

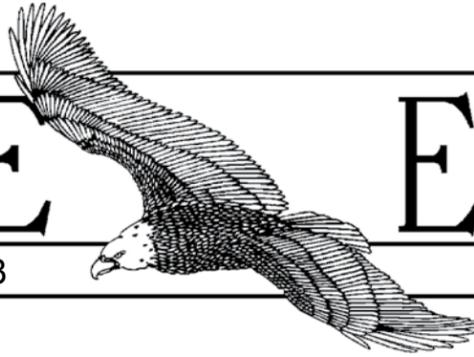
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 27, Number 3

March, 2016 \$1

27 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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"Sandhill Cranes in Fog", Bosque del Apache, NM. Photo by Charles Haspels, Cortez, CO. The cranes, and many other birds, migrate through Colorado in the spring. See article about the Monte Vista Crane Festival below. To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com. (Really, go see this one in color!)

33rd Monte Vista Crane Festival is March 11-13

The call of a Sandhill Crane heralds that spring is near in the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado. Every March, the entire population of Greater Sandhill Cranes, 18,000-20,000 birds, stops for more than two months to load up on fuel on their way to their breeding grounds further north.

Come join us to celebrate this amazing wildlife spectacle the 2nd weekend in March! Watch flocks of dancing Sandhills in the fields just east of the town of Monte Vista.

Take a sunrise or sunset bus tour, along with a knowledgeable guide, to view the spectacle up close and personal. Or explore on your own.

Consider taking one of the full-day photography workshops from a professional photographer. Space is limited to 8 participants per day, so sign up early. Registration information and schedule is posted on our website: mvraneifest.org/2016-festival.

Other popular guided tours take you to see raptors and experience the beautiful Penitente Can-

yon. The Baca National Wildlife Refuge and the Bureau of Land Management's Blanca Wetlands are both closed to the public at this time of year but if you reserve your seat quickly you will be one of the few visitors that will see these important protected lands and learn about the history of the areas and about wildlife and habitat management.

The Crane Festival hosts many activities in Monte Vista including workshops, movies, expert

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Belted Kingfisher. Numerous birds live in or migrate through the San Luis Valley. Wetlands, croplands, scrub brush and forests make for a diverse bird population. See our birding feature on page B-1. photo by Pat Westover

Colo. Legislature debates issues—who owns the rain?

by Lisa Cyriacks
Rain-barrel legislation

For the second year, Colorado legislature is debating who legally owns rain. A bill that would allow gardeners to store 110 gallons of runoff from their roof in up to two rain barrels passed on a 10-2 bipartisan vote in a House committee late February. Republicans in the state Senate let a similar bill expire without a vote on the chamber floor at the end of last year's session.

Opponents cite state water

law that says rainfall must be allowed to move unabated back into the ecosystem to feed aquifers and reservoirs for those who hold expensive water rights.

In theory, proponents say, when the rainwater goes on gardens or lawns, it would then return to the larger environment. In the bargain, rain-barrel users would get a sense of how little it rains in Colorado and how much water they use on their property.

Colorado is the only state that bans rainwater harvesting.

Federal Lands in Colorado
When Senator Kerry Donovan (D-Vail) proposed legislation to make a public lands day, her intent was to establish a day for Coloradans to show their appreciation for the state's vast state and federal public lands.

The bill did pass out of Senate committee but only after Republicans offered an amendment asserting failures in how federal officials have managed and regulated lands across the state. Without compromise,

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Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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

Editor's Notes

Civics commitment

The 2016 election is heating up. With the caucus happening March 1, social media is lighting up with support of people's favorites. Loud applause, big boos, who is good and who is in bed with the evil empire. Insulting memes and rampant misinformation. Sound bites, people being told what they want to hear. One single person as president will change the world and make everything just what we all want!!!

Sometimes I wish it was true, other times I'm so glad that it's not. I supported Obama, twice. He said great things, he gave me hope, he did great things, but could have done a whole lot more if he hadn't been fought by our Congress every damn step of the way.

"We can do it! Yes we can!" And then the election is over, and where are the people when the banners come down? Two years ago Colorado lost a very good Democratic Senator, Mark Udall. He was an outdoorsman, fought for women, gay and human rights. He was a pragmatic liberal. He lost to a right-wing Republican. Why? Only 11% of registered voters in Colorado age 18 to 30 years old voted—they didn't think voting mattered. The US Senate gained another Republican to fight against Obama. We also lost a Democratic Congressman from our district because of voter apathy. And our president was left with a Congress sworn to block him no matter what.

A Democratic president will go up against a powerful, hostile Senate and Congress. Doesn't matter what they promise if they don't have political clout, the support of their party and *continuing* strong support of the people. Signing online petitions just isn't enough.

Being the "we" in "We the People" obligates us to think, research, be an informed and involved voter—from the local level, all the way to the top. It matters.

—Kizzen



Local hires encouraged

Dear Editor,

I happened to glimpse a copy of the contract of the Lakewood management company with Baca Grande Water and Sanitation. I saw the \$130-per-hour management fee and \$60/hour billing fee. I do not dispute the fact that we needed them at one time. A cast on a broken arm for example is very necessary but become cumbersome after a time. Surely we can find some good local talent for these jobs.

I am deeply grateful for the clean water source we have here.

I am grateful for those serve on the board and do this public service.

Even the \$4-per-month increase and 4 mill property tax increase I am fine with as long as cost saving measures don't compromise quality, health and longevity (like the bureaucrats in Flint). We must think long-term.

Freed-up money spent on management could go to water quality. Local hires spend locally.

Cheyenne Mendel

POA E&AC changes

Dear Editor,

The POA Board and the E&AC Committee will be meeting together on Monday, March 7 at 6pm to discuss changes that will affect POA members who are considering building on their lots, or are in the process of building. Members may want to attend this meeting to hear the discussion about these changes and see how their building project may be impacted.

Thank You,
Matie Belle Lakish,
POA Board Member

Saguache County, past & future

To the Saguache County community,

It's been an honor representing Saguache County as the District 1 County Commissioner for the past three-and-a-half years. The job is full-time and has a continuously steep learning curve, as the political landscape is rapidly changing. In our connected world, a commissioner must be present locally as well as stand for our county in the Sate Capitol and in the halls of Washington, D.C. to insure effective representation. (As they say, "You are either at the table, or you're on the menu!")

During my term, I have served Saguache County with action, participating in local, state and national County Commissioner meetings, boards, and projects. I have assisted in drafting legislation to benefit Saguache County, and facilitated federal financial commitments being paid to Saguache County.

I'm excited to continue serving as your District 1 County Com-

missioner for a second term, and to share a vision for our land and our community, as we move forward for the next four years.

As a resident of Saguache County for 28 years now, I have witnessed and been a part of the many changes our county has gone through. I look forward to speaking with you personally to better understand how we all envision our future.

Please visit www.janderson-saguache.com for a full review of our county's progress and achievements.

Respectfully,

Jason Anderson

Saguache County Commissioner, District 1

Help with POA dues

Dear Editor,

A week or two back, I was in the Mercantile Hardware and could not help but overhear someone bemoaning how both our property taxes and POA assessments come due in the winter when our seasonal construction work is scarce and we are running on empty money-wise.

His rant was so vehement that it didn't occur to me to give him this information:

It is always possible to set up a payment plan with the POA. Call 256-4171. Being on a payment plan assures that you will not be assessed a late fee as well and you remain a member in good standing.

A little later that same day I was talking to another friend about the timing of these big bills. He told me he puts money away every month all year long in order to be able to pay in a timely fashion. Smart guy!

Hoping someone is helped by this info.

Sincerely,
Joanna Theriault

Serving on the POA Board of Directors

On behalf of Ivan, thank you

Ivan Lakish's family would like to thank all the generous residents of the Crestone/Baca area who have helped Ivan to make his Paramedic training program a success. He is in the last leg of the journey, and will be coming home soon to add his newfound knowledge and experience to the Baca/Crestone Ambulance Service. Special thanks go out to all those who came out to the fundraising event in January. We all had a good time.

Thanks to Crestone Charter School for the use of the building and the kitchen. Special thanks to the musicians, River, Christine and Dee, and to Barry, Tim, Isadora and Dennis, for donating their beautiful music and sound equipment. Thanks too, to Mark Jacobi for being a top-notch auctioneer and making us all laugh. Thanks to all the bakers and artists who donated baked goods and artwork, and to all those who bid on those items at the auction. And a special thanks to all the dinner guests who made the evening successful and lots of fun.

Many other residents were not able to attend the fundraiser

but donated generously. Thank you so much for your help. And thanks too, to the POA members and fire department members for donations to support housing and other expenses. And thanks to the Crestone Eagle and to Lori for the great ad, articles, and pictures. It takes a community to raise a child, and also to train a paramedic.

The Lakish Family

Many library improvements

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the Baca Grande Library (FOL) wish to extend many thanks to all the residents of our community for your support and commitment during the past year.

Special thanks and gratitude to those who supported our Tax Day (15th of April) Bake Sale, the Root Beer Float Special (4th of July), The Storyville Players, and all those who made individual donations—too many to mention individually.

The FOL, through the active support of our community, was able to benefit the present library last year with the following projects: replacement of the old fluorescent lighting with new all day-light spectrum lighting, creating a more pleasant and comfortable effect throughout the entire facility; reversal of the bathroom door, allowing easier access for anyone using a wheelchair; purchase of a new air-conditioner unit from Home Depot in Cañon City, allowing a quieter and cooler environment for patrons and staff; repair of the outside bench with broken slats; building of spacers for the DVD shelves; buying landscaping supplies for the watering system and planting of environmentally-friendly bushes along the sidewalk. We also paid for replacing the outside front steps that badly needed repair or replacement. It was replaced with a new bamboo-composite material that never requires painting.

We also wish to thank Steve and Elaine for allowing the Friends to keep a donation jar for the new library at the Crestone Mercantile. Know that your donations help!

Please be aware that the FOL is a 501(c)(3) (exempt status) organization, made up of all volunteers. We have been working closely with the Northern Saguache County Library District to continue to help make the present library better in all respects, and (yep, you guessed it) to eventually relocate and build a new library facility in downtown Crestone.

I personally like to think of the library as the heart of our community.

In the near future, the Friends will be mailing out a type of postcard to each resident that will allow everyone to become an active member. The membership is a mere \$12/year. This will greatly benefit not only the future work of the Friends, but also add to the legitimacy of creating a new and beautiful library facility for our community.

We can do this with your support. Together, let's create a facility in downtown Crestone that

really will be the “Heart of the Community.”

Thank you & God bless.
Thom Ontko, Chair,
Friends of the Library

Highest intentions & benefit for all

Dear Crestone Creative Council (CCC) Family:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to all staff, volunteers, Youth Work Force clients, youth, families and friends of CCC. The decision was made by the Crestone Board of Trustees and myself on Monday, February 15 to close the CCC youth program after serving the community for 4½ years. I started this program to provide healthy options and lessen the gap in services for this underserved part of our population. The Town appreciates what we have accomplished, the impact of our activities and events, and understands the difficult task we attempted to tackle, serving at-risk youth and their families.

The Youth Work Force was a program coordinated by CCC, so it will also be closing. Thank you to everyone who hired youth to give them an opportunity to learn work ethics, gain new skills, develop mentoring relationships and increase their confidence in becoming contributing members to society. This was a valuable service which developed intergenerational relationships and broke down stereotypes of youth. In the meantime, I would suggest the Facebook page “Crestone Jobs” as a place for youth to look for jobs and clients to request their needs.

There are several reasons we collectively made the decision to close with the best interests of the community in mind:

- Financial - We currently do not have the financial capacity and resources to continue operating without clearer fundraising strategies. I was feeling the burden of additional fundraising and grantwriting tasks and was already stretched thin with limited paid hours.

- Education and Training - There is a need to offer additional education and training to bring our community and county services up to industry standards on Positive Youth Development, Restorative Justice, mediation, sexual assault and substance abuse. We are working with old systems models that do not address real conflict resolution or true healing.

- Collaboration of Services - We are lacking a strong network of collaboration and support amongst our local and county services. Multiple attempts to set up meetings and establish relationships of support for our youth were never accepted or acknowledged.

- Scope of Issues - Some of the issues we have faced are family mental illness, substance abuse, sexual assault, depression, cutting, suicide and eating disorders. We have done our best to provide a safe and healthy environment with boundary-setting and empowerment training for our youth. However, without more policies and procedures in place and a stronger system of support from certified mental health counselors and County services, we struggle to provide adequate sup-

port for these situations, let alone the challenges of working within family settings.

- Attacks & Violent Communication - The straw that broke the camel’s back. CCC, myself, and volunteers have been the object of recent attacks and defamation of CCC and my character on social media. The current accusations are great cries for help. CCC was intentionally developed and conducted to buffer children from some of the above mentioned mental health issues by providing a safe place and creating networks of support. It is sad and ironic that some choose to blame a program that is widely known to provide stability and safety to the youth of our community.

My overall concern is for the continued well-being of the young people and the division this is creating amongst them and our overall community. I will do my best to provide referrals and connections to other programs and events that can offer support to youth and their families, but I am in great need of adequate space and time to grieve the loss of the program and my employment.

In closing, I would like to thank the many mature and responsible members of our community that have contacted me to provide encouragement, counsel and suggested tactics for addressing the unlawful, slanderous and baseless assault on my character. Your assurances to stand by me throughout this process has reinvigorated my confidence in the majority of community members. I see this as an opportunity for deep reflection, personal growth and walking even stronger on my path to serve for the highest intentions and benefit of all.

Warm regards,
Lisa D. Bodey

Friend from the past

Dear Editor,
I moved to Salida in 1978. Somewhat a hermit, I live up Ute Trail, on Cameron Mountain, far off the grid, at 9600 feet in elevation, 10 miles from town, my closest neighbors being three and a half miles away! Always a nature freak, with a good south exposure, solar power, internet on my smartphone, plumbing and on demand hot water, I live in what I consider paradise!

I pick up *The Crestone Eagle*

at Neighborhood Natural Goods, one of the local health food stores. I have many good friends in the valley which I love, as well as the Crestone area, the Sand Dunes, and Joyful Journey. Most of these friends are from the late seventies or early eighties. I always enjoy the *Eagle*; the photos, the news from the valley, the health and healing mentality prevalent in that area, the advertisements, and the stories the editor tells of her adventures with her ex-husband Earl! More acquaintances than good friends, I have fond memories of Kizzen and Earl from ‘78 and ‘79, remembering their small very rustic cabin up on Chalk Creek, having a good mutual friend Randy Van Haverbeke, a co-worker at Monarch, and fellow tipidweller at the time. I’m amazed we survived those -36° winter nights in our tipis! (I couldn’t do it now!) Kizzen and Earl’s cabin not being much warmer!

When reading Kizzen’s stories from those days, it often occurs to me that I am probably among a handful of people who remember and knew them way back when! I love those stories!

I just read the January issue of the *Eagle* this evening, noticing that it is for sale and I’d guess Kizzen is longing to retire, moving into the next phase of her life. I have deep faith that the new owner will be *very* selectively chosen.

So I’d like to say that I’ve always enjoyed, and am a big fan your publication, the news from the valley, and your stories from the old days! Congratulations on your success with *The Crestone Eagle*, it’s awesome! I hope your tradition is carried on! . . . if this is indeed printed, hello to my SLV and other friends who read the *Eagle*!

Peace and love,
Jim Ruggles



Debra Floyd

May 8, 1969-February 18, 2016

It is with sadness but great rejoicing that my friend/our friend Debra Floyd passed over in her sleep sometime between the night of 18 February and the early morning of the 19th. Debra was born May 8, 1960 in Massachusetts.

Who is this friend we shared over her lifetime? Debra was a daughter and a sister. Her mother Adele, her sister Donna, and her brother Brian, whom she all loved dearly, survive her. To us here in Crestone she was The Village Witch, she was a dancer, an artist, a singer. She also was a psychic, a healer, a counselor and a lover. She loved life, and all living things and her rats and dogs and cats were her “coven” as she once described them.

It is a rare thing in this world to be blessed with a spirit-being who could fill you with love, magik, devotion, and spiritual awareness. Spending time with Debra was always spontaneous, full of laughter, anger, and tears. Debra gave you her heart.

I have no words to describe Debra’s love for she was all things to all people. Debra was love in its purist spiritual form, a Goddess, priestess, and a great light-bearer. Debra had a deep and abiding love for Crestone and served the community in so many ways. A few weeks before she passed Debra told me that she felt that her Earth Mission was over, that there was nothing more that she needed to do to help others. She looked at me with those bright eyes and smile of hers and she told me that she was fighting death for me. I responded by telling her to follow her journey to the other side if need be and I would release her to the Source with all my love. We shed tears together that day and I knew then the power of my spiritual love for her. All of us have a Debra story to share. I will conclude with an inspirational quote that very much summarizes our friend and lover Debra Floyd:

“This is a dance of prayer for women who hold themselves back

Who do not know their own power

As creators

As healers

As givers of light.”

~ Zola Dubinikova

My dearest of friends, You have been loved and will continue to be loved by the many who remember you. —submitted by Armand Peloquin



Sailor Martinez

July 15, 2005-January 16, 2016

Our little buddy, a pillar of town, will be missed. This Welsh Corgie was a welcoming fixture loved by all, and he made strangers smile. Short and round, personality profound. He was a grumpy dog with a good heart, even raising orphaned kittens. He disliked guns, snakes and horseshoes. Loved family, football and balloons. Survived by Andrew, Kim, Drew and all the critters he trained and tolerated. We’ll miss you forever.

Sailor was affectionately known as a walrus-tailed, saber-toothed badger wolf. A sleeping bag and pillow thief. A great fishing friend and confidant.

Fair winds and following seas.

R.I.P. Sailor.

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in Moffat

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appointment

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vwhs.org



Saguache County News

Bringing revenue into the county

by Sandia Belgrade

The County is making efforts at the beginning of this year to inject more revenue into the coffers. Money is needed for infrastructure such as the airport and basic services such as the Sheriff's department. In Colorado one main source of revenue is marijuana which makes it figure predominantly in the news.

Marijuana excise tax

The state reported that nearly a billion dollars was brought in through marijuana, but Saguache County has been left out because there is no retail outlet from which to collect money. However, there is another way our county could bring in revenue from legitimate grow facilities. Ben Gibbons, County Attorney, noted any county or municipality can have an excise tax on legal marijuana growers, subject to voter approval. A ballot item is being considered to levy, collect, and enforce an excise tax on the first sale or transfer of unprocessed retail marijuana by a retail marijuana cultivation facility. The tax is in addition to the state excise tax imposed on retail marijuana. It does not affect residents who are not cultivating in a marijuana facility. Voters in Ouray county, for example, approved a 5% Marijuana Excise Tax. The increased revenue for their budget is estimated now to be 10.7% higher due primarily to the Excise tax. The commissioners are considering putting the tax on the November ballot. With the county attorney's help they will have to figure out the wording, estimate how much would be generated and whether the excise tax should be 5%, and how the revenue will be used.

Land Use fee changes

Wendi Maez, Land Use Administrator, announced changes to the county fee schedule. Of particular interest, Conditional Use Permits for additional residences are now \$1,000. Conditional Use Permits for marijuana are \$3,000. The penalty for illegal grows is suggested to be \$1,000 or \$100 /day up

to \$600. With the addition of court costs it would benefit cultivators growing more than the 6 plants allowed to obtain a permit which also helps out the county.

Maez is manager of both Leach and Saguache airports. The County is taking Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a water well to be re-drilled at Leach Airport, east of Center. The location of the well is located north of the runway south of entrance and west of the hangars. RFP's due to in to the Saguache County Land Use office no later than Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 3pm, with the RFP's to be opened on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. All necessary permits and paperwork to be completed prior to well drilling. Contractor will be responsible for providing necessary machinery and equipment to perform such proposal and submit all well permit completion reports to the Colorado Division of Water Resources and Saguache County. Contractor must be a licensed driller in the State of Colorado and must supply a copy of driller license. Contact county at 719-655-2321 for more information.

Daniel O'Laughlin applied for a Conditional Use request for a Marijuana grow facility to be located at Antelope Run. The planning commission approved his request to cultivate up to 1800 plants under state rules. He anticipates that a year down the line he would have a retail store in Villa Grove. His financial model projects hiring 2-3 full time employees. He will purchase 1 warehouse this year, plus 2 greenhouses, and a 4 foot fence as part of the conditional use permit. O'Laughlin is looking to buy 1/2 acre foot water and plans to truck water in from Salida or Poncha Springs. 100 gallons/year. County Commissioners moved to accept the request upon agreement with the water resources division and documentation provided from Salida or Poncha Springs of contract plus written agreement to purchase water.

Marijuana bills

Marijuana issues are being rolled into a house bill which puts more teeth into the legislation. Basically it has three points. It would simplify the medical model so law officers are not confused. It would bring down the number of plants that a medical grower can cultivate. The bill would lower the cap for suing law enforcement from \$6,000 to \$2500. It would re-

quire a fine of \$10,000/day for illegal marijuana cultivation, dating from the day when the operation is discovered until it is no longer operational. These adjustments will give the land use code more teeth. The question arises: how to know if it's a legal grow or not? Do they post their permit? Law enforcement does have a database, but this is a large county and the legal process is expensive. Attorney Gibbons noted the county must take into account safety factors and privacy. Another bill will stipulate that if a person wants to grow personal plants, and someone in the house is under 21, they will have to grow elsewhere.

Forest Service report on spruce beetle

Forest Supervisor Scott Armentrout reported that spruce beetle infestations exist in the southern forests of the region including the Rio Grande, San Juan, Grand Mesa, Umcompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. It is an epidemic situation that is moving up from the south in a northeasterly pattern and won't stop until it runs out of food supply. It has hit La Garita and Sargents mesa. He noted the forests aren't dying but old trees are dying. Management of spruce beetle is a top priority and includes an adaptive project and salvaging 60,000 acres of dead spruce. Most sales are to large mills on western slope, though John Murphy is willing to have a small sales program for our county. If we take infested lumber out of forests, we want that product to benefit the counties where the forest is and not ship it elsewhere. Small businesses here can use that material and create jobs. A fuels program or private individuals could work on mitigation which would mean jobs for drivers and loggers.

Saguache Ranger District

Tristram Post with the Saguache ranger district said they will be filling seasonal positions in recreation, timber and wildlife, Hiring permanent folks as well at the front desk.

Department reports

Public Health hires new nurse
In her monthly report Ginger Stringer, Director of the Department of Public Health, introduced Holly Boaz, who grew up in Saguache, as the new public health nurse. She will cover Moffat, Crestone and Saguache. Stringer reported that Colorado is a zone 1 hazard for indoor radon above recommended levels. There are free radon kits online. The resident keeps it open in the house for 3 days and then mails it back for results.

Sheriff patrols in Saguache

Sheriff Dan Warwick announced that the department is doing patrols in the town of Saguache. Concerns over an increase in criminal activity in the town, ranging from residential break-ins, to car thefts, to speeding has prompted concern. Sheriff Warwick and town trustees have developed a contract for the new position, which the BOCC has approved. The town has committed money from their reserves to initiate securing a dedicated officer, and beginning the process of hiring a dedicated deputy from the county. The Sheriff's

Office has received a grant in the amount of \$9,159.10 to construct a shooting range for officer training and concealed carry permit classes. Training is important, but without the grant they don't have the money to achieve the levels of instruction needed.

Social Services

Linda Warsh, Director, reported they have a contract approved for counsel for child support and legal services. Their neonatal group has been working with hospitals, doctors on concerns about health during pregnancy. Saguache does not require employment first for its services. Warsh stressed that Saguache county's goals are about keeping families together and aiming for reunification with the family or grandmother who will supervise. Another important goal as a rural community is maintaining local control. The LEAP program goes through April.

Road & Bridge

Iris Garcia appeared before commissioners to discuss the change of slope at the landfill. Clarification needed as to whether it will be a 5% or 10% slope. The greater the slope the longer we can keep that cell and 10% allows for more storage, meaning the landfill can double their capacity.

Housing Authority

Evan Samora, Housing Director reported that the two complexes, Blue Water Haciendas and Puerto Del Norte Haciendas are fully occupied. The BOCC approved its management plan.

ATV legislation

All-terrain vehicles, ATVs, are used by farmers and workers, but also recreationally.

The Legislative Council last week approved a new bill, which was proposed by the Off-Highway Vehicle Interim Committee. It would let local governments choose to allow ATVs on its roads, The bill would require county clerks to administer a one-time registration fee for ATV use on county roads. It requires a valid driver's license and helmets for those under 18 who must be accompanied by a registered driver. A high rate of accidents, such as traumatic brain injury likely motivates the bill.

County Sales Tax Grants announced

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3pm, Friday, March 11. To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation.

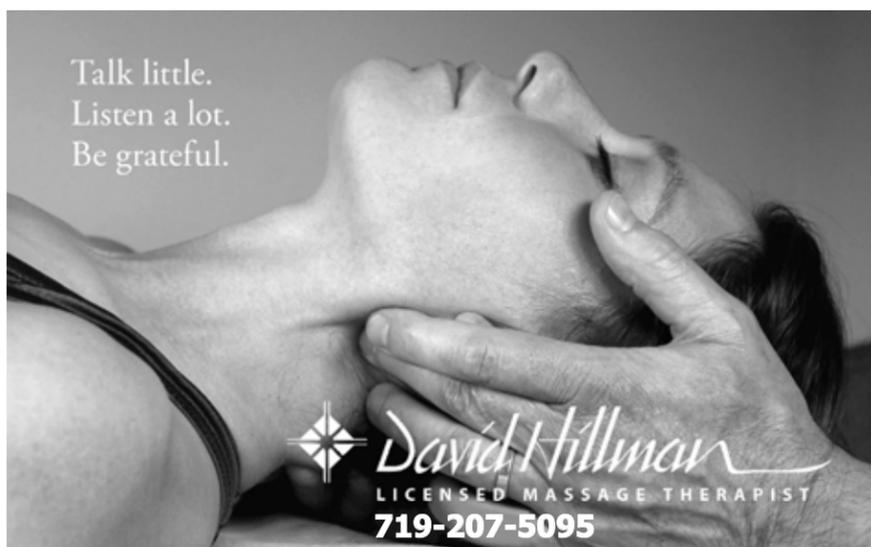
The Crestone awards for the last cycle include:

Emergency: Crestone End of Life \$3,000; Food Bank \$2500; the Town of Crestone \$1400; Neighbors Helping Neighbors \$4,000

Renewable Energy: Crestone Youth Plaza \$3,000; the town of Crestone \$2500

Youth and Senior: Crestone Performance \$2000; Occupy Crestone \$2500; Yes \$1900

Center Head Start received a grant of \$10,000. Their building burned last November



Talk little.
Listen a lot.
Be grateful.

David Hillman
LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST
719-207-5095

Potentially dangerous fire suppressed

by Mary Lowers

On February 15, Northern Saguache Fire Protection District (including the Crestone, Baca, Saguache and Villa Grove fire departments) was able to put out a fire at a “straw bale, tent community” at the north end of the valley. According to Saguache County Deputy Wayne Clark, the combined efforts of the District’s departments stopped the fire, which is thought to have been started by sparks blown from a campfire. They ignited a straw bale used to insulate the tents from the winter cold and wind. Tinder-dry chamisa and rabbitbrush can cause a fire to spread at lightening speeds this time of year.

Jail arsonist sentenced

by Mary Lowers

After five hours deliberation a jury found Richard “Dickey” Lopez guilty of starting a jail riot and setting fire to his cell in the Saguache County Jail on March 27, 2015. Lopez was found guilty on three counts including: inciting a riot, first degree arson and criminal mischief. Two other inmates were implicated in the incident but Lopez was the clear ringleader. Repairs to the jail are estimated at around \$30,000.

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

Saguache County Deputy Wayne Clark was called out to a crash near Poncha Pass before the cold spell broke in February. Ground blizzards and poor visibility caused a horse trailer with no equine occupants to go off the road. While that accident was being sorted out a three-vehicle accident occurred on the same icy patch that had caused the first vehicle to slide off the road. No one was seriously hurt in either of these accidents. In the three-vehicle situation one driver was treated at the scene and released and others were transported to medical facilities. These accidents and the large number of speeding tickets given out by deputies this past months requires a reminder to all drivers, be careful; winter’s not done with us yet!

In other crime news, a Center man, 25, was held in Saguache County Jail on \$1000 bail for failing to comply with a warrant. Third degree criminal trespass and theft charges landed a Center man, 21, in jail. A Baca man, 63, was summoned to appear in Saguache county Court on harassment charges.

Failure to appear charges led a Fort Lauderdale, FL man, 23, to be jailed in Saguache on \$500 bail. Failure to appear charges landed a Monte Vista woman, 30, in jail with bail set at \$500. A Center man, 18, was held in jail for failure to appear charges with bail set at \$300. A Center man, 35, was taken into custody in Center on fugitive from justice and failure to appear charges. His bail was listed at \$1030.



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Seatbelts save lives in Costilla County crash

by Mary Lowers

At 9:50am on February 8 troopers from the Colorado State Patrol out of Alamosa responded to a two-vehicle crash in Costilla County. According to Capt. Dingfelder of the State Patrol, a Mesita man, 52, in a 1997 Subaru was struck by a 2008 Dodge pickup driven by a San Acacio woman, 21. The truck, which failed to stop at an intersection, struck the Subaru on the right, cutting it in half. The Dodge continued into a ditch where it rolled onto its top. After rotating, the Subaru came to rest

on the side of the road. The driver of the Subaru was seriously injured and airlifted to Pueblo from the accident scene. The driver of the Dodge was treated at the Conejos County Hospital for minor injuries. She was issued a summons to appear in court for careless driving resulting in serious bodily injury. Drugs and/or alcohol were not factors in this crash. Capt. Dingfelder said both drivers lived because their seatbelts stopped them from being ejected from their vehicles.



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by Allyson Ransom,
Acting Town Clerk

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

-Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

The Town of Crestone has been busy completing procedures and preparing with great expectations for the mail-out ballot election on Tuesday April 5, 2016. The ballots will actually be mailed on Monday March 14, 2016 to registered voters who reside in the Town of Crestone. Every ballot will have specific and detailed instructions for voters to follow. The ballots will be counted by trained judges on Election Day. Voters may mail in their completed and sealed ballots or drop them off personally into the secure ballot box in the Town Hall office during regular office hours from 9am-1pm, Monday through Friday. However, on Election Day, the office hours will be extended from 7am to 7pm.

Another important mailing will take place in early March when all registered voters will receive a TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights) notice. This is an informational document the Town is required to mail out to make voters aware of the ballot question on which they will be voting. The ballot question this election season asks citizens if they want to allow the retail sales of marijuana and allow taxation of those sales. The State TABOR law requires very specific wording, and so the question can be misunderstood. Please be aware that this is not a question to allow more taxation of individual citizens, but specifically, it is for allowing the Town of Crestone to collect up to a \$50,000 in taxes the first year and then five percent in following years from the sales of retail marijuana.

Candidates on the ballot include Terry Goergen, C. Kimberly S. Martinez, and Adam Kinney. Voters will choose two of those three candidates for the two available trustee positions. Kairina Danforth is the candidate on the ballot for the open mayoral position. Voter registration applications are still available at Town Hall, and sample municipal ballots will be available to view soon. We want to remind town residents who plan to vote that if you have not registered, have not voted in a few years or have moved to a new address since

2014, please contact the Saguache County Clerk (719-655-2512) as soon as possible to verify your registration or mailing address status. Updates cannot be done here at Crestone Town Hall, and we want to make sure every registered voter receives his or her ballot and none are returned as undeliverable.

Other recent Town news

- An update on the Downtown Redevelopment Project that was put on hold this winter and put out for bid again in February 2016, with successful results. Seventeen firms responded with interest and nine firms attended the pre-bid meeting and purchased plans for bidding purposes. The Board will announce the firm to whom the contract was awarded in the April edition of the *Eagle*. It was great to see so many firms from the valley and from far afield who showed much interest in Crestone's beautification project which will include sidewalks and is anticipated to be completed in time for the 4th of July celebration.

- Due to the positive response, the Board will continue to host "Meet-the-Board Mondays." It was an idea that the Mayor and Trustees formed to help the elected officials keep in closer touch with the needs of the community. The Mayor welcomes visitors and constituents on every first Monday of the month from 1-3pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room at 108 W. Galena Ave. On following third and fourth Mondays, a Trustee will be available at the same time and place. If any interested citizen cannot make it to those informal sessions, the regular Board meetings are still held on the second Monday of each month from 1:30-6 pm, and there is always time for the public to share comments or concerns towards the end of the meetings.

- The Saguache County Health Department will be offering free health screenings every first Thursday of the month in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 10am.

- The Board of Trustees is looking for community members who would like to serve as volunteers on a Crestone Tree Board. It would be beneficial to find participants with a variety of backgrounds and skills, such as landscape architecture and horticulture. There are many benefits to forming a Tree Board, including compiling a public tree inventory, applying for USDA community forestry grants, learning proper tree care and management, addressing safety issues, and making recommendations to the Town. In a nutshell, a tree board can greatly improve our municipal environment. Anyone interested may contact Town Hall at 256-4313 or attend the next regular Board meeting on March 14, 2016.

- We have a Certified Notary Public available during regular office hours in Town Hall from 9am-1pm, Mondays-Fridays. The cost to notarize each certificate is \$5 as per the Secretary of State guidelines.



The crowd applauds Cristina Cabeza-Kinney, who had just finished reciting her poetry at the Crestone Artisans Gallery "Afternoon Soiree" event February 13. photo by Lori Nagel

Town of Crestone ceases Crestone Creative Council Youth Program

At a special meeting of the Crestone Town Council on February 15, they voted to cease the CCC youth program. They issued the following statement:

"The Crestone Town Board of Trustees and Town Staff have met with concerned parents and the youth director of the Crestone Creative Council Youth Program. The Town Board fully understands the importance of a youth program in our community and wishes to support youth in ways that are feasible for a small town. This program has been of benefit to many teenage youths in the Crestone community for indoor and outdoor functions,

and we appreciate the hard work and dedication Lisa Bodey and many volunteers have put into it.

"However, the Board of Trustees has considered the Town's limited available resources for operations, oversight and supervision of this program, and in light of current issues, have therefore concluded the program at this time. In doing so, the Board believes it appropriate to grant the program director, Lisa Bodey, a three-month salary severance package and, in recognition of her invaluable efforts to the town's youth, a letter of appreciation for her service will be placed into her file."

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BGWSD Awarded Large Grant for Aspen Wastewater Plant Improvements

by **Cindy Reinhardt,**
President, BGWSD
Board of Directors

The Baca Water & Sanitation District (BGWSD) has been awarded a Small Communities Grant in the amount of \$426,150 for its Flow Equalization Basin Project at the Aspen Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Implementation of the overall project was initiated with a funding application to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment—Small Communities Water and Wastewater Grant on November 16, 2015. The grant is one of 32 small community water and wastewater systems awarded grant monies by CDPHE. These grants range in size from \$15,000 to \$850,000 so the District's is one of the larger grants awarded.

The project includes the construction of a new headworks (HW) building and a flow equalization basin (FEB) immediately south of the existing WWTP. The proposed headworks will include a mechanical screen, a grit removal unit, and a by-pass channel with a manual screen. The proposed equalization basin will have an effective capacity of approximately 20,000 gallons and be constructed with three submersi-

ble pumps and yard piping to convey sewage through the existing influent flow meter and into the sequencing batch reactor (SBR) anaerobic tankage. Construction of the improvements will remove the coarse solids and inert materials from the incoming wastewater and will dampen the effects of peak hourly flows to the WWTP by preventing the SBR from operating in a short cycle setting.

According to Justin DeBon, District Operations Manager, this project is important to the operators because of the mechanical screen and grit removal. Currently there is no way to mechanically remove the trash and debris that makes its way into the system. The material gets pumped into the treatment plant, and every six months needs to be removed. This is done by hand by raking and shoveling the trash and debris into our Vector vacuum truck. "It is a very dirty and hazardous job that will not be missed, and it will free our operations team to undertake other important repair and preventive maintenance projects."

DeBon cited other benefits of the project. "With so many manholes and mostly dirt roads in the Baca, we get a lot of sand and gravel in our sewer mains. When the sand is pumped into and through the

treatment plant it creates extra wear and tear on the pumps and the sand eventually settles at the bottom of the treatment plant basins and lowers the overall capacity of the plant."

Board President Cindy Reinhardt cited the availability of bond funds to fund a portion of the project and the team effort of District staff in coordination with District Engineer Brad Simons of TZA Water Engineers and District Manager Lisa Johnson of SDMS in the success of this application. "The knowledge of our operations team about local needs coupled with our consultants' awareness of various grant programs and their ability to successfully navigate the grant application process is a huge benefit for the District," she said. "The District will continue to aggressively seek funding for the many improvements that our water and sanitary sewer systems need."

According to Engineer Simons, planning, design and permitting of the improvements will occur in 2016. Bidding and construction will occur in 2017.

In other District news . . .

In reviewing last year's accomplishments, the District's operations team reports that as a result of increased leak detection and leak repair operations, the District:

- reduced water production by 30%
- reduced energy consumption by 34%
- saved 25,375,000 gallons of water

As the *Eagle* goes to press, the deadline for filing to run for one of three available Board of Directors positions is passed. And, as of this writing, four candidates have submitted their applications. Stay tuned to your April Eagle for an update and details on the election process.

The Crestone End of Life Project & Informed Final Choices expand

Coyotes sang as the pyre was lit for beloved community member Lulan Sanford on the clear morning of February 11. Many gathered to join daughter Carla Forbes and grand-daughter Rachel to celebrate Lu's life. The CEOLP volunteers were grateful for another opportunity to serve.

Informed Final Choices presented its first workshop, The Art of Dying: Exploring our relationship to mortality through artistic mediums. Using a technique of tissue paper collage, developed by Jungian analyst Edith Wallace, twelve participants reflected on what embodied a "good" death and what emotional barriers might arise to prevent that.

Kelley Michelle and Anrahyah Arstad have recently joined the CEOLP and IFC Board of Directors. We welcome the new energy, as interest in both organizations is expanding nationally and internationally. The Modern Funeral, an organization in the UK, will be presenting a type of TedTalk, using CEOLP as an example of community involvement in end-of-life care and disposition, as is a reporter from the Berkeley School of Journalism. We have visitors arriving from Georgia and Maine, who are coming specifically to learn more about our educational End-of-Life outreach programs as well as our direct service to the community. On Valentine's Day, Stephanie Gaines was interviewed by the National Home Funeral Alliance on a members' conference call. How grateful both organizations are for the continued support of this wonderful community!

On Saturday, March 12, CEOLP will hold its annual Contemplative Retreat and Consecration Ceremony at Dragon Mountain. This is an opportunity for volunteers to be together and reflect on the activities of the previous year and look towards the future. In the afternoon, at 3pm, we move to the cremation site to honor those whom we have served, in a special ceremony. The community is invited to join us.

For CEOLP registration packets, contact Lorraine Cazier at 937-7802 or visit crestone-end-of-life.org. For more about upcoming workshops visit informedfinalchoice.org.

The next open meeting will be on March 9, at 7pm, 33 Sunset Overlook. Call 588-7415 for information and directions.



Crestone End of Life Project
Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment
PO Box 1238, Crestone, CO 81131
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"Get Lost to Find Yourself" - Rebecca Solnit

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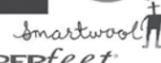
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POA news: Fireworks for Losar

by Earl W. Sutherland

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) occurred on Monday, February 8, 2016. All directors were present as well as six audience members. For the first time in recent memory there was no executive session clouding the scene and the meeting was less than two-and-a-half hours long.

On this eve of Losar (New Year for many Asians), however, it made up for brevity with intensity. The minutes of January, 18 were approved with minor alteration. A brief discussion of the minutes of the Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015 meeting occurred in which comments were exchanged concerning the taking of votes during a closed Executive Session in regard to the management contract between the POA and the new company, Westwind. Controversy on whether such votes which affect rules and regulations of the POA can be legally taken in secret (Executive Session) remains.

In the Members Forum Colleen Bennett reported from Casita Park that a blighted area, lot 350, on which she'd originally filed a complaint in October 2015, has still not been attended to. Apparently the Community Manager then, and subsequently, led her to believe progress was underway in solving the problem. Director Fuller noted that the fault lay with the former management company, Hammer-smith, and its employee, and that this would be all better now.

In New Business, Peter May requested permission for the Crestone Nordic Ski Alliance to develop a new ski trail. Its course would run more or less from east of South Crestone Park toward the trailhead to South Crestone Lake, not along

the existing foot trail, but north of South Crestone Creek. Apparently there's enough clear space to effect this although some deadfall would need removal. Some federal land would also be involved, approval for using which seems likely. The chief aspect of concern is the need to groom the trail, an activity requiring several runs by snowmobile on no more than several days a year, depending on the quantity of snow. Generally the board voiced un-voted approval with a proviso that any permission to groom would be specified and time-limited. It was planned to notify the neighbors along the trail when the noisy grooming would occur.

In further New Business, an estimate has been received for the disposal of ceilings over the POA Hall and offices. Because of the potential biohazard (Hanta virus) it is expensive, \$9-13,000, not including replacement of the ceiling. A second estimate is to be generated later in the week. In the discussion, concern was expressed that it's not known how the mice access the area above the ceiling, so that the problem could very well recur. As to the suggestion that a whole new building be constructed, it was held that the, say, \$20,000 for the present fix would be WAY less than the imagined new construction. Still . . .

The big item of Old Business, discussion in greater depth of the 2016 Board Goals and Projects, was simply omitted, despite Community Manager Hoever's collation and summarization of the many ideas from the last meeting.

Fireworks

The meeting fired up when it came time to select agenda items for the next meeting, a subject one might safely avoid unless bound to

the duties of reportage. Director Lakish reported being contacted by Mary Lowers and former Forest Service archaeologist Don Fry to see if something might be proposed by the POA to help prevent vandalism to the stone hut-like structures off upper Spanish Creek Road. Seemingly mindless of any cultural merit of the request or even just to hear what the archaeologist might present if permitted to address the board, Director McDonald immediately seized on why nothing could be done about it. Director McDonald offered his view that if an item is to go onto the agenda, then the proposer should do the preparatory work. Regarding proposals, McDonald observed that the board is there to figure out what to do, then present its conclusions to the community. Perhaps a letter will be forwarded to the board by the archaeologist listing his thoughts, and he may be invited to appear.

Disagreements on home building—money up front?

Director Lakish also requested for a future agenda the re-examination of the rule, as she understood it, prohibiting people from living on their land during the construction of their house. Such a rule was unanimously passed by the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC) on Sept. 16, 2015 and reaffirmed by that committee on Dec. 30, 2015. A similar action, Resolution 2015-02, was passed by the POA Board (Lakish opposed) on May 28, 2015. This action differed from that of the EAC in that builders could live on their property during construction if either they have installed an approved septic system (in the Grants) or hooked up to the Water District's facilities. Lakish's objection to the Resolution appeared to be rooted in her sense that the proposed size of a greenhouse (350 square feet) was too small; but she had expressed no

concerns about the restrictions to builders living on their property.

Director Matie Belle Lakish also objected to a proposal she had heard of apparently from the EAC (January minutes of EAC not yet available) to withhold permission for building until the financial wherewithal has been demonstrated. Lakish felt there were those who would start building with the expectation of later getting enough money to finish. She seeks conditions where young people can settle here and forge a future made by themselves.

Directors McDonald and Fuller vehemently and profanely objected to her suggestion which they felt could lead to impugning the property values of other residents. They stridently believe that the chief goal of the association's governing documents, which should be the ruling motive for members of the board, is to maintain property values. Director Fuller scornfully cited a construction project of one of Lakish's sons as a blight to its locale; he also derided an earlier presenter in the night's meeting, who'd described himself, as a "steward of the land", for living on a lot best described in Fuller's view as a junk yard (as well as that of his next door neighbor). The emphasis of the two male directors was the responsibility of those building homes to respect the rights and values of others in the community. However, they spoke in a manner totally unbecoming members of the board of a multi-million dollar corporation and should have been called on it.

No topic was actually completed and the residual atmosphere had a sulfurous scent. Still, one could observe that the intense differences of opinion were pretty clearly spelled out so perhaps some means of reconciliation can be forged.

Feb. 22 POA meeting well attended & orderly

by Earl Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 22 with all directors present and about 33 members and 5 departmental chiefs in the audience. The meeting began promptly at 6pm.

As the meeting began some members urged the directors to speak louder, as most of the board members tend to speak pretty softly (indeed, the use of microphones has been suggested in the past). President Fuller told people they could move up closer, which many did. He then said something about how this was actually a meeting of the Board, as though to imply that members simply had to do the best they could for themselves.

For the Members' Forum, those to be allowed to speak were pre-identified—a new wrinkle which felt a bit intimidating compared with previous, more free-form sessions. President Fuller re-emphasized that the Members' Forum was strictly for comments, no questions allowed.

During the Members' Forum Alicia Mason-Miller and Martin Macaulay both addressed the ap-

parently autonomous action of Director McDonald (more or less self-admitted in a widely distributed e-mail) to undertake the investigation and attempt to bill the Crestone Baca Land Trust for annual dues, their point being that this was a secretive action by a single member of the Board and not a sanctioned action of the Board itself. It was also suggested that the relationship of the Board and Land Trust in which dues had been waived by a previous Board since 2008 was in the nature of a contract. Stephanie Gaines urged greater transparency and communication for the Board with those it represents. In response to this comment, Fuller said that if a member has a question it should be addressed to the Community Manager or to the appropriate departmental staff, as implying that there are no questions suitable for the Directors. Curtis Goodnight, who has leased land from the POA on which he built and maintains storage units, acknowledges he's involved in litigation with the POA, but wishes that good faith negotiations would happen, as he believes his lease requires.

Departmental reports

Ambulance (Darrick Garcia): There were 158 calls last year, 40 of them being transfers (taking someone to a hospital). The new ambulance is expected here in mid-May. Four of the staff are in EMT school in Alamosa, going for six hours, two days a week. Their absence reduces the number of (profitable) transfers that can be made.

Fire (Chris Botz): Nine persons "fit for duty". Mitigation efforts will continue, under what is hoped will be the sole administration of Daniel S. Johnson. Most mitigation must be around residences and costs about \$100 per tree. There may be an increased fire risk this summer due to moisture patterns.

Maintenance (Shawn Holmer): A fairly quiet period given to equipment maintenance.

Financial (Kristen Ecklund): "Things are going well." Not all accounts with Hammersmith have closed.

Land Use (Lori Wade): Gave a summary of the kinds of things she does, which are largely at this time involved in working with violators and other collaboration with

the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC).

In Old Business an opinion by POA attorney Erich Schwiesow from October, 2014 was unanimously approved to be released to the public. This opinion particularly related to the Crestone Baca Land Trust and its payment of dues and to its ability to vote. No more recent update of the opinion was reported to have occurred on questioning of the Board. The large increase in numbers of attending members may have been due to this topic, which went un-discussed. The opinion of Mr. Schwiesow will be available on the POA website, and Director Lakish read aloud the lawyer's opinion that the Land Trust shouldn't vote and should pay dues.

Also, a "Board Meeting Prep Form" was approved which will also appear on the POA website. Its purpose is to guide proposals by members to sensible content and planfulness.

The meeting dissolved to Executive Session at about 7:30 to discuss a requested variance to make a large greenhouse reportedly for vermiculture.

There will be a meeting March 7 with the EAC at 6pm and a regular meeting on March 14.

Video created describing the planned new library in Crestone

Continuing support appreciated

by Michael Hayes,
NSCLD Board Chair

Crestone is fortunate to have a library that serves our community with over 60 visitors daily. This number is notable as it is currently located approximately 4 miles west of Crestone, a short drive or a long walk from the heart of town. The new library project is dedicated to improving access, growing inventory, and offering more services, to better serve the Crestone and Baca communities.

With the library designed and the location determined, the next step is the procurement of the land. The NSCLD is working to purchase land just south of downtown in Crestone and west of the Charter School, selected for its central location and easy access. In order to make this, and the many other steps, happen, the NSCLD is seeking willing and able locals to participate in strategic planning, marketing, and fundraising for the new library.

Our library will be a reflection of Crestone's community character,

offering a friendly environment with access to educational opportunities for all ages. A great way to learn more about the new library project is to watch the locally produced video by Peter Taylor which can be found on the library district website. The video eloquently describes much of the work that has been done so far and highlights some of the many aspects of site selection, architectural design, and the community's desire for a beautiful, functional, accessible public library.

To watch Peter Taylor's video describing the new library project and for more information about the Crestone/Baca Library visit <http://nsclد.colibraried.org> and click on the "New Crestone—Baca Grande Library" tab. To inquire as to how you can get involved or contribute to the new library project, please call or email the Director of the Northern Saguache County Library District, Sarah Koehn Frey, at 719-655-2551 or sarahkoehn-frey@nsclibrarydistrict.org.

Free seedling tree workshop in Monte Vista March 5

The Colorado State Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service will be offering a seedling tree/shrub planting workshop on March 5 in Monte Vista. The free workshop is open to all interested landowners.

The planting workshop is intended to provide landowners with the tools they need to make informed and educated decisions about which seedlings and shrubs are best suited for their property, and how to best plant them. Each year the CSFS Alamosa District makes its conservation seedling program available to landowners in the San Luis Valley.

"Sometimes landowners get overwhelmed when trying to decide on what tree and shrub species to order. These workshops are intended to alleviate that confusion," said Sam Scavo, forester with the Alamosa District. The workshop is designed for local landowners and anyone interested in learning how planting seedling trees, shrubs and perennials can improve a property. This year, the workshop also will have a wildlife biologist with the NRCS on hand to discuss the benefits of planting seedlings for wildlife.

"Teaming up with the NRCS allows us to provide comprehensive information to folks attending the workshop," said Alamosa District Forester Adam Moore.

The workshop will be from 10am-noon Saturday, March 5, at the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Building, 947 1st Ave., Monte Vista. The building is located at the corner of 1st Ave. and Jefferson Street, next door to the Monte Villa Inn. No reservations are needed to attend the workshop, and coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Those unable to attend the workshop can call the CSFS Alamosa District at 587-0915 for a seedling order form or tree planting advice.

Rio Grande National Forest to hold four forest plan public meetings

The Rio Grande National Forest will hold four public meetings in March. The purpose of the meetings is to share and discuss the draft Need for Change document for the forest plan revision.

The Need for Change document identifies the needs and desires to change the Rio Grande National Forest's 1996 Land and Resource Management Plan. These draft needs and desires to change are based on law, the forest plan revision assessments, public input and recommendations from forest service staff.

Each meeting is scheduled from 5 to 7:30pm. Presentations will begin at 5:30pm followed by an open house where people will be able to interact with specialists to discuss specific plan revision topics. The meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, March 8 at the Conejos Peak Ranger District office, County Road 15571 Rd T., La Jara.

Wednesday, March 9 at the South Fork Community Building, 254 State Highway 149, South Fork.

Monday, March 14 at San Luis Valley Conservancy District Office, 623 Fourth Street, Alamosa.

Tuesday, March 15 Saguache County Road and Bridge Building, 305 3rd Street, Saguache. The forest plan is the over-

arching 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.

For more information, visit the Rio Grande National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande and click on the forest plan revision link or contact Mike Blakeman at the Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor's Office at 719-852-5941.

FIRSTTHOUGHT STUDIOS

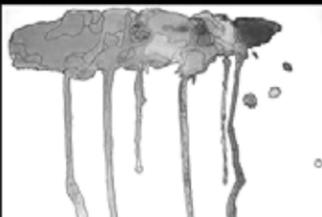
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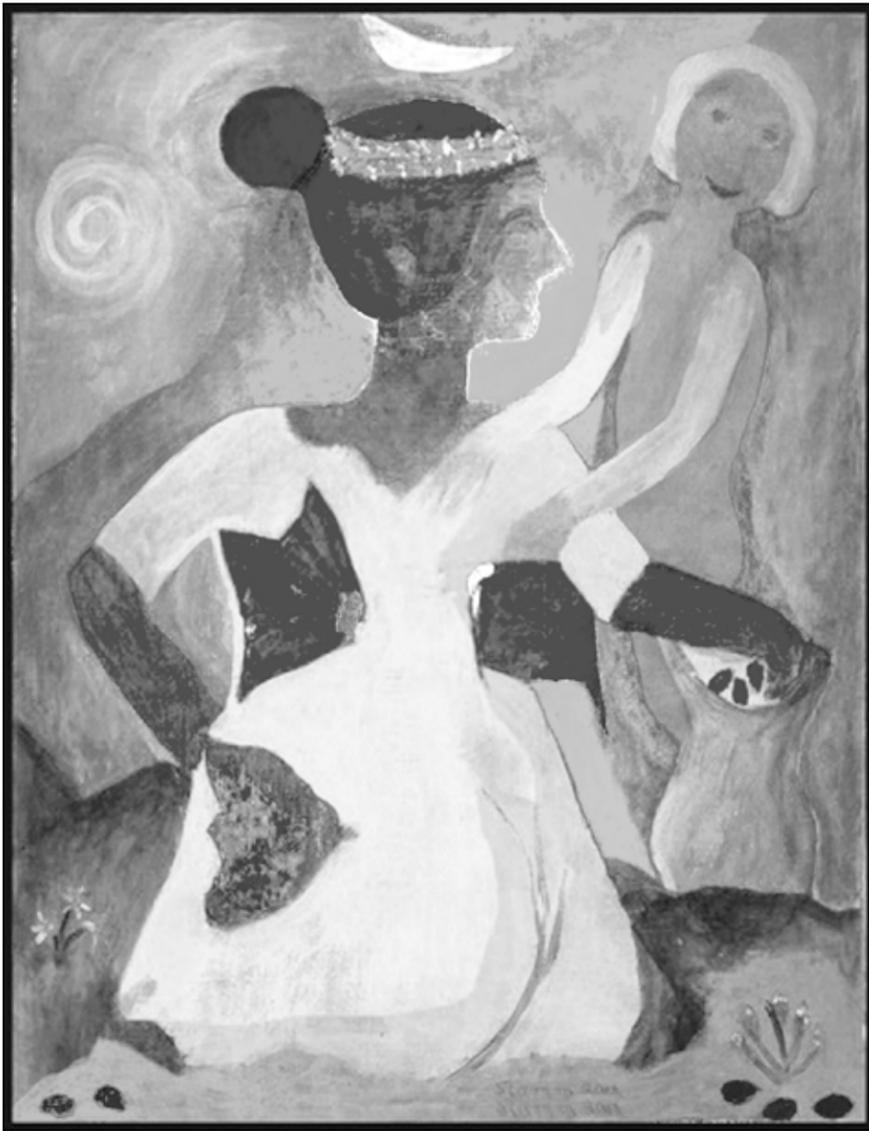
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Barbara Stamm Dose will share her images of the eight holy days of the pagan calendar at Shumei in Crestone on March 20.

Barbara Stamm Dose painting exhibit at Shumei March 20

Sunday March 20 at 3pm please join us at Shumei International in Crestone for an exhibition of paintings, drawings and masks from Barbara Stamm Dose. This exhibit will show her collection of images from the eight holy days of the pagan calendar. This event is free to the public.

Growing up in many different homes in rural Germany during World War II, Barbara discovered Shamanic relationships with nature, which enabled her to survive, and gave her life meaning. She started creating pictures and drawings early in life as a means of expressing her feelings and making sense of life.

For Barbara, making art nourishes and heals the soul and allows a search for similarities with others. Sometimes it leads to the discovery of universal truths. Immersing herself deeply in the creative process brings her peace of mind and expresses her part in the song of life. She has worked with oils and watercolors but now mostly uses acrylic on canvas for her paintings, dry pastel for her drawings and mixed media for making masks.

Barbara obtained undergraduate degrees in Nursing, Psychology and Art from Sonoma State University and her MA in Arts and Consciousness from JFK University. She supported her family of herself and two daughters in California with her art and by practicing psychiatric nursing.

She also studied SHEN energy healing with Richard Pavek. After studying Shamanism with

Michael Harner she continued studying Shamanic practices with other Shamans on our planet and now offers all these modalities for personal healing.

These studies have brought Barbara to many wondrous sacred places. Capturing the healing, nurturing universal light emanating from these places brought her a sense of joy and wellness.

Her art and work is about the deep wish to bring to and generate in mankind a similar sense of joy and wellbeing. During her Shamanic gatherings pagan art of the seasons and the energy of Father Sun and Mother Earth bring healings to all.

Learn more about Barbara and her work from 3 to 5pm on Sunday March 20. A reception follows the presentation. The show runs the month of March and the gallery is open daily 9am to 5pm.

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- ~ Blinds
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Crestone
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Grisha Krivchenia brings classical piano to Shumei Friday March 11

Friday March 11 at 7pm join us at Shumei for a night of classical music with Grisha Krivchenia. Grisha Krivchenia is a composer and pianist residing in Santa Fe and the Seattle area. He enjoys a busy performance schedule. Professional ensembles throughout North America realize his compositions and recent premieres have taken place in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Bucharest.

Grisha completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford.

In 2007, Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School. He currently writes music with hospice patients, as a composer with Lifesongs in Santa Fe. For more information visit: <http://grishakrivchenia.com>

Grisha has devoted the past few years to exploring ways in which a musical career can intersect with a life of public service. In 2008, Grisha collaborated with students, families, and the Gates Foundation to build a recording studio for all San Juan Island youth. He and his students provide



Composer and pianist Grisha Krivchenia returns to Shumei International in Crestone.

free concerts in nursing homes, organize musical fundraisers for a variety of causes, and coach young artists and ensembles.

There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door. Call 256-5284 or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for further information.

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Save the Date

This year's Shumei Anniversary is May 21st & 22nd

This year's Interfaith Event - A Tribute to Maurice Strong

World Peace Sampai, Anniversary Sampai, Community Lunch, Garden Tours, Art Exhibit

Shumei International Institute

Sharing Natural Agriculture, Art, Beauty, and Healing Jyorei with the world...

Art Symposia, exhibitions, concerts and special events. See the community calendar or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for an up to date schedule

Want to get involved?
We have plenty of fun volunteer opportunities this year. Planting flowers, wine and cheese hospitality, greeting...
Contact Deana at deana@shumei.us for more information.

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



Sandhill cranes arrive by the thousands to fields near Monte Vista every year. This photo was taken at last year's crane festival. photo by Martin Macaulay

Monte Vista Crane Festival

continued from page 1

presentations, and a craft fair. As it gets closer to the festival date, take a look at the complete schedule. To get a glimpse of what's in store, take a peek at events from the last festival.

Motels and B&Bs fill up weeks in advance, and the population of Monte Vista nearly doubles during the weekend of Crane Festival.

Come visit the Valley of the Cranes and enjoy their annual spring return to one of Colorado's most spectacularly scenic places.

Our Vendor page has information for those interested in the Craft Fair.

For more information about the festival contact the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce: 719-852-2731 or visitmvrane-fest.org.

For more information about the cranes contact the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office: 719-589-4021.

4-Corners area birding festival happens May 11-15

Registration is open for the 12th Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival, Wednesday, May 11, through Sunday, May 15. Twenty-five tours will take festival participants to birding hotspots throughout the Four Corners area. In addition there will be a welcome reception, lectures, a silent auction, a banquet, a bird art show and Mix & Mingle social hours.

Adhering to tradition, the popular Raptor/Owl tours are first on the festival's schedule for Wednesday afternoon and evening.

An overnight tour to Vermilion Cliffs in Arizona, nesting site for California Condors, returns for this year's festival on Thursday, May 12, and Friday, May 13. Dr. Donald Bruning, Chairman and Curator of Ornithology for the Wildlife Conservation Society (retired), will accompany the tour along with this year's Keynote Speaker, Chris Parish, Condor Field Project Supervisor, Peregrine Fund.

There will also be two free birding activities, Beginning Birding and the family-oriented nature outing. (Pre-registration is required for both.)

Visit www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com for complete 2016 birding festival details or to register on-line. For additional information, contact

the Cortez Cultural Center at 565-1151 X14. An Early Bird registration discount ends March 24, but registration continues through festival dates as space allows.



Western Tanager. photo by Diane Cherbak



Whimbrel. photo by Chuck Haspels



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7pm ~ 10pm Sign up early!

- \$5 at the door •
- \$10 ~ entrance/smoothie included •
- \$25 ~ entrance/smoothie & CD/demo included •

Contact [boonetheartist](#) by checking out *Be The Artist* the event and group on Facebook



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The entire audience boogies it up to the "Flash Mob" Hokey Pokey, led by Diane Barstow, during the Cabin Fever Event in 2014. photo by Lori Nagel

World-famous Cabin Fever Talent Show March 5

Crestone Charter School is excited to announce that the annual Cabin Fever Talent Show will be held on Saturday, March 5 at the school, starting at 7pm. The doors will open at 5:30 for a chili dinner to ward off the winter chill.

This year's program has an awesome lineup of local talent which will amaze and inspire you through these long winter months. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be the talented Mark Jacobi. We invite you to share the evening and witness the wonderful diverse

talents that we have within our community.

During intermission we will once again be featuring the "Decadent Dessert Auction." Do not miss it! The cakes will be exceptional. We will also be selling cakes, pies, brownies, chocolates, and hot & cold drinks during intermission.

Admission is \$10. Cabin Fever is a fundraiser for the Middle School and LINK students' spring trip. For more information, or to donate a cake or dessert, call Judie Rose at 256-5110.



Peter Taylor, aka Father Guido, was the special Guest Emcee (all the way from Rome!) at the Cabin Fever event on March 8 2014.. photo by Lori Nagel

Crestone Charter School Presents...

CABIN FEVER

A showcase of local talent

Saturday, March 5
Chili Dinner 5:30pm \$7
Show Begins 7pm

Dessert Auction • Hot/Cold Drinks • Intermission Desserts & more

Admission \$10
Benefit for CCS Middle School and LINK Students trips

For more information contact Judie Rose 256-5110

It's spring, let's celebrate it!

Two workshops with Native American teacher and healer Láné Sáan Moonwalker

The Eastern Direction

The direction of the East is the place of new beginnings and new life in the Sacred Circle. It is associated with spring, morning, inspiration, and birth. It is the place to begin any new project or enterprise. In many native cultures, doorways of homes faced the east, the direction of the rising sun. In this workshop we will work with this energy in an inspired, practical, and sacred way.

Saturday, April 2 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75 or \$140 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 719-937-7786, or dorjeroot@yahoo.com.

The Wisdom of Spring

We don't often consider the seasons to be elements, but actually they are exceedingly important and complex ones. The seasons are the result of the dance between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. Spring is the time when our beloved Mother Earth has the opportunity to re-

make Her green mantle. It's the time of year of rejuvenation for all of life, and we will be working with that energy in this workshop.

Sunday, April 3 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75 or \$140 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 719-937-7786, or dorjeroot@yahoo.com.

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- House Clearings

Láné Sáan Moonwalker
The Eastern Direction
Saturday, April 2nd
The Wisdom of Spring
Sunday, April 3rd

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Crestone Music Festival announcements

Local acts, apply now!

It's time to apply for the 18th Annual Crestone Music Festival to held August 12-14. We are accepting applications until May 10. Local means that half the act lives in or has a house in Saguache County. Selection will be based on quality and popularity with consideration also given to new acts that are also of high quality. Please present us with your best stuff. If you are musicians, we need good recordings that showcase your music. Dancers need to submit good video. Whatever you do, show it well so we can be as objective as possible. Applications are available at local stores, at our office and online at crestfest.org. We are interested in any performing art including music, dance, drama and comedy. Locals get paid \$25 each with a maximum of \$100 per act. They also get in free on their day of performance. The application is mandatory and should be

postmarked by May 10. You can also drop it off at our office at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications should be posted to: CPI Local, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. You can call 719-256-4533 for more information.

Local vendors' notice

The 18th Annual Crestone Music Festival is accepting applications from local vendors for this year's festival August 12-14. Categories include food, arts and crafts, healing, merchandise or other. Applications are available at local businesses, at our office and online at crestfest.org. The application is mandatory and should be postmarked by May 10. You can drop it off at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications can be mailed to CPI, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. Call 719-256-4533 for more information.

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Call to artists

Artists, do you have work depicting a recognizable image of a spiritual center in Crestone? A painting of a stupa? A photo of the Carmelite Hermitage? Ziggurat or any of the other centers in the area? Shumei's 14th anniversary will pay tribute to Maurice Strong who along with Hanne was instrumental in bringing so many of the world's wisdom traditions together in this extraordinary community. Shumei International Institute is hosting a group show highlighting images of local centers as part of their anniversary. Please contact Deana Wilfong at deana@shumei.us on or before April 1 with an image of the work you would like to include in the show.

Alzheimer educational event March 31

The Alzheimer's Association will provide a community education event in Saguache at the BeBop Studio (404 4th St.) from 1-2:30pm. The presenter will cover early signs and symptoms of dementia and why early detection is important.

Bishop leads worship service in Crestone

Rob O'Neill, Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, will be performing the Eucharist at Little Shepherd in the Hills at 2pm on March 6. A blessing of the new Parish Hall Cabin and potluck will take place afterwards in the newly finished cabin on Alder Street. All are welcome.

Inner Vision at Joyful Journey

Joyful Journey Hot Springs is pleased to announce our first ever "Inner Vision" Conference to be held in our conference center from June 24-26. We are looking for local vendors and/or presenters to join us in the endeavor. Our intention for this event is to offer "Presenters and tools available to assist you with your inner journey".

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Marquita or Theo by emailing us at manager@joyfuljourney-hotsprings.com or calling us at 719/256-4329.



Kesang Marstrand releases a new album: For My Love

Kesang Marstrand is a singer-songwriter who grew up in Crestone. She has just released a new album called *For My Love*. She recorded it at home over the past year. It's mostly acoustic, with minimal arrangements that sometimes include synths and electric guitar. It would probably fall somewhere between indie folk and pop. You can stream it at <https://kesangmarstrand.bandcamp.com/album/for-my-love> and all the major retailers (iTunes - Amazon - Spotify).

Kesang is the daughter of Marianne Marstrand and Ngodup Burkhar. Marianne worked in Crestone on the construction of the 41 ft. Tashi Gomang Stupa.

Bill Hearne Trio at Alamosa Society Hall March 11

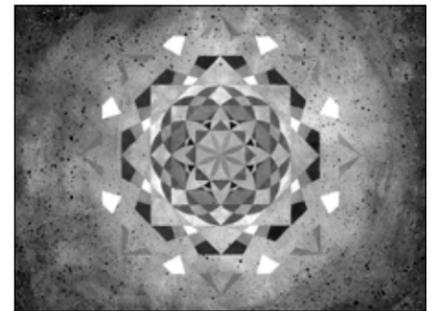
On Friday, March 11th at Society Hall in Alamosa is the Bill Hearne Trio from Santa Fe! Anyone who knows anything about flat-picking guitar music has heard of Bill. He's a legend in the entire NM area, southern Colorado and certainly across Texas! Joining Bill will be valley favorite Don Richmond. It just doesn't get any better than this line up. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Green Spot or Lightshine Music in Alamosa. You can also call 580-7838 to reserve and pay in advance. This could very well be a sold-out show, so don't put it off.

There is also a Comedy Show scheduled for Friday, April 1. Be watching for this information on Facebook—just pull up Society Hall.

Commodities March 9

Saguache County Social Services will distribute commodities, a pre-packaged box of basic food items, at 1:30pm March 9, on Galena St. just west of Town Hall.

This food distribution is in place of Crestone Food Bank. Please bring a photo I.D., proof of residency and proof of income, if applicable.



Mythos & Mandalas at Joyful Journey

Avery Runner's first art show in over a decade, "Mythos and Mandalas", reveals insight to cosmic experience and spiritual growth, while elucidating communion with spirits of nature and animal life forms. The exhibit may be viewed April 3 through June 30 at Joyful Journey Hot Springs, and is open to all curious spectators.

As a special opening, join us Sunday April 3 from 3-5pm and enjoy the groovy ambiance of DJ Archetype from Crestone, providing chill vibes while sharing wine, cheese and various delicacies. For the art collectors, a variety of prints and original works may be taken home or gifted from this inspiring assortment of compositions.

Alpine Achievers Initiative volunteer opportunities

Alpine Achievers Initiative, an AmeriCorps group serving at Crestone Charter School, Moffat Consolidated School, and Mountain Valley School, is actively seeking volunteers to assist in a variety of out-of-school programs for elementary and secondary students.

We are striving to include community members that will assist and enhance our programs, which range from a daily elementary program at each of the schools to secondary programs involving outdoor leadership, fitness and nutrition, spoken word, wood shop, robotic, photography, music theory, and many more! Any additional support will directly benefit the youth of Saguache County.

If you are interested in volunteering with Alpine Achievers Initiative or have any questions, please feel free to contact Megan Strauss at 719-221-9480, Natasha Mills-McKim or Emily Cooksey at 719-256-4710.

Energy Fair alert

Crestone Community, it's time to start planning this year's Energy Fair. If you would like to help with this year's event please contact me with your interests. We will also be holding the usual group brainstorm session during March to solidify the event theme. Thank you for all your support over the past several years. Let's keep this event growing. Donovan 303-868-6352 dspitzman@yahoo.com.



Moffat High School Key Club Event
Please join Moffat Key Club for a delicious **Prime Rib Dinner** March 19th ~ 5:00pm **Moffat School Cafeteria**
Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children under 12
Available at the CYP Thrift Store or by calling Moffat School Sponsor Patte Smith @ 719.745.7821 or 719.256.4710

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Community Calendar—March 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Monday, February 29

- Leap Day – All Day
- Meet the Board Mondays – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday, March 1

- Super Tuesday – All Day
- Colorado Caucus Day, 7pm 850-3254,256-4215

Thursday, March 3

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome! – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Donation optional nurashkijerrahi.org

Friday, March 4

- Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana Communal Feast) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, March 5

- Recycling in Crestone – Across from Aventa 10am-2pm \$10/avg household 719-588-2703
- Cabin Fever Talent Show – Crestone Charter School 5:30 pm \$10 256-5110
- Wild & Scenic Film Fest, Buena Vista Community Ctr. 6pm \$13 wildandscenicgarnaltua.brownpapertickets.com

Sunday, March 6

- Eucharist by CO Bishop O'Neill – Little Shepherd in the Hills 2:00 pm

Monday, March 7

- Meet the Board Mondays – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
- Baca E&AC meets w/Board of Directors, BGPOA Meeting Room 6pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Tuesday, March 8

- International Women's Day – All Day

Wednesday, March 9

- Riwo Sangchö: Buddhist smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Crestone End of Life Project meeting, Topping House 7:00 pm-9:00 pm free 719-522-7415

Friday, March 11

- Monte Vista Crane Festival, MV National Wildlife Refuge mvcranefest.org/2016-festival 719-852-2731
- Grisha Krivchenia at Shumei Int. Institute 7-9pm \$10 Suggested www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284

Saturday, March 12

- 2nd Saturday Yoga Series – BeBop Studio 9:30 am-12:00 pm \$35 719-298-0360
- Monte Vista Crane Festival, MV National Wildlife Refuge mvcranefest.org/2016-festival 719-852-2731
- Wild & Scenic Film Fest, Salida SteamPlant, 6pm \$13, wildandscenicgarnaltua.brownpapertickets.com

Sunday, March 13

- Daylight Savings Begins – 2:00 am
- Sunday mass – Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Monte Vista Crane Festival, MV National Wildlife Refuge mvcranefest.org/2016-festival 719-852-2731
- Shumei Monthly Sampai – Shumei Sanctuary 10:30 am-12:00 pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, March 14

- Crestone Board of Trustees meeting – Crestone Town Hall 1:30 pm-6:00 pm 719-256-4313
- Rio Grande Nat. Forest Public Planning meeting, SLV Conservancy District Office 5-7:30 pm Free www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande 719-852-5941
- Moffat School Board meeting, Moffat School Community Room 5:30pm 719-256-4720, 4725, 4710
- BGPOA Board of Directors Meeting, BGPOA Meeting Room 6-9pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- Gathering for Individual & Planetary Peace, Home of Susan Fey 6-7pm Free 719-496-0977

Tuesday, March 15

- Rio Grande Nat. Forest Public Planning meeting, Saguache County Road & Bridge, 5-7:30pm Free www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande 719-852-5941

Thursday, March 17

- Sufi Dhikr. All Welcome, 3pm-5pm Donation optional nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, March 18

- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, March 19

- Spring Equinox – All Day
- Recycling in Crestone, Across from Aventa 10:00 am-2:00 pm \$10/avg household 719-588-2703

Sunday, March 20

- International Earth Day – All Day
- Spring Equinox – All Day
- Palm Sunday mass Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9-10am 256-4778
- Barbara Stamm Dose at Shumei Gallery 3-5pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, March 21

- Gathering for Individual & Planetary Peace, Home of Susan Fey 6-7pm Free 719-496-0977

Wednesday, March 23

- Riwo Sangchö: Buddhist smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-11:00 am

Thursday, March 24

- Holy Thursday mass Nada Carmelite Hermitage 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-256-4778

Friday, March 25

- Good Friday Stations/Services – Nada Carmelite Hermitage 3:00 pm-4:00 pm 719-256-4778

Saturday, March 26

- Conscious Dub – The Cloud Station 7:00 pm-10:00 pm \$5 719-589-8844

Sunday, March 27

- Easter – All Day
- Easter Vigil mass – Nada Carmelite hermitage 5:00 am-6:30 am 719-256-4778

Monday, March 28

- BGPOA Board of Directors Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6-9pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- Gathering for Individual & Planetary Peace, Home of Susan Fey 6-7pm Free 719-496-0977

Thursday, March 31

- Alzheimer educational event – BEBOP Studio, Saguache 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Free
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome! – 3-5pm donation optional nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday, April 1

- Deadline to submit spiritual center image – Shumei International Institute www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, April 2

- SLV Health Fair – Del Norte Elementary School 7:00 am-10:30 am 719-657-3352
- Workshop: The Eastern Direction – 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$75 719-937-7786

Sunday, April 3

- Workshop: The Wisdom of Spring – 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$75 719-937-7786
- Mythos and Mandalas Art Opening Reception, Joyful Journey 3-5pm 719-256-4705

Monday, April 4

- Meet the Board Mondays – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 5

- Town of Crestone election day 719-256-4131

Friday, April 8

- Center Head Start Health Fair, Center Clinic 6:30-10am 719-655-2533, 754-3191 or 754-2971
- SLV Health Fair – Centennial School 7:00 am-11:00 am 719-672-3332

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 8-9am, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- 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, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.orgSunday

Monday

- Meet Your Crestone Board Mondays Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4313
- Moving for Better Balance class Salida Pilates Studio 10:00 am-11:00 am Refundable \$40 deposit 719-539-3341
- Soul Transcendence Seminars Home of Susan Fey 3:00 pm-5:00 pm none 719 496 0977

Tuesday

- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30-8:30 pm 970-309-0710
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45 pm By donation 719-256-5668

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Yoga n Soak w/Cyn Joyful Journey Hot Springs 5-6pm \$12 joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com 719-298-0360

Thursday

- Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting Crestone Baptist Church noon-1pm www.slvaa.org
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668
- Noon Gentle Yoga, BeBop Studio noon-1pm 719-298-0360

Saturday

- Dorje Trolo Practice, White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-noon no charge 719-480-5403

Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.slvaa.org
- Anam Thubten recorded meditation teachings, debrunninghorse@gmail.com 4:30pm free
- Drop-in Meditation at Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Out & About

with **Lori Sunflower**

Article & Photos by Lori Nagel

This Month's Topic:
What are your Favorite & Least Favorite things about Crestone?



Ara Macdonald

My favorite things about Crestone are that everyone knows me, that I know everyone, we wave at each other, know each other's kids, go to the same places to get our food, strive to band together as a community when things really matter, strive to live off-the-grid lives that involve being self-sustainable and close to the environment, the earth. I love that there's fresh air and so many different kinds of animals here. That people care, and care about each other as much as they can humanly possibly do, and that I feel like I have people that understand me and that know my child and that will be there for me when I really need it, and I'll be there for them when they really need it.

My least favorite thing about Crestone is that there's so much confusion. I think this is common to human nature though; I don't think it's just this town. People get confused about their opinions about things and start arguing and then they create rifts and they don't create any kind of solutions to any problems.

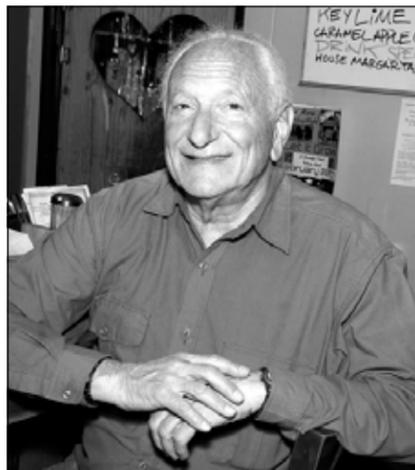


Judie Rose

I think my favorite is how the community comes together when

there's trouble, and when there's happy events. I like to see that. I see when people are in trouble, or they're doing happy things, the community gets together.

And my worst is the fact that we don't have enough people coming up in the ranks in age to take over the fundraising and being available. I see that, and it bothers me, because I've been volunteering for 23 years and we have yet to pull the younger people up with us. When people need fundraising, or are sick & dying, we step up—and that's what I love. When I came here, there were 300 people, and it was tighter knit than it is now, because there were only 300. But as we grow more and more, I see that we're not including younger people to take our places, for when we end up on that pyre!



Dennis Neuhaus

I like the ruralness about the community. The idea that you can either be out there or be a hermit. Total acceptance of all different points of view without any cross eyes or double-takes or anything—you can think anything you want. You can go up in smoke when you're done, or you can go in the ground. It's your choice without any hesitation. I like the diversity. And I like the weather changes.

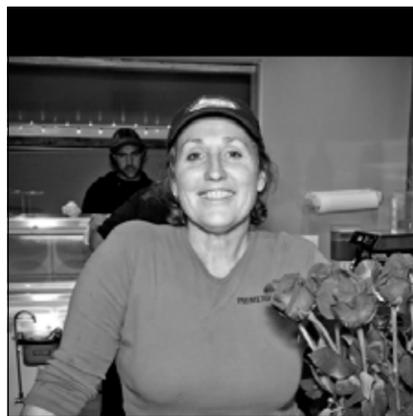
I don't know what I don't like about it. I like everything. Even for the mosquitoes, I get Lillian's Green Earth Farm mosquito repellent and spread it on myself. The mosquitoes gotta live and have a purpose, too, or why are they here? I accept everything, and I love everything about Crestone, but I have that view of life, too—I like everything about life—I don't have anything that's my least favorite thing. There was a survey awhile ago, and one of the questions was "What is it you wish you could have?" My answer was, "There's nothing I wish for. I have everything I need." The survey moderator said to me about a month later, "You were the only one who answered like that—everyone else had a wish list!" So, I'm different—sorry!



Vickie Helm

My favorite thing, well, obviously the wildlife here, and the mountains. Crestone is just unbeknownst to me the most beautiful place. Ever. But the secret of what I really like about Crestone is that it's not painted with the zillions and gazillions of corporate advertisers, like here's McDonald's, here's Taco Bell, here's Burger King. It's the bastion of what a community looked like before it was overtaken by corporations. And it's like the last place you can go to where nighttime is really nighttime and daytime is really daytime. It's really dark at night, it's super quiet. It's like, whatever the earth was meant to be, this town is closest to that. And I love that. That's something completely not on the planet anymore, except for rural places like this.

The mosquitoes in high season are my least favorite thing. If anything would make me want to move out of Crestone, that mosquito season when they're just like a cloud of mosquitoes and you can't run anywhere, can't do anything—it's like a Stephen King novel! Ya know? The mosquitoes! *That* is my least favorite thing, over even the wind. The mosquito season is really "uuugh."



Robin Helm

Well, what I really love about Crestone and that brought me here, initially, are the mountains. I mean, the scenic beauty here is just unbelievable. And having the ability to walk right from my front door up to the top of a 14,000-foot peak is unbelievable. It really describes everything about the environment that I absolutely love. The blue skies, the snowcaps, the outdoors, the peace of mind and the energy of the mountains, I just absolutely love it. Although, having said that, I personally really like the people as well, and I think they reflect the peace and serenity of the mountains for me and my experience here.

For my least favorite thing, I really have to dig deep and I don't wanna whine, but probably my least favorite thing is an occasional

summer where we suffer through mosquitoes. Other than that, I have absolutely no complaints—I just love it here, in every aspect. I love the changes, I love the cold, I love the hot, I love . . . everything.



Stephen Futral (aka Ish)

Well, I probably have several favorite things. One is the space that exists here. Another is the quiet that exists here. And I really appreciate the ability to be as reclusive and/or as socially engaged as you want. So, I may spend a lot of time writing and painting in my studio, but then I also have a column in the newspaper and I'm on the steering committee for the Crestone Creative District, and part of Crestone Artists. For me, it enables me to feel very creative here. I mentor at the Crestone Charter School, and love seeing young people get turned on to painting and encaustics. And another favorite thing is that I've really seen a sense of community grow in the last 4 years that I've lived here.

And in terms of the least favorite thing, is in that same breath of seeing that sense of community, I've seen a lot of ego that becomes really negative and resentful that's spewed all over the 25 different Crestone groups on Facebook. But at the same time, there are so many good things like RideShare and people needing a prescription picked up. Overall, I would say there's much more positive here than there is negative.

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Saguache Works secures future with building purchase

Saguache Works, a community-based nonprofit, is the new owner of the 404-406 4th St. property in downtown Saguache.

Purchase of the buildings from Blue Earth Business Opportunities (BEBOP), a privately owned LLC, was made possible by years of hard work on the part of an extremely dedicated team of volunteers, ongoing community support, and financial assistance from the First Southwest Bank Community Fund.

The story, which is a "Win-Win" for the community and all involved, began in May 2012 when Marge Hogglin and Lindy McDaniel, two retired "old ladies," purchased the two old and mostly vacant buildings. Both had been active in the Saguache Downtown Revitalization project and wanted to bring business activity back to downtown. So they formed BEBOP, invested their own personal funds and bought the property.

Given the population and demographics of Saguache, they figured a public-private partnership would be necessary to make something happen. So they formed Saguache Works and applied for their 501(c)3 status from the IRS. The two then spent the summer scrubbing, scraping and painting, replacing ceilings, tearing down walls and installing new fixtures.

The Saguache Welcome Center, Gallery & Gift Shop, their first commercial venture, opened in September 2012, to draw passing travelers off Hwy. 285 to support local artists and other downtown businesses. The BEBOP Studio for exercise, dance

and yoga, at 317 San Juan, immediately behind the Welcome Center, opened at around the same time.

Building renovations continued and Saguache Works, with the help of an amazing team of volunteers, opened Blue Earth Thrift & Mercantile, next door at 406 4th St., in the spring of 2013. A month or so later, the 4th Street Food Store began offering a limited selection of mostly local foods in space shared with the Welcome Center. Since then, the nonprofit has continued to evolve. A high school student internship program, which provides real-life work experience and leadership training to local youth, is now in its third year. Homegrown Totes, a fiber arts cottage industry, now employs five part-time sewers, plus several interns and a team of part-time marketing professionals.

Lindy retired in the summer of 2014 and moved away to be closer to family. The food store has gradually expanded and serves a growing segment of the population. The thrift store generates adequate revenue to help subsidize food prices, and lower prices are drawing more people to eat healthily.

Community members are invited to become involved and to help shape the future of the nonprofit, which is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Potential new projects include development of a nonprofit coffee shop and community commercial kitchen.

If you would like to volunteer, or to participate in any way, please call 719-655-0216.



Strength and serenity in Crestone.

Company of Players 2016 develops two new directions

by Ammi Kohn & Dean Lloyd

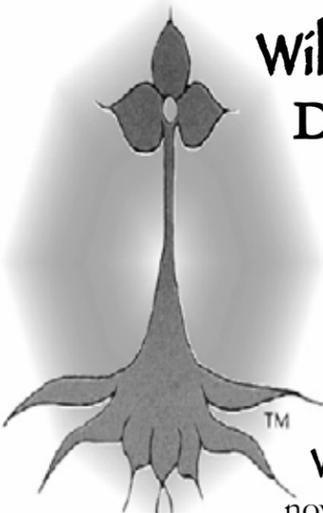
The Company of Players is expanding its repertoire for 2016 in two new directions: (1) Using the Internet for wider exposure to storytelling, and (2) inviting the entire Crestone/Baca community to participate with the Company in producing a coffee house radio production to be aired on KZRA and the Internet.

On March 12, the Company will assemble to tell stories at Dharma Ocean in an on line stream and recording the performance. Dharma Ocean is graciously providing its production facilities for this venture. The stories can be seen on a live stream channel to be announced (see the post on at the Dean Lloyd Facebook page in March) and later on Youtube. Optional donations will be accepted by mail addressed to one or more of the performers (the address will be provided during the performance). Story tellers are Jennifer Thomson, Dean Lloyd, Ammi Kohn, Sophia Tiers, Bruce Becker, Richard Collier, and others. From guilt to glee you can enjoy the talents of your friends and neighbors.

In a completely different direction, the Company of Players will invite the community to participate in producing a coffee house radio show that will air on KRZA

and the Internet. The production will be a combination of prepared material and improvisation by the audience; radio drama from the past as well as script created for the show, interviews, music, wise and otherwise irreverent commentary. The Company is considering a "Beatnick" theme for the production. The coffee house show will probably occur in late spring or early summer. If "Beatnicks" are the theme, be sure to bring your beret!

And many thanks to the Saguache Tourism Council which is supporting advertising expenses for the two productions.



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Wild & Scenic Film Fest highlights the best environmental films

March 5 in Buena Vista; March 12, Salida

Wild and Scenic Film Fest 2016 will make two stops in Chaffee County among its nationwide screenings, offering film buffs a chance to be inspired by the latest, cutting-edge environmental films.

The film festival will come to the Buena Vista Community Center on March 5 and the Salida Steam-Plant on March 12. Doors open for both events at 6pm.

Each location in Chaffee County features a different lineup of films.

"If people want to see good films they need to go to both events," committee member and retired adventure film producer Rob Dubin said. "There are so many great films, we couldn't fit them all into one venue."

The films delve into the feats, successes and even some crazy antics of adventurers and environmentalists. The event is a chance to be inspired to action and armchair travel around the world.

Dubin said the committee aimed to avoid single-issue films that fit the typical environmental film mold. "We were able to find films that are broad in scope, shed light in an upbeat way and convey an environmental victory for both sides," he said.

An example is *Soil Carbon Cowboys*, a 12-minute film playing in Salida. Through the experiences of modern farmers, the film shows that proper cattle grazing can offer new solutions to soil, animal and human health. "This film shows how ranching families around the country are improving their practices to maintain the land." *Soil Carbon Cowboys* shows how a diversity of plants can produce better results.

The selection of films does not strictly deliver environmental messages. Some are just downright fun to watch, Dubin said, including paddling, skiing, climbing, ocean sailing, surfing, skateboarding, fly fishing, slack-lining and hula hooping.

A film that gets out-loud laughs is *Sufferfest 2*, a 27-minute film showing in Buena Vista.

Rock climbers Cedar Wright and Alex Honnold embark on an ambitious three-week, bike-powered journey to climb as many de-

sert towers in the Four Corners region as they can. When the desert sand settles, they have climbed 45 towers, scaled more than 12,000 vertical feet of sandstone, and biked hundreds of miles on bumpy, sandy dirt roads.

The lineup of films also features world-renowned adventure-seekers and environmentalists.



The 15-minute *Mile for Mile*, playing in Salida, features ultra runners who run 106 miles through the newly opened Patagonia Park in Chile to celebrate Conservación Patagonia's efforts to re-wild and protect the vast landscape.

Doug Tompkins, founder of The Conservation Land Trust and The North Face clothing company, is featured in the film. Tompkins bought millions of acres of land in Patagonia to help create the national park. He died in December.

"In the film, Doug talks about doing something significant before he dies," Dubin said. "It's really poignant that he's talking about his own mortality in the film."

The film fest highlights a wide variety of locations.

The Fisherman's Son, a 29-minute film playing in Buena Vista, is about a Chilean boy who grew up in a fishing village frequented by American surfers. The film focuses on his rise to fame as a professional surfer and how he is using his status to speak out for the protection of his home.

To purchase tickets to the Wild & Scenic Film Fest go to <http://wildandscenicgarnaltua.brownpapertickets.com>.

HackSLV: If we build it, they will come! First meeting is March 14

by Jade Swordy

We at HackSLV would like to make our formal introduction to the Crestone community, and tell you about our organization, our goals, and our exciting plans. HackSLV is a not-for-profit organization with the long-term goal of creating and maintaining a dedicated "hacker-space" in the San Luis Valley.

First of all, what am I even talking about? To start from the beginning, to have a hacker space we need hackers, and to have hackers we need hacking. What is hacking? Well, it is not what you think it is. Hacking is most akin to prototyping; it is the application of ingenuity, passion, curiosity and perspiration to build something. Hacking could be anything from building a website to a cabinet, and everything in between. A hackerspace is the best possible way to facilitate hacking through collaboration. By bringing people together, really amazing products and gadgets come out of these hackerspaces today. This is facilitated by the hackerspace and its raw materials and equipment. These spaces often house machine shops, electronics labs, 3D printers, and even sewing machines. Did I mention that these hackerspaces are all over the country? In fact, there are 23 of these facilities in Colorado alone; however, only two are south of Denver and none are in Sagache County. This is where HackSLV comes in. We will become the first rural, southern Colorado hackerspace. Our vision is to provide a space that can accommodate the materials and equipment to prototype anything.

As an organization, we believe that HackSLV has a lot of value to add to both the local and valley-wide community. Hackerspaces inherently encourage critical thinking, creativity, and even entrepreneurship. Hackerspaces are dedicated to DIY and the hacker culture is all-inclusive and no experience necessary. By bringing people together to get their hands dirty and build, we hope to strengthen the community both on the individual level and the whole. This would be a space for learning or sharing skills, and people of all ages would have access to equipment and mentorship. In the long-term, we hope to make our facilities available to local schools as an educational supplement to host either classes or after-school programs. Finally, we hope to improve technical literacy in this remote corner of Colorado and provide a fun and productive community workshop.

Let's say you've read this far and want to get involved. Our first ever public appearance will be a Happy Pi Day event on the evening of March 14, at the YES building on T Road. More details are on our Facebook page where you can also find this event and updates on HackSLV. Expect free food, nerdy games/banter, learning more about us, an awesome door prize, and shameless pleas for donations. We hope to see you there and may the force be with you!

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Who We Are

Joel Weston: Creating a self-sufficient life in art

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Before he moved to Crestone from Columbus, Ohio in early 2015, Joel Weston believed the only way to live surrounded by exquisite natural beauty was to pay—a lot—for that privilege. He had spent the previous 15 years in Columbus, Ohio, and earlier in his life lived in Houston and other cities around the South and Midwest. Then a close friend from Columbus, Jodi Sandoval, emailed and texted him to say she had discovered an incredibly beautiful place called Crestone and encouraged him to come see for himself. Joel was skeptical. “I didn’t believe her. I came out here to prove her wrong and drag her back to civilization,” he jokes. “But then I drove out of Salida and down 17 and there was beauty as far as I could see. From what I had experienced before, I had thought you’re not allowed to live within such beauty—in this society, generally, beauty costs.”

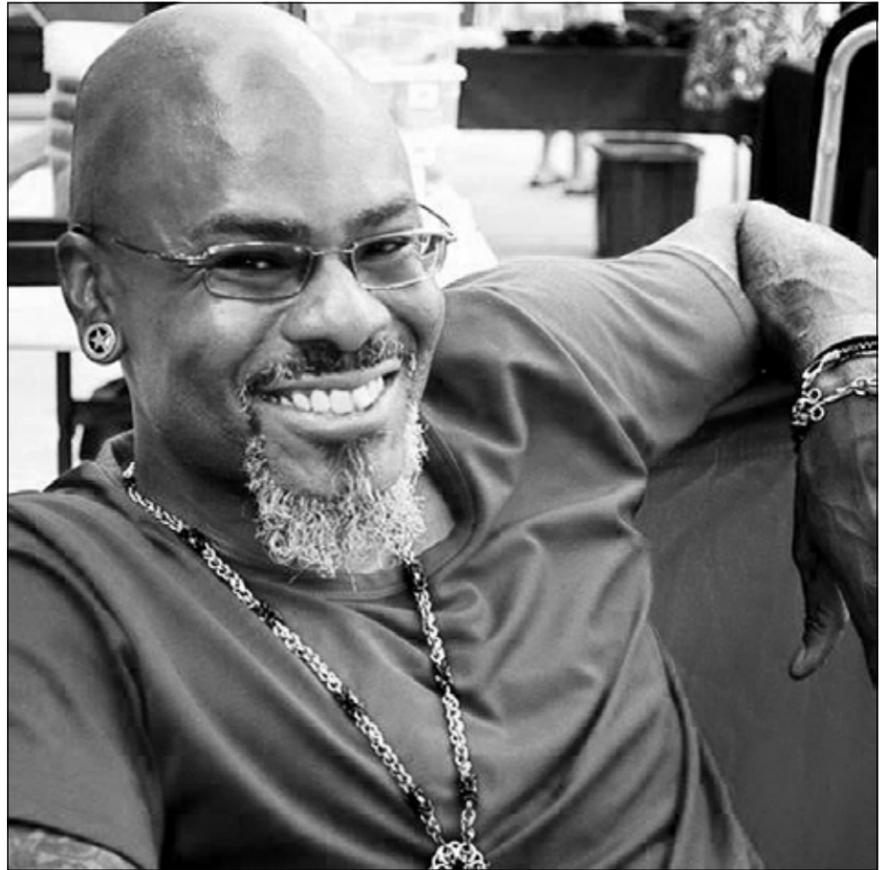
Yet here he was. As he later wrote in a blog post: “I spent the first day here in Crestone smiling like a fool and staring at the sky. The sky that never ended . . . I have never seen darkness so complete, peppered with

his multi-purpose studio and immerse himself in jewelry design and creation, graphic design, illustration, tattoo design—specializing in elaborate Celtic crosses—photography, writing, and publishing. It was too much to squeeze into small fragments of time. Especially since he had recently added broadcasting school, radio, voice acting, promotional videos, and voice-over work to his creative repertoire.

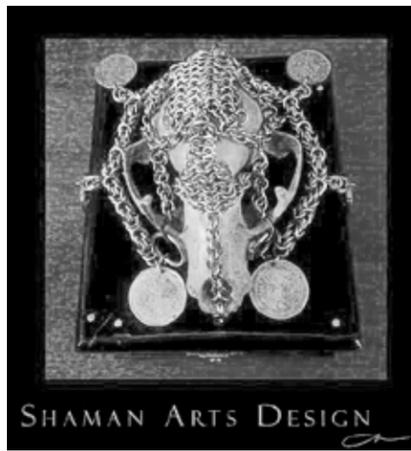
This latest direction seems a natural fit. Speaking in a deep,



Joel making chainmaille jewelry.



Joel Weston.



Joel's chainmaille artistry extends to the intricate adornment of a small animal skull attached to the top of a jewelry box.

Bringing creative people together

In fact, supporting and encouraging other artists is at the heart of Joel's mission in life. When he established Soliloquy Press in 2004, it was not only to publish his own poetry, short stories and photography, as well as other writers' work. He also appreciates being able to spread the creative energy by involving other artists, preferably local, who have skills in cover art, editing, layout, design, and other aspects of publishing and marketing. “It’s artistically organic, pulling people together to make a manuscript become an actual book,” he says.

Likewise, he is interested in collaborating with a leather artist to incorporate that medium into his custom chainmaille (pronounced and alternately spelled as chainmail) jewelry. Beginning with countless small metal links, Joel produces necklaces, bracelets, earrings and other jewelry whose beauty is both intricate and strong. To encourage and promote little known but talented musicians, in 2017 he plans to begin a podcast modeled on his former, highly eclectic radio show called Blank State. All of Joel's creative ventures are gathered under the business name, Shaman Arts Design.

Last spring, Joel and Jodi started S&WK Hauling and Trash Removal. (The name stands for nicknames for the two friends, although Jodi is no longer involved in the business.) Today Eddie High works with Joel as a subcontractor in the hauling service. In Crestone, it seems, Joel has found a place where he can finally make good on the impulse behind his fourth grade epiphany. He has filled his life with activities of his own choosing—meeting a community need through his day job while also giving time to his artistic side. “What I do creatively is what I’ve always wanted to do,” he says. “To be a self-sufficient artist. That kind of never-ending creative work is what I’m passionate about.”

Contact Joel for hauling services at 719-849-0656. For Shaman Arts Design and Soliloquy Press visit joelweston14.wordpress.com.



Celebrating his 42nd birthday in December with his girlfriend, Alison Ramadei, and his mother, Laura Thomas.

the brightest glittering stars. It was as if all the constellations were presented to me that night. Presented to me by the mountains, those sleeping giants, the wise old men huddled around the glowing embers of the land we lived on—their fire.”

Becoming his own boss

But moving to Crestone represented much more to Joel than an escape from the city. A year before leaving Columbus he had made the momentous decision, at age 40, to quit his day job and focus on exploring and developing his diverse creative skills. For years, when not at work in the retail and customer service fields, he would retreat to

richly resonant voice, Joel sits comfortably on an oversized sofa in his studio at the home he shares with his girlfriend, Alison Ramadei, and reflects on his life. He grew up as the middle of three children of a computer programmer in the U.S. Air Force and a creative mother who loved to draw, sing, and sew. (Recently, Joel was astonished to learn that his humble, analytical father had led the NASA team that developed the first global positioning system, or GPS.) The family moved frequently, including an eight-year stint in Germany, where Joel graduated from high school.

Sculpture garden planned for downtown Crestone

by Patrick Moore

Kim and Nancy Malville have commissioned a new improvement project in Crestone for the benefit of the community at large. The site is the lot at the corner of Cottonwood and Silver Avenue, west of the Bliss Cafe. The project will include a fully landscaped sculpture garden with walking paths, serene meditative areas and benches, and will encompass the entire lot and will connect to the existing gallery gardens. A beautiful and impressive mural will be painted on the exterior west wall of the adjacent building (The Bliss Cafe). It is a highly visible site in our community and will be a substantial addition to the beauty of the town. None of the magnificent trees on the lot will be removed.

The sculpture garden will include 4 to 8 locally created, professionally finished sculptures, each one-of-a-kind and representative of Crestone and the greater community's unique place in the world. They will be permanent installations and will represent "The Crestone Way." A small group of community members (The Community Sculpture Selection Committee) has been formed to make final selections for sculptures. This group represents the full spectrum of our community including all ages, artistic and business considerations, strong senses of community interests and proven, keen, varied aesthetic sensibilities.

The landscaping

The landscape and paths will be designed by Patrick Moore and

implemented by Tin Man Services and will connect to the existing gallery gardens, creating a continuous garden on Cottonwood from Silver Avenue to Galena. All new plantings will be beautiful flowering, drought and deer resistant perennial plants proven to do well in our environment.

The mural

The mural will be designed and implemented by Beatris Burgoin with a team of local artists and students. It will occupy the entire exterior west wall of the existing Bliss Cafe. The design is representative of our unique natural space, including mountains, sky and flora and a theme of natural cycles. Preliminary designs are gorgeous. Work on the mural will begin in May.

The sculptures

The sculptures will be created by local artists, sculptors and other creatives. We are calling any interested persons to submit plans and proposals for the sculptures. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the beauty and aesthetics of our community and to share personal creativity. The submission guidelines are below.

The benches

The gardens will include three or four benches. Each bench will be unique and created by community members. Again, we are calling any interested persons to submit plans and proposals for the benches. The guidelines are similar to the sculpture guidelines below, where applicable.



Site on Cottonwood St. of future sculpture garden; the Bliss Cafe is in the background.

Community involvement

This is a private project in the community's interest for the long-term aesthetic benefit and enjoyment of our spaces. All community members, whether individuals, businesses, spiritual centers and other organizations or groups are called to contribute. Contributions can consist of constructive thoughts, artistic ideas, volunteerism, financial contributions and positive thoughts and prayers of manifestation. Please feel free to contact Patrick at 719-588-6431 and epmdomone@gmail.com.

Here are the guidelines and deadlines for sculpture concepts and plans to be submitted for consideration. All submissions should be made in writing and can either be sent by email to Patrick at epmdomone@gmail.com or dropped off at the art gallery.

Sculpture considerations

- Permanent and safe
- Durable (low or no maintenance)
- 4' footprint (approximate)

4' height minimum

Materials: metal, stone, wood, glass, ceramics (tiles), other
Innovative and beautiful
Characteristic of the "Crestone Way"

Funding

The artist must arrange funding and/or donate the sculpture. The Community Sculpture Selection Committee will assist the sculptor in finding funding to produce the sculpture if needed. The sculptor should be prepared to participate in obtaining funding to make his or her sculpture become a reality.

Schedule

Submission of ideas, concepts, inspirational details and detailed estimated cost (if funding assistance is needed) must be made by April 30, 2016. Selections will be made by May 31, 2016.

On-site construction can begin on June 1, 2016. Final installation on site must be completed by August 31, 2016.

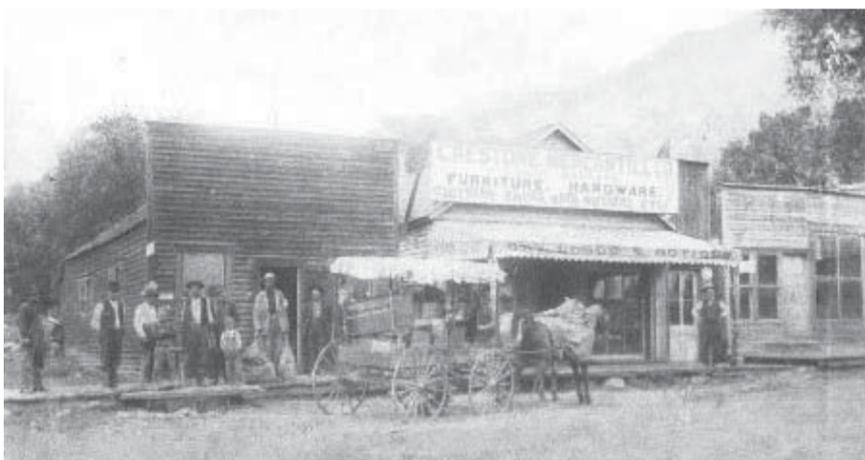
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Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

by Dr. Eric Weiss

What do we mean when we refer to the “ego?” People use this term in many ways.

Sometimes people use the word ego to mean something like an inflated self-image, as in “He has a big ego.” But this is not the spiritual sense of the word.

Psychologists refer to the ego as “the adaptive center of the personality.” In this sense, we all have an ego, and that is a good thing. But this is also not a spiritual sense of the word.

Buddhists often speak of “overcoming the ego,” but this is rather confusing because according to Buddhist doctrine, all existence (along with being impermanent and uncomfortable) is also entirely egoless. If existence is egoless, then there is no ego to overcome in the first place.

Sri Aurobindo brings some clarity to this issue using the terms transcendent, universal and individual which we discussed in this column last month.

For Sri Aurobindo, the Divine is not a Featureless Absolute, but rather it is an entity that is non-dual in that transcends the distinction between one and many. Thus, the pronouns he, she, it and they all apply to the Divine, and the transcendence of ego does not entail a loss of individuality.

Our individuality is not an error; rather it is a mark of our divinity. We are not only individuals but, like the Divine, we are uni-

versal beings, and we transcend the universe in its entirety. But, because we are living in ignorance, we have suppressed, or forgotten, our larger nature. Having forgotten our universality and our transcendence, we experience ourselves as isolated individuals in a partially alien world.

Because we experience ourselves as isolated individuals, we experience desire, incapacity and suffering. Because we are suffering, we are always trying to “get it together.” This ongoing attempt to overcome suffering by acting in and on the world is what I call “the ego project.” It’s not that we have an ego or are an ego, rather we are individuals who are continually trying to form an ego, trying to establish a sense of identity. This ego project is doomed to failure.

The good news is that it is possible for us, as individuals, to give up the ego project. That does not mean that we give up our individuality. Rather it means that our individuality gives up on trying “get it together” and works, rather, to recover the universality and transcendence that is our birthright. We work to give up the ego project, and to live what Sri Aurobindo calls “the Life Divine.”

At the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center, we are continuing our study of Sri Aurobindo’s *Synthesis of Yoga*. Feel free to join us every Sunday at 10am in the Solar Bridge house. For more information, call me at 719-937-7936.



All-night chanting at the Ashram on Shivaratri, March 7, 10pm until 4am.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

The warm weather, having lots of visitors. As I write this, however, I am on my way to India and Thailand for the end of February and will be back at the beginning of March. It is always a blessing to reunite with the folks at the Ashram in Haidakhan, India and the devotees who built the Kamalaya Healing Spa in Thailand. I will be recording stories of devotees’ experiences with Shri Babaji while I am there and posting them on YouTube.

Our big festival this month is Shivaratri, which falls on the night of Monday, March 7. We will begin chanting at 10pm and continue until 4am on March 8. We ask that those who attend this night of Lord Shiva respect the sacredness of the event and honor the temple and respect the other attendees who wish to delve deep into their spiritual experience. Later that morning we will have our new-moon fire ceremony at 10am followed by an Indian feast. Our full-moon fire ceremony is on Wednesday, March 23. The fire ceremony begins at 10am and is followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. There is generally a small indoor fire ceremony after morning aarti at about 8am each day that we do not have a large one at 10am. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at info@babajiashram.org for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

Spring Navratri, the Divine Mother festival is from April 8-16. All are invited to any or all of these events. The day we honor the children will be on Sunday, April 10. We will have more details in the April paper.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is very fully stocked with all of the new items that I brought back from India. They will be available after March 3. There are new anklets, earrings, bracelets, malas, pendants, kurtas, lungis, cosmetic bags, hand-made paper journals, oils, perfumes, altar cloths, silk stoles, t-shirts, and so much more. 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 newly designed website at www.babajiashram.org where you will find a calendar of upcoming events, many stories by devotees, writings about Shri Babaji and the Divine Mother, and the Ashram schedule. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji’s and Mother’s home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.



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Enjoying Everyday Life

Let go of the dead stuff in your life



by Joyce Meyer

Have you ever hired a professional to prune a tree in your yard? Dave and I hire someone to do that for us and there are times when he cuts the branches back so far that I've said to him, "There is nothing left. You have totally destroyed our tree!" But he says, "You just watch and see." And sure enough, before long the tree is much better looking than it was before.

Just like trees need pruning from time to time to remove dead branches or areas where there is overgrowth, you and I need to be pruned or reshaped at different times in different areas of our lives. We may not enjoy the pruning process, but when it's over, we're much better off than we were before.

You see, God wants us to be at our very best—spiritually, emotionally and physically.

John 15:2 (AMPC) says, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit He cuts away; and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit."

It's good for us to stop and evaluate our lives sometimes and ask God to show us if there are things that need to be cut off because they are hindering our growth in our relationship with Him. Ask yourself: Am I dragging around "dead branches" in my life? Maybe it's a bad relationship, an old wound from your past, or a negative attitude that keeps you from enjoying life to the fullest.

Many times we're too afraid to give up what we know for something new that we just can't see or understand.

The truth is you can be miserable dragging those dead things

around or you can go through the pain of letting God "prune" them away. Even though it's uncomfortable, the best thing you can do is let God prune you, because after the hard part is over, you will see some amazing results!

God doesn't want to see you struggle. He loves you so much that He will never give up on you. As we allow Him to speak into our lives, He teaches and trains us to be kind and gentle, peaceful and patient, loving and forgiving like Him. But we cannot develop that "fruit" on our own.

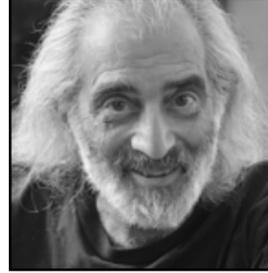
God has a good plan for your life. He wants to take you to the next level in your relationship with Him, but there are some things that He wants you to leave behind—past hurts, insecurities, or anything you look to for a sense of security other than God Himself.

Don't ever be afraid to surrender to God so He can prune the things that are hurting and hindering you from moving forward in your relationship with Him.

Make a determined decision to let go of the past and press on to experience a fuller, richer, more abundant life in Christ.

Pray today: "God, I'm tired of dragging this heavy load around with me. I'm ready to let it go so I can get on with my life and experience a new level of relationship with You. Help me to know that You love me and that You will work everything out for my good."

If we will totally give ourselves to God, He will give us His best for us. It may not be what we thought we wanted, but it will be exactly what we need. And it will be greater than anything we could have asked for.



Aging as an art

by Ammi Kohn

Piddling around

Prairie Village, KS, 1970 . . . Up at dawn. Plug in the coffee maker, put on the business suit, gulp the coffee, grab the briefcase, rush to the bus stop for the morning commute to downtown Kansas City. Arrive at 7. Eat breakfast at the desk. Write the proposal, finish the report, manage staff, smoke, talk talk business talk phone with everyone wanting a piece of you or you wanting a piece of them. Eat lunch at the desk. Bus home tired. Make time and energy for the kids and the wife, watch stupid TV to dull calm the overtired overstressed psyche, and then to bed.

Crestone, CO, 2015 . . . Slowly wake up, turn on the music, lie in bed, stay warm under the covers and dreamily listen to beautiful sound. More sleep. Lie in bed and think good thoughts about the past and the amazing sequence of events that brought you to Crestone. Brew the coffee and gaze out the window as rosy-fingered dawn colors the sky. Sip the coffee, piddle around straightening up the house till the morning aches and pains begin to go away, cook a leisurely breakfast. Give morning

gratitudes, enjoy the warm slippers, maybe call a friend, read a good book, work as you please on your projects and finally decide its time to go to town. Stop in to see how Faustus is doing. And then sip coffee at Cloud Station and watch the world go by.

In those long ago days, living in suburbia, I was too busy with "life" to really understand what was happening and who I was. No time to step back. Is it an irony, or is it the right order of things, that young I did and old I understand. "God writes straight in crooked lines." The closer to the end, the more I see now how what was crooked then (though I thought it was a straight line) is now a straight line.

I live forward and understand backward. I finally have time to piddle, think and imagine, and begin to connect the dots.

Faustus . . . The minutia of everyday life can really get to you and is weighty enough to drown you. Think of Einstein, the great theoretical piddler. "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Piddle around. What have you got to lose?

Ammi . . . This new country allows lots of time to piddle. Make the most of it!

Joyce Meyer Article
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Ask Dr. B about pets

by Linda Behrns, DMV

Good news—we will be having a spay and neuter clinic for dogs in Crestone on April 6-8! The Colorado Welfare League will bring their mobile surgery unit and I will be doing the surgeries. They ask for a \$20 donation per household, although more would always be appreciated! Pet Partners can help with the donation for anyone who needs it. The location is yet to be determined. If you are interested in having your dog included let me know.

As we only have one veterinarian, the number of dogs we can do will be a bit limited. SpayColorado.org is an organization that is working with veterinarians in Monte Vista to spay and neuter pit bulls and pit bull mixes as well as cats, so if you have a pit bull

or mix we would appreciate it if you could try to get in with Spay Colorado first. You can call or text Wendy Haugen at 877-654-7729 or email her at whaugen@spaycolorado.com for more information. Hopefully Cats Alive SLV will be coming back to our area sometime soon to help with the cats again as well.

I can neuter cats at any time here and can also chemically neuter young dogs with no major behavior issues with Zeuterin. Zeuterin is an injection of zinc gluconate that kills sperm producing cells but leaves some testosterone producing cells intact. Dogs that have been neutered with Zeuterin still have some testosterone, which has been shown to have some health benefits. You can learn more at Zeuterin.com.



by Patrick Moore

I had to have Niki, my seventeen-and-a-half year-old Husky, put to sleep this week. I wasn't ready to make that decision for her, but she was suffering a lot so I had to make the decision regardless of my own feelings.

Niki came to us over 10 years ago. At that time I was part of a group that rescued dogs from the streets of Houston and from kill shelters. We put them in our network of foster homes. We tried for many months to find a permanent home for Niki, but nobody wanted her. She was mature (about 8 years old), large, had obviously had at least one litter on the streets, had a very bad case of heart worms, was not excitable or affectionate to humans and she would never make eye contact because of her life on the streets.

After several months her foster mom was transferred to Seattle for work so the group asked if I would take over fostering Niki. I agreed, and within a week I knew Niki had adopted us. From her perspective, we were her new pack.

I had two small dogs, Ollie and Miles, both Rat Terriers. They were wary of Niki and kept their distance. Also, there was a large Boxer who lived in our building who was aggressive when we passed in the hall or on the street. He always scared and intimidated Ollie and Miles. One day we were returning from our walk when I saw Rocky a block away, off his leash. He charged us full force. All of a sudden Niki leaped in front of us, took Rocky by the neck and pinned him against the fence, and held him there until his owners came and put his leash on. Then she let him go and returned to us. Rocky was not hurt, just taught some manners. Niki was like that, always fearless and strong, but never violent. That night Ollie and Miles slept in peace, curled up next to Niki for the first time. She was their hero. The change in their affection for her was instantaneous.

After leaving Houston, but before coming to Crestone, I lived in the wilderness for several years with just Niki and Ollie as my companions. During our time in the

Saying goodbye to Niki

wilderness Niki protected us from cougars and coyotes in the Navajo deserts of New Mexico, bears in the Sierra Nevadas of California, wolves in the mountain forests of Oregon and Washington, mountain lions also in the Sierra Nevadas and dangerous humans in the depths of California's Redwood Forests and Mojave Dessert. These are territories fraught with danger, both animal and human, but at no time was I fearful, because Niki was there.



Niki in the Mojave Desert.

On January 4 she lost all use of her back quarters. The next day she lost use of her front right leg. She began giving me these confused "help me" looks. I was torn between my desire to keep helping her and my knowledge that she was suffering. I would gladly have helped her for 10 more years, but she was in pain, confused and afraid. I was not ready to decide to end her life, my Niki, who had protected us for so many years. But it was not about me.

I put her in our truck because she loved being there, it was her favorite place. Then I called vet Linda Behrns, told her this was the day and waited for her to come.

I fed Niki her favorite treat while Linda administered the first injection to put her to sleep and the second injection that would stop her heart. Linda is truly the most compassionate and professional veterinarian, and we are lucky to have her. Niki died. I was devastated.

Steve McDowell helped me bury her beneath eight inches of snow and five feet of frozen earth with quiet compassion, gently putting soft dirt on her before hard rocks. I am so grateful for Steve's help with that painful task.

I think I have a large degree more compassion because of Niki and this experience. I'm grateful for both. Niki was a great teacher of calm, confident courage and compassion.

This is a very tough process that most pet owners will go through eventually. When the time comes please call Pet Partners (719-588-6431) if you need either emotional or financial support. And in the meantime, please feel free to make a donation to Pet Partners in memory of Niki for the support of our community of pets and people.

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One Minute Wellness

Home exercises

by *Marybeth Van Horn*

Many people conjure up particular images when the word “exercise” comes up in conversation. We think of indoor sports, gymnasiums, outdoor sports and activities, weight lifting and so on. One thing that I have found helpful when trying to motivate myself to exercise is to tell myself that it would be a good idea for me to get to moving (and to get stronger). I once heard that “movement is life” and as a nurse of many years I saw that played out first hand. I have seen that inactivity due to illness, injury, life circumstances, sedentary jobs, depression or any number of other factors can and will lead to undesirable effects on the body and the mind. It’s as if a part of you dies when you stop moving. Areas of the body and the mind become sluggish, lack circulation and just don’t function after a while. Simply put, “the body was designed for movement”. At one point in my career I worked with quadriplegics. They were not able to exercise on their own, so the medical team moved their bodies for them. This is a dramatic example of the importance of movement.

Movement should be designed for your individual body and lifestyle. Some people are able to go for a walk, some are not. Some people have back problems, knee problems, problems with their feet. Some people can scale mountains. Regardless of your ability there are ways to move and become active right where you are. Remember: magazine articles, web sites and such do not apply to everyone equally, so avoid the quick fixes that they promote. That being said, I would like to offer a few options that can be done at home and if practiced consistently, can make a difference.

1. Sit on the edge of a firm chair with feet apart. Stand up and sit down without stopping for as many times as you can. Rest and then try again. If this bothers your knees widen them apart with toes out. If it still bothers your knees, stop and try something different.

2. While sitting on the edge of a chair you can “march” your legs while moving your arms up and down in front of you or at your sides.

3. Stand with arms straight. Make small arm rotations in complete circles for as long as you can, first with arms in front then out to your sides.

4. Try standing and reaching as far down one side of your body towards your knees as you can and then come up. Repeat this a few times, then switch sides.

5. Try standing with your legs bent and reaching down towards your knees, going down and up a few times. Be sure to come up all the way. Eventually you will be reaching lower and may eventually be able to reach up overhead. In a short while you will be able to do more and more repetitions.

6. To strengthen your abdominal muscles, sit on the edge of a firm chair and lean your torso back just a little, then lift your legs off the ground and hold as long as you can.

Practicing simple movements several times a day can make a difference. Who know, you may end up liking it and becoming motivated to do more and more. Imagine that!

Marybeth Van Horn is a Personal Trainer, Registered Nurse, Exercise Therapist and Certified Specialist in Performance Nutrition. She has assisted hundreds of individuals in achieving their fitness goals. Feel free to call her cell phone, 303-809-1134, with any questions you may have.

HRRMC Pregnancy & Baby Fair on March 5

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center’s Family Birthing Center and Chaffee County Public Health will host the HRRMC Pregnancy and Baby Fair on Saturday, March 5, from 10am to noon. The event will be held in the hospital’s atrium by the main entrance, 1000 Rush Drive, Salida.

The fair is free and open to everyone. Tours of the HRRMC Family Birthing Center will be available as well as information on breastfeeding, baby care, nutrition and more. A jogger/car seat travel system and a breast pump, along with other prizes, will be given away at the event.

“If you are expecting, have a young child or are thinking about getting pregnant, this fair offers a great opportunity to learn about the resources available in our county for families,” said Judy Smith, manager of the HRRMC Family Birthing Center. “We also look forward to people touring our department and meeting the staff.”

More than 20 exhibitors plan to participate in the fair including the HRRMC Family Birthing Center, Chaffee County Public Health, Salida Early Childhood Center, La Leche League, WIC, Connect for Health Colorado, Planned Parenthood, Nurse-Family Partnership and HRRMC Rehabilitation.

Other exhibitors are New Moms Connect, massage therapist Iris Lama, Salida and Buena Vista Pregnancy Centers, Monarch Anesthesia, Chaffee County Early Childhood Council, the Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, Chaffee County Breastfeeding Coalition and more.

Information will also be available from local family medicine physicians who provide obstetrics.

For more information about the fair, please call 719-530-2417.

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The students from Moffat, Mountain Valley and CCS enjoying the competitive games during a pep assembly.

Moffat seniors visit colleges

Moffat High School seniors attended Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado on February 19, 2016. Students were able to check out the entire campus, learn about FAFSA and experience what it is like to attend college classes. It was a great learning experience for all of those who attended!

Upcoming college visits will include the University of Colorado,

Colorado Springs (UCCS), Lincoln College of Technology, Johnson and Wales, Red Rocks Community College and Colorado State University.

All seniors are waiting to hear back from various scholarships and colleges that they have been applying to during the school year. We are extremely proud of you all!

Moffat School's homecoming

by Kaley VanArsdale

The first week of February was Moffat's Homecoming celebration. Why do we do this in the winter when most homecomings are in the fall? Great question! Moffat and Mountain Valley are consolidated for sports. They have the fall sports; we have the winter sports. We had a blast celebrating with a spirit week that included all three (Charter School also) local schools. Students were hippies, rock stars, and magical creatures throughout the week.

On Thursday, the secondary hosted a pep assembly with all three local schools in attendance. If you're interested in the four lip-sync battles, the videos are posted on our school's Facebook page. The senior class welcomed the freshmen class to high school with fun games and activities. Our tradition is that we make unique shirts for them to wear for the week. The freshmen made breakfast for the seniors the next day. The seniors led them on a scavenger hunt the following day leading up to the

events at the pep assembly. The seniors won the lip-sync battle, but I think the audience members were the real winners. At the assembly, we cheered on our basketball teams and wrestlers. Then we engaged in an epic dodgeball event where all three schools got to play. Thanks to everyone who came from Mountain Valley and Charter schools!

That Friday night we held our Homecoming games against Creede. We crowned royalty, as well: Moffat Prince, Ryker Poor; Moffat Princess, Alyssa Chavez; Moffat King, Joedeelee Rigdon; Moffat Queen, Layla Anzelc-Tolian; and Mountain Valley King and Queen, Brandon Stewart and Mackenzie Hammel. Afterwards, we held our semi-formal dance, the Snow Ball. Students from all three schools danced the night away. Thanks to all the Americorps members for helping with the dance! Overall, it was a success!



Moffat Freshman clowning around.



The Moffat Middle School boys basketball team, coached by Head Coach Michael Pacheco and Assistant Coach Ben Borgelt, finished the season strong by taking 3rd place at the end-of-year tournament. Great job boys!

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These beautiful couples enjoy a fabulous evening at LINK's Valentines Dinner fundraiser held at the Crestone Charter School on February 19. photo by Lori Nagel

Getting clear on the what & the how of learning at CCS

by Michael Hayes

How does a school develop a comprehensive model for learning and still provide an individualized educational approach that honors the uniqueness of each child? Crestone Charter School staff have worked diligently to move towards a model of teaching and learning that allows students, staff, and parents to have a common understanding about learning pathways while allowing for voice and choice in how and when that learning occurs.

The importance of an intentional learner-centered school culture is foundational to students having the skills to navigate their own learning. In other words, students need to have an understanding of where they have been, where they are, and where they are going along the learning path and they need the tools to help them get there. The learning path must be transparent to the learner.

In addition to working collectively towards a learner-centered culture, the Charter School has worked diligently throughout this year to create transparent learn-

ing pathways for our students in Math and Language Arts from Kindergarten through LINK graduation requirements. Over the next two years, work will continue in other content areas. Within the evolving model, all students demonstrate proficiency in a clear progression of learning targets associated with the learning pathway. Student choice comes in the tools that they use in the learning, the topics of projects and papers they choose, and in the pacing of the targets.

Setting up systems in a class that allow students to engage in learning in different ways and at different paces is a formidable task that requires the development of specific skillsets in students and teachers. Students have to have the skills to work independently of the teacher and teachers have to have the systems in place so that independent learning can occur.

How does a student know when they have hit the target? The skills and knowledge that students must demonstrate within the learning targets are clearly laid out so that the student understands what they are expected to know and do in order to demonstrate that they are proficient.

All classrooms at CCS are moving towards having systems in place so that students can navigate their own learning. In some classrooms, such as our middle school and LINK classrooms, students are already tracking their progress through a clear learning progression and are able to work at a more individualized pace.

Please feel free to stop by for a tour or check out our upcoming new website for more information about where the school is going together.

Center Head Start Health Fair April 8

Center Head Start, in conjunction with Rio Grande Hospital, will be sponsoring the 18th annual Center Head Start Health Fair.

The Health Fair will be held on Friday, April 8 from 6:30 to 10am. This year, the Health Fair will be held at a different location. It will be held at the Community Building located at 980 South Broadway (Tierra Nueva Complex) in Center, CO.

The Health Fair will offer the following lab tests:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Chemistry Panel Incl. TSH | \$30.00 |
| PSA | \$25.00 |
| HgbA1C | \$25.00 |
| CBC | \$15.00 |
| Vitamin D | \$40.00 |

Fasting after midnight is required if you wish to have your blood drawn for the above tests.

The Health Fair will also offer other screenings, free of charge, including:

- Finger Stick blood sugar screening
- Body Composition screening
- Pulmonary Lung Function screening
- Pulse oximetry screening
- Blood pressure screening

Snacks will be provided for all participants.

If you have any questions regarding the Health Fair, you may contact Della at 754-3191 or 754-2971.



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The Washington Beat

*Justice Scalia dead at 79,
and the fight is on*

by David Nicholas

The ground game changes

The Presidential race took a major change with the Republicans giving TheDonald the proverbial keys to the kingdom when TheDonald won in South Carolina. TheDonald won with 32.5%, beating out Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) with 22.5% and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) at 22.3%. Essentially, it now looks like the race for the nomination is a three-way race. Jeb! ran fourth with 7.9%, a place that spelled the end of his campaign as he conceded the result.

TheDonald victory is giving the sense that this could be a Ronald Reagan redux in that you have a Democrat-turned-Republican nominee winning the GOP race to the nomination. No longer just Trumpty Dumbty, but a contender who takes some digesting, and leading the herd he is. The best that can be said is that he's not on the TV credits as playing second fiddle to a chimpanzee (unlike Ronald Reagan who did).

However the one I think who will win the nomination is Marco Rubio (marcorubio, his campaign banner). His concession speech had him sounding as if he had won South Carolina. Marco Rubio announced that it would be "God's will that he be the 45th President of the United States." Well, marcoru-

bio, there is God's will and there is God's will. The

Senator needs to keep his mouth in check. Sounding messianic can come back to haunt Mr. Rubio despite the Christie crucifixion in early February and his resurrection two weeks later in South Carolina. Nevertheless it looks like Mr. Rubio has a better path to the nomination than Ted Cruz.

Senator Ted Cruz (TRUSTED, as in campaign banner Trust Ted) still thinks he's the anointed evangelical voice in the campaign and righteousness will earn him the prize. His concession speech sounded also like he was the winner. With that, March is on.

Super Tuesday, March 1

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia will hold nominating contests for both parties. On the Republican side, Colorado will hold its caucus, but not award any delegates based on the outcome. Instead it will allow its 37 delegates to remain unpledged. Alaska will also hold its Republican caucus, while American Samoa will hold its Democratic caucus. Additionally, Democrats abroad will be able to cast ballots during the first



week of March.

This is how I think Super Tuesday goes, given the results of the two caucuses held in Iowa and Nevada and the primaries held in New Hampshire and South Carolina as of February 21 (assuming also that Hillary Clinton wins South Carolina's Democratic primary held February 27). I stand to be wrong and if I am, so it goes.

My reckoning is that as Mrs. Clinton won the Nevada caucuses on February 20 decisively (52%-47%), her win there gives her much-needed momentum which carries forward to South Carolina. At time of writing, SC has yet to be decided, but her state operation and state polls there say she should win and win well. She hasn't beaten Mr. Sanders enough for him to lose support—in Nevada he won over Hispanics, ahead of Mrs. Clinton by eight points. That's something else besides trust issues the Hillary Campaign has to handle.

So here we go:

a) Democrats. Mrs. Clinton wins Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and American Samoa. Mr. Sanders wins Massachusetts and Vermont. Toss-ups are Colorado, Minnesota, Texas (if Hispanic voters turn out en masse for Sanders it can be a game changer) and Virginia.

Colorado is a toss-up because Boulder County and east Denver have strong student numbers as well as strong leftist-leaning liberals and will likely go to Mr. Sanders if they have a big turnout. Mrs. Clinton thinks so too, as she has had both President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton stumping for her in recent days. That said, Clinton wins Colorado narrowly in my view but here's the thing: before Nevada caucused I had Colorado leaning toward Mr. Sanders. The Hispanic vote is big here, and if they turn out (which is highly likely) Sanders could take the state. Truly.

Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota has a lot of colleges and folks who connect with what Bernie Sanders has to say, and also a large Hispanic community, so Mr. Sanders will win, narrowly.

Virginia leans to Mr. Sanders in my view, because his support there is based mostly on folks who just want to shake up DC, as well as—dare I say it again—a large block of Hispanics. It will be close. No early decision to be had there in my view.

So the Democratic tally has Mrs. Clinton winning six and possibly eight states. Mr. Sanders wins two and possibly four. Not quite the split I had in mind when I was writing about this in January. As the saying goes, the voters are speaking.

b) Republicans. TheDonald's decisive win in South Carolina changes the picture on Super Tuesday. He likely wins Alaska (he has Sarah Palin's endorsement) and as he commanded Republican voters in South Carolina on the economy and terrorism, he now sweeps Super Tuesday. Unless TheDonald's big mouth gets him in more trouble, he wins Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma (maybe a tossup with TRUSTED, Tennessee (maybe also a toss-up with TRUSTED), Vermont and Virginia.

Senator Cruz definitely wins

Texas and maybe wins Oklahoma and Tennessee, although marcorubio can beat him if he keeps the momentum building.

Senator Rubio can upset TRUSTED if he makes headway in town hall meetings and debates but not in Super Tuesday. Later in March marcorubio needs to beat TRUSTED everywhere. The longer race in primary states favors marcorubio because there are just not enough evangelicals in the country outside of the south to keep TRUSTED on top.

March 5 primaries

Democrats. Clinton wins Kansas, Louisiana and Nebraska. No Maine vote this day.

Republicans. Trump wins Kansas, Maine and Nebraska. Cruz wins Louisiana.

March 8 primaries

Democrats. Clinton wins Mississippi. Possible toss-up in Michigan.

Republicans. Trump wins Michigan and Mississippi.

March 15 primaries

Democrats. Clinton wins Florida, Missouri, and North Carolina. Toss-up in Illinois and Ohio. A Clinton win in both toss-ups should knock out Sanders. Ohio Democrats voting for Mrs. Clinton seals it. It's just very hard to win in the western states if Sanders hasn't made the race close in the Midwest. But we will see.

Republicans. It's a tossup between Rubio & Trump in Florida. Trump wins Missouri, and North Carolina. Kasich wins Ohio. Toss-up in Illinois.

March 22 primaries

Democrats. Clinton wins Arizona and Idaho. No Utah primary this day.

Republicans. Trump wins Arizona, Idaho and Utah.

March 26 primaries

Democrats. Clinton wins Alaska and Washington. No Hawaiian primary this day.

Republicans. Trump wins Hawaii and Washington. The GOP Alaskan primary was on Super Tuesday.

With that, March closes out and we should have a clear picture of who will be the nominees in each party.

Scat among the pigeons

On February 13, 2016 Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia played the ultimate wild card in the 2016 presidential race: he died of a heart attack in Texas. If he had his druthers, the Justice would probably have preferred to die with a good conservative Republican in the White House, not the liberal reprobate that now resides there. But die he did and within minutes—20 minutes actually—of the announcement of his death, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) made his death the highest political stake in this year's Presidential race.

Mr. McConnell practically demanded that the upstart in the White House not put forward a Supreme Court nominee and leave that to the next President, whoever that may be. The Senate Majority Leader said that any nominee whom President Obama sends to the Senate for advice and consent would not be considered whatsoever. McConnell thinks that the next President might be a Republican. Well, he wishes.

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What seemed like a bold move at the time may turn out to be the mark of a fool. You have to be pretty rabid to take on the White House during a Presidential election when you decide to lay down the law and remind the interloper of his place and say it to a black President who, as it happens, still occupies the office and who has as good a counsel as the Senate Majority Leader has. Really. The Senate Majority leader seems to have the bad habit of attempting to rise above his station with this particular President.

There are very good reasons why he should have waited and just kept his mouth shut initially, and they are discussed below.

The death of Antonin Scalia

There is tradition in regards to the death of Justices who have served on the Supreme Court which rises above the political discourse. You don't speak ill of someone who has served the country in one of the major branches of government; you honor them with respect.

Antonin Scalia served on the Supreme Court for 30 years, 1986-2016. Appointed by President Reagan, he was often the conservative and often outspoken voice of conservative ideas in American life. His view of the constitution was that it was set in stone, the solid foundation of the nation, as it is. He did not see it as a living document, one in which the founding fathers left much ambiguous and open to interpretation, as liberal justices on the court do. Thus he was part of the 5-4 split on the court that favored the conservative arguments over the years.

In keeping with tradition, the President announced the Justice's passing, honoring the conservative Justice and his 30 years on the Court in his initial announcement. The statement was brief and to the point. No more and no less. Mr. Obama did not attend the funeral service for Justice Scalia. Vice President Joe Biden attended in his stead.

There was no secret that Justice Scalia and the President were distant. The Justice was rarely present at an Obama State of the Union (SOTU) speech in my memory, certainly not in the last the four years and certainly not this year. I generally note at every State of the Union which Justices show up to hear the President. Justice Clarence Thomas never attended the SOTU either. Usually between five and seven Justices attend the SOTU.

The politics of appointing justices

One of the things that politicians strive for in becoming President is that they get to choose who sits on federal courts and especially the Supreme Court. Which is why this Presidential race is now considered of major consequence. While other issues from now until November may supersede the nominee for Supreme Court justice, it will remain as a major issue which voters will have on their minds going into the voting booths November 8.

The shock of Barack Obama becoming President for Republicans in 2008 was that he got to pick Justices on the Supreme Court and usually they reflect the President's sense of the world. Every President has done it since Franklin Delano

Roosevelt, who started in the 1930s in order to stave off attacks by Republicans to undo his New Deal.

So while Republicans thought Mr. Obama might pick one and maybe two Justices, they didn't think he would get to pick a third or that the third pick would be to fill a seat on the conservative side of the court. That Mr. Obama now gets to do it, for Republicans is a nightmare in hell. Thus we have The McConnell Outburst as I call it now.

The timing of Justice Scalia's death plays very much into the hands of Democrats. The narrative of Republicans not considering a nominee for the Supreme Court, delaying important decisions currently before the court for years, isn't going to play well with Democrats and independent voters looking toward November. The way the White House and Congressional Democrats will orchestrate the campaign to fill the Scalia seat will be in full view as we go into November.

The Constitution stipulates that the President is bound to send the names of nominees for advice and consent to the Senate to either confirm or deny, and there is no precedent at all which says that the President has to delay a nomination because it is his/her last year in office. Mr. Obama should know because he is a constitutional lawyer by training.

To put it politely, the Republican bellowing by presidential candidates like Cruz and Rubio that Mr. Obama is obliged to obey Mitch McConnell is indicative of Republican racism, which has driven politics in the GOP majorities in the Congress since 2008. Telling President Obama to hold off until a *real* President is elected (Hint: marcorubio thinks he's the one and TRUSTED thinks he will do it) is crap.

The President will send a nominee to the Senate for consideration in early March and, believe it or not, he holds the advantage in this narrative. The narrative is that if Republican Senators refuse to even consider that nominee, they will be obstructing and preventing the good government of the nation. Essentially the narrative is that Republicans are everything Democrats say they are; this is a reminder that a conservative court would further wind back *Roe v. Wade* or weaken the provisions of Obamacare. It's a call to arms for Democrats to go and vote. Seven GOP Senators who hold their seats in blue states will see their reelection hopes dwindle every day they stand fast in opposing the President. That three of these Senators came and backed Mitch McConnell's Outburst is seen as major mistake.

The Syria debacle

Six years ago what was once a peaceful protest to remove the Assad regime from power in Syria has now become an endless nightmare of blood, massive refugee migration, and imperial serial bombing. This is what comes when needy imperious European leaders—and I do mean French President Monsieur Francois Hollande—think they are entitled to interfere in areas of the world because they used to rule there once.

The Syrian clown car that passes for western imperial concern

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ The Last Keepers: A teenage daughter of a reclusive family of artists falls in love with an unusual boy at school and inadvertently awakens certain mysterious powers and discovers ancient family secrets that will change her life forever. Stars Olympia Dukakis, Aidan Quinn, Virginia Madsen and Zosia Mamet. (3 stars)

2/ Chuck: When this 20-something computer geek downloads critical government secrets into his brain, both the CIA and NSA assign two agents to protect him, while exploiting his knowledge and turning his life upside down. Wasn't sure I liked it at first but it developed and I thoroughly enjoyed it. (4 stars)

3/ Robot and Frank: This film is set in the near future when an ex-jewel thief receives a robot butler programmed to look after him, as a gift from his son. But with great manipulative logic the ex-thief manipulates the robot and they team up as a heist team. This won 2 awards and received 6 nominations. Stars Peter Sarsgaard, Frank Langella, Susan Sarandon and others. (3 stars)

4/ The Sapphires: The 1960s soul music's spirit and vitality are displayed here. The film is about a real life Aussie Aborigine singing group made up of 3 sisters and a cousin who pursue their bumpy career entertaining troops in Vietnam. (4 stars)

5/ Killing Season: This intense film stars John Travolta and Robert De Niro, as two Bosnian War Vets. One is tormented by memories of combat and goes to the Appalachian Mountains to seek peace of mind, but the other vet comes to settle a score with him and another battle ensues in this wilderness. (4 stars).

and handwringing at all the carnage (most of which they caused) has come to this: At time of writing the international community is wondering whether a ceasefire—formerly referred to as a “cessation of hostilities”—hammered out in Munich in mid-February—is scheduled to take hold in that war-torn state for three weeks or so.

While any ceasefire is welcome, those negotiating it neglected to include the two major, and very successful, foes. The agreement excludes two main parties to the conflict: Islamic State, which controls territory in Syria's east, and Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate. These two groups will continue to be legitimate targets for parties within and beyond Syria, but their exclusion also means they can continue their attacks throughout the country. Expect both to play spoiler to any tentative cooperation between the Assad government and opposition groups.

So who agreed to the ceasefire/cessation of hostilities? Not the relevant parties such as the Syrian Assad regime. No indeed, they were deemed not worthy because it was all decided by their betters. That is, a group of 17 countries with a stake in the war—chief among them, the US and Russia. You have to love war profits to savor this irony.

The reason why these in-the-main European countries want this is due to the flood of refugees coming to Europe. Europe, when it comes to non-white people, is extraordinarily “exclusive” about who they want to live with in their neck of the woods. Racist is a word I would use, but that's me.

Other states that want to feed in this trough include Iran, Jordan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

The latter—and I do mean Saudi Arabia—is the main financier of ISIS and is still financing their martyrdom operations (you have to love that irony), because while busily deploring the violence, Saudi Arabia aids and happily abets murder and slaughter in neighboring states. The Saudi

Foreign Minister, Adel al-Jubier, spends a lot of time talking up his state's reasons for interfering in Yemen and for likely putting boots on the ground in Syria. The problem is that the Saudis, outside of oppressing their own domestic populace very efficiently with our foreign aid, are hopeless in foreign intervention when they are not doing it on the sly. The bombing in Yemen, which they started almost a year ago, meant to bring the hill tribes of the Houthi to their superior heel, has been a dismal failure. Countless victories have been announced with great fanfare only to be subsequently modified repeatedly as to become meaningless. The Saudis' announcements are as bad as the Iraqi national government's announcements of the January victories in Ramadi and Fallujah, yet weeks and months later they are still fighting to control the territory in and around those cities.

Presidential debates in March 2016

This was the schedule at time of writing; it is slated to change. The Republican National Committee has said it will ad more debates as we go and CNN, seeing the audience a town hall meeting draws, has been adding them throughout February, making me positively bug-eyed. All candidates participating in each debate will be announced closer to the scheduled time.

Dems: Sunday, March 6. CNN Democratic Primary Debate; Flint, MI; Sponsor: CNN

Wednesday, March 9. Univision Democratic Primary Debate; Miami Dade College in Miami, FL; Sponsors: Univision, *The Washington Post*.

GOP: Thursday, March 3. Fox News Republican Debate; Fox Theatre in Detroit, MI; Sponsors: Fox News; Moderators: Bret Baier, Megyn Kelly and Chris Wallace

Thursday, March 10. CNN Republican Debate; University of Miami in Miami, FL; Sponsors: CNN, *The Washington Times*, Salem Media Group.

And the beat goes on.



This lovely herd of elk was grazing near Wagon Wheel & Laurel in Chalets 2 in the Baca Grande on February 20, with Mount Blanca in the background. photo by Lori Nagel

Colo. Legislature

continued from page 1

the Republicans were unlikely to support the bill.

The Oregon occupation of Malheur Wildlife Refuge may be over, but the war over public land is just getting started. States like Wyoming and New Mexico are looking at the millions of dollars a year individual states could receive if federal lands were transferred to and managed by the state.

Opponents question the real costs and practicality of such a move. Surveys of the public show that overall, people prefer public lands remain public.

In marked contrast to states in the east, the federal government owns vast amounts of land in the West. In nine states—Alaska, California, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming—the feds own more than 40% of the land.

Public land proponents argue that public lands are a birthright for all Americans, not just those whose state the land lie in.

Last year in Colorado, Democrats opposed such a measure, citing the costs of wildfire that are currently paid by the federal government, and would not begin to offset any anticipated revenues on leasing resources on federal land.

The Un-democratic reality of superdelegates

by Lisa Cyriacks

In the US, delegates are selected during the primary season state by state. Super delegates are seated automatically at the national conventions and are free to choose who they want to vote for.

The questions surrounding the role of superdelegates arose during this primary season, when Democratic voters noticed an odd thing happening. Despite winning the New Hampshire primary by 22 points, Bernie Sanders received only 11 delegates while Hillary Clinton received 87.

According to the Associated Press, Clinton has a 481-to-55 delegate lead over Sanders—including superdelegates. AP also reports that among delegates allocated after the first two caucuses in Ne-

vada and Iowa, and the primary vote in New Hampshire, Sanders and Clinton are actually tied.

For both Republicans and Democrats, superdelegates are unpledged delegates selected by each party. In the Republican Party these superdelegates are usually the state chairman and two RNC committee members. National convention rules obligate those RNC members to vote according to the result of primary elections held in their state.

However, while Democrats also have unpledged delegates, they need not hold any party or elected position before their selection, and, more importantly, they are not required to vote according to the results of their state's caucus or primary.

What's the origin of the su-

perdelegate practice? For the DNC, it was a reaction against the perceived chaos of the party's open nomination process from 1972 to 1980. In 1972, Democratic voters chose liberal George McGovern, who was soundly defeated by Richard Nixon. Nor was the Democratic Party national leadership pleased by the rise of "outsider" Jimmy Carter, who lost the bid for a second term to Ronald Reagan.

As a result the DNC leadership wanted more say in the process. Gov. Jim Hunt of NC proposed a reform, including Superdelegates, "We must also give our convention more flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and, in cases where the voters' mandate is less than clear, to make a reasoned choice."

Clearly, former Secretary Clinton is counting on the support of the party establishment to defeat Senator Sanders, the "outsider".

In the Republican Party, the question is: what role might superdelegates play in blocking Donald Trump, another "outsider"? In a contested convention, party leaders and observers dismissed the idea that RNC-aligned delegates could sway the convention away from them and toward an establishment candidate.

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Super Tuesday—Major party caucuses scheduled for March 1

by Lisa Cyriacks

The 2016 presidential election cycle has begun, and on March 1 Coloradans from both major parties will caucus.

With the top two Democratic candidates—Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders—in an almost dead heat, it is too early to tell who will prevail.

Tensions continue to escalate in the Republican Party as numerous candidates continue to test who is the most popular. The ties that have bound the GOP for decades are being tested—perhaps resulting in a brokered convention to decide the party's nominee.

Your vote goes so much further in a caucus process simply by showing up.

On March 1, the caucuses will begin at 7pm at locations below.

| | Democratic Party | Republican Party |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Precinct 1 (Saguache) | Courthouse | Road & Bridge |
| Precinct 2 (Sargents) | *unscheduled | Tomichi Trading Post |
| Precinct 3 (Crestone) | Community Building | Combined with #4 |
| Precinct 4 (Moffat) | Moffat School commons | Moffat School |
| Precinct 5 (Baca Grande) | POA Hall | Combined with #4 |
| Precinct 6 (Center) | Combined with #7 | Combined with #7 |
| Precinct 7 (Center) | Kiwanis Hall | Center School |

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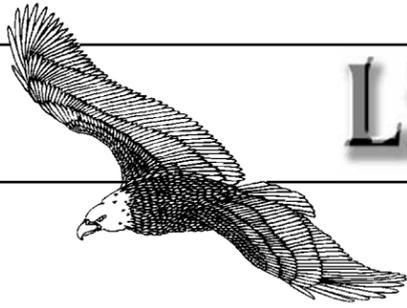
The grassroots

Precinct caucuses are about party building, and there's much to be done at the local level during these neighborhood political gatherings. Registered voters in the two major parties—Democrat and Republican—will help select their neighbors to positions of power in the party structure. They'll help form the state's organization for the next two years by electing precinct captains, district captains, and other positions on up to convention delegates.

January 4 was the last day to register to vote and affiliate with a major party for the Colorado caucuses. But if you haven't registered to vote yet, go to govotecolorado.com.



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Living on the Earth

Historic birding around Crestone & Saguache County

by Pat Richmond

A half century ago, Kansas bird lovers Ed and Helen Ryan purchased a cabin on North Crestone Creek. For three decades, Helen Ryan carefully documented not only every species but also every bird she observed at her

and the Greater San Luis Valley Checklist (1992).

The northeastern corner of the San Luis Valley (SLV) holds a birding legacy stretching back thousands of years. As Ice Age glaciers melted, wetlands and shallow lakes spread across the Baca Gra-

ben lowlands.

For centuries, a cacophony of calls, cries, and songs, including the chortles of Sandhill Cranes, filled the air. Pre-historic glyphic images, found throughout the SLV, represent eagles, turkeys, and waterfowl. Near Del Norte, a large, hand-pecked bird, interpreted as a crane,

spreads its wings across the ceiling of a rock alcove. In 1778, Spanish cartographer Miera y Pacheco designated the eastern San Juan Mountains as Sierra de las Grullas (Mountains of the Cranes). While not as numerous within the northern SLV as in times past, Sandhill Cranes continue to tarry at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge as well as other wetland expanses within Saguache County.

Habitat diversity makes the SLV a mecca for a wide range of avian species. The landscape niche that surrounds Crestone is rich with habitat diversity. Birds not found elsewhere in the SLV may

pass through the Crestone area during migration or reside throughout summer months and even year-round. Local records for uncommon species like Wood Duck, Northern Goshawk, Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Northern Mockingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Northern Cardinal,



Black-capped Chickadee.

photo courtesy of Tim Reeves

Lazuli and Indigo buntings, Blue Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Junco, and Harris' Sparrow demonstrate that Crestone, the Baca, and surrounding terrain offer unique birding opportunities.

Waters from the Saguache River and its tributaries once sustained an expansive lagoon known to 18th century Spaniards as La Cienega de San Luis. By the 20th century, this broad but shallow lake had diminished into remnant ponds, small lakes, and wetlands that today incorporate protective wildlife areas. Birders can visit Blanca Wetlands to observe Black-necked Stilt, Red-necked Phalarope, and the threatened Snowy Plover. White-faced Ibis and Snowy Egret nest at Russell Lakes. Migrating American Bittern, Marbled Godwit, or even a Whimbrel might

wade among tall grasses along San Luis Creek. While American Avocets probe mudflats around San Luis Lake, an American White Pelican can float peacefully with Clark's Grebe amid a bevy of ducks. San Luis Lake also buoys Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern and the smaller Black Tern. Former park ranger John Koshak recorded a Tri-colored Heron at the lake in 1993.

The high desert shrubs that dominate the northern valley floor support species like the Sage Thrasher. This singer's melodious voice can penetrate a passing vehicle's closed windows. Band-tailed Pigeons, uncommon in other parts of the SLV, frequent a brush thicket that butts against the pinyon-juniper band on Road AA. In 1853, three exploratory expedi-

tions—Beale-Heap, Gunnison, and Frémont's 5th—documented birds and wildlife encountered along their routes. Lt. Edward Beale's June 1853 journal holds the first record for the indigenous sage-grouse known today as Gunnison's Sage-Grouse. A Gunnison's Sage-Grouse lek (breeding demonstration ground) exists among Big Sage vegetation that covers slopes near Poncha Pass.

Although agriculture altered the SLV's natural landscapes, irrigated fields and pasturelands lure blackbird species and numerous sparrows—Lark, Sage, Brewer's, American Tree, Vesper, Chipping, and Song. Black-headed and Evening grosbeaks are common within the SLV, but a Rose-breasted Grosbeak is not (22 official reports in 24 years). Early 20th century SLV

farmers referred to this colorful species as "Potato Birds" because their annual arrival, before the advent of commercial pesticides, meant extermination of crop-damaging potato bugs (Colorado Writers' Project). One summer, Helen Ryan recorded repeated visitations to her feeder by a Rose-breasted Grosbeak male and a female. However, she could not ascertain whether the birds had nested.

A section of Road T west of



Sanderling.

photo courtesy of Check Haspels

feeders or during birding drives. Besides maintaining personal tallies, Helen penned a monthly column for the *Baca Grande News*, and later for *The Crestone Eagle*. She cited common and rare avian visitors and aptly provided advice for local birdwatchers. Many who knew Helen and appreciated her passion for birds would agree with Kizzen Laki's comment, "Helen made a big impact on me. Because of her, I have assorted binoculars and bird books that travel with me. She opened my eyes to the winged world." Helen Ryan's records, plus other historic documentation, were compiled for the Birds of Crestone



Red-naped Sapsucker.

photo courtesy of Tim Reeves



American White Pelican.

photo courtesy of Tim Reeves

continued on page B-8



by Kim Malville

The month of March has two eclipses, a total solar eclipse in Indonesia on March 8-9 and a partial lunar eclipse, two weeks later, on March 23. The lunar eclipse, which will not be dramatic, will be at its deepest at 5:45am. You should be able to sense that the moon looks a little strange, but nothing more. Jupiter rises around sunset and dominates the sky throughout the night. Mars rises about midnight and Saturn follows about an hour later. Venus rises in light of dawn at the start of the month.

March 8: Jupiter is in opposition to the sun in the constellation of Leo, below and to the left of Regulus.

March 13: The dread “spring forward” of daylight savings time starts at 2am.

March 19: It’s an early equinox this year. The sun crosses the celestial equator at 10:30pm MDT.

The Great Chasm of Charon

We can’t stay away from Pluto. Let’s face it, Pluto is a fascinating dwarf, or rather double dwarf. Pluto has five moons, of which Charon is the largest. It is almost as large as Pluto itself, and hence it has been called a double dwarf planet. They are so close to each

other that they are gravitationally locked together, each keeping the same face to the other. Thus, if you are on the moonless side of Pluto, you will never see its largest moon. All of its moons were probably formed by a modest collision early in the life of the solar system. That collision was not sufficient to produce high temperatures that would have evaporated its water, unlike our own moon which was produced in a hot collision that vaporized all of its water.

terior. That frozen surface of water ice now has a temperature of -364° Fahrenheit, only 100° above absolute zero (-459.67°F). Today Charon has deep ridges, valleys and an immense chasm, deeper and longer than the Grand Canyon. This subsurface ocean was kept warm when Charon was young by heat provided by the decay of radioactive elements, as well as Charon’s own internal heat of formation. As Charon cooled over time, this ocean froze and expanded (as water is wont to do when it freezes), lifting the outermost layers of the moon, ripping them apart to produce a surface looking very different from the crater-pocked dry skin of Earth’s moon (which never had such an ocean).

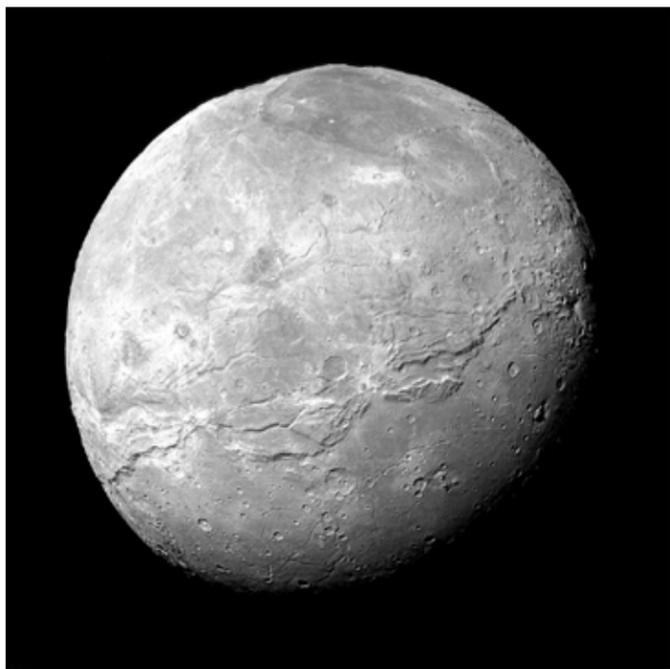
The ridges and chasms that formed on Charon are some of the longest and deepest found in the solar system. The rift known as Serenity Chasma (in the middle of the figure) is 1,100 miles in length and 4.5 miles deep. By contrast, Earth’s Grand Canyon is tiny, a mere 277 miles long and only one mile deep.

The discovery of gravity waves

When Einstein announced his theory in 1915, he rewrote the rules for space and time that had prevailed for more than 200 years. Newton had imagined a static and fixed framework of space and time. Instead, matter and energy distort the geometry of the universe in the way a heavy sleeper causes a mattress to sag. Consider yourself sharing an innerspring mattress with someone who tosses and turns, keeping you awake with bounces and shakes. That’s the same experience as when lines of space and time are jiggled by massive disturbances, causing ripples of gravity, known as gravitational waves.

The first version of the device that has detected gravity waves, known as LIGO, started in 2000 and ran for 10 years with two huge detectors: one in Hanford, WA, the other in Livingston, LA. The \$272 million project was the most expensive ever funded by the National Science Foundation.

LIGO’s antennas are L-shaped, with perpendicular arms 2.5 miles long. Inside each arm, cocooned in layers of steel and concrete, runs the world’s largest a vacuum chamber a couple of feet wide. At the end of each arm are

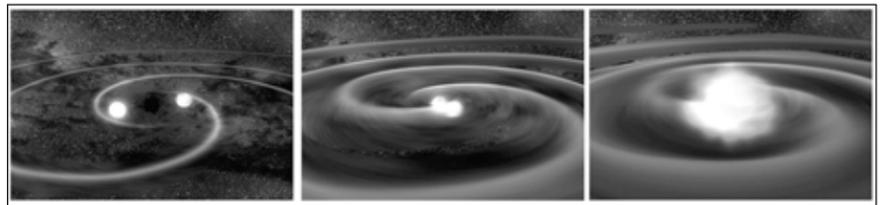


The Great Chasm on Charon.

A recent analysis of images taken by the New Horizons spacecraft indicates that Pluto’s major moon, Charon, had an ancient ocean below its surface, which froze over time. The ocean was covered by a thick layer of ice, which initially protected the warmer in-



One arm of Ligo.

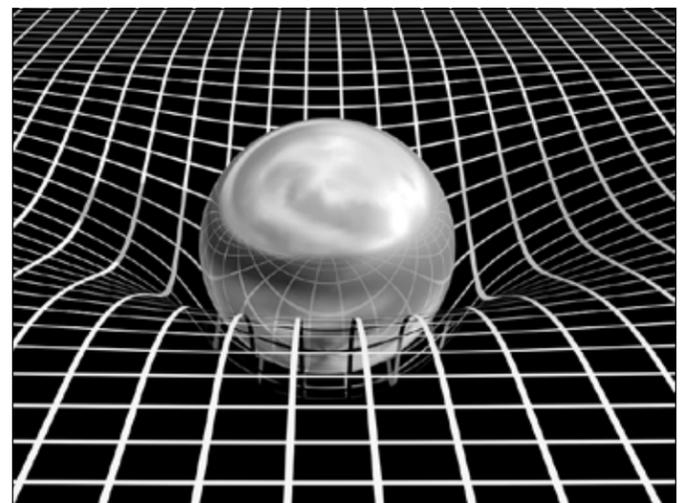


Spinning black holes.

mirrors hanging by glass threads, isolated from the scratching of the crustal plates of the earth, the rumble of trucks, cars, and bicycles, and waves crashing on distant shores.

Thus protected, the lasers in LIGO can detect changes in the length of one of those arms as small as one ten-thousandth the diameter of a proton as a gravitational wave sweeps past the earth. Even with such extreme sensitivity, only the most massive and violent events out there would be loud enough to make the detectors ring. LIGO was designed to catch collisions of neutron stars and black holes. However, nobody knew for sure if black holes existed in pairs or how often they might collide.

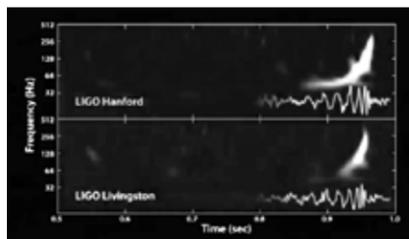
On Sept. 14, the system had barely finished being calibrated and was in what is called an en-



Distortion of space-time by a weight.

our sun, the other 29. For better or for worse, these spinning black holes were at a safe distance from us, 1.3 billion light years away. As they approached the end, moving at half the speed of light, they were circling each other 250 times a second. These strange objects reached within 130 miles of each other before colliding and coalescing. The result was a single black hole with the mass of 62 suns. In addition to the scream of the black holes, you can imagine the sigh of relief by the National Science Foundation. Their great scientific gamble paid off!

Lost in this collision were the masses of three suns, which were converted into gravitational waves. For a tenth of a second that energy (in the form of gravity waves) was brighter than all of the stars in all of the galaxies in the universe. The universe is so vast, it has taken 1.3 billion years for those waves, traveling at the speed of light, to reach Earth. The LIGO mirrors moved only four one-thousandths of the diameter of a proton, but it was enough to be detected by those marvelous LIGO machines. One take-away from this is that gravity waves are weaker than bouncing bed springs. The other is, don’t share your bed with a spinning black hole.



Detection of gravity waves.

gineering run at 4am when a loud signal came through at the Livingston site. Seven milliseconds later, the signal hit the Hanford site. LIGO scientists later determined that the likelihood of such signals landing simultaneously by pure chance was vanishingly small. It had to be the scream of colliding black holes. One of the black holes was 36 times more massive than



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MARCH 2016 Listings



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| SOLD! | | Private | | SOLD! | | SOLD! | | UNDER CONTRACT | | UNDER CONTRACT | | UNDER CONTRACT | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | 705 Rendezvous Way - \$220,000 Add your finishing touches to this large 2923sf one story stucco home. Fully livable w/ETS & woodstove heat, a completed kitchen and bathrooms. Large great room offers lots of space. 2 car garage w/ two story enclosed unfinished space. | 2145 Indian Well Way - \$209,000 This 2BD/1BA is a new construction w/huge windows & rooftop deck for gorgeous views. Aspen panel ceiling in Great Room, Stainless kitchen appliances w/granite tile & butcher block countertops. Soak tub w/ separate shower. | 719 Rendezvous Way - \$159,000 This 3bd/3ba 1460sqft is located on a quiet street. Mstr Bed has balcony w great views to the valley. Liv room w built in FP. Great light and good space make this an excellent value! | 340C Palomino Way - \$389,000 Immaculate 1820sf, 2-story, 3BD/2BA home on 1.79 acres, meditation gardens w/rock lined pathways & patios. Solar h/w, woodstove & solarium. Detached double garage w/396sf studio space w/full bath, possible kitchen. | 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. | 418 Moonlight Way - \$259,000 Octagonal 2BD/1BA 1200sf home w/view deck, attached studio & exquisite custom details, super high Rvalue, outbuildings, shop, fenced garden and huge greenhouse. Backs to greenbelt w/trails & creek! Views. | | | | | | | |

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| UNDER CONTRACT | | | Historic Hotel | | Baca Meadows | | Chalets | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 149 Moonlight Way - \$259,000 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! | 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. | 123C Skyview Way - \$139,000 Hexagonal 3BD/1.75BA 1452sf home on 1.437ac backing to South Crestone Creek greenbelt. Fully fenced lot. Kitchen cabinets, appliances & Windows updated. Incld wood-stove on hearth. | 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. | Baca 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 Townhome #16 - \$179,000 A lovely 3BD/3BA/sunroom 1622sf one story townhouse located close to S. Crestone Creek walking path & convenient to town. Great for full time homeowner or can be as rental. Excellent separation of master suite and guest bedrooms. | 437 N Chaparral Way - \$479,000 Built by Paul Koppana 2020sf 4 bd/2 ba strawbale home + detached oversized 2-car garage w/potential apt is designed non toxic materials and energy efficiency. On 2.09 Acres bordering greenbelt of S Crestone Creek with Sauna and outdoor oven. | | |

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| Chalets | | | | | | |
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| 1967 Rockyview Way - \$449,000 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, great views | 3959 Cheerful Court - \$429,000 Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incld Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio. | 786C Panorama Way - \$419,000 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! | 1275C Bear Grass Way - \$348,000 Unique, 2-story 2BD/2BA 2040sf+loft hexagon energy efficient Rastra home up high in Ch1, adjacent to greenbelt on ~2 acres. In-floor radiant heat, passive-solar, woodstove. 352sf guest house. Gorgeous, must-see home! | 909C Brookview Way - \$299,000 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 and office above. | 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! | 757 Rendezvous Way - \$289,000 Very lovely 1868sf 3-or-4BD/2BA + dining screen porch, sunroom w/ fireplace, yoga/exercise room, deck w/amazing views & hot tub. Private, but close-in. Beautifully landscaped. |

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| 3919 Cordial Way - \$275,000 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. | 1540C Willow Creek Way - \$269,000 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. | 207C Foothill OL - \$249,000 2-story 3BD/2.5BA/Study stucco home on .965 acres built with non-toxic materials & energy efficiency. Lrg kitchen, bamboo floors, pine ceilings. Spacious master suite w/Jacuzzi tub, sep. shower, marble counters. Views/Deck. | 1738C Willow Creek Way - \$249,000 Built in 2013, this Paul Koppana strawbale eco-friendly home sits up high in Chalet 1. 2BD/2BA, 1532sf on .91 acres. Strong passive solar. Solar radiant floor heat & domestic hot water. Energy efficient. | 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. | 1867C Rockyview Way - \$229,000 3BD/2BA 1520sf New Construction by Paul Koppana, energy efficient design. Active solar hot water sys thru radiant floor grid + domestic hot water. Very insulated, triple pane windows & heat recovery ventilation, airtight construction. |

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| 3949C Cheerful Way - \$189,000 Built by Terry Anderson in 2002, 1110sf, 2-story 2BD/1.75BA/carport on .699 acres. Balcony w/ outstanding views, diamond plastered walls, soak tub. Private location w/ trees. Retreat home, private getaway, full time residence. | 3704 Carefree Way - \$169,000 Immaculate like new 3 bd/1.75ba,1316sf home has wood floors,stucco privacy wall, single car garage, beautiful views of the mountains. | 35 Camino Baca Grande - \$169,000 Lovely 3BD/2.5BA 2013sf 1.5 story home remodeled in 2010. Lg living rm w/cath ceiling, kitchen opens to patio w/mtn views. Master suite w/lg walk-in closet, soak tub. 2 lg bdms & bath up w/full-length deck. Paved road, easy access to town. | 1911 Lone Pine Way - \$169,000 This 2BD/1BA, 1020sf New Construction by Art Reeves. Efficient, great design & views. Rustic wood & metal siding, hrdwd floors & vaulted ceiling in Great Room. Modern kitchen w/stainless appliances. Spacious Master bdrm, & bath. | 635C Panorama Way - \$159,500 This 1504sf 3BD/2BA home sits on 1.013 acres & has an open, flowing floorplan w/lots of windows for natural light. Hardwood floors, custom made cabinets, screened porch, honeycomb window blinds. | 3376 Genial Way - \$159,000 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. | 4485 Ridgecrest Way - \$74,500 Unique, small 394sf home, with 2nd structure in Chalet 3. Fixer-upper, but can be a home in the Baca at an affordable price. Woodstove, loft sleeping area w/wood ceilings. Full kitchen w/cookstove, fridge & combo w/d. Shower bath. |

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| Baca Grande - Grants | | | |
| | | | |
| 56 Wagon Wheel Road - \$295,500 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. | 765CRR Heatherbrae Rd - \$269,000 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. | 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! | 1202 Wagon Wheel Road - \$152,000 This 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath strawbale home is located in the Grants on 5.52 beautiful acres with exceptional views! Backs to the greenbelt with privacy and open spaces. |

Jump in on an Active Market!

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| LAND SALES 2016 | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1869C Rockyview Way SOLD | 988C Moonlight Way SOLD |
| 2019 Bluffs OL SOLD | 2020 Lost Cave Way SOLD |
| 1875 Lone Pine Way SOLD | 2820C Big Piney OL SOLD |
| 2067C Mossy Rock SOLD | 2070C Mossy Rock SOLD |
| 513 Chaparral Way SOLD | 2227C Redstone SOLD |
| 1285 Meadowlark SOLD | 2146C Indian Well Under Contract |

What does our community want to be when it grows up?

Crestone Mtn. Grange presents the "HUB"

by Nathan Good

With big questions on the horizon as to what priorities our village should pursue, I feel deep down it's food, family and safety, as simply stated by a member of our group. It's now our group's shared vision.

This is an invitation for you or your organization to be pieces of a puzzle . . . where do you fit?

In hopes to help find answers, the Crestone Mtn. Grange (CMG) is happy to share one of its ideas, the "HUB" concept. Its intention is to connect and enhance cooperation among interested organizations, to focus their collective energy and co-create a common goal. One such fleeting goal has been a community center.

Pooled together, interested parties have a much better chance to create a building, heated and paid for by the greenhouse. With income from products grown and produced, art and music performance, work space, events and yes, even a recreation/senior meeting room, this can

pay for itself! Proving it's viability and livelihood will be easy if we work together, not just for the participants but for the public as well. A community HUB cooperative can work if we choose, it will be ours!

In regards to our progress so far, Lonny Roth, Beth Quist, Ginny Ducale, myself and other CMG participants, helped bring the greenhouse plan before the Town of Crestone (TOC) Trustees on Feb. 8th seeking an alliance with the Crestone Creative Dist.(CCD) and the Town for assessment and possible funding of the project from a State grant. The project fits in with CCDs' mission by stacking functions of art and educational programs into the building.

What next? CMG has been asked for more information by the TOC, as they are interested in seeing the next steps: review and assessment by the Planning Commission and the coming master plan. Stay tuned.

Then and now, over the years



The Crestone Mountain Grange meeting & potluck, held at Cloud Station on January 31, was well-attended by enthusiastic participants. photo by Lori Nagel

Crestone has witnessed more than a few attempts to build a community center, and learning from past pit falls we should be better equipped for the challenge this time around.

The master plan is in the works by our planning commission-ers who, with input from interested folks, may finally be able to bring this to fruition. So, if you are interested in this project, please stay informed via the Town Hall, Eagle news, CMG face book page, or join

in person at posted meetings on this topic. YOU can be a part of this participatory process, co-creating our growing community's future!

Input from Heather D'Alessio:

Regarding the Proposed Community Greenhouse—I think that it would be a terrific platform from which to benefit from year-round food gardening in a challenging climate. Affiliated with the Charter School and Senior community, it looks like a long-term installment in our village-building movement. Our ability to collaborate is crucial to its success. Our need to collaborate is also central to the whole idea. We must, as a people, learn to work together. I believe this is a logical next step. Here, recreation and creation marry to reward us all with increased feelings of belonging. It will by design also have a positive impact upon the sustainability, and therefore security, of both the land we steward and the fabric of society.

To begin with, I can personally offer llama and goat manure, and composting worms, in the creation of fertile soils for the greenhouse. Steve Storm can offer up to two weeks of his carpentry, pro bono, in its construction.

Input from Ginny Ducale:

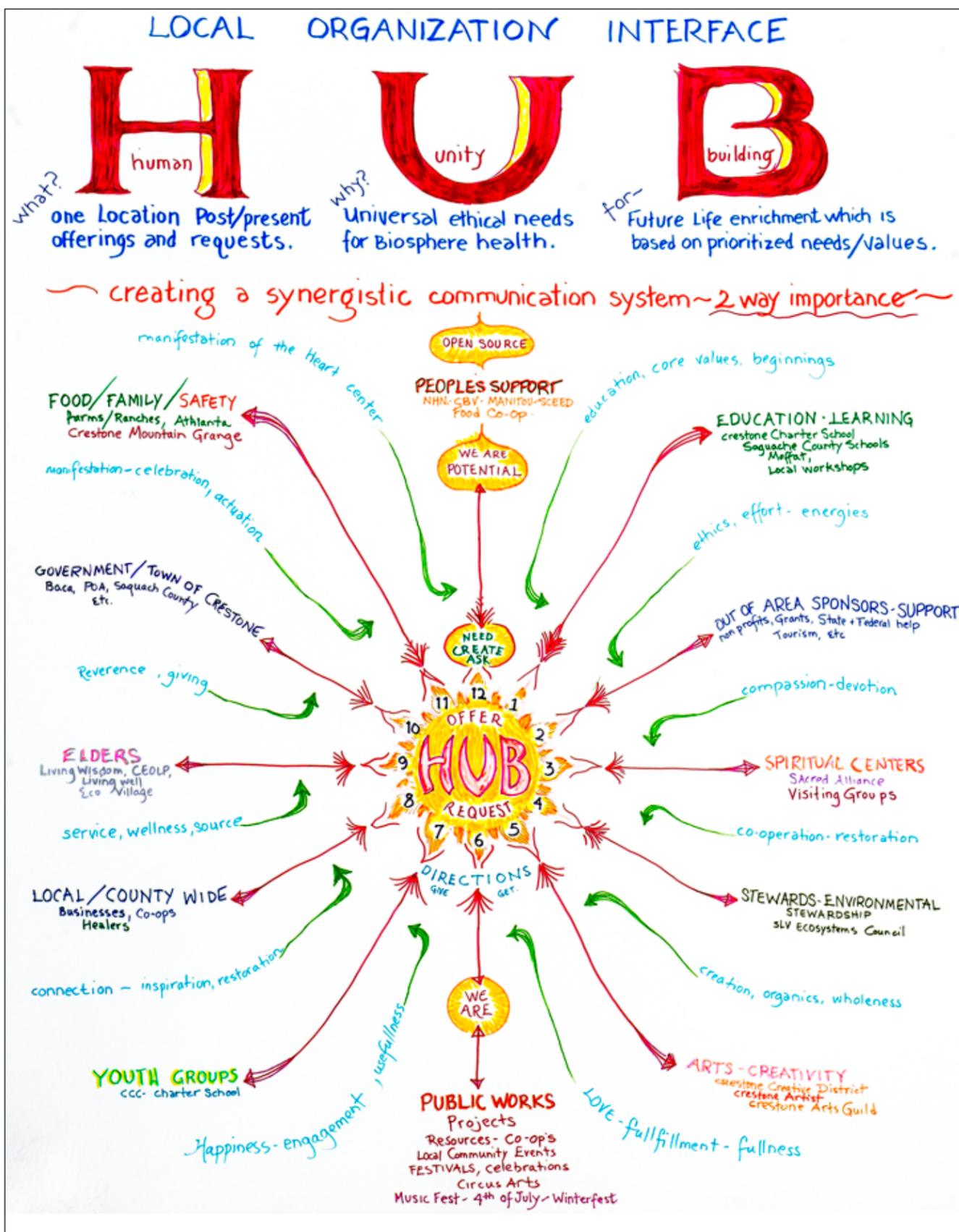
Crestone faces a few dilemmas. One being that we are an isolated community and find it hard to have some of the supplies we need trucked in on a weekly basis.

Some of the products that can be produced right here is vegetables and fruits. Greenhouses have been popping up all over the USA, especially in cold climates, to answer that need of their communities. It has been found that with the heating system in place, vegetables and fruits can be grown during cold winter months, with virtually free heating systems.

The community has begun to draw up a plan for a multi-use building and greenhouse which can serve many. The boon to this is a probable grant which will solve the main cost limitations, and the pain of building frugally rather than having what is best for our community.

With a design, and master plan, utilizing the expertise of many residents and other out of county architectural planners, and the land to place these buildings on, which has easy access and visual impact, there is good cause for action. This would include all ages to come together to teach, share, entertain, think, and

continued on next page



HUB

continued from page 4

grow. The land should also have space for recreational outdoor activities.

It is time for Crestone to act upon the potential of building something that would fulfill the dreams of many Crestonians. What exactly is that? For one, it is a place close to town, that will house space for various activities, including a meeting room, senior center, educational space, craft center and performance space. Many uses can go into one building if it is built with thought for these activities.

If it sits above and behind a greenhouse that can transfer its heat to the building, we have already solved many problems which have been floating around the town for a long time. We need to use this precious land with an equally precious plan to suit as many of us as possible, and we should do it now, so that much of Crestone will benefit for many years to come.

Input from Hannah Michaels:

I moved to Crestone seeking a close-knit community to raise my now 1-year-old daughter. The chance to make connections without needing money to mingle, and a space offering community involvement were not as available as I had hoped. Attending the local grange meetings has given me an opportunity to plug in. We all share a passion to make our community more sustainable, local and worldwide, and I have been able to connect with some veterans who are established here. I believe a community greenhouse like the one in CMG's vision is pragmatic in giving members of all ages access to educational opportunities needed to pass down our community values to the next generation.

Input from Brent Vandever:

The forest greenhouse is one of the best solutions to food security in our community.

I pledge support and will help with its construction.

Input from Beth Quist:

I am in full support of a community greenhouse being part of an intelligent design multi use town facility. This climate is very difficult to garden outdoors. A greenhouse with community involvement would supply heat to adjoining art/conference/class rooms, reducing the cost to the town for heating, & be a valuable addition to all for local food resilience & health.

Links for more info

The GrowHaus in Denver: www.thegrowhaus.org

4 min. video GrowHaus in action: <http://bit.ly/1SIfNRd>

Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute <http://crmpi.org>

8 min. CRMPI greenhouse intro: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-AzpydtlGs

Radio show with Jerome Osentowski: www.thepermaculture-podcast.com/2016/episode-1606

5 min. with Geoff Lawton Permaculture garden design intro: <http://bit.ly/1mP52yB>

8min. fun PDC, artistic: <http://bit.ly/1TwXA9o>

5 min. Earthship, you don't have to use tires: <http://bit.ly/1VvppN3>

Garden Guru

Early spring work



by Matie Belle Lakish

As the days begin to lengthen and temperatures go above freezing in February, some instinctual center in my brain seems to say "plant". March is still too early for planting outside in the mountains, but there is lots of prep work that can be done. If you are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse, you can begin planting spring greens, and toward the end of the month, hardy greens can go into the cold frame.

Cole crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, kale and cabbages may have already been planted in flats for transplant outdoors later in the spring. If not, plant those early in the month. Frost-sensitive plants like tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and herbs such as basil, go into flats at my house around March 10.

Applying a little bottom heat can speed germination of plants started indoors. You can find heating mats in garden supply catalogs, but they are expensive. I have found two other ways to handle this that work well for me. Pick up second-hand heating pads and electric blankets at thrift stores and put them to work for you. You will want to use the low settings, and cover the pads or blanket with a piece of plastic to protect them. Use a thermometer to check the temperature before you put the plants on top. A temperature in the high 70s or low 80s is good for germinating most seeds. I've also discovered that I can use the top of my ETS

heater for germinating seeds. I put some spacers, either wood or metal about 2" thick, on top of the heater, then set the flats on those. I keep my heater at 65°, but if yours is set higher this may not be a safe option for you. Don't try it on other types of heaters.

Once the little green leaves are showing, remove seedlings to a place with lots of natural sunlight or purchased grow-lights.

While your seeds are sprouting and seedlings are growing, you can prepare your outdoor growing space. If you are gardening outdoors, you will need to fence your space. Our deer and rabbits are hungry for your tasty vegetables. A six-foot fence is best. I prefer wire with smaller spaces at the bottom to prevent rabbits from squeezing through. Wood fences often shade the plants too much, but can be helpful for blocking the wind.

Consider upgrading your irrigation system. I prefer drip or soaker irrigation to sprinkler types because they put water just where you need it—at the root of the plant. (See the May, 2015 issue for in-depth article on drip irrigation.)

Improving your soil can begin as soon as the snow melts. It's always beneficial to start with a soil test. Simple soil test kits can be purchased at most garden shops. These usually test only for the three most common nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, or NPK. The balance of acid and alkali, a pH test, is also useful.



An enthusiastic young gardener gives everything a good soaking.

Most plants prefer a fairly neutral balance between about 6.5 and 7.2. Rarely are soils in the valley too acidic. High alkalinity is more likely to be a problem.

Besides a good quality compost, I like to add some sulfur/iron combination such as Ironite to reduce alkalinity and liberate the iron in the soil, as well as bone meal to provide phosphorus and some nitrogen and trace minerals. There are a number of other soil additives and natural plant foods that are worth trying. This year I intend to add some kelp powder to my soil and perhaps add some alfalfa pellets to my mulch routine.

Two things I will *not* add are ashes and lime. Both will increase alkalinity in my already somewhat alkaline soil. If you want a complete organic fertilizer, and can afford to buy it, Yum Yum Mix, available from High Country Gardens, is a good choice. I met the woman who formulated this mix for her gardens in Santa Fe. It should also work well in Crestone.

If you have fruit trees, early March is still a good time to prune. Pruning helps the trees develop a sound structure and increase fruiting (see Pruning Young Fruit Trees in March, 2014). Fruit trees can benefit from some added nutrients in the soil around their drip-line, the outer perimeter of their branches, as well as a good watering that soaks deeply into the soil. Other perennials, such as berries, asparagus and perennial flowers and herbs should also get a deep soaking.

Happy Spring!



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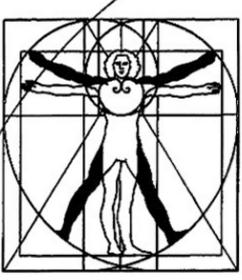
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Gophers: Friend & foe

by Leigh Mills

I let my garden go fallow last year (2015) thinking to take a break and give the ground a rest during one of our area's wettest years in living memory. Neither the ground nor I got much of a rest. Weeds and wildflowers carpeted the ground providing animals with food and me beautiful scenery. Beautiful, that is, until I noticed signs of burrowing around our homestead and in the gardens. After doing some research, I realized that gophers had moved into the neighborhood.

Northern Pocket Gophers (*Thomomys talpoides*) inhabit a large portion of Colorado, and while friends to Mother Nature, they are considered foes to developed and agricultural areas. As friends, "their burrowing activities increase soil fertility by adding organic matter in the form of plant materials and feces; it also increases soil aeration and water infiltration, reduces compaction, and . . . increases the rate of soil formation by bringing up subsoil subjecting it to weatherization."⁽¹⁾ As foes, the list is long. Pocket gophers prefer alfalfa and can reduce crop productivity, damage irrigation lines and utility cables. In a home garden or lawn, they cause unsightly mounds, damage plants and trees (especially stone fruit) by eating their roots, and can undermine house foundations.

Gophers dig quite a bit and can create burrow system that is multi-branched and contain as much as 200 yards of tunnels with over a hundred mounds in less than an acre. Most of this tunnel and mound building happens in the spring and fall, but I saw activity all summer last year, and started to see it as soon as mid-Feb this year. These amazing diggers are nocturnal and rarely come above ground, especially during the day. I've heard their chirping sounds at night in the garden and have seen dirt move from their activity in the early mornings, but haven't seen them alive above ground, even for a photo opportunity. They breed in the spring and can have litters up to 10. Gophers are mature enough by early summer to venture out and start their own tunneling system. Northern Pocket Gophers can reach densities up to 20 per acre if left unchecked.

Luckily our region provides many natural predators to help balance gopher populations. Owls, hawks, foxes, coyotes, badgers, rattlesnakes and housecats, to name a few. But the abundant rain, moist ground, and tall grasses last summer created an over-abundance of gophers for them and us to handle. My first efforts to keep them in check worked for a little while: chewing gum at the entrances, poison in the tunnels, and digging up their runs. Then I got the traps. Marvin Reynolds at the CSU Extension office in Monte Vista was a great help in learning how to use them effectively. He gave advice over the phone and came out to our homestead to show us where and when to set them. We have two kinds: the EASYSET® and the BlackBox™, both by Victor®. With their help, we are reducing our gopher population!

I don't know how much damage they caused last year and during this winter; this season will tell more. Gophers don't hibernate and I'm guessing they ate roots in their tunnel systems this winter. We closed up several runs last fall and haven't seen any new sign from those areas yet...but I'm ready with the traps if I do.

If you want to learn more about gophers and how to "manage" them, please read the CSU Extension website's document Managing Pocket Gophers. To read a more detailed account of our gopher experiences and see color pictures, visit my blog: The Infinite Bee (theinfinitebee.com). My husband and I are also grateful for Marvin at the Monte Vista CSU office for his help, too (719-852-7381).

(1) *Managing Pocket Gophers*: <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/managing-pocket-gophers-6-515>



This was the first gopher we got in an EASYSET® trap used in one of their tunnels. Its teeth and claws are very impressive. Trapping gophers is an ongoing task with most of the work done in the mornings, when their signs and activity are fresh. We need several traps of both kinds to keep our current gopher population down. The traps are a small investment, but a worthy one!



When setting traps, especially the BlackBox™, look for freshly mounded soil and dig away enough dirt to show the hole. Set the trap and cover the sides with dirt, leaving the end exposed so light will enter and lure the rodent into it. Refer to the CSU Extension's online document or my blog, theinfinitebee.com, for more details.

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'Old-timer' tales

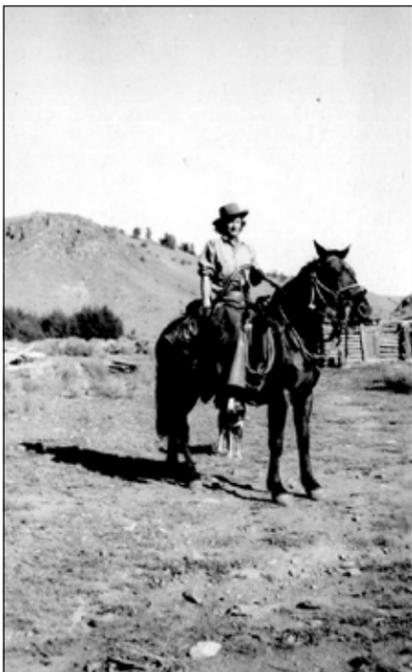
Survival on Eagle Gulch

A Virginia Sutherland story

by Janet Woodman

After lunch on an early October day in 1960, Virginia Sutherland mounted her 17-hand bay mare, Legs, whistled up her dogs, and headed up Kerber Creek Road into the mountains. She and her husband Sut had pastured their cattle for the summer in the San Juans north of Saguache, and it was time to bring them down.

The herd had been in the Park, a large grassy area north of Kerber Creek, since June, fattening on nutritious mountain grasses, while down on the valley floor the hay was put away for the coming winter. The Sutherlands leased grazing land from the Ashley Ranch along Kerber Creek and kept horses there so that they could periodically check



Virginia Sutherland 1945.

on their animals. Over the summer months the cattle had wandered in different directions, up drainages, through groves and thickets. In the fall, horses were required for searching the nooks and crannies of the back country to round up the animals and bring them down. Back then there were no ATVs, no cell phones. If something went wrong,

you had to rely on yourself.

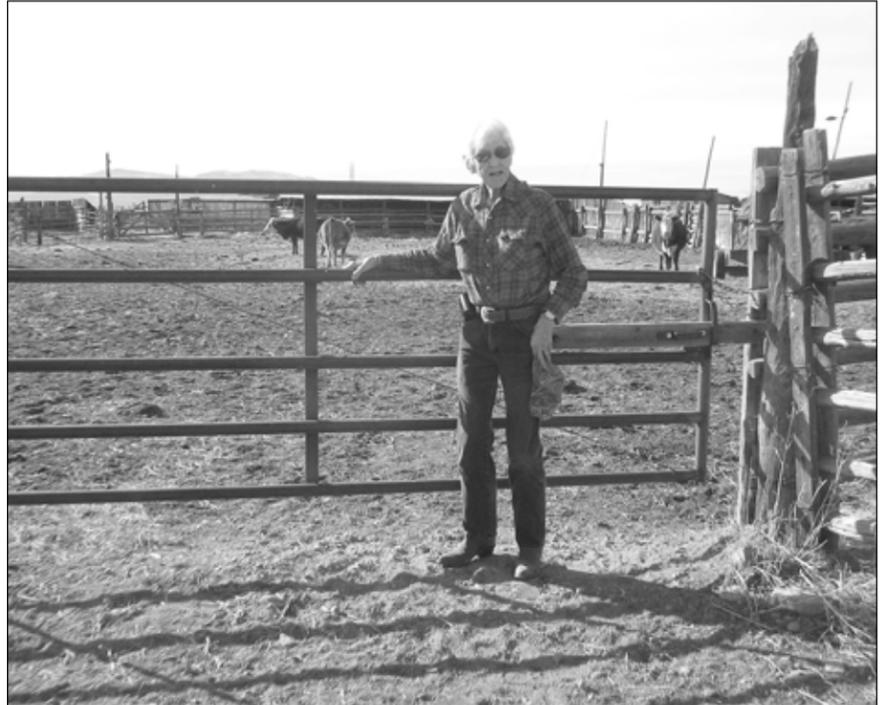
Someone said they'd seen some cattle near the base of Hayden Peak by Eagle Gulch, so Virginia and Legs headed that way. They climbed and climbed, past old mine shafts, over fallen trees, around rock outcroppings. The plan was to get uphill from the bovines and drive them down to the road, then move them along to the Ashley Ranch where they could be corralled.

By 3pm dark clouds were gathering. Virginia kept an eye on them, but it had been a dry summer and a little rain in the mountains was welcome. On they climbed, searching for cattle. By 4:30 a light rain had become a downpour, and Virginia donned her slicker. Not finding any of her animals on the south side of the ridge, she decided to cross over the top and work her way down the north side.

Finding the canyon blocked, she tried going back up but ran into impassable slide rock. When she tried to go back down, the mare refused. The rocks were unstable and slippery, the rain by now was pouring down, and the horse knew she'd slide if she tried to descend. Virginia dismounted to lead the horse. No go. Go back? Same. The horse would not budge. The rain poured down as the light dimmed and the temperature dropped. Virginia tried everything her lifetime of ranching and riding had taught her, but Legs refused to move.

Finally, frustrated and soaked to the skin with no place to shelter, Virginia decided to abandon the stubborn horse and descend the rough hillside to the road on foot. Once there, she knew she'd still have another 5 miles to walk, in the dark and the rain, on a road that saw little traffic.

She removed the horse's bridle and saddlebags (the soaked saddle was too heavy to carry) and she and the dogs started feeling their way down over logs and rocks, stumbling at times into the now-running creek. The light was failing and the slicker snagged on every branch.



Virginia Sutherland keeps an eye on the cows awaiting the birth of their calves. February is the start of calving season; in June Virginia and daughter Lynn will move the cow/calf pairs up to the mountains for the summer.

Finally, around 10pm, they reached the road. Virginia was hungry, drenched and dangerously cold. She turned south and started walking. The thought of the ranch, with its light and warmth and Sut and 6-year-old daughter Lynn drew her on. But it was a long way, and it was still raining. The road was rocky and uneven in the dark, but she knew she had to keep moving or freeze.

Sut would be out looking for her. She strained to hear his truck. As she approached the intersection of Kerber Creek Rd. and Slaughterhouse Creek Rd. she spied headlights, but before she could get close enough to make herself known, the vehicle stopped, turned around, and headed in the opposite direction. She watched in disbelief and dismay. Later she found out that was Sut. He just didn't think she'd gone that far up the road.

Virginia and the dogs had walked 2 miles through the darkness when she caught the sound of a truck again. This time it was a logging truck coming down from Bonanza. Could she make him see her? She had a small metal container of wooden matches tied to her chaps with 4 matches left. Incredibly, they were still dry. She found a small flat rock, "dried"

it against her jacket, and held it with her cupped hand around the matches to shield them from the rain. She needed to wait until the truck was close enough to see the light, but not too close to pass her by. Would the matches even light? She chose her moment and struck them. They lit! The driver saw the signal and stopped.

On the way down to the ranch, they encountered Sut coming up on horseback. Not having found Virginia along the road, he'd saddled up and prepared to look for her in the high country. Instead, they all went back down to the ranch, to light and warmth and food.

By midnight Virginia and Sut had packed up Lynn and headed home. The next day they went back up Eagle Gulch, found Legs (still carrying her saddle), and led the reluctant but hungry mare off the slickrock and down to the ranch.

It was a different world in the high country of Colorado 50 years ago. Few houses, few hikers, no cell phones; just you and nature. It was essential to have self-reliance, strength and determination. And a shot of bourbon when you got home didn't hurt either.

Virginia Sutherland, a lifetime Saguache County rancher, has 90 years' worth of stories.

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Birding in the San Luis Valley

continued from page B-1

Crestone generally hosts congregations of multiple swallow species. Colorado's State Bird, the Lark Bunting, prefers Road T's barrow ditch. From an old fence post, a Loggerhead Shrike can scan the short-grass landscape for prey. Say's Phoebes and kingbirds also favor insect-rich open spaces like old floodplains. Eastern, Western, and Cassin's kingbirds have laid claim to utility line perches along Road X between Moffat and Saguache.

Plains, meadows, and fields present ideal habitat for observing a Northern Harrier. Overhead, a Bald or Golden eagle might soar into view. In the 1980s, a pair of Osprey nested on a stack of hay bales along San Luis Creek east of Villa Grove. That winter, while on a birding outing, Helen Ryan and this birder noticed an Osprey on the ground west of the Sutherland Ranch on Rd T. During our return drive, we witnessed an aerial battle that involved the Osprey, a Bald Eagle and a Golden Eagle. All Colorado falcon species, including Gyrfalcon and Peregrine, belong on Saguache County birding lists. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks notoriously prey upon feeder birds. Utility poles and dead trees serve as favored perches for Ferruginous, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Swainson's hawks.

Both deciduous and conifer forests around Crestone offer intriguing birding options. Pinyon-juniper stands attract Clark's Nutcracker and other jays, White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy nuthatches, chickadees, and the elusive Brown Creeper. Ruby-crowned Kinglet flits among riparian trees and bushes; the Golden-crowned Kinglet prefers higher elevation conifers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests near the trail along Cottonwood Creek—also a likely place to spot a Rock Wren. Abundant habitat vegetation that lines the Sangre de Cristo's rippling streams entices an array of migrant songbirds. Many, like Yellow Warbler and Warbling Vireo, stay to nest.

An indicator of habitat health, the Olive-sided Flycatcher occasionally shows up around Crestone-Baca. Black-chinned and Broad-tailed hummingbirds come early to feeders. Rufous Hummingbird appears in late summer. At San Isabel Creek, Mountain and Western bluebirds share insect-rich domains. Robins are the best-known thrushes, but the flute-like trill of a Hermit Thrush often greets a hiker following a trail into the Sangres. Rock-lined streambeds are ideal habitat for the American Dipper. Old cottonwood scrags accommodate a span of woodpeckers from the small Downy to the large, distinctive Lewis' Woodpecker.

Birding experts, amateur and professional, had compiled Colorado records for decades prior to official bird counts. In the late 19th century, San Luis Lakes became a hotspot for ornithologists. H. W. Henshaw, reporting through



Snowy Egret.



Mountain Bluebird.



Kestrel. photos courtesy of Pat Westover

the Wheeler surveys (1871-73), initially placed many San Luis Valley species on the state's list. John Rawinski, author of *Birding Hotspots of South-central Colorado*, serves as coordinator for the San Luis Valley Birding Network which keeps modern birders informed about which species are seen, when, and where. Careful documentations have added new species like the Ruddy Turnstone, Laughing Gull, Caspian Tern, Harris' Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, and Brown-crested Flycatcher to the official San Luis Valley species roster.

The Monte Vista Crane Festival allows birders with a variety of backgrounds to experience a full range of birding opportunities—especially to hear ancient chortles, to observe ritualistic dances, and to watch the great birds lift skyward—reminiscent of the glyph that hovers within a rock alcove in Sierra de las Grullas. An excursion to the Crestone-Baca area could and should further enhance festival participants' birding experiences.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root
Chaparral (*Larrea tridentata*)



Chaparral (Larrea tridentata)

photo courtesy of Tsong

Chaparral is also called Creosote Bush or Greasewood. Although it's not technically a local herb, it is a well-known herb of the southwestern United States and so is in our general area. Chaparral grows from southern Texas through New Mexico and Arizona into southern California, so perhaps a 6- or 7-hour drive away.

The amazing thing about Chaparral is that it grows in colonies, and spreads out in a circle, with the plants in the center dying out and the newer ones on the periphery, all of them actually being the same plant. Some Chaparral colonies have been found to be as much as 13,000 years old! Chaparral has the unique ability to suppress growth of nearby plants through its oils in the soil.

The plant itself is a small tree or bush, not really growing taller than 12' but usually shorter. The plant blooms after any rain, in the amazingly creative way that desert plants do. The flowers are yellow and the seed pods are white and fuzzy. As one might guess from some of the common names of this plant, it does have quite an aroma! It's quite intense but does grow on one. I make a salve with Chaparral as one of the ingredients, and I find the smell very soothing as it

permeates my house.

Medicinally, Chaparral is strongly antimicrobial and antioxidant. I use it freely externally, as a salve, soak, compress or poultice, or even as a tincture. It works well as a soak for fungal or other skin infections. Internally, I tend to be more cautious. It is a strong herb and should not be used for extended periods of time, or without checking in with an experienced herbalist. It has been used for various types of infections and to assist the liver's ability to process fats.

As a flower essence, it has been said that "this is an important detoxifier for some cases of post-traumatic stress trauma. Chaparral is a deep level clearing essence for those who may be plagued by horrific images and memories that are resistant to release, or are lodged in the sub-conscious and play out in repetitive stress nightmares. This remedy is equally important for people and animals."

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

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\$475,000 Partially finished construction, this property is part of an estate. Seller is open to offers. In the town of Crestone, commercial district. Residential/multi-use possibilities. 709800



\$420,000 41 pristine acres in the Grants. A great retreat property. Solar system, new batteries. 3550 sq ft with home and meeting/retreat building. Creek runs through property. 703497



\$365,000 2BD 1.75BA Lovely Victorian home & guest cottage on 35acres. Spectacular views, organic garden area, room for horses. Great for group retreats or sustainable living. 711475



REDUCED! \$275,000! Seller will finance. Unique property with 2 units and office space, 3BD 2 3/4BA, full sauna, 33' grow dome, orchard. Borders greenbelt & creek. 699764



REDUCED! \$254,000 1.5 story 2BD 1.75BA, tile & wood floors w/radiant heat. Sunroom, fenced yard, steam shower. Private cul-de-sac, high on the mountain! 699605



\$229,000 5BD 3 3/4 BA with additional room off Master suite. Kitchen has plenty of cabinet space. Attached 2-car garage. 699746



\$227,500 3BA 2BA, attached garage. Home for large family; spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings, 6 panel doors, tiled floor, fenced yard, deck. Sits on 3 lots, in cul-de-sac. 709053



REDUCED! \$223,000 2BD 2BA, spacious straw bale home. Radiant heat, wood burning stove. Amazing views off decks and patio. Creek meanders through the property! 699757



SOLD
 \$210,000 This home has 40 acres with an artesian well. The lovely home has 3BD and 3 BA. Horse set-up, equipment barn and fenced pastures. 699756



REDUCED! \$199,900 3BD 2BA, spacious, light home. Fireplace, vaulted ceilings, new carport; sits on 2 consolidated lots, at the end of the street. Downstairs has own entrance. 708971



\$198,000 Perfect retirement home! Santa Fe-style home on 1acre. Detached 1 car garage, garden area, beautiful kitchen, tile floors, wood stove, radiant heat, large porch. 2BD 1BA. 703882



\$195,000 Secluded, close to Willow Creek with views, surrounded by greenbelt. Spacious kitchen, appliances. Green construction, fire resistant, kitchen gardens, solar shades. 711195



REDUCED! \$190,000 New construction, 2BD 1 1/2BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen. Bathroom with garden tub. 699761



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



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



UNDER CONTRACT
 \$179,500 Recently remodeled, bright, spacious, cozy duplex with private patios 5BD 3BA. Conveniently located on the edge of town. Close to Charter School & grocery store. 699772



\$175,000 Estate sale, sold "as-is", unfinished. Concrete constructed, 6" walls, on 5 prime lots in the Baca, with creek, greenbelt, large trees. Radiant-floor heat, boiler installed. 709580



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



\$150,000 Nestled in Downtown Crestone, this cozy 1024 sq.ft. home is bright & spacious, with great views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range. 712504



\$149,500 Great getaway home near Cottonwood Creek. Builder's own home, great room with vaulted ceilings, quality craftsmanship; loft could be guest area. 699734



\$144,000 Beautiful Baca Meadows Town Home. 2 floors, 2BD 2BA, spacious living room with high ceilings, private balcony & patio areas. Convenient to town. 699781



\$138,500 Great starter home! 3BE 2BA, vaulted ceilings, on 1 acre, close to Charter School & town. Screened-in front porch, large deck, private. 713001



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\$79,000 Nice 3BD 1BA starter on retirement home. Wood stove, garage, metal roof. Situated on 6 lots with expansive mountain views & garden space, on shared well. FHA, VA or USDA. 705685



SOLD
 \$39,500 4BD 3BA on 1 acre, needs TLC. Central water, community fishing pond, close to hot springs. Being sold "AS IS", no warranties expressed or implied. 710550



SOLD
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In Search of Economic Reality

Is China purchasing America?

by Ed Lyell

For more than a decade China has been exporting hundreds of billions of dollars of goods to the US while purchasing very few products from us. That trade deficit is over three hundred billion dollars a year.

This has provided the USA with lots of goods at far lower prices than if manufactured in the US. It also means that China now has about \$3.8 trillion dollars in US foreign reserves, both dollars and T-bills. The treasury bills represent the Federal Reserve printing more and more dollars which are then held by investors like the Chinese people and government. For several decades this has been the model of Chinese investment in America, but that has been changing since the 2008 crash.

What China, and the world, came to understand is that American banks and big corporations often mislead investors. The financial statements hide some flaws and permit Ponzi schemes and other fraudulent activity with almost no penalties for the companies, its executives, or their owner-investors. This has caused distrust in American financial paper. Thus more and more outside

investors, including the Chinese, are selling off T-bills and using their dollar currencies to purchase hard US assets, including real estate. Instead of purchasing stocks in diverse portfolios they are seeking whole US corporations to own. This includes purchasing America's largest pork and chicken producers, gaining some control over our primary food sources. It also has greatly raised the cost of high-end real estate in New York, San Francisco, Miami and Las Vegas. Over a third of those purchases are cash purchases, often in the names of newly formed corporations that are multi-layered to hide the names of the investors.

In percentage terms this is not a big deal, at least not yet. The net worth of U.S. households and organizations is over \$84.7 trillion. Some people might ask why wealthy Chinese are willing to keep moving their assets to the US. Like America, and every other nation, China has an increasing level of income and wealth inequality. Their economy has slowed to single digit GDP growth and many of their new wealthy are fearful that China's economy will continue to drop and that their government will

put even more limits on capital flight. The Chinese government limits its citizens to taking only \$50,000 per year out of China. Yet many wealthy extended families have been caught taping millions of US dollars to themselves while going to the US, Europe and Hong Kong.

Verifiable data is hard to get out of China yet it has been reported that tens of thousands of street demonstrations have occurred in the rural areas of China protesting the widening gap between rural poor and newly wealthy Chinese, most of whom are related to government officials. *The New York Times* did a major story about the insider dynasties and both the paper and its reporters were thrown out of China. Meanwhile US real estate continues to be a means for wealthy Chinese to move their dollars into the US. A *New York Times* article in January reported that Chinese government efforts were inspired in part by a series last year in *The New York Times* which examined the rising use of shell companies as foreign buyers increasingly sought safe havens for their money in the United States.

China is one of the countries pushing for the US to stop being

the world's largest tax haven for foreigners avoiding taxes in their own countries. Realtors in Los Vegas have reported that over half the real estate purchases for years have been cash deals as Chinese nationals park their new millions in the US. Often it is purely good investing by purchasing the housing that has lost more than half their value since the 2008 crash. The new buyers rent out the purchased property, sometimes to the very families that were foreclosed upon. Other Chinese families put the homes in the name of anchor babies giving them US citizenship for privileges like getting into premier US universities decades later.

This massive movement of US dollars from China and other countries has pluses and minuses for Americans. The US dollar has strengthened when it was expected to lose value. Powerful people from other countries become invested in America's long term success. At the same time many long term Americans are being priced out of domestic real estate as prices rise in the locations preferred by foreign buyers. I also like the fact that the US has been identified as the tax haven for others even as we like to blame the Cayman Islands and other places in our hypocritical political rhetoric.

What happens long term will be interesting to observe.

Ed Lyell, PhD is Professor of Business and Economics at Adams State University.

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What is the latest thinking on the environmental causes (if any) of autism? I hear so much conflicting information I don't know what to believe.

-Bill Stribling, Austin, TX

In the 1980s, about one in 2,000 American kids was diagnosed with autism. Today the number is around one in 68, according to estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network. This disconcerting increase has led to intensified examination into what environmental factors may play a role in the disorder's development. A wide range of exposures have been scientifically linked to autism, including air pollutants, phthalates and other endocrine disruptors, pesticides such as Chlorpyrifos, and many more. Vaccines were considered a leading culprit, but more recent research has proven this connection wrong—although the subject still engenders much debate.

A 2014 study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health found a strong link between autism and in-utero exposure to air pollution: the risk of autism was doubled among children of women exposed to high levels of particulate air pollution during pregnancy. Another 2014 study out of the University of California, Davis determined that pregnant women living in close proximity to fields and farms where chemical pesticides are applied experience a 66% increased risk of having a child with autism or a developmental delay. The advocacy group Autism Speaks, which contributed to the funding of the Harvard study, believes that despite all the emerging data linking toxic exposures to autism, no environmental influence appears to cause or prevent autism by itself—rather they appear to influence risk in those genetically predisposed to the disorder.

"It's important to remember that not all mothers exposed to air pollution during pregnancy will have a child with autism and not all children with autism were necessarily exposed to air pollution in utero," said epidemiologist Michael Rosanoff, Associate Director for Public Health at Autism Speaks. "We know autism is a complex disorder and underlying genetic and biological factors interact to influence susceptibility. The next step is to identify the biological mechanisms that connect air pollution to autism and identify ways to treat if not prevent the harm to brain development."

While many studies linking environmental toxins and autism have been inconclusive, one developing research approach appears to hold great promise. Remarkably, fallen baby teeth can be used to track a child's prenatal and infant exposure to chemicals—thus allowing scientists to determine what environmental causes may have contributed to the disorder's development.

"As a result, we can use teeth like an archeological record," says Dr. Raymond Palmer of the University of Texas Health Science Center. "The enamel of different types of teeth begins to form at different points during prenatal development. In infancy, the enamel continues to absorb chemicals circulating through the baby's body." Palmer says the greatest insights from dental analysis may come from looking at chemical exposures along with gene abnormalities, which may affect one's vulnerability to potentially toxic chemicals. "It's not necessarily genes or environment," he adds. "It's likely to be both."

Alysson Muotri at the University of California San Diego Department of Pediatrics is using teeth analysis to identify gene abnormalities in children with autism, even in cases with no previous known genetic cause. Parents of an 8-year-old autistic boy mailed Muotri's team one of the boy's baby teeth, and the researchers were able to detect a mutation in a gene known as TRPC6. The researchers treated the autistic boy with hyperforin, the active ingredient in St. John's Wort. Dental analysis could potentially lead to personalized treatment for autism, whether the cause be identified as genetic, environmental or both.

CONTACTS: CDC Autism Spectrum Disorder Page, www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/; Autism

Speaks, www.autismspeaks.org; Muotri Lab at UCSD, www.pediatrics.ucsd.edu/research/muotri-lab; UT Health Science Center, www.uthscsa.edu.

Dear EarthTalk: How are borderlands causing widespread environmental damage while splintering families and communities across the U.S. Southwest?

-Peter Jackson, Baltimore, MD

Today, over 650 miles of border walls and barriers have been constructed in all four southern border states: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The Sierra Club Borderlands campaign has spoken up against the substantial border wall construction, arguing that it has had dire consequences for vast expanses of pristine wild lands, including wildlife refuges, wilderness areas and National Forest lands, among other areas. Additionally, several species of wildlife have been observed and photographed stranded by the border wall, the group states, suggesting that many threatened and endangered species are suffering from border wall development as well.

In their short films, *Wild Versus Wall* and *Too Many Tracks*, the Sierra Club describes how the significance of the borderlands—a vast and ecologically distinct region with a multitude of mountain ranges, two of North America's four deserts and major river ecosystems—has been ignored by current U.S. border policy. The borderlands provide important habitat for rare and threatened wildlife species, including many federally-listed threatened and endangered species. But in 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, which included a provision that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all local, state and federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, deemed an impediment to building walls and roads along U.S. borders. Border patrol has now built stadium-like lights, roads and towers in sensi-

tive, remote areas, the Sierra Club says, and the roads fragment and destroy habitat while high voltage lighting affects nocturnal animals' ability to feed and migrate.

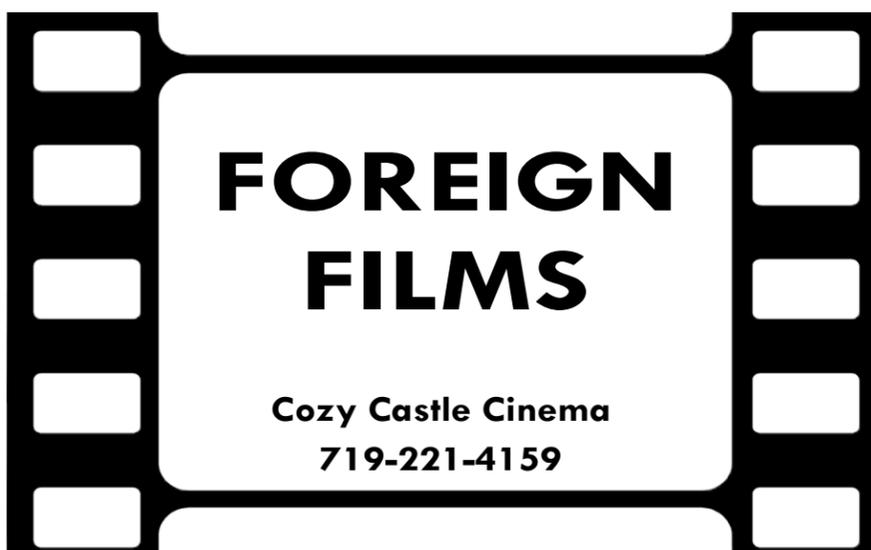
"Border Patrol's off-road driving, tire dragging and ATV use in designated roadless wilderness has left an immense scar on the landscape," said Dan Millis, Borderlands Program Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club continues to raise awareness on borderland habitat degradation with the hope that they can combat further border wall development that may pose harm to the environment and wildlife. In a November 2015 trip to a U.S.-Mexico border wall in Bisbee, AZ, Millis told Borderlands campaigners how the jaguar is an "emblematic species for why this wall is problematic . . . It's important for wildlife, like the jaguar, to be able to have access to a range. The jaguar used to live in the United States, all the way up to the Grand Canyon . . . the jaguar's critical habitat has been established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and it includes areas that are bisected by these walls. And that's really problematic if we want to see a very majestic species like the jaguar . . . we're going to have to these problems like this border wall seriously."

Millis also informed the campaigners of several other ecological issues associated with border development, including increased erosion, flooding and soil degradation. "We're encouraging Border Patrol and Homeland Security to keep this stuff in mind as they move forward on projects," Millis said. "They need to do things in a way that is more sustainable."

CONTACT: Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign, www.sierraclub.org/borderlands.

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Protect your family— Proactively prepare for emergencies

by Alan Stein

The potential for an unanticipated emergency to wreak havoc on our lives is a constant threat. Floods, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and a host of disasters can strike suddenly, putting your home, yourself and your family in danger. However, by planning now and creating an emergency preparedness kit, you can be equipped to respond to and recover from a disaster.

Preparing for a threat

Recognizing which threats pose the most danger is the first step in strengthening your preparedness plans. Our geographic locations often force us to prepare for certain natural disasters. For example, if you live near the coast, hurricanes should be a major concern, while forest fires may be a fear if you live in a wooded region that experiences dry spells. Accounting for a palpable threat will greatly increase the odds of successfully protecting your family.

Emergency preparedness kit

No matter what type of emergencies are common in your area, it's essential to maintain an emergency preparedness kit with resources that will adequately support your family through a shelter-in-place situation or an evacuation. Here are some tips for effectively safeguarding yourself during an emergency.

Water - Water is perhaps the most basic necessity for survival. Depending on the challenges you're facing, drinkable water may be restricted in a disaster. It is recommended that you store at least one gallon of water per person for three days. However, depending on age, health, physical condition, activity, diet and climate, individual needs may vary.

Food - When a disaster occurs, access to food can be limited. Having an adequate supply will help alleviate those concerns, and you'll appreciate knowing you can keep your family nourished until services and supplies can be restored. No matter what you stockpile, make sure it's nonperishable. Canned foods, salt-free crackers and whole grain cereals are some of the best emergency food supplies that don't require any preparation material. In addition, a can opener and pocket knife are essential.

First Aid Kit - In a situation where professional medical attention is not available, a first aid kit becomes invaluable. Some basic over-the-counter items will allow you to manage common injuries or

ailments. In addition to bandages, sterile dressings, pain-relievers, antibiotic ointment and cleansing agents, make sure you have a supply of any necessary prescription medications.

Other Supplies - Each family must recognize their unique needs and challenges. If you have children, their age will often dictate the supplies needed. Climate also plays a major factor in your emergency preparations. If you live in an area where cold weather is frequent, keep warm clothes, jackets and blankets at your disposal. You should also plan for power outages—have a transistor or all-weather radio and flashlights with extra batteries. Also, in the event of an evacuation, you should have cash as you may not be able to get to an ATM.

Communication

One of the most important aspects of an emergency preparedness plan involves communication. As a family, discuss potential emergency situations, review how you've prepared and what should occur. Resources such as Ready.gov can help you prepare. Every family should establish a meeting point. Our constant reliance on technology—including cell phones—creates daily conveniences but in an emergency, power and cellular outages are common. It is important to plan for where to go if your family can't access your home, as well as where to meet if your primary meeting spot isn't available. In addition, keep a written list of phone numbers in your wallet or purse so that the information is available. These contingency plans provide peace of mind now and a firm plan for action if the unthinkable occurs.

Alan Stein is the Vice Chair of the BOMA International Preparedness Committee.

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THEME: OUTER SPACE

ACROSS

- Visual representation
- Part of tennis match
- Hindu dress
- Japanese-American
- Anger management issue
- Strong and sharp
- Relating to Eastern Catholic churches
- Group of whales
- Innocent
- * ___ line between atmosphere and outer space
- *Houston's infamous ___
- "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
- *Galilean moons, the ___ largest moons of Jupiter
- Fertility clinic stock
- Something inadmissible, to a baby
- Less taxing
- Fabled fliers
- Praise
- Buddy
- Angler's hope
- Muhammad's teaching
- Capital on the Dnieper
- Hipbone-related
- Aries or Taurus, e.g.
- *E.T. "phoned" it
- One in ten, pl.
- Iran Nuclear Deal, e.g.
- Spanish "sea"
- "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
- Embrace
- *Matt Damon in 2015 film
- *Outer space, mostly
- * ___ Asimov
- Bird word
- Flew a kite
- Ele de la CitÈ river
- Hole punching tool
- Fill with optimism
- What choir did
- Brian Griffin on "Family Guy," e.g.
- User's treatment

DOWN

- African grazer
- Triple toe loop location
- "Heat of the Moment" band
- Black ___ in "Pirates of the Caribbean"
- Paid killers
- Sagittarius, e.g.
- Time period
- Dancer's beat
- Union foe
- Seed cover
- Gauche or Droite, in Paris
- Something previously mentioned
- Arctic-wear
- Garlic mayo
- French street
- Snafus
- *Space path
- Bridal veil fabric
- ___ a play
- *Famous space acronym
- Punjabi believer
- "Kick the bucket," e.g.
- Organ swelling
- *Mars exploration vehicle
- *Only one was in John Glenn's Friendship 7
- *Brent Spiner in "Star Trek"
- Coffee shop order
- USDA designation
- Hot springs resort
- Country singer Tanya
- Open a beer bottle
- Cunning
- Piggy's title
- On a cruise
- Cats and dogs?
- *Beverage associated with early astronauts
- Measure of electric potential
- Beehive State
- Online ___ tag
- Be in the red
- Cotillion ball's main attraction

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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

If you are between the ages of 8-13, we miss you in the library! We realize school takes up most of your time during the week, but we are open after school and on Saturdays from

10am to 2pm. We want to encourage the young people in our community who have not been in lately to come visit us soon as there are many new selections in your age range.

We are very open to suggestions—please let us know what we can do to bring you into the library. Are there books that you and other young people would like to read? Are there subjects that are missing that you would like to see on the shelves? Let us know! It is very easy these days to get the information you need from sitting at the computer or to be

entertained for hours watching videos. But the feeling you get from holding a book in your hands and reading a great story is a pleasure that will serve you well all your life.

In addition to books, audio books, videos and reference materials, we also have a selection of magazines in the front room that can be checked out. There are subscriptions to *The Intelligent Optimist*, *The Sun*, *Mother Jones*, *Scientific American*, *Yes!*, *Zone 4* (a good gardening resource for our area), and *Consumer Reports* (library use only). There are also many free maga-

zines available on a shelf in the front room.

The “Book Nook” is where we put duplicates and discarded books and videos in good condition. This area is handy for visitors who are in town for a short time and need a good book to read. All are available for a donation of whatever you want to put in the money jar. The proceeds go directly back into the library.

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

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Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office in the basement of the courthouse or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149 by 3pm on THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016.

The deadline for letters of interest is THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 at 3PM. The Board of County Commissioners will review comments and make a decision on this request at their regular meeting on TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016.

Published March 1, 2016, The Crestone Eagle

NOTICE OF VACANCY

There is a vacancy on the Moffat Consolidated School District #2 Board of Education Director District #3. (Basically the beginning of County Road 66T and Willow Creek East and South. Please see district map for specifics). Persons interested in being considered for appointment by the present Board to serve as a Board member until the next regular election in November 2017 should submit a letter of intention to serve along with a brief résumé to:

Board of Education, Moffat Consolidated School District #2
P.O. Box 428, 501 Garfield Avenue, Moffat, CO 81143

Letters and résumés may be directed to Moffat School by one of the following methods:

Email to khazard@moffatschools.org

U.S. Mail to the address above

Delivered in person to the District Office at the address above during regular business hours of Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All letters and résumés to be considered for the Board must be received in the Office of the Superintendent by Monday, April 11, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

To be appointed by the Board, you must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the School District in the director district, be registered to vote for at least one year in the school district with no felony convictions. This is a great opportunity to serve your community.

Published March 1, 2016, The Crestone Eagle

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...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

Apartments/Rooms/Misc. for Rent

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

Comfortable Living in Downtown Crestone
Sangre de Cristo Building Efficiency Apartments Available. 1st and Last month rent due upon signing of lease. \$100.00 cleaning security deposit. \$560.00 per month, includes all utilities and internet. Mature, quiet tenants wanted. Sorry no pets. Please contact Renee Hill, Building Manager @ 719.256.4741 please leave a message.

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

House Rental Wanted

Week in Summer Home Swap
Yr. Crestone home, quiet, view of sunsets, for my sunny S. Longmont 2 BR condo, wifi, no TV, 20 min to Pearl St. 30 mi. to Denver. July 31-August 10 neg. lawsonellen@yahoo.com

Services

Recycling
Bring your recyclables to the parking lot across the street from Aventa the first & third Saturdays of each month, 10am-2pm. Waste Free SLV will be asking \$10 for the average household, less for small amounts, more for larger. 719-588-2703.

Computer Service/Repairs
Computer Service/Repairs—30 years Computer Technician with full shop in the Baca. Windows, VIRUS fixes and prevention, networking. Call Dennis 256-4110

Craig Electric Services
Craig Electric for all your electrical needs. Prompt, reliable, generous rates. Contact Steve at 256-5951, sdossenback@gmail.com

Home Repair, New Construction, Architectural Design
Call Ber at (719) 937-1950 or quintanaber@gmail.com

It's Tax Time Again!

David W. Walker, Accountant, 38 years experience. Personal and Business Income Tax Assistance. Call for appointment in your area: 719-379-2988.

Help Wanted

Software company in Crestone! We're hiring!
Seeking BootStrap web developer with asp.net experience, and also a technical on-boarding specialist with software and e-commerce experience. Long-term opportunity. Fast-learners only, please. SilverEarth.com

ALAMOSA COUNTY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ALAMOSA COUNTY JOB OPPORTUNITIES:
*PUBLIC HEALTH RN *HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR *DHS TANF CASE MANAGER *DHS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. VISIT www.alamosacounty.org for details

Saguache County Social Services position opening

Are you looking for a challenging and great opportunity to further your career in Child and Adult Protective Services, to really make a difference in your community AND live in the mecca area of outdoor sports? Saguache County is looking for a Child Welfare Supervisor, to provide drive our casework unit to be the cutting edge operation in Colorado! Must be well versed in Trails and CAPS, and a seasoned caseworker in the Colorado system, intake and ongoing. Must have a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work or related field, bilingual preferred. Provide a resume, and call 719-655-2537 or visit the Saguache County website for information and an application.

Community Service

Town of Crestone Seeking Tree Board Members

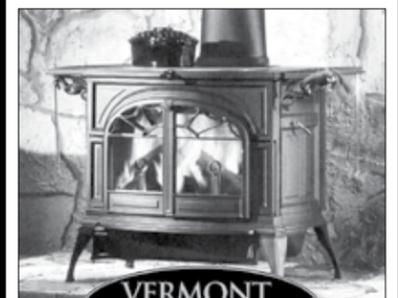
The Town of Crestone seeks applicants to volunteer on the Town Tree Board. Persons with interests and skills such as planners, arborists, landscape architects and nature lovers are encouraged to apply. Open to anyone who is of high school age or older. If interested and for more information, please contact Town Hall at 719-256-4313.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION TOWN OF CRESTONE

Notice is hereby given that the regular election will be held in the Town of Crestone, Colorado on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. This election will select one Mayor and Two Trustees, and determine the outcome on one referred measure.

The ballot will contain one candidate for Mayor (Kairina Danforth); three candidates for Trustee (C. Kimberley S. Martinez, Terry Goergen, James Adam Kinney); and one referred issue as follows:

Shall the establishment and operation of retail marijuana stores be permitted in the town of Crestone, Colorado, subject to the requirements of the Colorado Retail Marijuana Code and Regulations to be adopted by the town of Crestone?

And
SHALL THE TOWN OF CRESTONE'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY AN ESTIMATED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) PER YEAR COMMENCING APRIL 5, 2016 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE TAX AT THE RATE OF 5% ON THE PRICE PAID FOR THE PURCHASE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA INFUSED PRODUCTS, WITH SUCH REVENUE TO BE USED FOR THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED FOR ADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF RETAIL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS AND OTHER GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE TOWN; AND SHALL ALL REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH RETAIL MARIJUANA TAX BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

Yes _____ No _____

The election is to be held as a Mail Ballot election. Active registered voters will receive a ballot by mail. Ballots may be submitted by return mail, or in person at Town Hall, 108 West Galena Avenue, Crestone, CO. Town Hall is open for election business 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. All voted ballots must be received by the Crestone Town Clerk by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

To be eligible to vote in this election, you must be at least 18 years of age; be a citizen of the United States; have been a resident of the Town of Crestone for at least 22 days preceding the election, and registered to vote on Election Day.

For questions, please contact Town Clerk Allyson Ransom at 719/256-4313.

—Allyson Ransom, Town of Crestone Town Clerk

Published in the Crestone Eagle newspaper March 1, 2016

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

January 21 to February 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.65"

Snow: 8.2"

Measurable precipitation fell on 3 days.

Measurable snow fell on 7 days.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

No rain, hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 0.91"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 12.4"

Snow Season *: 34.4"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 55.1°F on February 20

Low temp: -9.6°F on February 4

Avg. high: 38.6°F

Avg. low: 13.5°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or below 32°: 10

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

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 0°: 3

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.8 mph

Highest gust: 40 mph on February 18

Main direction: Out of the east at night, out of the southwest during the day.

Weather summary

Temperatures were above normal, with precipitation around normal. .54" of precipitation fell on February 1, which demolished the old record of only .10" set in 2014. The 5.1" of snow that also fell on this day also broke the old snowfall record for the date, which was 2.1", also set in 2014. Then on the next day, the low temperature

dropped to -9.6° (which gets rounded off to -10° officially in our record books), and this reading broke the old record low for February 2, which was -8°, and which was set in 2005. Plus the high temperature for the day was 15°, a record low high. The old mark was 19°, set back in 1985. After that, the temps started to warm up to above normal readings for the rest of the period. Record high temperatures were missed on 3 days in a row by only one degree each day, between February 11 and 13. Then we did reach record high temperatures on 2 days in a row on February 18 (at 56°) and February 19 (at 54°).

Outlook for March

March is normally our snowiest month of the year, with 11.8" of snow falling on average. Yet liquid precipitation only averages 0.89", making it the fifth driest month of the year, or if you prefer, close to an average month for precipitation in our area. The wettest March on record was 2.89" in 1990, and the most snow to fall was in March of 1983 when 40.4" fell.

Temperatures start to warm up in March for our entire area, especially by the month's end. Average highs for the first week in March are 43.1° and 15.9°, and by the last week the highs and lows climb to around 56.2° and 22.7°. The warmest temp in March was 71° in 2012, and the lowest temp was -10° in 2002.

The 30-day outlook for March is calling for average temperatures, along with very much above average snowfall. Do note, that although it can, and sometimes does rain in March, most of the precipitation we see falls as snow.

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



As I drove up to these 16 deer, they were just chasing 2 coyotes across the street in front of me. The coyotes kept going, although they did continue to look over their shoulders at these beautiful animals! Taken on February 16 in Chalet 2, Baca Grande.

photo by Lori Nagel

THE VIEW FROM HERE

DUST BUSTIN'

by William "Buck" Winters

Woke up on the morning of February 18th with the taste of alkali in my mouth, and knew without even openin' my eyes that spring had arrived in the Valley, more than a month ahead of schedule. Sure enough, when I stumbled to the window, coffee mug in hand, tree branches were tossin' and tumbleweeds were airborne.

Pretty much no one (no one sane, that is) enjoys springtime in the San Luis Valley. Wonder why you're feeling crankier than usual? Go Google "Simoon," "Foehn," "Santa Ana Winds," or other (local) names for the dry winds of spring common to mountain areas worldwide. Folks report being more accident-prone, having a tough time concentrating, even havin' headaches or blurry vision.

While those recently relocated here might think that winter is the time for a beach vacation, those more experienced know that the arrival of wind season signals that folks prone to ventin' their frustrations publicly would do best to head for a more watery locale, if neighborly relations are to be preserved. Spring pursuits popular in other places aren't so much fun here, as anyone who's had to flush the sand out of their eyes after an

afternoon's kite-flyin' can tell you.

A good antidote to the dusty winds of spring is a little time spent next to a waterfall. But when those winds arrive when the creeks are still iced over, you just have to stay cranky. Dogs seem to bark more, coyotes can be heard at any time of day, and leavin' the firearms locked up is probably a good idea. Gotta say, it's a great time to do what hermits do best, practice hermitude. Turn off the phone, make yourself a nice mug of herbal tea, maybe with a good dollop of ol' Don's Saguache County honey, grab a nice thick book, and head for your most comfortable chair. All you can do with a San Luis Valley spring is wait for the season to blow itself out.

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