three dozen states will continue to receive subsidies to help them buy health insurance. Should the court rule that Obamacare did not authorize subsidies, then most of those people would no longer be able to afford insurance. And insurance markets in those states could collapse, imperiling the health care law.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Roberts mostly sat in silence, not adding much to the questioning by the other justices. The swing justice, Anthony Kennedy, was equally critical of both arguments, so it’s not a given that the Court will uphold the law as it did in 2012, when a 5-4 decision made Obamacare the law of the land. We will be watching.

Much ado over noth . . . er, emails

Does it really matter that the former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton had a separate and private email account that she used to carry out her duties while on the job? To me, no. But there are laws, which people claim she has broken because she didn’t have an email account that was required to be connected to State Department computer servers.

This furor should just go away and in time it might, and probably if John Kerry made this boo-boo, it wouldn’t rate a mention. But at the moment this is further grist for the narrative mill. Republicans are up in arms with Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) insisting on March 17 that the 55,000 pages of emails Mrs. Clinton released in early March wasn’t enough and that she must surrender her computer server to a “neutral” third party.

Boehner said he believes that turning the server over to an independent party “is the fairest way” to ensure all public documents are turned over, particularly in regard to the deadly terrorist attack in Benghazi on Sept 11, 2012. Which, in short, is crap, but if she doesn’t, people ask, what does she have to hide?

It’s not a witch hunt, says Speaker Boehner. Well, John, I’m glad that’s not what this is. But what is it, if it isn’t that?

It just so happens that Mrs. Clinton was rumored to be ready to announce her candidacy for President in April. Coincidence? Hmm. So if this “issue” still has the narrative run four weeks from now, it could be a problem for her. We shall see.

The 47 Senators and why



Iran now matters to us

Catonically stupid is not often applied to 47 members of the US Congress but over Iran the Republican Senators who signed a letter to Iran’s leadership, Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Council, President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Zarif is an error of stunning proportions.

Hijacking foreign policy in order to embarrass the President and all who have devoted years to negotiate an agreement with the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program has ramifications. Hatred doesn’t work in foreign policy because you do things on the spur of the moment, which can lose us all western influence in the Middle East for years to come. Bush43’s desire to settle scores with Iraq, for example, is the cause of where we are now.

It wasn’t in the plan and it wasn’t considered by the Bush Administration that a consequence of waging war in Iraq that Iran would become a rising power in a bailiwick where the west used to dominate.

Unfortunately, the folly can’t be reversed. Worse, the west still needs the Middle East because of our dependence on oil. Despite US efforts in recent years to curb its oil habit, we still need Mideast oil.

The biggest loser will be Europe and this is why it feels compelled to meddle. But in so doing it raises the stakes in the game. If the west loses the religious wars being fought in Syria and Iraq to ISIL, al-Qaida and whoever else rises up to contest our influence in the region, the consequences are likely to be catastrophic and worse. Instead of going to plan, the situation has become more chaotic.

The biggest victor in Iraq in 2015 happens to be Iran. Iran is seen as a stable force that other countries could turn to for help. We didn’t see the rise of Iranian influence coming in 2002 when we embarked on the imperial enterprise, but here we are.

We actually need Iran now to help us with Syria and Iraq, as irksome as that may appear to some. Offending Iran will deny us the chance of getting the Islamic Republic’s cooperation when it comes to defeating the ISIL.

The national government in Baghdad is Shia. The Iraqi national army fighting to take back Tikrit and Mosul, cities in the north—the forces that are actually fighting effectively under the Iraqi flag—are Iranian-trained Shia militias. To all intents and purposes Iraq is a Shia state in terms of central power and military.

So we have 47 Senators who thought they knew better than the President and SecStat John Kerry, and now it’s a shit storm.

This is how it is playing today. In Iraq, the most powerful commander on the ground leading Iraqi forces against ISIL is Qasem

Soleimani. He is the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard’s Quds Force since the late 1990s, exerting a broad influence on the Middle East that has often been at odds with Washington’s vision for the region. It is his forces that US military advisors are working with to overcome ISIL in Iraq. Now that’s sort of embarrassing isn’t it?

The other group fighting ISIL from the north are Iraqi Kurdistan’s Peshmerga force, equally as good but not as well equipped as ISIL and without the battle-hardened commanders of the Baathist Army of Saddam Hussein—the commanders L. Paul Bremer fired in 2003.

Do you see the problem? Getting an agreement on Iran’s nuclear program—an agreement Iran wants—helps us with defeating ISIL in Iraq.

So a letter, threatening to Iran that an agreement with Mr. Obama may not continue with the next President, is pretty dumb. While Congress gets to vote on lifting sanctions currently imposed on Iran, it doesn’t get to vote on any diplomatic agreement because it’s not a treaty. As the next President is likely to be Democrat, and given that this letter has fallout on the 2016 presidential race, it gives Iran the more powerful hand at the negotiations. This was not the smartest move to make. Now you may not like/hate the President of the United States. He may not like you, but when you set a precedent to override his authority in a negotiation, it can happen again one day if the positions are reversed.

If the negotiations fail, Iran goes back to its nuclear program unobserved—which is still not intent on making nuclear weapons—and it’s not what we want.

Scuttling the negotiations may please Bibi Netanyahu who wants war with Iran—a desire that he maintains and intimated as much in his address to Congress March 3—the outcome won’t be an Israeli victory if war happens. The Israeli Defence Force is pretty lame when it comes to a full fighting force—week-end warriors in the saddle pretty much—versus the Quds force fighting with the Iraqis and currently getting experience in Iraq. Also the Israeli air force, while it has superior weaponry, has limited range but is gaining experience in Syria and Iraq as we speak. While US-made warplanes may bomb Iran’s nuclear facilities, they have a problem getting back to base. So in essence Netanyahu will be sending Israeli men and women to their needless deaths: but now he has other problems.

Bibi “the Great Victory” . . . now what?

March 17 came and the snap election called by Binyamin Netanyahu in late 2014 paid dividends. Bibi’s Likud Party won, and according to Israeli pundits, won big. The narrative is that two days before the

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election with polls saying he was losing he went all out and appealed to voters who are further to the right than he is. So much did he need the win that he went out and said that there would never be a two-state solution while he leads Israel.

The win gave the Likud Party the largest number of seats; the President of Israel instructed Bibi to go and horse trade with smaller parties to get a governing majority of 61 seats in the Knesset.

Post euphoria the narrative settled down and now while he may have won big with he has lost big. How so?

Well, Israel needs all the foreign allies it can get, so offending the Jewish state's long-time friend, us, has left a sour taste in the mouth. Republicans rub their hands with glee over embarrassing the President by offering Bibi the address to Congress and then send that letter to try to kill Obama's potential nuclear agreement with Iran. The problem is, they have further estranged the White House and Bibi.

The one ally Bibi had in the White House was SecStat John Kerry, so dumping the Secretary's treasured dream of getting a solution of the two-state peace process has eroded all trust within the administration. It remains to be seen if Secretary Kerry will summon the energy to try and get the Mideast Peace Process kick started again, but I think not.

So how bad are US-Israel relations now? The first sign that US-Israel relations are badly damaged is that the State Department press office offered a short statement on the Israeli election. The second signal was that it SecStat Kerry who called the Israeli Prime Minister to offer congratulations, not the President. When you want a formal response of faint praise, that's it.

According to the *Huffington Post*, President Obama called Bibi on March 19 and spoke to the Israeli Prime Minister. They quote Obama, saying, "I did indicate to him that we continue to believe that a two-state solution is the only way for the long-term security of Israel, if it wants to stay both a Jewish state and democratic."

Further, Mr. Obama said, "And I indicated to him that given his statements prior to the election, it is going to be hard to find a path where people are seriously believing that negotiations are possible."

When queried that Bibi was already backtracking on that statement as he did to NBC the day after his re-election, Mr. Obama said, "Well, we take him at his word when he said that it wouldn't happen during his prime ministership."

After Mr. Obama's telephone conversation with Mr. Netanyahu, the White House said he had told the Israeli leader that Washington would "reassess" its options on US-Israel relations and Middle East di-

plomacy.

If there is one thing Mr. Obama can do with great alacrity, it is to slap-down a malcontent, and Bibi got slapped. Somewhere in the conversation if congratulations were offered it wasn't in the released remarks. You really don't want "reassess" in any language used towards you by your benefactor, when you are dependent on being fed by the very hand you've just bitten.

Meanwhile pundits both in Israel and in America have been going overboard to say that the close relationship between the two countries still exists and will last despite the current damage. We will see.

The Iran nuclear talks

At time of writing the talks with Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany (P5+1) went into recess for a couple of days before talks will resume in Lausanne, Switzerland. It's not clear that an agreement will be reached by the March 31 deadline.

As of March 20, the United States and Iran are drafting elements of a nuclear deal. So far the deal commits Tehran to a 40% cut in the number of machines it could use to make an atomic bomb. In return, the Iranians would get quick relief from some crippling economic sanctions and a partial lift of a U.N. embargo on conventional arms.

The March 31 deadline is for a basic framework with a full agreement by the end of June. This (despite the efforts by the Congress) keeps up pressure on the administration to avoid any agreement leaving Iran with an avenue to become a nuclear power.

The tentative deal imposes at least a decade of new limits on the number of centrifuges Iran can operate to enrich uranium, a process that can lead to nuclear weapons-grade material. The sides are zeroing in on a cap of 6,000 centrifuges, officials said, down from the 6,500 they spoke of in recent weeks. That's also fewer than the 10,000 such machines Tehran now runs, yet substantially more than the 500 to 1,500 that Washington originally wanted as a ceiling. Only a year ago, U.S. officials floated 4,000 as a possible compromise.

The deal also comes with other restrictions on enrichment levels and the types of centrifuges Iran can use. Washington believes it can extend the time Tehran would need to produce a nuclear weapon to at least a year whereas the conjecture is that Iran would require only two to three months to amass enough material to make a bomb.

"Our negotiations have made progress, but gaps remain," Obama said Thursday in a video message posted online. "If Iran's leaders can agree to a reasonable deal, it can lead to a better path—the path of greater opportunities for the Iranian people."

Why does Hwy. 285 circle Estrella, CO?

by Alma Montaigne

Travelling south from Alamosa, slightly less than 8 miles down Hwy. 285, lies the hamlet of Estrella. The road is straight as can be, south-southwest through ranch and farm country, until it approaches Estrella, where it veers slightly to the west, continues parallel to the original route, then veers back to the east to the original line.

Why did this seemingly insignificant, almost unpopulated point in the Sand Luis Valley cause an important road to deviate briefly then return to its otherwise rectilinear route? The *Eagle* sent a reporter to look into it:

We need to look back into the early years of Spanish settlement in the southern SLV during the 1500s. Roman Catholic missionaries venturing up into this vast wetland encountered an ancient sect of indigenous



Aerial view of Hwy. 285 circumambulating the little town of Estrella, CO.

star-worshippers who held the skies over the SLV sacred due to their deity. Especially important was the location we now know as "Estrella" ("Star in Spanish").

It was nature worship, unacceptable to the Church. The Christian apostles worked very hard to convert the native residents, but as is so often the case, on Sundays everyone attended church; then the residents continued to hold their traditional ceremonies in secret.

Over the generations Catholicism appeared to gain the upper hand, although indigenous practices were incorporated along the way. The Church tried repeatedly to cover the ancient sky-viewing site of Estrella with a Catholic church, but something always went wrong, mostly from things falling from the sky (lightening, rocks). Finally, the Church declared it a cursed location and decided to build elsewhere.

The tradition of the shunned area has come down through the centuries to the 20th century when the paved, improved road was laid. They say that on clear, cold nights, to this day, you can see robed human shapes in a circle at Estrella, looking upward.

And really, do we have to tell you this story is an April Fools joke? I guess to avoid lawsuits from those without a sense of humor, we should. We just did. But, we've always wondered why the highway goes around Estrella. Haven't you?

So what about the Congressional meddling? The 360 members in the House of Representatives sent a letter to President Obama saying if an agreement is reached, Congress will decide on easing sanctions it has imposed. And while the Congressmen are adamant that their consent is required for lifting US sanctions, they are not the only sanctions imposed on Iran at present.

There are UN sanctions that don't require Congressional approval to be lifted, which only takes a unanimous vote of the Security Council to rescind them. Which means if the French reservations on the deal are satisfied in the coming days, then the Security Council will go ahead, ignoring the Congress, and begin the process to lift the sanctions. Right now it is the French who are holding out to be certain Iran will follow the agreement reached, and it is the French who to some degree represent Israel's interests in the negotiations.

In the main, the UN sanctions are about allowing financial payments to and from Iran through European financial institutions which, if lifted, would ease pressure on the Iranian economy.

While it is thought many of

these sanctions serve more as lip service than they are strictly observed, importing other European goods and services—such as cars—would increase with UN sanctions lifted.

US sanctions, on the other hand, are a freeze on all financial business Iran has with America. Particularly the large dollar reserves Iran had prior to the imposition of sanctions remain frozen in US banks. Iran would certainly like the money but because the Islamic Republic under sanctions has developed other revenue streams with Russia, and China in particular, they are in no particular hurry.

The pressure from Iran's point of view is that if we don't relent and lift sanctions, then the consumer market opportunities will fall to the countries that Iran perceives as friendly. That would be Europe if they lift the UN sanctions first. As most of the Iran's 78 million people are under 35, that's a lucrative market which we would like access. We can't afford to lose an opportunity; as we have always considered Iran our area of interest, that sort of pressure will be hard to let pass.

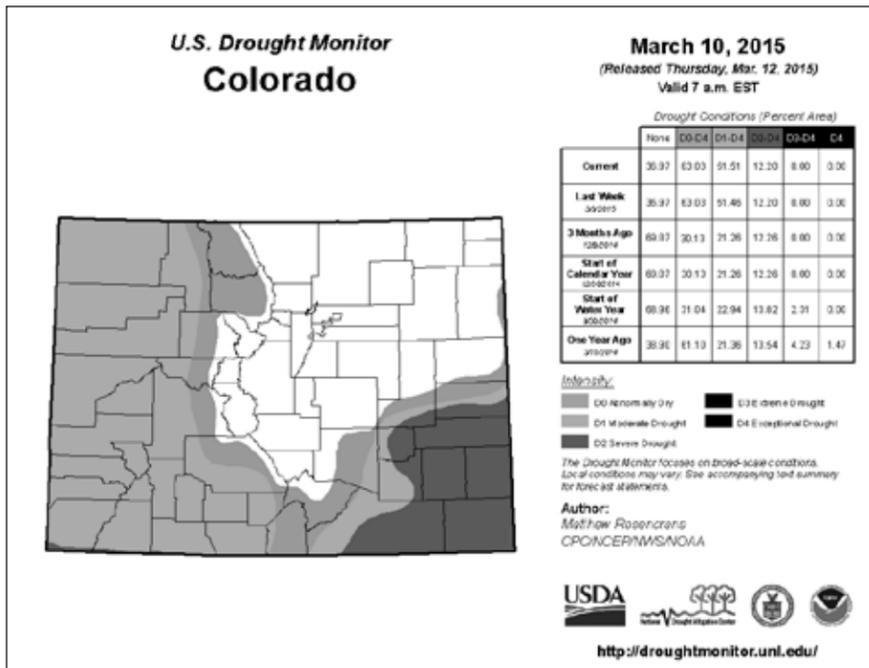
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Snowpack

continued from page 1

bit lower than we would like to see, with the Wolf Creek Summit basin only at 67%, even after a few feet of new snow falling there in late February. The rest of the state was pretty much seeing averages below normal, but nothing too different than our own basins. For the town of Crestone, officially at the Baca weather station, although a trace of snow remains on the ground as of this writing, the measurable snow-

pack, which started on December 13 of last year, ended on March 13.

As far as the long, ongoing drought in our state: to the east, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are out of it, as well as their foothills, including Crestone; but the San Luis Valley just to our west is not, with the western side of the valley a lot worse off than the eastern side. So although the valley down below Crestone is still officially in a drought, here in the foothills and up in the mountains we are not doing that badly, both for drought conditions and snowpack.

Forest Service

continued from page 1

in Washington State.

The Forest Service is partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to engage in 28 restoration projects across private and public lands.

Through the Forest Products Lab, the Forest Service is investing in markets for woody biomass, solid wood products, and other forest products to support a viable forest industry.

“These examples reflect the growing consensus around the need to restore our National Forests,” said Bonnie. “We have moved to a more collaborative approach that brings forest industry, local communities, conservation groups and other partners together with the Forest Service to develop plans and projects that make our forests more resilient to a variety of threats.”

Additionally, Bonnie noted

that in 2014, the Forest Service exceeded its targets by producing over 2.8 billion board feet of timber. The timber harvest, he said, has increased 18% since 2008.

Bonnie told the committee, however, that the way the Forest Service budgets for fire suppression is crippling the agency.

“Our fire seasons are 78 days longer than they were three decades ago. Fires are increasingly larger, more catastrophic, and more expensive,” said Bonnie. “In 1995, the agency spent 16% of its budget on firefighting. Today, the figure approaches half of our annual budget.”

The Under Secretary said that in most years, the Forest Service is forced to transfer dollars from non-fire budget line item—recreation, research, conservation, and forest management—to pay for fire suppression.

“If there is one action Congress could take to further forest restoration on the National Forests, it is to change the way we

Theme-based forest plan meetings scheduled for Monte Vista & Alamosa

The U.S. Forest Service and National Forest Foundation will hold two public meetings during the week of April 6 to discuss and receive public input for the Rio Grande National Forest’s plan revision.

The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, from 5-7:30pm at Monte Vista High School, 295 East Prospect Avenue, Monte Vista. Participants at this meeting will help identify:

- The types of recreation important on the RGNF.
- Opportunities to enhance or expand recreation to meet current and future demands.
- How recreation on the RGNF contributes to social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 from 5-7:30pm at the Alamosa County Building, 8900-A Independence Way, Alamosa. Participants at this meeting will help identify current issues and foreseeable trends concerning water and soil management on the RGNF, as well as review direction in the current forest plan to identify areas that need change.

The Rio Grande National Forest contains the headwaters of the 1800-mile-long Rio Grande. Natural disturbance, roads and trails, and management activities on the national forest have the potential to affect fish, wildlife, recreation and downstream water users. The forest service is seeking the assistance of the public to help identify areas and activities of concern. This is the second water and soil meeting, and will include map-based discussions and opportunities to provide input on additional topics that were not included in the first meeting.

Both meetings will feature an open house for the first half hour allowing the opportunity to view maps and engage in one-on-one discussion with RGNF staff. A short presentation by forest service staff will begin at 5:30pm, followed by interactive discussions designed to provide input for the plan revision. Light refreshments will be provided.

The forest plan is the overarching document that guides all management decisions and activities on the entire Rio Grande National Forest, including activities such as preservation of cultural and historic resources, grazing, timber production, recreation, wildlife management, firewood cutting and gathering of special forest products.

The forest plan revision is expected to be completed by the autumn of 2017. There will be two more public meetings concerning recreation and one more meeting focused on water and soil resources during this assessment phase of the forest plan revision.

For more information, visit the RGNF plan revision website at <http://riograndeplanning.mindmixer.com> or contact Mike Blakeman at the SLV Public Lands Center, 719-852-5941.

budget for fire,” Bonnie said.

The bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, now pending in Congress, would end the practice of fire borrowing. That legislation, which is mirrored by a proposal in President Obama’s budget, would allow the agency to increase the number of watersheds and acres treated while increasing timber production, Bonnie said.

Secure Rural Schools

The Under Secretary also pressed for reauthorization the Secure Rural Schools program, which provides payments to eligible states and rural counties to help fund public schools and roads and has provided funding to counties for community wildfire protection planning, emergency search and rescue reimbursement, and Firewise programs. Congress failed to reauthorize the program last year, but the Obama Administration has asked that it be restored in this year’s spending bill.

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.

Note: 76% of Saguache County is public land.

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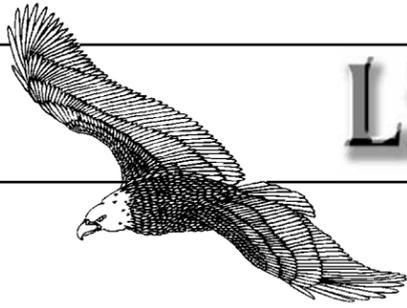
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Living on the Earth

Alferd Packer, famous Colorado cannibal

by Mary Lowers

*"In the state of Colorado
In the year of '74*

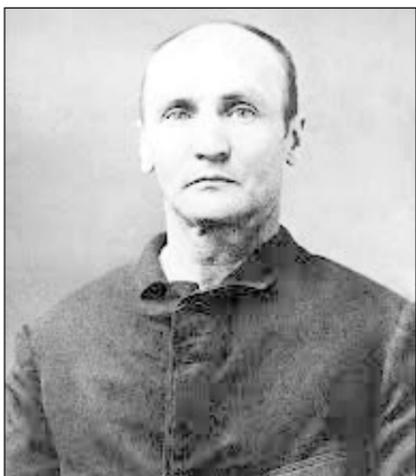
*They crossed the San Juan
Mountains*

*Growing hungry to the core.
Their guide was Alferd Packer
And they trusted him too long.
For his character was weak
And his appetite was strong."*

-from the "Ballad of Alferd Packer" by Phil Ochs

Alferd Packer, an American frontiersman looking, like so many others, to reinvent himself by heading out west to find his fame and fortune, probably never guessed his fame would come from an episode of cannibalism during the long hard winter of 1874.

The incident occurred while Packer was guiding five would-be prospectors to the rich gold country around Breckenridge. The group ran out of food and the snow was too deep for travel. In April 1874 Packer was the only one of the ill-fated party to make it out of the mountains. Alfred, who was known by his nickname of Alferd (the moniker was tattooed on his right arm), confessed to eating some of the party and using their meat to survive after being snowed in for two months.



Packer in prison.

Born Alfred Griner Packer in Allegheny, PA on January 21, 1842, his family soon moved to Indiana, where Alfred's father found work as a cabinet maker. When the American Civil War broke out in 1862, Alfred joined up serving as a shoemaker. He was honorably discharged from the Union Army due to epilepsy. He tried again to enter the army but was honorably discharged again for epilepsy. This experience motivated the young man to seek his fortune elsewhere. In 1863 he left the east for the Rocky Mountains where he worked various mining-related jobs for nine years.

After serving jail time in Salt Lake City for counterfeiting in 1873, Packer left Provo, UT and joined a

group of twenty-one men headed for new gold strikes in central Colorado. The party met with Ute Chief Ouray near Montrose. The famous leader warned the prospectors that the winter ahead would be harsh and the party should really wait out the winter before crossing the rugged San Juan Mountains. Six men, including Packer, ignored this wise advice. So it happened that the six prospectors left Gunnison on February 9, 1873. The group included, in addition to Packer, Shannon Wilson Bell, James Humphrey, Frank "Reddy" Miller, George "California" Noon and Israel Swain.

The party chose Packer as their paid guide, a job he took despite the fact that he knew nothing about the isolated rough terrain they would be crossing. By the time they reached Slumgillion Pass they were well snowed in and were eating their shoes boiled down for sustenance. Packer claimed after the incident in one of three confessions recorded, that he had left camp to scout and hunt. When he returned he found Shannon Bell roasting human flesh. Bell, according to Packer, went crazy and rushed him with a hatchet whereupon Packer drew his Colt revolver in self-defense and shot Bell dead.

Packer in Saguache County

On April 16, 1874 Parker arrived at the Los Pinos Indian Agency alone, looking fat and sassy. Initially he claimed to have lost the other five members of his party in a fierce blizzard. He did not ask for food and proceeded to visit a saloon in Saguache as he said his first need was whiskey. It was observed that Packer seemed to have lots of money to spend in several wallets in his pocket. When questioned Packer claimed he had acted in self defense and had only killed Shannon. In all of his three confessions the fact that the four prospectors were already dead when he shot Shannon, remained consistent. His third and final confession was signed in Saguache on August 5, 1874.

He was first tried in a Saguache County Court. At the time Judge M.B. Gerry said, "Stand up yah voracious man eating sonobitch and receive your sentence. When you came to Hinsdale County there were seven Democrats, but you ate five of them. I sentence you to be hanged by the neck until you are dead, dead, and dead, as a warn-



Packer before the ill-fated expedition.

ing against reducing the Democrat population. Packer you Republican Cannibal, I would sentence you to hell but the statues forbid it." While awaiting the hangman, Packer managed to break out of jail in Saguache and fled to Cheyenne, WY. Living under the name John Schwartze he lived quietly for nine years. He was discovered and rearrested on March 11, 1883.

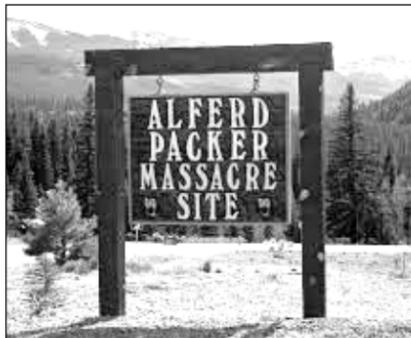
Packer then signed a second confession. His second cannibalism trail was in Lake City close to Cannibal Plateau where the carnivorous crime occurred. On April 6, 1883 Packer was found guilty of manslaughter, a lesser charge than murder, and was again sentenced to death. In October of 1885 the Colorado Supreme Court (case #3095) ruled on an appeal, reducing Packer's sentence to forty years in prison. At the time this was one of the longest custodial sentences in U.S. history.

After serving eighteen years Packer was paroled on February 8, 1901. He was employed for many years as a guard for the *Denver Post*. He lived quietly near Deer Creek in Jefferson County where he died at the age of sixty-five on April 23, 1907. He was buried in Littleton where his grave is marked with the tombstone of a war veteran. His obituary lists the causes of his death as senility, trouble and worry.

Packer died but certainly was not forgotten. In 1994 David P. Bailey, curator of the Museum of Western Colorado, studied a Colt revolver that was in the museum's collection said to be from the scene of the crime on Cannibal Plateau, southeast of Lake City. In 2000 Bailey discovered that forensic soil samples from a 1989 exhumation of Shannon Belle's grave contained, when examined under an electron microscope by Dr. Richard Dujay at Mesa State College, lead. Samples of this lead matched bullets from Packer's pistol. This seems to corroborate part of Packer's account that Bell was killed with a shot from his gun. Whether or not the killing was in self defense is still

not clear. Evidence continues to be unearthed; in 2004 a one hundred and thirty-year-old human finger bone linked to a site where the bodies of Packer's party were butchered was found on Cannibal Plateau.

Many songs about Alferd Packer have been written. I recommend tuning into YouTube and checking out C.W. McCall's Best Cannibal Song Ever. Trey Parker of the animated TV show South Park fame did a movie called *Cannibal, the Musical*, also available for viewing on the internet. Marketing for Colorado's most popular cannibal include movies, songs, a cookbook and various Packer events



Plaque commemorating Packer's victims.

statewide.

Alferd Packer Festival in Saguache

On October 11 this year the Town of Saguache will hold the second Alferd Packer Festival downtown. Events planned include a 5K Cannibal Run, a Beer Garden, a Rib Cook-off, children's crafts, Live Music, a Beard and Mustache Contest, Tug-O-War, and a free screening of *Cannibal, the Musical* at the Ute Theatre. Check it out at www.alferdpackerfest.com.

Lake City where Packer's second trial was held hosts an Alferd Packer Jeep Tour and BBQ each summer. Regular reenactments of the second Packer trail are conducted weekly over the summer in Lake City. Last year in Littleton, where Packer is buried, the Rotary Club held an Alferd Packer Bacon Party fundraiser. The cafeteria at CU Boulder Student Center is called the Alferd Packer Memorial Grille.



by Kim Malville

What's happening in April

Venus is the brilliant object in the western skies this month, remaining visible for slightly more than three hours after sunset. Jupiter, a little fainter than Venus, lies in Cancer, between the constellations of Gemini and Leo. It is due south at dusk and stops moving retrograde on April 18.

April 4: There will be a lunar eclipse in the morning just as the full moon is setting in the west and sun is rising. This eclipse occurs 2 weeks after the solar eclipse of March 20 (see below): full moons and new moons are two weeks apart. The partial eclipse starts at 4:15am MDT and the full eclipse starts at 5:54am MDT. It should be a fantastic sight watching the eclipsed moon setting in the west.

April 10-12: Venus will be close to the Pleiades in the western sky.

April 19:

A very thin crescent moon low on the western sky soon after sunset: to its right will be faint Mars and Mercury. Above the moon is Venus. The moon continues to move during the next few days upward toward and past Venus and Aldebaran. Note the red color of Aldebaran contrasted to the silvery white Venus. Aldebaran will be twinkling while Venus will be steady.

April 22: Lyrid meteor shower (meteors radiate out of the constellation of Lyra); best viewed from 11pm to dawn.

April 27: Look to the moon and just above it find Regulus, the brightest star of Leo the Lion.

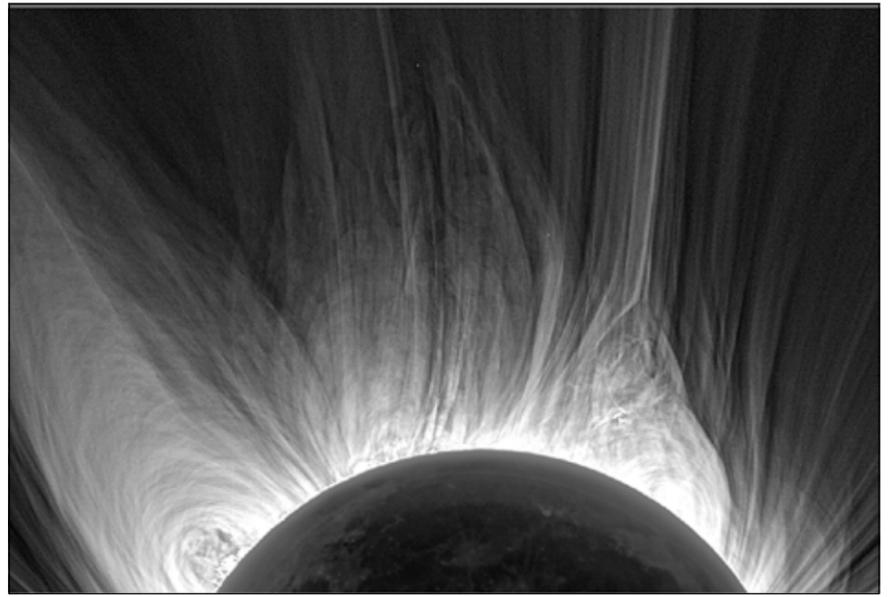
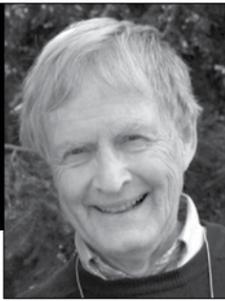
April 30: Just after sunset look to the north-west for the planet Mercury. This week and the next will be the best chance for viewing it in 2015.

The solar eclipse of March 20

A once-in-many-lifetimes solar eclipse occurred over Europe last month. Lots of people saw the sun partially eclipsed, but only those who braved the cold in Denmark's Faroe or Norway's Svalbard islands had a chance to see the full spectacle of a total eclipse. It was unusual in that it occurred at equinox. At the North Pole, the sun would be finally appearing on that day after six months of darkness. But, soon after it appeared it would disappear. That happens once every 400,000 or 500,000 years at the Pole. What a bummer for those polar bears! Some of the best viewing was near the town of Longyearbyen on Svalbard, where

its normal population of 2000 was doubled for the eclipse, which lasted all of 147 seconds. The town was worried that there would not be enough food for the visitors and that there might be polar bear attacks.

So, you might ask, why go to all the effort of traveling to a remote location on the earth when satellites are capturing images of the solar corona from space? The answer is that only ground-based telescopes give pictures of the very fine and complex structures of the corona, such as in this photograph from the eclipse of 2008. We still do not understand why the corona is so hot, a whopping two million degrees compared to 6000 degrees on the sun's visible surface. The streamers in the photograph are caused by wiggling magnetic fields, which somehow



Solar corona.

photo courtesy of Druckmuller, Brno University

even than the planet Mercury. It contains an iron core, a magnetic field, and flickering aurora in its atmosphere. Now it appears to have one of the largest oceans of the solar system, buried beneath a thick crust of rock and ice. Recent observations with the Hubble Space Telescope suggest a subsurface, salt-water, electrically conducting ocean, which contains more water than all the oceans of Earth. Here is another potent niche for life in the solar system. We already know about oceans underneath another Jovian moon, Europa, and a large lake beneath Enceladus, a moon of Saturn. The ocean of Ganymede appears to be 60 miles thick — 10 times deeper than Earth's oceans—and buried under some 95 miles of ice.

What wondrous creatures may be swimming in the dark waters of each of these three moons?

Ground Hog Day in the sky

Bill Murray in the 1993 movie was trapped in reliving Ground Hog Day over and over again. Now astronomers are watching the multiple replays of a supernova that destroyed itself more than nine billion years ago. These replays are coming to us thanks to the curving of space, first suggested by Albert Einstein 100 years ago. Einstein would have been 137 years old on March 14, and these reappearances of the supernovae are fine birthday tributes to the man. Actually, these observations by the Hubble space telescope are wonderfully amazing confirmations of ideas about General Relativity, which include the bending of

space due to gravity and the slowing down of time by gravity. This is all the more wonderful because there is no such thing as a "Force of Gravity." Our experiences of gravity are entirely the result of curved space. No force is involved. In the case of this supernova its light rays have been bent around a massive galaxy, lying between it and us, so that multiple images of it keep arriving. There are four images of the exploding star, each the result of a different path for the rays of light. Einstein proposed that matter and energy warp the geometry of space the way a heavy body sags a mattress, producing the effect we call gravity. One consequence of this is that light rays are bent and follow curved paths around massive objects such as stars and galaxies, an effect first confirmed during a solar eclipse in 1919.

This supernova, named after the Norwegian astrophysicist, Refsdal, has probably not finished sending us messages. We expect another image to arrive sometime in the next ten years. But hang on, it gets even stranger. Because of the expansion of the universe, the star and its galaxy are receding from us so close to the speed of light that clocks on the planets of that galaxy (there must be a few clocks) are ticking more slowly than those on Earth. As a result, one month for the residents of that galaxy corresponds



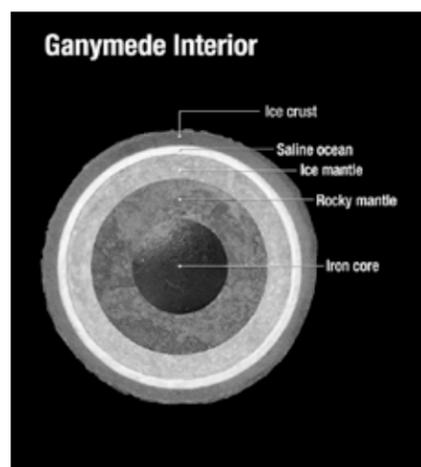
Eclipse viewers in Svalbard.

photo courtesy of icepeople.net

heat the gas. The corona has been an elusive puzzle for centuries and perhaps even millennia. The pearly glow which briefly appears around the sun when it is covered by the moon is an astronomical will-o'-the-whisp goal for astronomers like me, as we search for understanding of its mysteries, which we have yet been able to reach.

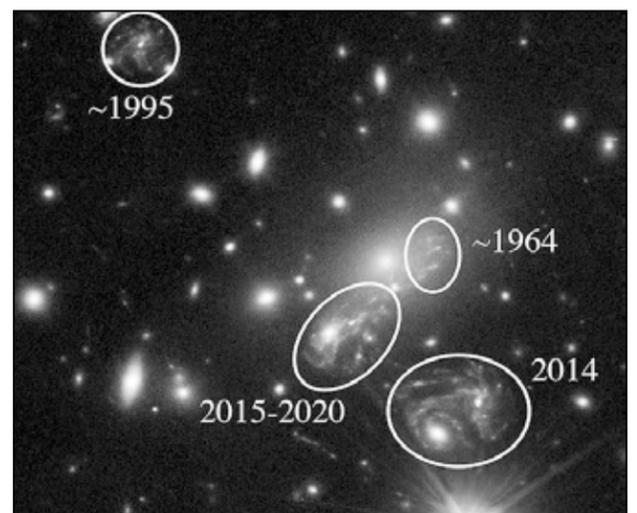
The oceans of Ganymede

Ganymede is the largest moon of Jupiter and also the largest moon in the solar system, larger



Interior of Ganymede.

photo courtesy of NASA



Einstein Cross, March 24 2015

to nearly three months on Earth. The explosion of supernova Refsdal is appearing to us in slow motion. All I can say is wow! What other mysteries await us in the universe? Any questions? Try: kimmelville@hotmail.com.

Awakening The Natural Genius ElementsCamp for Kids will offer summer program

by Peter May

E3 KFM has produced two successful ElementsCamps for Kids in the last two years, as well as numerous environmental stewardship camps, completing many environmental restoration projects, including repair of the Willow Lake Trail-head Road and the creation of the Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance trail system, which groomed and maintained cross country ski trails for over 70 days this season.

This year E3 KFM will again be offering the ElementsCamp for Kids summer program. Our theme this year is Awakening the Natural Genius. We are very excited to be offering this program this year! For 7- to 12-years-olds, the dates are July 5 through 10. For 12- to 15-year-olds, the dates are July 5 through 13.

The Awakening the Natural Genius program has arisen out of our programmatic work with the elements. As we looked back into history, we found that the great traditions have always worked with the elements directly. Through our past experience, the kids have responded remarkably well through getting to know the elements. We will be continuing and expanding our elemental program offering this year.

For this summer's program, we will also be adding the work of Fröebel and his "Gifts." Frank Lloyd Wright, R. Buckminster Fuller, and many other notable architects and artists were educated with the Fröebel Gifts. Fröebel showed us that when consciousness arises, so too must education.

It is well known that when we

are growing up, especially to the age of 7, we can learn at an exponential rate. It has become evident that working with the elements helps an individual discover specific openings or space within. Through further exploration during activity, a natural awareness arises within the individual and seeds that space. Once there is space and awareness, opening and seed, qualities can begin to arise and evolve in that individual throughout their life, especially if they are nurtured. If this space is not opened, seeded, and nurtured, the individual may never "grow" into their potential.

We are very excited to be offering this program this year. We not only want to bring out the "genius" in the campers, we want to support this genius quality to be in balance, especially with Nature, hence the "natural" genius. We all know of the environmental challenges that we face, and we need everyone who is capable to come online with their natural genius as soon as possible.

Musical opportunities will play an even greater role in the camp this year. There will be Freenotes available to play, and we will engage the Damanhur Music of the Plants device to hear the songs of the trees and plants. We are looking forward to a multi-species orchestral alliance!

We are expecting an increase in the number of campers this year, as we have already had significant interest from non-local kids. We invite everyone who has attended in the past 2 years to let us know that they are interested so we can reserve



Campers enjoy exploring a stream while on a hike during ElementsCamp for Kids in 2014.

a spot. Last year, more than 75% of the local participants received full or partial scholarships. This year, we have added an older group, ages 12 to 15, who will be trained in leadership and additional personal stewardship skills: counselors-in-training. Both groups will run simultaneously. To sign up and/or to request a scholarship application, email us at elementscamp1@gmail.com. In April we will be commencing our campaign for scholarships for local campers. If you would like to make a donation to the camps or sponsor a camper, send us an email. All donations are fully tax deductible, as E3 KFM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

We are planning a second ElementsCamp, August 17 to 22. This ElementsCamp will take place above 10,000 feet, and is for ages 13 to 17. There are a limited number of spots available for this

advanced leadership program, as it requires special wilderness permits. For information and/or to reserve a spot, send us an email at elementscamp1@gmail.com.

Also in August, we will be offering two sessions of another high elevation course, PranaCamp. This course is especially for teachers and/or anyone who works with kids. This course focuses on discovering and exploring life force and how it affects oneself and others, especially students! There are potentially two sessions for this program, August 10 to 16, and August 23 to August 29. Again, there are a limited number of spots available for this program, as it requires special wilderness permits. For information and/or to reserve a spot, send us an email at pranacamp@gmail.com.

Check for updates on Facebook: ElementsCamp for Kids and PranaCamp.



Summer 2015
ElementsCamp for Kids * July 5 - 13
High Elevation ElementsCamp * Aug 16 - 22
High Elevation PranaCamp * Aug 10 - 16
* Aug 23 - 29

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Garden Guru

Talking about soil



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

It seems to be instinctive, the need to put something into the soil . . . a biorhythm perhaps, having to do with the lengthening of days. At the end of summer, I can hardly wait to put the last tomato in a jar, and now, as I write this in mid-March, I have been putting seeds into tiny pots and scratching around in the half-frozen earth, wondering what I should do with it to make it more willing to grow next summer's bounty.

Twice this month I have been asked, "What should I do to improve my soil?" And, "What is the best kind of manure to use?" Now is the time to prepare the soil that our plants will use to nourish themselves, and therefore, us.

Soil scientists and commercial agronomists often narrow things down to a few chemical constituents that plants are known to need. On bags of fertilizers, both chemical and natural, you'll see initials like NPK. These initials mean Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K), the three most well known elements needed for plant growth. By applying fertilizers that contain these three elements, growers will often see luxurious growth for a few years. But these elements alone are not enough, and after a few seasons, the other things that healthy plants need will become depleted, and growth will slow, or diseases will increase.

The organic gardener will use natural substances such as compost, manures, and mineral combinations to administer the N, P and K, as well as minor elements, humus, and en-

zymes that help plants attain their best potential—the difference between fast food and slow cooking, for the plant kingdom.

So what's the best? Compost tops the list. Referring to composts, agronomists at the University of Oklahoma wrote, "Nearly all of the nitrogen and sulfur and one-third of the phosphorus that became available for plant use are supplied by the organic matter. Smaller quantities of other plant nutrients also come from this source: consequently, an increase in the rate of organic matter decomposition likewise increases the quantities of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and other plant nutrients in the soil solution." But to be a good source for out plants, we must have the needed ingredients in our compost.

Nitrogen tops the list. Nitrogen is a component of protein, and needed for plant growth as well as animal growth. It is found mostly in the atmosphere, as it makes up about 78% of the air we breathe. However, we can't build our body's cells with elemental nitrogen. Instead, we must get it through protein, which can be synthesized by legumes in the presence of certain bacteria. Animals eat these plants and turn the proteins into manures that we can use in gardens and fields to feed nitrogen to a new generation of plants—a grand Nitrogen Cycle.

Composting animal manures increases the availability of the nitrogen and keeps the manure from burning young plants. The "hottest" manures are poultry manures, such



Two generations of compost piles: on the left is a week-old pile that we'll add to for the next year; on the right is a year-old pile that has layers of food scraps, weeds, plant trimmings, soil and manure. A compost pile needs moisture, but that seems wasteful in this climate. Instead, we collect for a year, counting on only rain and snowfall for moisture. In the second spring, we put a soaker hose lengthwise along the top, plant winter squash and mulch the sides heavily with straw. The squash grows like crazy all summer, the compost gets the moisture it needs, and at the end of the summer we have a lovely pile of finished compost.

as chicken and turkey. They really need to be composted. Goat, sheep, rabbit, deer and elk are next, but their neat pellets make it possible to use them as a top-dressing without burning plants. Horse, cattle, and swine manures are the least "hot" and contribute the least nitrogen. Gardeners can also compost the legumes that fix nitrogen into the soil. This is a strategy of turning "green manure" into the soil, or using a high nitrogen legume like alfalfa hay in making compost.

If you have made your own compost, spring is the time to turn that compost into the soil. If you haven't made enough for your garden's needs, you can buy it. Compost Technologies outside of Center, CO makes it on a large scale. Another local source is the mushroom farm north of Alamosa. Once it has been used for growing mushrooms it is bagged and sold. And of course, the garden centers and big box stores have a selection of products.

My personal favorite is the mushroom compost. It tends to have some sulphur in it, which helps acidify our alkaline soil. The main

drawback is that it is sometimes not composted enough and is too "hot". However, if mixed with our native sandy soil about 1 part compost to 5 parts soil, it will rarely burn the plants. Never plant directly into the pure compost nor use it as a mulch where it will touch young plants.

When I am preparing a new bed for planting, I will first dig and turn the native soil, which is very sandy on the slopes and more likely to have some clay and alkali on the flatter areas. I then add mushroom or other compost. I will usually also add some Ironite or similar product, which is iron in a sulphur compound. This acidifies our alkaline soil and makes the iron more available. I also add bone meal, which is a good source of calcium and phosphorus, other elements our soil tends to need. We are less likely to need potassium, since this is found in pulverized granite of which our mountains are composed. As a general rule, our soil has most of the trace minerals needed because of our proximity to the mountains. The humic acids in composted plant material make these minerals more usable to the plants.

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Kerber Creek before restoration in 2008.



Kerber Creek after restoration in 2013, showing increased stream-side vegetation, improved width-depth ratio, and floodplain vegetation.

Roundtable officers remain, Kerber Creek restoration funded

by **Bea Ferrigno**

Although Mike Gibson's resignation as chairperson of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (RGRT) was to be effective at the end of March, he opened the March 10 meeting with an offer to remain to the end of the year, along with the other two officers, Rio de la Vista, vice-chairperson, and Cindy Medina, secretary. All three will participate in an executive committee, also formed at the March meeting, tasked with developing a plan for succession and with supporting the efforts of the overloaded chairperson. Gibson has ably guided the RGRT since it was formed eight years ago, with the cooperation of the board of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District where his real job is management of the district.

In discussing the matter of succession, Gibson emphasized that people who value what the RGRT has brought to the valley need to step up. If they don't, the membership may need to be restructured. If the success of the RGRT is to continue, current members and other organizations whose water projects have received support through the Roundtable need to help in its ongoing, all-volunteer work. Recently many members have participated

in numerous meetings toward formation of the statewide water plan ordered by Gov. Hickenlooper, so it seems that their energies may be somewhat overtapped. Thus, during the remainder of the year the executive committee is charged with making a plan to identify officer candidates and to organize support for them.

Travis Smith, the Roundtable representative on the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) remarked that Gibson had taken on a lot for the RGRT and has done a great job. Any chairperson, however, would need more support than Gibson has had, so the question is "How do we operate into the future without wearing out a chairperson?" Considerable discussion followed until several volunteers were appointed to the new executive committee.

In addition to developing a plan to identify new officer candidates, the committee may have several other tasks such as reviewing applications for project funding, inviting speakers to present educational topics at the monthly meetings, compiling agendas and minutes, keeping track of the membership, and generally organizing the activities and records of a large group of active members. Gibson will chair the initial meet-

ing of the executive committee and then turn that slot over to another member. In light of the newly changed structure, the by-laws that were to be amended in March—mainly to allow for occasional proxy voting—were tabled until the April 14 meeting.

The Kerber Creek project funding application, introduced last month, was presented in full with a video of sites along the creek both before and after restoration. The plan to mitigate mine tailings and restore the stream was approved for \$30,000 in basin funds.

Some members of the RGRT who have backgrounds in well drilling had suggested an educational session on well logging. This was presented by Greg Bauer, vice president and director of hydrophysics at COLOG, a company

based in Lakewood that does borehole geophysics worldwide. Several methods such as electric resistivity, borehole imaging, and neutron logging, are used to examine different subsurface situations. Thin layers, clays, and water-bearing sands can be distinguished; some methods can be used in cased wells to determine, for instance, where a casing may have failed. It is possible some well logging could be done in the SLV where there is apparently a lack of geophysical logs.

Craig Cotten, Division 3 Engineer, reported that the Rio Grande basin snowpack had increased 30% in the first 10 days of March, to 87% of average. It fell off after that and by mid-month was down to 80%, but rain was expected later that week and better-than-usual precipitation was anticipated through the summer.

Groundwater Rules Committee meeting April 7

by **Bea Ferrigno**

State Engineer Dick Wolfe and staff met with the San Luis Valley Advisory Committee to the State Engineer Concerning Rules & Regulations for Ground Water Use in the Rio Grande Basin in CO in Alamosa on March 11, the first meeting since August 2014. In the interim, some refinements were made to the Rio Grande Decision Support System (RGDSS, aka the model) and definitions of all the response areas were completed. The response area descriptions were expected to emerge from peer review within a few days.

In addition, a computerized workbook was developed which will allow each subdistrict to enter a modest amount of data to generate reports that will help create replacement plans. For instance, the workbook can identify net depletions by administrative stream reach. Subdistricts will also have portfolios of remedies they can employ to replace depletions greater than 50 acre feet. The workbooks can be updated more easily and more frequently than the RGDSS.

There was considerable discussion, during which Wolfe requested that commentators submit

exact wording for suggested changes so that the plan could be sent to water court as soon as possible, perhaps not perfect but without "fatal flaws." Noting that six years have elapsed in the process of responding to feedback, Wolfe said "If people think we need to scrap Rule 8 ["Standards and Monitoring Methods for Achieving and Maintaining a Sustainable Water Supply"], I need to hear that today."

After further discussion, it looked as if Rule 8 would stand, though, as Wolfe observed, it is difficult to determine the right standards in changing conditions, especially when the "legislature doesn't allow much flexibility for responses to dry or wet conditions." The point had been raised by some in earlier meetings, with scant acknowledgment, but Peggy Godfrey put it succinctly: "A 5-year running average of inflows should have some place in planning." Wolfe granted it is an important parameter, but wasn't sure what might be done with it.

The discussion will continue on April 7 at the Rodeway Inn (formerly Inn of the Rio Grande) in Alamosa, beginning at 10am. Lunch will be provided.

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\$54,900 Nice large home on 1 acre-horses allowed-several out-buildings, grow a garden, and be self sufficient! 702541



\$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. 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, 3BD 2BA, near golf course. 699740



\$25,000 3 bedroom 2 bath mobile in Lazy KV water is included with yearly HOA- new greenhouse, on 1 acre with beautiful mountain views. 703451



\$159,500 This 1.5 story 3BD/1.75BA 1704sf house sits on a treed acre in Chalet 1, nestled in a quiet, paved cul de sac. 698195



\$75,000 This A-Frame cabin offers a great opportunity to buy a turn-key house in The Baca Grande subdivision at a price rarely found! 699702



\$52,000 Large home with 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, large front porch, storage shed on 5 acres with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain. 699785



\$45,500 Acres and acres of solitude and possibilities! This single bed/bath home has a family room (in addition to the living room), utility room. 698747

FEATURED LAND LISTINGS

- 2862 N. CAREFREE WAY, .5 ACRE \$2,000 & 2863 N. CAREFREE WAY, .5 ACRES \$2,000
- 1602 SILVER SPURE TRAIL, 1.65 ACRES \$3,000
- 859 BIRCH RD & 860 QUATZITE ROAD, 7 ACRES \$15,000
- 163 MOONLIGHT WAY & 164 CANYON OVERLOOK, 1 ACRE \$9,000
- 605C QUAIL RUN, 11.86 ACRES \$22,200
- STABLES LAGOON TRACT OUTSIDE OF THE POA, 10 ACRES \$117,000

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In Search of Economic Reality

Time to nationalize health care

by Ed Lyell

US health care is an exploitative system making lots of money for insurance companies and providers based on monopoly power disguised as capitalism. Real capitalism is hard to find in America. Many industries are now dominated by just a few providers and they can get economic profit. This is where the consumer pays much more than a real, competitive industry price. Consumers pay even more than in socialist or communist systems. Look at the soda pop or airline industries for example, as well as much of the technology world. This is the concern behind the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) fighting for consumers by pushing Net Neutrality through classifying the Internet to be a public good, like old fashioned telephone, water and energy delivery. Without these new regulations internet access will become as exploitative of consumers as today's health care industry.

The cause of the working class not having jobs or wage increases is because concentrated capitalism (the majority of US industries) restricts competition and can operate more like a communist enterprise—only with the gains going to the executives and investors, not the workers or consumers.

Studies have shown that health care insurance in America is dominated in each state by just one or a few providers. These na-

tional companies are big and powerful, controlling politicians and regulators at the federal and state levels. They get their edge through a system wherein insurance is controlled state by state, and has been "rigged" to prevent real competition. This was not a problem decades ago when the insurance industry was primarily mutual companies. These were nonprofit corporations and the policy holder was also the owner. Any excess revenue was given back to the policy holder-consumer. Those same consumers controlled the board of directors and limited executive pay and benefits, creating a more equitable workplace for all workers while getting more efficiency than the present system.

As outside investors bought out these mutual companies they have increased prices, caused profit levels above 25% and become the best industry to maximize returns on investment (ROI). More recently many of these for-profit insurance and health care provider hospitals and clinics are owned by investors from around the world, including wealthy Middle East dictators who do not even like America. Stephen Brill did a full-issue *Time* magazine story on the failure of the health care industry and has recently published a book detailing what I am summarizing, *America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Back-Room Deals, and the Fight to Fix Our Broken Healthcare System*.

Being an older guy I spend a lot of time and money (mostly insurance company money) on my own health care. Recently I was told to get some CT scans. Using my BC/BS Anthem website (my Adams State insurance carrier) I was able to see the very wide range in prices charged by different providers of CT scans. It confirms what Brill has been reporting on for years. I found that what was ordered for me would cost anywhere between \$636 and \$1,981 in the San Luis Valley, and an even wider range of \$293 to \$5,300 on Colorado's Front Range.

The wide difference is because of an industry with rigged prices wherein someone is forced to pay. This is especially true when the doctor ordering things also owns the testing facilities or is part of a network that self-directs.

America's health care system is the only one in the world focused on profit, not patients. Europe and other developed nations primarily have government-provided, nonprofit, or regulated profit systems. All provide higher quality, more access, and for less than half the cost per person of America. America is already spending more tax money on health care per person than any other country and then adds private insurance money and patient payments to that cost.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) does little to fix this problem and it can be argued just forces more people to buy for-profit insurance, expanding the exploitative pricing in this industry. After over 4 decades as a pro-business professor I now conclude that America must nationalize the health care insurance and provider industry. It could be a total government takeover, or regulated monopoly-style control, or forced use of mutual-only companies and providers. This is called a Single Payer system and yet there many variations that America can adopt.

The current system already takes almost 20% of the whole US economy. The Medicaid part alone has forced states to now spend 20% of their general fund on it, destroying higher education and other state programs to pay for this over costly and exploitative health care system. It is not the average doctor making the money; in fact most family practice doctors make less than other professions with comparable investment and training. It is the top executives and outside investors making all of this excess profit. For further information see Brills's book or the following: http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/faculty_scholarship/2281 or www.thehappyd.com/blog/bid/294610/Healthcare-Costs-So-Much-More-in-the-US-it-s-the-Monopoly-Factor.

Ed Lyell, PhD., is Professor of Business & Economics at Adams State University. email: edlyell@amigo.net Facebook: [dredlyell](https://www.facebook.com/dredlyell)

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Plantain (Plantago major)



By Dorje Root

Plantain did not originate in this part of the world, but we're very fortunate that it has made itself at home here. Its origins are in Europe but you'll find Plantain in gardens and parks, and other places that have either been watered or are damp enough to support it. Please make sure that the area where you harvest it has not been sprayed!

Plantain is a rather unassuming plant with parallel veined leaves and a single flower stalk. I remember as a kid we used to wrap the stalk around itself and shoot the flower head at each other. It was a great pastime for kids in the country without an overabundance of classes and lessons in the summer.

Plantain has been called "nature's Band-Aid" because of its wound healing abilities. Chew up a clean leaf and apply to a skinned knee, cuts, scrapes, bites, and burns. It will soothe, and begin the healing process.

Plantain has rather a nice combination of astringency and demulcent qualities, making it ideal not only for external wound healing but also for soothing the respiratory, digestive and urinary systems. Think colds, coughs, hay fever, as well as stomach and bowel infections, and urinary tract infections. It's virtually non-toxic and edible, and so is a perfect plant for children.

Plantain has a few toxic "look-alikes" which should be easy to discriminate once you have seen and gotten to know the plant. I find that plants, like people, are easy to

distinguish from their look-alikes if you consider the whole plant, including its energy. You would not fail to recognize a friend just because someone else had the same hair color and chin. In the same way, plants become friends and their identification becomes easy.

Psyllium seed (a common bulking laxative) comes from another species of Plantain (*P. psyllium*), and the



seeds of the common Plantain can be used in the same way, ground and soaked in water. I have heard that the resulting goo also works well as a hair gel, though I have not tried it.

These are just a few of the many uses of this versatile and abundant plant. May you enjoy it!

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.root-sofhealing.com

SMOKE COLUMN

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Baca Grande VFD

With the onset of spring, the Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department (BGVFD) is beginning preparations for the 2015 fire season. According to the Public Lands Fire Management Office for the SLV, this is generally from May through October. A Wildland Fire Fighter 1 & Refresher course will be held April 13-16 at the Baca Grande Firehouse.

In February, 2014, the BGVFD began its year with 5 new members, 2 veteran members (1 of whom took a leave of absence, LOA) and 1 returning veteran member.

This membership willingly trained two days per week. Trainings were held for 1-3 hours every Tuesday and for 4-5 hours every Saturday. They also volunteered to attend trainings with other fire departments. Within a short time, this core group was proficient in operating all fire trucks and putting them "into pump". With the diligence of Interim Chief Jack Johnson, Assistant Chief Chris Botz, Captain Robin Durrance, plus the enthusiastic dedication of the core group of new members, the BGVFD became a formidable volunteer emergency service. By the end of 2014, it was capable of responding safely and effectively to all types of fire department emergency incidents within its jurisdiction, and assisting with mutual aid events.

A wide variety of training topics were covered for the year 2014. To mention a few, they included: safety, communication, geography, water supply & delivery, vehicle accidents, wildland & structure fire, incident command, emergency vehicle driving, and haz-mat response.

Approximately 1,800 hours were volunteered by the 2014 membership for training, workdays and responses.

There are now 12 members on the BGVFD, 2 of whom are on a seasonal LOA. Interim Chief Chris Botz and Captain Robin Durrance are directing their efforts in training each member to be an Incident Commander on a variety of emer-

gency events.

Trainings are scheduled for the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 4-5pm. The Saturdays, following the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, are from 11am-3pm. Tuesday trainings focus on a "think tank" for Incident Command in addition to commanding a "real time" mock incident. Saturday trainings focus on conducting apparatus and equipment deployment. The Saturday March trainings exercised pump & roll operations utilizing water, foam and compressed air foam system.

Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District's calendar of training has been developed. Per the BGVFD's Mutual Aid Agreement, the BGVFD has an open invitation to attend these trainings. It is a fine opportunity to introduce ourselves to each other and familiarize ourselves with each department's equipment.

There are two new items of interest. First, all BGVFD fire trucks have a GPS unit that tells us where the fire hydrants are located. This is especially helpful during nighttime operations. Second, the BG-POA Board of Directors passed a resolution on handling emergency incidents that happen on bordering properties not covered by any other emergency agency. Eleven spiritual centers supported this resolution.

As a reminder to all who reside within the BGPOA, annual burn site inspections are effective from March 1 to March 1 the following year. Please renew your burn site inspection for the year 2015. Forms are available at the BGPOA Administration Office.

As a Baca Grande property owner, you are a member of a community that may have to prepare and/or respond to a fire emergency, either as a firefighter or an evacuee. Either way, knowledge is safety. Become involved with your Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department. We welcome and encourage you to visit us anytime you see us at the firehouse or in the field training.

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APRIL 2015 Listings



SOLD!



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!



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.



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.



110 Pinewood OL - \$75,000
2BD/1BA ~900sf partially furnished A-Frame - fantastic opportunity to own a house in The Baca Grande at a price rarely found! Large wood stove and wall propane heater. Cozy w/ extra storage in the peak.

Under Contract!



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



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.

Under Contract!



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

New Listings



557 & 560 Panorama Way - \$299,000
This spacious 7BD/3BA home has functioned as a B&B - fantastic for owner occupied &/or retreat space. Amazing 360 views, nearby creek w/cottonwood & aspen trees. A must-see property.



56 Wagon Wheel Road - \$295,000
Luxurious ~1800sf 2BD/2BA southwest-style ranch home built in 2002. 2-car garage w/studio. Large windows in great room w/stone fireplace & amazing views. 4.6 acres, well & septic.



1540C Willow Creek Way - \$265,000
3BD/2.5BA 1946sf classic farmhouse, 1.3 acres, backs to greenbelt & w/ 2 screened porches & southern deck. Separate log-cabin studio, w/steam-shower bathroom, kitchenette, and covered porch.



333 Palomino Way - \$199,000
Built in 2011, this 2-story 1685sf home offers 3BD/Study/2.5BA in a very functional floorplan. Passive solar, fire-resistant siding, carport, spacious kitchen with concrete countertops,



1175 Golden Eagle Tr - \$185,000
2BD/2BA 1196sf Ranch-style home on 2.15 acres, built in 2006. Cozy luxury in the Grants. Mstr suite has tremendous views, full bath, walk-in closet, patio & garden. ETS heat. Well & septic

New Listings



600 Heatherbrae Road - \$185,000
Off-Grid - Beautiful 1240sf 2BD/1.5BA home on 2.61 acres, borders Conservation Easement. 220sf enclosed passive solar porch, 105sf shower & deck, 528sf deck & 8'x12' storage room. Well & septic.



3376 Genial Way - \$179,000
Tri-level 3BD/1.75BA home, lovely screened porch w/trex deck off living room. Lots of windows in the living space, offering amazing views, lots of light, and passive solar. ETS heat.

Commercial Property



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

Historic Hotel



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

Town of Crestone



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

Baca Meadows



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

Baca Grande - Chalets



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



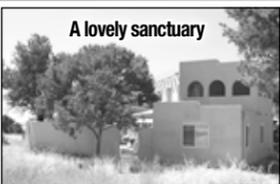
1967 Rockyview Way - \$465,000
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck.



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



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



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



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



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.



149 Moonlight Way - \$269,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2118sf home w/ 2 living areas - extensively updated & immaculate condition. Cathedral ceilings & a wall of glass w/ great views. Adjoins greenbelt & creek. Great space for entertaining!



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



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



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



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



397 N Chaparral Way - \$209,000
Lee Mitchell Home, 1410sf, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2-story stucco home has magnificent mountain and valley views. Gorgeous Master Suite on entire 2nd floor. Private suite is complete w/ large closets, master bath.



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



3356C Camino Del Rey - \$199,000
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.



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.



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



3732C Cordial Way - \$159,000
Private & unique hexagonal 2 bd, 1.75 ba home on 1.36 treed acres. Separate 384sf building incl. heated & finished office & workshop/storage area. Great views, wrap around deck.

Baca Grande - Grants



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



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



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



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



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



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



by Kizzen Laki

This had to be one of the worst jobs ever. We were always looking for work, doing odd-jobs to make a buck—cutting wood, cleaning construction sites, pouring concrete and roofing on hot summer days. But really, this one was exceptionally bad.

It was in the mid-1970's and located in the Town of Buena Vista was the old schoolhouse (briefly the Chaffee County courthouse when the records were hauled there from Salida in the 1800s in a renegade attempt to make BV the county seat). The stately big historic 3-story brick building in the 1970's was vacant, boarded up, verging on derelict. It hadn't been used in decades. Then someone decided that something needed to be done to save the building. And something *really* had to be done about all the pigeons that had moved into the attic.

Hundreds of pigeons had gone through the holes in the old decorative metal flashing and taken up roost. This was home for most all of the pigeons in Buena Vista. Who could be hired to go up there, get all the pigeons out, and board up the holes? The local carpenters wouldn't touch the job. Nor the well-established handymen. Someone knew someone, who knew us. Poor

hippies in the woods—good for the dirty work.

We checked the job out. It could only be done from the inside—unless you had 3-story scaffolding—which we didn't. We really needed the money so agreed to do the job. We gave what we thought was a high bid for busting the birds and they snapped the bid up. We should have charged double.

It was summer and hot, the attic was full of birds and tons of pigeon dung. We wrapped bandanas around our faces and crawled over joists, laying boards so we wouldn't fall through the ceiling, boarding up access holes. Nasty, dirty work. During the day most of the birds would flee outside and then return at night. We worked our way around the outside of the building trying hard not to raise clouds of dust. Sweating like crazy, emerging with feathers stuck to our clothes and our skin, coughing and sneezing. "This is crazy, let's walk away from this one" we said. But no, our "hard-working" reputation was at stake. Maybe we'd get some of the actual building repair bids. (Nope, they went to the "real" carpenters).

We finally worked our way around to the last holes and there were still pigeons inside. Hollering



Old cabins and the cliffs of Chalk Creek Canyon.

and waving we shooed most of the remaining birds out—but not all. There were some that just would NOT fly out. Around and around we chased them, around and around they went. We gave up and boarded up the holes anyways. By then we were tempted to just let the stupid pigeons all die in there.

A new home

We came back the next day with boxes and cages. One by one we caught the birds, sneaking up on them when they hunkered in the corners. Trying not to fall through the ceiling or injure the flighty birds. Our original plan had been to take them outside and turn them loose, but then we had the bright idea to take them home.

We were living in a cluster of old cabins in Chalk Creek Canyon. We were raising chickens, so why not pigeons? So, we hauled the pigeons home and stacked the cages alongside the house. After a few weeks I decided to just set them free. Really, what were we going to do with pigeons?

We opened the cages and allowed them to fly. I kept one very young bird, not much more than a baby. We kept him in the cabin and the kids named him "Nemo". He would ride around on our shoulders being eyed by the cat.

The now-free pigeons kept coming back. They liked the chicken scratch I fed them. I would go out in the morning and hollar "bugaloo, bugalooooo" imitating the sound they made and they'd come

flying in. I liked the sounds they made—a gentle bobbing cooing.

Winter came and the pigeons found themselves homes in the canyon. All winter they would come by. The flock went from about 20 to around 12. I saw some that had made a home under a bridge, others found other roosts, maybe some flew back to Buena Vista. I'd send the bugaloo call echoing out into the canyon and they'd come flying in, bobbing and pecking and singing their gentle pigeon songs.

Over the next two years, their numbers continued to decline. Hawks and coyotes, most likely, enjoying the taste of pigeon. Nemo lost his life to the cat. Three years later, there were only four left. I stopped calling them, but they still showed up when I fed the chickens. They had survived and become wild doves.

Many years later I went back to the canyon for a visit. I didn't see any pigeons then—but they might have survived up in those craggy cliffs. I like to think so. If you wander up Chalk Creek Canyon sometime, bring some seed and give a call out over the cliffs . . . "bugaloo, bugalooo, bugalooooo" and listen for the sound of their answering call.

In the 1970s Kizzen and her young family lived in a cluster of old cabins in Chalk Creek Canyon in the Collegite Peaks. Along with other assorted young folk, they chopped wood and hauled water. This is a story from those days.

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Please help us celebrate National Library Week, April 12-18, by making use of your library, one of the most valuable resources available to our community members. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit us, please come check us out. For a small rural library, we have a great selection of books for all

ages, videos, magazines, newspapers and reference materials. There is a resource center with public computers connected by WiFi. Printing, copying, faxing, laminating and interlibrary loan services are available.

National Volunteer Week (also April 12-18) is another celebration this month, and the library extends much gratitude to our Friends of the Library group. This dedicated group of volunteers has made great strides in getting a non-profit status for the FOL, enabling them to write grants for our ultimate vision—a new library building in town. Fundraising projects need to be organized, and we encourage community members to support these efforts. The upcoming fundraiser is the Tax Day Bake Sale on April

15 (look for flyers around town for more information). Please consider joining this group—if you want a new library, then work to get it by adding your strength to their numbers!

April is also the month for celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, April 22. It is important for the future custodians of our planet to be introduced to its wonders at an early age—and these wonders are right outside our front doors! The library has a great selection of “earth-friendly” books to guide children and caregivers along the path. “The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable.” -Richard Louv, author of *Last*

Child in the Woods

“It’s funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed. If you haven’t been to your library lately, you’re over-due.” -Paula Poundstone, comedian and National Spokesperson for The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends & Foundations (ALTAFF)

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

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The cost of electricity derived from residential rooftop solar panels could achieve "price parity" with fossil-fuel-based grid power in 47 U.S. states by 2016 according to a new report from Deutsche Bank. photo courtesy 64MM, Flickr CC

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that the price of getting solar panels installed on a home is lower than ever, but has it gotten to the point anywhere in the U.S. where it's actually cheaper than traditional grid power yet? -Lester Milstein, Boston, MA

Rooftop solar panels have always been the province of well-to-do, eco-friendly folks willing to shell out extra bucks to be green, but that is all starting to change. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the cost of putting solar panels on a typical American house has fallen by some 70% over the last decade and a half. And a recent report from Deutsche Bank shows that solar has already achieved so-called "price parity" with fossil fuel-based grid power in 10 U.S. states. Deutsche Bank goes on to say that solar electricity is on track to be as cheap or cheaper than average electricity-bill prices in all but three states by 2016—assuming, that is, that the federal government maintains the 30% solar investment tax credit it currently offers homeowners on installation and equipment costs.

But therein could lie the rub. The federal tax credit for residential solar installations expires in 2016, and it's anybody's guess whether and to what extent the Republican-dominated Congress will renew it. Legislative analysts report that while Congress is unlikely to abandon the program entirely, big cutbacks could be on the way. But Deutsche Bank maintains that even if the credit is reduced to 10%, solar power would still achieve price parity with conventional electricity in some 36 states by 2016.

Meanwhile, homeowners in states where additional local in-

centives are available and there's lots of sunshine—such as across the southwest—may in fact already be able to power their homes cheaper with the sun than from the grid. Homeowners looking to go solar should check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewable and Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online database of all the different state and local incentives for solar and other forms of renewable energy.

And prices for solar are expected to keep falling as technologies improve and financing becomes more affordable. Solar leasing has helped hundreds of thousands of Americans realize the dream of going solar without breaking the bank. The companies behind such programs—SolarCity, SunRun and others—take care of installation, maintenance and upgrades while the customer ends up paying about as much for clean, green power as for grid power from coal or other fossil fuels.

Of course, solar is still a bit player in the scheme of things in terms of U.S. and global electricity production. But with costs coming down, we can expect to see a lot more solar panels going up on rooftops across the land in the coming decade. Environmentalists concerned about our changing climate say the sooner the better, as our dependency on coal and other fossil fuels for electricity is a big contributor to global warming.

Congress will definitely be considering whether or not to extend the solar investment tax credit when it reconvenes in 2015. If you're part of the silent majority of Americans who would like to see the credit extended so that middle class Americans can continue to afford to convert to solar power, be sure to speak up and let your Congressional delegation know.

Contacts: Deutsche Bank, www.db.com; National Renewable Energy Laboratory, www.nrel.gov; SolarCity, www.solarcity.com; SunRun, www.sunrun.com.

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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

Road weary after the drive up from Page, I stop in Kayenta, near a handmade espresso sign on a sheet of plywood and I follow the arrows—*coffee this way*—through an opening into a courtyard and into the Blue Shepherd Coffee Shop. Try a cool, refreshing Nava-Joe, says another sign and I let it reel me in toward the young man behind the counter. "Does that Nava-Joe pack a pretty strong buzz?" I ask.

"Four shots," he tells me. That should get me through the rez. As he's fixing my drink, he asks me where I'm from and I say Colorado . . . San Luis Valley. And he asks me where I've been and I tell him I've been driving a big circle—Colorado into canyon country and now home again. I notice a Bible on the counter opened to Psalms. "You been reading some scripture?"

"Yeah," he says, "that's why I call this place the Blue Shepherd . . . The Shepherd refers to my faith and also to the sheep herders, you know, around here." I ask him how his faith blends with the beliefs of his tradition, remembering a circuit-riding Navajo preacher friend, an evangelical who also traveled the "red road." "I don't worship all the different deities I grew up with," he says. "I go to the one who created all of that . . . See, I prayed

to him and now my mother and father aren't drunks anymore. He did that. Happens all the time at my church," he says.

I could tell him I'm Quaker and that we too sometimes feel a Presence in our meetings for worship as he does at his Pentecostal church, though our response is more subdued—no speaking in tongues, no seizures, no rolling down the aisle. Just silence and maybe a few Spirit-led words. "You think people feel the same Spirit in different ways?" I ask him instead. He nods. Then we are silent for a while.

I ask him if more people are coming through now that winter is waning. "Yes mostly Europeans. French, Italians, Germans . . . No Japanese though. . . they're tea drinkers." And for the first time in our conversation, he cracks a smile. And then he says I'm Ron and we shake hands and he says, "stop by if you're back through again." I say I will and I head back out on the road.

On the far side of Kayenta, a dustdevil carrying red sand whirls up along side the road, and then crosses as I drive by. I loosen my grip on the wheel and let it nudge me, for a few moments, across the yellow line. And then I turn the wheel into the wind and edge back into the center of my lane.

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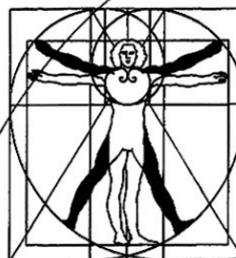


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...Classifieds

*continued from
Page B-14*

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This is a design-build project. Contractors must be insured and have documented experience working on historical structures. The Request for Quotations (RFQ) details the project. Copies of the RFQ may be obtained at Crestone Town Hall, address above, phone (719) 256-4313 or crestone@fairpoint.net.

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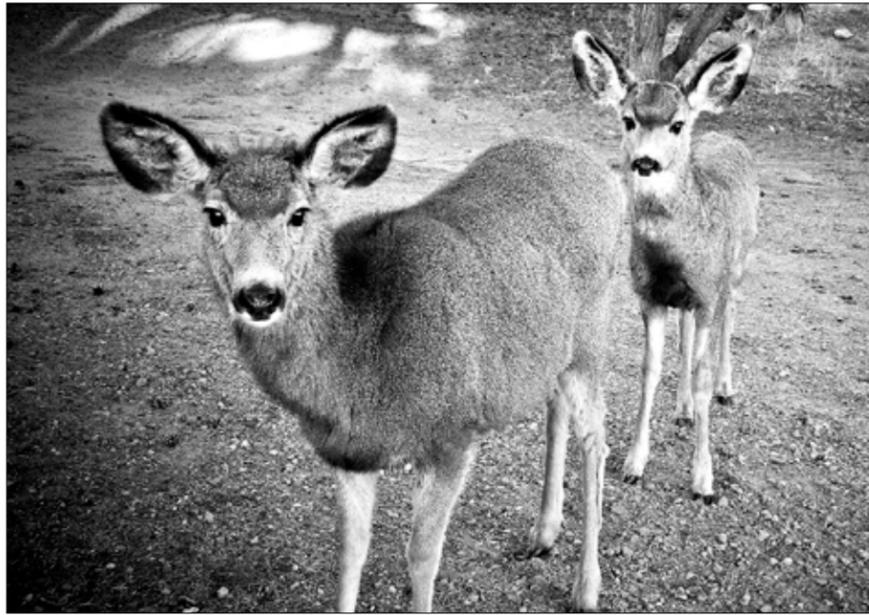




Ask the Weatherman
by Keno
What exactly does it mean when the forecast says there is a 60% chance of rain or snow?

Many people do get a bit confused by what the percentages for precipitation means. First, it must be understood that this percentage refers to a specific forecast area (i.e. Crestone/Baca). Second, this percentage is valid only for a specific time frame, usually within 12 hours. Third, the percentage means that at the least, 0.01" of measurable precipitation will fall at any point within the specific area, within the next 12 hours (unless a different time frame is stated.) A trace of precip falling doesn't count, only measurable precipitation does.

So, let's say there is a 60% chance of rain or snow for Crestone/Baca tonight. This means there is a 6 in 10 chance that at least 0.01" of



A mama deer and her baby hangin' out in my driveway. There are so many adorable baby deer running around Crestone these days! photo by Lori Nagel

precipitation will fall at any point within this area. This doesn't mean 60% of Crestone/Baca's surface area will receive precipitation. It simply means that there is a 6 in 10 chance that measurable rain or snow will fall somewhere in the area within the next 12 hours. It also means that there is a 4 in 10 chance that no precipitation will fall anywhere in the area, in which case the forecast could say there is a 40% of no rain or snow. A problem is that this

Crestone/Baca forecast does not include those who live out in the San Luis Valley. I try to cover all nearby areas in my forecast too. If Crestone/Baca has a 60% chance for precipitation, it would mean about a 40% chance in the valley, and for that matter, perhaps an 80% chance in the mountains above town.

How is it determined if the forecast should call for "a slight chance for rain" or a "chance of rain"?

Once again, we go by the percentage chance. Here is the breakdown. Any chance deemed to be under 10% is called a "silent chance" and isn't mentioned in the forecast, however, that doesn't mean the chance is 0% either. Simply put, "Sunny", "Clear" or "Mostly sunny/clear" skies can be taken to mean 0%. "Under 30% chance" for precipitation means there's a "slight chance", 30% to 50% "a chance", over 50% but under 80% means "Rain/Snow likely", and over 80% is usually shown as just "Rain" or "Snow" in the forecast.

What's the difference between rain and drizzle?

Drizzle is simply light liquid precipitation which consists of liquid water drops smaller than those of rain—smaller than 0.02" diameter. Drizzle will often evaporate before reaching the surface and therefore is not always detected by observers on the ground. But that doesn't mean all drizzle is only a trace of precipitation either (as snow flurries are). Precipitation rates from drizzle are officially classified as "a millimeter per day or less at the ground". So yes, that's about as close you can get to a trace, but drizzle can still be considered measurable precipitation, too.

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

February 21 to March 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 1.68"

Snow: 22.7"

Measurable precipitation fell on 9 days.

Measurable snow fell on 7 days.

A trace of snow fell on 5 days.

Measurable rain fell on 2 days.

A trace of rain fell on 2 days.

No hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 2.45"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 33.1"

Snow Season*: 64.5"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 67.0°F on March 16

Low temp: 5.9°F on February 25

Avg. high: 43.3°F

Avg. low: 20.4°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 4

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 10

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: All but 1 day.

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10: 4

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 2.5 mph

Highest gust: 37 mph on March 3

Main direction: Out of the east.

Weather summary:

Most of our interesting weather took place the 8 last days of February, with very warm and mainly mellow weather in March, with one exception, a rainstorm on the 19th that left a record amount of precipitation for the date at .31".

All of the snow we saw for the period fell in 7 of the last 8 days of February, depositing 22.3" of snow in that short period. Although February usually doesn't see a lot of snow, this year we saw the second

highest amount of snow to ever fall in the month. This all took place in just 7 days. During March, our snowiest month, we saw almost no snow, (up to the end of the period, anyway, only 0.4")! One last note for the entire month of February: a new all-time record for the month was set for precipitation at 1.15", which broke the old record of 1.10", and every drop of that fell in those last 7 days!

Temperature-wise, although February was cold, March saw warm temps and spring-like weather. One record high was set, along with our first day of the year. This was the first time since November 2, 2014, that the temperature didn't fall below freezing. That was March 18, when our first measurable rain of the year also fell (.14").

Outlook for April:

Although most places outside of Colorado don't think snow for April, for our area and state it's the

second snowiest month of the year, with an average snowfall of 10.4" falling here. It melts fast, too. The snowiest April on record was 2009, when 47.3" fell. The wettest April was in 1990, when 3.41" of rain, snow, and hail fell. Average percip for the month is 1.23", making it the fourth wettest month of the year.

Temperatures for April range from highs and lows in the first week averaging 53° and 24°, and warming up to 61° and 31° by the last week. Record high for the month is 80°, set first on April 30, 1992, and then again on April 27, 2000. The coldest it's ever been in April was 6°, first set on April 5, 1983, and again on April 12, 1997.

The 30-day outlook for April is calling for average temperatures along with above average precipitation.

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

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