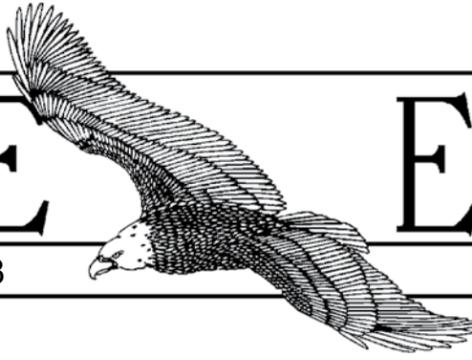


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 24, Number 3

March, 2013 \$1

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Sandhill cranes. photo by Ken Archer kenarcherphotos.com

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Special Crestone Emergency Services District election to be held March 5

On March 5, 2013 a special election will be held on whether or not to dissolve the Crestone Emergency Services District. Eligible voters for this election are all those people who are registered to vote in Colorado and who own property in the recently formed Crestone Fire Protection District, dba Crestone Emergency Services District.

The election will be held on March 5, 2013, to consider whether the Crestone Fire Protection District shall be dissolved. Vote at the

polls at the Crestone Community Center on north Cottonwood Street (old school house) on March 5 from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

Mail-in ballots were not automatically sent to local voters who usually vote by mail-in ballot. If you had not specifically requested a mail-ballot for this election, you must vote in person. Mail-in ballots had been available upon request, but the deadline to request one has passed.

In November 2011, voters ap-

proved the formation of an Emergency Services District. However, a mill levy was not approved by the voters, leaving the new district unfunded. In a vote in May 2012, the mill levy again failed to pass. Subsequently, a petition was circulated requesting the termination of the district and the election to do so approved by the court. The past three district elections were all decided by fewer than 25 votes.

Please participate in this important election.

Vote "NO" on dissolution to retain the district.

Vote "YES" on dissolution to dissolve the district.

Colorado Legislature to consider universal healthcare

by Lisa Cyriacks

A supporter of universal care and one of the founders of the Foundation for Universal Healthcare, Colorado State Senator Irene Aguilar (D-Denver) introduced a bill February 22 in the state legislature that would create the Colorado Health Care Cooperative. The cooperative would be a nonprofit benefits administrator and payer for health-care services, acting much like an insurance company, making payments directly to health-care providers.

If Aguilar's bill moves forward,

it would go to voters for approval at the soonest in November, and it would be implemented by 2016. But it faces huge hurdles. Two-thirds of each chamber of the legislature would have to approve it, and then a majority of voters would have to approve it.

The cooperative would rely on state taxing structures for collecting premiums. The Cooperative would be established by an amendment to the Colorado Constitution as an independent business owned by Coloradans and run by Coloradans.

Currently, according to the

Colorado Health Access Survey, about 830,000 Coloradans have no health insurance. The Colorado Trust funds the survey and the Colorado Health Institute conducts it.

Aguilar said universal care does not mean a government-run system.

Under Colorado Health Care Cooperative, Aguilar's non-partisan bill, employers would pay a 6% payroll tax for each worker, while employees would pay a 3% share. Self-employed people and investors would pay a 9% tax on income and

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Raven Cabeza and Travel Cole share a jacket and a smile. photo by Lori Nagel

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The Crestone Eagle

Publisher & Editor: Kizzen N. Laki

Copy Editor: Janet G. Woodman

Advertising: Dee Rudoff

Classifieds & Accounts: Daleth McCoy

Production & Tech Wizardry:

Erin Lakai, Mark Talbot

Contributing Writers:

David Nicholas	Matie Belle Lakish
Diane Bairstow	Kim Malville
Larry Calloway	Gussie Faunteroy
Ananur Forma	Ken Nelson
Keno Menechino	Sandia Belgrade
Lisa Cyriacks	Paul Shippee
William Alder Lakish	William Howell
Bea Ferrigno	Susan Pierce

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

Contributing Photographers:

Bill Ellzey, Matthew Crowley

Lori A. Nagel, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski

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



Thank you!

Dear Editor,

On Saturday, February 16 the Crestone Charter School was proud to host its second annual community Valentine Dance. This year's event featured Red Bandana, the amazing all-girl band from Salida. Red Bandana, whose members range in age from 12 to 14, inspired kids and grown-ups alike with their musicianship, their stage presence, and their positive energy. On behalf of the Charter School, I'd like to send out a huge thank-you to Tom Dessain and Crestone Performances, Inc., who were generous enough to sponsor Red Bandana. We are so grateful for all the wonderful music you bring to Crestone!

Sincerely,
Daya Scheide

2013 Crestone Energy Fair on or off?

Dear Editor,

Judie Rose will not be heading up the Crestone Energy Fair this year. If the Crestone Energy Fair is to happen in September, 2013, someone will have to step up to the plate and get it going. If you are interested in taking on this 23-year-old event, call Judie Rose at 256-5110 for the info/notes you will need to make this event happen.

Thank you,
Judie Rose

Inclusiveness of Charter School leadership

Dear Editor,

As the charter school approaches critical leadership decisions, some wish that the school would be more open to input. There is a time and place for complaint, but life and psychology classes teach that it's typically more effective to praise behavior you want to see and mostly ignore behavior you don't want to see. Without claiming to know all the issues, in my view the school deserves an A in community inclusion. I hope we will engage in the official decision-making process, which is more useful than talking among ourselves about what we disagree with.

The governing council posts meeting times so community members can attend and speak. Sensing the commonality of basic values in those who volunteer long hours to complete projects, I believe they do the best they can with limited resources. I don't expect to be given an equal voice for issues that I haven't taken the time to fully inform myself on. They can't in one brief session thoroughly explain complex issues that have been ongoing for years. I anticipate opportunities for cooperative involvement with the planned PTO.

The administrators make difficult decisions for which they know they will be criticized. I trust their intent of ultimately providing for the best interests of the students as a whole and considering individual needs as much as possible. They balance issues of confidentiality with giving adequate explanation to those

outside a situation—a difficult task. I've heard briefly of the drama of comings and goings, and I don't consider it my business to know the details. There are always two sides to a story; the truth is often somewhere in the middle.

Teachers have a challenging profession. I'm grateful for (a) the energy and dedication they bring to the classroom; (b) the loving, creative, and safe environment they provide; (c) parents welcomed into the classroom to contribute, at a time in which most public schools seem to have few resources or time to spare beyond bolstering standardized test results.

My work involves the field of education, so I'm constantly exposed to the political tides and the latest research in the field. The charter school is exceptional, due to the effort of many seen and unseen. I consider it a privilege that my child may attend. Let's focus on our personal responsibility to make a positive contribution. This will get us further in improving the school.

Ardell Broadbent

GMO alfalfa

Dear Editor,

GMO alfalfa is being propagated in our valley, and according to Monte Vista agricultural engineer Patrick Oneill, it is common practice to spray the alfalfa with Roundup immediately prior to being baled. This is purely insane and one only needs to think for one moment to grasp the horrific ramifications of such a practice. We must do all we can to stop this now. Please sign the petition on MoveOn.org to stop the propagation of GMOs in this sacred valley. Thank you.

Narayan Khalsa

Food donation

Dear Generous Donor(s) of Food Boxes:

I could not find out who you are, but wish to thank the generous soul(s) who gave me #7 a full box of organic food good for 40 days of eating last month. I know you also donated a number of boxes as a much higher number than mine stood behind me to collect her box too. It is a handsomely generous way to remind me and us of how we need to prepare for times when food and supplies are cut off.

Thank you so warmly,
Jacquelyn Zoe de Bray

No gas at POA

Dear community,

We regret to announce that the POA maintenance shop cannot sell gasoline. We understand the inconvenience we are all experiencing with the closure of Curt's station and the void that closure created in purchasing gas locally. Unfortunately, the maintenance shop would be violating state laws, as well as incurring huge liabilities, should we pose as a retail outlet for gasoline sales.

I personally apologize for this, especially since I just became the new community manager and must deliver this message. Hopefully the inconvenience will be short-term in duration.

Thanks for your understanding,
Lonnie Nichols,
HMI Community Manager

Wells & water systems

Dear Crestone Town and Community Residents,

On February 11 the Town of Crestone Town Council decided to set a "current" policy of not allowing

granting of new well permits by the state, in the Town of Crestone. This was done without any notice, hearing, ordinance or other process that truly included the citizenry affected. The reasoning behind this is that there is insufficient funding for the potable water system that was put in in 2007. Predictions at that time the system was planned were that the system was financially unsustainable, but it was installed anyway as a "matter of faith" that funding would appear, which it has not. Many town residents asked at the time if they would be giving up the right to put a new well on their property, and are told "no". Now that the town is having the (predicted) difficulty paying for the system, they have decided to strip the citizens of their right to drill a well by not allowing the State of Colorado to issue them (the state asks the town to verify the resident's right to have a well). The State of Colorado has a "guideline" that they do not approve well permits in municipalities that have a water system unless the town approves it, which is the towns' choice. The Board of Trustees, headed by Mayor Kairina Danforth, have recently repeatedly referenced this guideline as a *law*, which is *false*. When objections were raised as to the promises made in 2007 regarding the water system not removing the residents' right to have a new well, the response was, "it was not put in writing".

Is this what the Town of Crestone has come to? "Put it in writing"?! What happened to integrity? The fact that the town government could so cavalierly remove a significant citizen right in a paternalistic manner of "we know what's best", disempowers the citizens. It is true that there may be no alternative to funding the water system than forcing people to connect to the town water system, but before promises are broken, I would like to see more interaction on this matter. We have a lot of smart people in this community, who might have a solution if informed and engaged.

I was one of the trustees in 2007 who told residents that they would not lose their right to a well, and now I feel my integrity is at stake in the absence of that. There is still no ordinance on this issue, and for citizens that have any ideas on it, I encourage them to contact the Town of Crestone Board of Trustees. Do not assume that they will contact you.

Thank you,
Debra A. Irizarry

Response to wells & water—guidelines

Dear Editor,

The "Guidelines" discussed at the February 11, 2013 Crestone Board of Trustees meeting were created by the Colorado Division of Water Resources in 2003 to help its staff provide consistent review of well permit applications pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 37-92-602(6), which states in part: "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Colorado that the exemptions set forth in this section are intended to allow citizens to obtain a water supply in less densely populated areas where other water supplies are not available." Once the town developed a municipal water system, this and other state laws began to govern water use in the town, including state approval of well permit applications. The town has not and cannot create a policy to allow or not allow the granting of well permits, as this is the

Editor's Notes

Sea thoughts

Janet and I were fortunate last month to be able to go visit a friend in the Virgin Islands. Such a great gift. Turquoise water, white sand beaches, tropical breezes and wonderful sea-level oxygen. The ocean was vast and warm. The scenery was green—a feast for winter-weary eyes.

I had planned to work while traveling. But while waiting in the airport terminal my watch battery died. Upon arriving, internet connections were difficult to non-existent. The universe was very clearly saying "unplug, and just be here now." Great.

Being very far away from Crestone is sometimes a very good thing. To "get out from under", to gain needed perspective. I spent many a day just hanging out at the beach. Spent hours just floating in the great brilliant mother ocean. Slowly, the inner coils of tension started to unwind.

As I posed questions to the universe I kept getting the same clear answer. "Stand in the center of your own being."

This was essentially the same message that has repeatedly come out of the sacred lodge, that has come from the elders. That it is very important during these times to be in balance, to be in your center. There are strong energies moving all around the world, and here as well. During these times of disruption and change, everything is amped up. Our inner selves are being pushed and challenged. How we respond is uniquely up to each of us.

It was hard coming back to Crestone from those tranquil waters. To see the intensity of conflict and harshness here at home. Wondering how I could make things better. Realizing, that maybe I can't.

With appreciation for those who do,
—Kizzen

state's jurisdiction only.

The town's municipal water system, which became operational in 2010, was initially created to provide fire protection by installing fire hydrants throughout town, and provided water for residents in the upslope portion of town who had no water, due to the extreme cost of well-drilling at that elevation. The water system provides a safe, dependable source of water for our commercial district and for residents who have desired to have municipal water. Creation of the municipal water system did not change the rights of well owners to use and repair their wells.

At the time the system was planned, it was anticipated that it would take 29 water customers to cover the cost of operating the system, and take five years for the system to fully pay its expenses. Once the system was operational for the first year, the town was able to more accurately access the expense of operating the system. Due to the costs of testing and other compliance matters, the town treasurer then estimated it would take 39 customers for the system to pay its expenses. Now in its third year of operation, the system has 28 users, and we expect to meet the goal of the system paying for itself within the predicted five years.

The board of trustees held a special meeting on January 30 to discuss the water district service area, and the well permit process was a necessary part of this discussion. Appropriate notice was given for this meeting. Citizens are always encouraged to attend the town meetings.

Sincerely,
Kairina Danforth, Mayor

Town urges No vote on March 5

Dear Editor,

The Crestone Board of Trustees fully endorses retention of the Crestone Emergency Services District and encourages the electorate to vote NO on Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The district, created by the vote of the people in 2011, provides the mechanism to resolve numerous problems and challenges that cannot be solved individually by any of the jurisdictional agencies providing emergency services, and it makes no sense to dissolve the district at this time. There is no cost or liability to anyone to keep the district in its current status.

Sincerely,
Town of Crestone Board of Trustees

Vote No on March 5

Dear Editor,

We just wanted to add a very quick response to this upcoming CrESD election.

We moved here 25 years ago and there was very little emergency response structure in place for this area. The well meaning retired couples that volunteered for the Baca Grande Fire Department at the time knew little about how to run any of the equipment, let alone the fire trucks.

We realized that if we didn't get involved, that we could be in trouble, seeing clearly that we lived in the wildland urban interface.

We learned how to run the equipment and fire trucks and contributed to a base of volunteer knowledge of fire response for the next 20 years.

A fine, well trained emergency response structure has been put in place by many volunteers through

the years who have generously added their skills and expertise.

Community members understand much more about managing emergencies than ever before.

So why undermine this valuable community resource? We need to vote No in this election.

It's heartbreaking to see the continued demoralizing of such good, well intentioned emergency (mostly young) volunteers. They deserve our respect and vote of confidence.

We personally do not want to go back to the lack of awareness that was in place when we first got here. We need the CrESD emergency response infrastructure in place.

The CrESD is a cumulative life-enhancing community effort that has been built over decades of devotion and cooperative leadership.

Thanks for making the time to vote No.

Sincerely,
Christine Canaly
Mark Jacobi

Renters can vote; please vote No

Dear Editor,

I want to remind everyone that Renters can vote in this election. Only people who live out of the area have to own property here to vote. Please vote "No" to dissolve the district this Tuesday, March 5. We appreciate your continued support of local emergency services and CrESD.

Thank you,
Lisa Bodey

Energetic & financial cost

To The Editor,

I applaud Steve Elliott for putting forward the suggestion that the POA membership "move to the middle. . ." as a means of compromise and "constructive dialogues."

Currently, that seems far off, with Bruce McDonald, Diane Dunlap, Nigel Fuller and Janie Thomas suing board members Treat Suomi, Bill Folk and Russell Schreiber—not the board of directors as a whole nor the BGPOA.

Those that are bringing these suits could have brought their concerns regarding the use of 'proxy' ballots (used in some form during POA elections for the past five years) to the membership, and worked on an alternative plan well before the election. The group didn't complain last year, when Bob Garnett was elected. Instead, they chose to sue, with a potential cost to the membership of thousands of dollars in legal fees. This is an odd way for those that are so concerned with increasing fees, to act.

Steve, I agree with your concern that those with blatant special interests should not be serving on the POA board: why is Bob Garnett still there? He felt comfortable suing the POA, at a cost to the membership of more than \$7,000. He lost his suit and remains on the board, continuing to push for his special interests to be realized.

You state that those serving as Emergency Services volunteers should be exempted from board positions. Should that also include those that volunteer with other service or educational organizations? Business owners? Builders? Should the only "qualified" candidates be drawn from those who have no vested interest in the community, unlike

This is your Chief speaking

Dear Community,

Vote No on Tuesday, March 5 to maintain better future options for our community. The outcome of this vote will cost you nothing but the time it takes to cast your ballot. We need your vote.

My support of the Crestone Emergency Services District remains strong and steadfast. This resolve on the benefits of a unified special district has developed from the past thirteen years of providing emergency services to this community. As Fire Chief for both the Baca Grande and Crestone Fire Departments, I see the very real challenges that threaten our ability to serve the community effectively and put volunteer responders at undue risk. From a heart of service and front line knowledge of our department's strengths and weaknesses I encourage this community to retain our future options for unified community protection by **voting No on Tuesday, March 5.**

In the face of our opposition's attempt to undo what voters have already approved, the following statements have been included to clarify points pertinent to making an educated choice for our community.

Among other transgressions, the misinformation campaign has erroneously stated; "POA Fire Chief Ben Brack has confirmed over and over again in board meetings that all Mutual Aid Agreements are functioning splendidly and that whatever communications-dispatch issues they claimed existed were now resolved."

This is a paraphrased statement taken out of context as a means to downplay the challenges our services face and the subsequent increase in risk exposure to the residents. The truth of our mutual aid situation is that **we have been excluded from the valley-wide intergovernmental agreement with all the other fire departments in the valley.** Their lawyers advised them not to renew an agreement that included the Baca Grande POA because it is a private entity. We currently have only one mutual aid agreement with our neighboring Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District.

The reasons for forming CrESD in the first place still exist. The Crestone Fire Department is still dispatched from the sheriff's office. This causes delays because 911 in Alamosa must relay this information by telephone to the sheriff's office before dispatch can occur.

I also want to address the misinformation that fire department volunteers would become paid staff if CrESD were funded. This is incorrect. The same people would have approximately the same jobs and pay as they have now. I have no idea where an \$80,000 salary figure came from. No one makes near that.

As my introduction to politics, the process of creating a fire district as an opportunity for community improvement has not been an easy or pleasant undertaking. However, I believe firmly in the greater good, the volunteer responders believe in that good and so did the majority of our voters that approved CrESD. Don't let the opposition throw away our options for the future with a fear-based misinformation campaign. Claims that volunteers are taking advantage of the community they serve daily are asinine, hurtful and not conducive to maintaining a willing base of volunteers. Truth is, the outcome of this vote will not cause an increase in your taxes, and voting No to dissolution on Tuesday, March 5 will maintain a viable option to emergency services and community challenges that are not currently being resolved.

So please get out and vote on Tuesday, March 5 at the Crestone Community Building. Renters—you can vote too! If you live in the district you don't have to own property to vote.

In service on the front lines,
Ben Brack

those who volunteer to protect and serve (without bias)?

The "2 Minute Limit" that you refer to is, in fact, part of the "rules" that the board is mandated to follow if there are more than 20 people waiting to express their views or question the board.

The same group that so vociferously campaigned, and continues to do so, against the Crestone Emergency Services District being established/sustained, now turns its sights on another group: who will be next?

How strange it is to think that those who have no direct experience, training or history of volunteerism to the emergency service organizations that serve this area are so ready to condemn it because it may cost us more, while they seem to be blind to the energetic and financial costs their actions impose on the POA membership.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Gaines

In response to Gaines' letter

Dear Stephanie,

I totally understand your concern. A lawsuit is a last resort when other means of communication has completely failed to bring any results. Even compromises aren't possible when one side of the parties continuously ignores valid requests or concerns from others to the point where it isn't even mentioned in the minutes.

It is a fact that the board members, who are now being sued, were repeatedly notified about the problems with using proxies before the election, but still chose to disregard these concerns. They also chose to disregard the fact that they have broken both bylaws and parts of the Colorado Constitution. They even voted YES to national dispatch after a full room of members expressed their concerns about how this would leave our area unprotected and give

Letters continued on page 4

Letters

continued from page 3

us less service than what we already have, while costing us more. The problem is that they keep ignoring every attempt to communicate and come up with workable solutions.

In order to avoid a lawsuit, and thereby save the membership legal expenses, open, two-way communication is a must, as well as a willingness to listen to what the members are expressing. Unfortunately, there hasn't been any openness, willingness or two-way communication so far. This is why a lawsuit is the only option at this point.

The only way to really understand what is going on and to get all the facts straight is to come to the meetings. Therefore, I encourage people to come to as many meetings as possible so you can see for yourself what the truth of the matter is.

Nigel Fuller

It's a big deal

Dear Editor,

There is a very troubling attitude held by many in our little town; that it's no big deal if laws are broken or if our elections are corrupted.

Local elections are the most important elections we have because they determine who we will entrust with major decisions which have long-term consequences affecting us all. These few people will be in positions of power for three or more years in most cases, so it's a very big deal to ensure elections are conducted properly, honestly, and verifiably. It is not okay for people in charge of elections to just "wing it".

There is also a very troubling presumption that we're all supposed to automatically embrace any idea hatched by "volunteers" and to conclude that simply because the idea has "volunteers" involved, the idea must be brilliant, necessary and unconditionally supported. Playing the "volunteer card" amounts to the same thing as playing the "race card." It has one purpose and one purpose only; to shift the dialog away from the facts and persuade you to make decisions based on guilt and/or fear.

It must be realized that just because a person volunteers, does not automatically mean that person is competent to manage an entire operation, much less something like our essential emergency services. It is critical that we make sure we have qualified people managing these services. The architects of the CrESD have shown time and again that they do not make sound decisions. They should have worked out every single detail, made certain it was all achievable and run it by absolutely everyone before they forced us all to vote on it.

I encourage everyone to go to www.bgcan.net and read the Complaint for yourself. You will see it all laid out—how the CrESD and the POA board elections have been conducted are completely related. This is one time that everyone must do your own homework. Become informed and don't just go by sound bites when making your decisions.

Bruce McDonald

Set the record right

To the Editor:

Just to set the record right, Bob Garnett and Bob Banaszek did not "sue" the POA, but did file a Petition For An Injunction to determine

the validity of the POA's current governing documents. This action was dismissed by a judge related to Eli Dokson, who should have recused himself from ruling on any issue involving the fire district. Said judge has recused himself from these issues since. The court action was due to the co-opted POA board's refusal to review and discuss the information compiled by Bob Garnett and Bob Banaszek. The court action did not cost the POA membership anything because the POA's liability insurance paid for their lawyer. Bob Garnett and Bob Banaszek paid their own expenses and never sought any financial gain from our efforts. The petition will be posted on the BGCAN website so that everyone has the opportunity to read the facts for themselves.

As to the subject of volunteers, true volunteers don't volunteer for personal gain, but do so in the service to those in need or for the betterment of the community. Bob Garnett and Bob Banaszek have never asked for anything in return for our volunteering. Bob Garnett began with Bobby Spiecher, thirty (30) years ago, cutting firewood for those in need. Bob Banaszek has assisted many owner/builders in building their homes, Bob has always been available to help with any problem a neighbor may have.

Bob Garnett is on the POA board due to the fact that he has no special agenda, with the exception being what is in the best interest of the membership. Bob Garnett is known for telling it as it is, no sugar coating. The main reason for Bob Garnett being on the POA board is that the membership has trust and faith in him and vote for him.

Bob Garnett

Response to Gaines

Dear Stephanie:

Various members notified the POA Board of their concerns about the format of the upcoming election beginning months before the election, and the board was unresponsive.

This lawsuit will not cost the membership "thousands of dollars". It won't cost the members anything. The costs should be paid by the defendants personally.

This isn't just an issue of board members promoting "special interests". It is also an issue of family members of POA employees serving on the board. Especially during budget discussions, these kinds of conflicts of interest, financial bias, and dual loyalty (to the department vs the membership vs family members) becomes very problematic. Also, when for example you have an EMS responder on the board, you suddenly have an employee with more power than their direct supervisor, the department head. For instance, Treat Suomi, who works under Pam Gripp in the Ambulance Department, becomes Pam's boss once on the board.

There is no comparison between POA employees being on the board and those who work or volunteer for other service organizations or businesses being on the POA Board. Once you allow employees or family members of employees to be on the POA Board where they are making decisions that directly affect the departments to which they have a special connection, you can no longer trust that the decisions being made are in the best interests of the membership at large as opposed to the best interests of any given de-

partment at the expense of the whole (e.g., stripping the maintenance department budget and padding the Fire department budget).

There is no such thing as a "mandated 2-minute speaking limit". There are rarely 20 people in queue to speak. Speaking limits are set by boards who don't want to hear from their constituents—period.

Our sights are still on the same group—the proponents of CrESD who misled the community and who used their positions of power on the POA Board to further the outside third-party interests of CrESD to the detriment of the membership and at the cost to the membership of thousands dollars.

We are not condemning volunteerism, we condemn CrESD because it was a deeply flawed plan which has no viability because it has no emergency equipment or assets. And any more big mill levy increases will financially cripple the Baca, hurting homeowners with crushing tax burdens resulting in diminished property values, more bankruptcies and foreclosures and ruining the lives of young families and seniors on fixed incomes by forcing them to pay much more for the same or degraded services.

Diane Dunlap

POA Response

Dear Editor,

Diane Dunlap, along with Janie Thomas, Bruce McDonald, and Nigel Fuller, has filed a lawsuit against the BGPOA, in which there are issues raised pertaining to a BG-POA election and how that may affect issues concerning the District. In response to this lawsuit, the proper forum for communications and decisions concerning the issues raised therein should be in formal filings and proceedings before the Court. The BGPOA will generally not comment on pending litigation. BGPOA will continue to work with the community through its normal processes including meetings, emails, newsletters, and other appropriate communications.

Respectfully,

Lonnie Nichols

Baca POA Community Manager

Response regarding lawsuit

Dear Editor,

A lawsuit has been filed against the Baca Grande Property Owners Association. Those bringing the suit, the plaintiffs, are Janie Thomas, Bruce McDonald, Nigel Fuller, and Diane Dunlap. The lawsuit sues the association and names several Directors and a former Director as defendants.

This lawsuit is in its very preliminary stages.

At the February 21 Special Meeting of the Board, called by Directors Bob Garnett & Diana Moats, Director Garnett revealed to the Board that he has talked with the POA's insurance company in an attempt to prevent the insurance company from covering the legal fees of the lawsuit.

The POA's insurance company has hired an attorney for this case. The attorney recommended a specific course of action to start with. Board Directors Suomi, Lakish, & Schreiber voted to follow the attorney's recommendation; Directors Garnett & Moats voted not to follow the attorney's recommendation.

Whether the CrESD district is

a third party interest or something that would be good for the entire community, at this stage is a matter of opinion, and opinion has been divided. As far as money spent by the POA regarding the District, the most money spent by far was the Feasibility study of 2010. The motion to hire the Feasibility Study was made by former director Diane Dunlap & seconded by director Bob Garnett.

The POA is lucky to have more volunteers than employees. Without these volunteers, there would likely be no emergency services at all. To imply that these volunteers are paid employees is a disservice to their dedication to us all.

The election regarding the CrESD District is coming up. Please vote your conscience. Regarding the current POA litigation, it's still very early in this process, but stay tuned for more news.

Sincerely,

Russell Schreiber

Please end the war

Dear Editor,

. . . Against our community emergency response volunteers!

Please, for the safety and legal liability of our community and the lives that may be saved, vote No March 5.

As one of the emergency response volunteers who dedicates hundreds of hours without pay each year to serve the needs of our community, it breaks my heart to encounter daily so many reasons why our community needs the fully funded CrESD district, and then to see how certain people seem willing to go to any length spreading lies within our community to make our jobs more difficult. Why? In a world with so many true problems and real evil corporate enemies and such, why do you choose to take the dark karma path of spending your every effort dividing the community against itself with totally misleading propaganda?

Even without public funding, CrESD serves some very important liability functions for Baca property owners and enables us to call on other departments to assist in major emergencies . . . and costs absolutely zero in taxes or POA dues. To me it seems profoundly unwise to eliminate something that so many of us volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours of volunteer effort to create, to improve access to national and state grants for our community, to improve and simplify radio communications in emergencies, to improve response time and reduce property owners' financial liability in case of a huge wildfire . . . and currently at absolutely no cost to the community!

Why are these few anti-emergency services and anti POA zealots so short-sighted and so willing to exploit the most atrociously unscrupulous tactics in a small community, only to prevent us from doing our best efforts to serve our fellow citizens?

Why the senseless and costly lawsuits that keep being thrown out by the judges? Why the falsehood and slander campaigns that lead only to so many of our finest volunteers quitting their unpaid service and keeping us from being able to recruit new volunteers?

Please vote No to all this sad nonsense on March 5.

Alder Lakish,

Baca Fire and Search

& Rescue Volunteer #25

Saguache County News

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

Whether Saguache County Commissioner meetings should be recorded remains a controversial topic. With the election of a new board, Clerk Carla Gomez has brought the topic up for consideration again. The previous board had opted to continue with the Action Minutes that are required by state law, and not to begin recording the commissioner meetings. According to a recent state law, if they begin to record the meetings, then they cannot stop recording them in the future. This has forced the commissioners to closely consider the issue before taking a step in that direction.

County Clerk Gomez said, "My concern is recording the meetings as clerk. In a lot of areas, recording electronically is good practice." She said, "in this day and age taping, audio or video, is important." It is the clerk's job to keep the minutes of the commissioner meetings, and she feels recording the meetings would give her the chance to check and see what was said if the draft minutes are unclear.

Commissioner Jason Anderson said that he realizes that accessibility to the meeting is difficult for many citizens in such a large county. "If it's hard for people to come, then let's take the meeting to people's homes."

Theresa Benz, reporter for the *Center Post Dispatch*, said, "People are irate. They say that the minutes don't reflect their side (of an issue). When I report, I don't have the other side."

According to County Attorney Ben Gibbons, however, state law requires that Action Minutes that are written down will be the official minutes. Action Minutes reflect the decisions that are made. That means that someone would either have to take the minutes as is now done, or get the actions off the recording and transcribe them into written format. There are also logistical problems such as what type of recording device would be used, would it be audio or video, how would it be placed in the room. How would speakers be identified on the tapes, and how would the recordings be stored and accessed by the public? The discussion is ongoing.

New commissioners Jason Anderson and Ken Anderson are "getting their feet wet" on the regional and state levels. Ken Anderson, who represents the western third of the county, is working more within the valley, especially at agricultural and water-related events and at the San Luis Valley Commissioners' meeting, while Jason Anderson is the new rep-

resentative to the County Commissioners Inc. (CCI) which is a state-wide group for commissioners that make recommendations to the state legislature on bills that are before the Colorado House and Senate. Linda Joseph continues to represent the county in the fields of health and safety and emergency management, where she has been instrumental in getting funding and training for our emergency services, as well as working on economic development for the area and representing the county at the SLV Council of Governments.

The new Board hopes to keep the citizenry better informed by periodic releases of information entitled "Eye on the County". In the initial release, Joseph notes two significant grants that were recently awarded. "The SLV is one of 18 regional recipients from across the nation of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Center for Sharing Public Health Services Grant of \$125,000. This 2-year program—the San Luis Valley Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Project, is to develop a model for leveraging resources, for essential services regionally. National recipients meet their counterparts, and benefit from one another's learning and approaches. Saguache County is the fiscal agent; Public Health Director Della Vieira is Project Lead; Commissioner Linda Joseph provides policy-maker representation and is liaison to the SLV Commissioners, and SLV Council of Governments for the project."

The second grant, from the State Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) micro-grant, supports development of local government websites. In Saguache County, it is being used to develop a website for "site selectors", who may be researching locations and connecting them with businesses seeking places to locate. Saguache County is one of only two counties to receive the award. Mark Talbot, Crestone web designer and Julie Mack (Seed) are working on the project (choose-saguache.com)

Work on the reassessment for properties by the Saguache County Assessor's office, under the direction of the Colorado State Board of Equalization, is moving forward. Many of the difficulties previously reported by Assessor Jackie Stephens are being reported by the state team, as well. The Pueblo computer system that they are required to work with is apparently still challenging, and the distances between properties and the difficult terrain are also being noted by state workers. In spite of setbacks, the work is moving forward, and a tentative completion date is the

end of March.

A big topic of discussion this month was Gunnison Sage Grouse. The elusive bird has been recommended for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Although the current comment period closes on March 12, the Saguache County Commissioners will seek an extension. If granted, the extension should give more time for the public to learn about this beautiful bird and comment on the listing.

Gunnison Sage Grouse actually eat the sage-brush, as well as insects and grasses. When they are raising broods they especially need the tender vegetation found in riparian zones and wet meadows above 9000 feet. They don't live in the treed areas, and need sage-brush for cover and food. Their habitat is, therefore, somewhat limited. In addition they are impacted by power lines, which offer perches for larger hawks and eagles, which swoop in and prey on young. In the springtime, the males perform elaborate dances on special grounds called "leks", to which they return year after year. Any disturbance at the lek areas can affect breeding, such as low altitude over-flights, off-road vehicles, mountain bikers and hunters.

Commissioners held a joint meeting with wildlife officials and concerned citizens, including some local ranchers from both Saguache and Gunnison Counties, to hear their views on the potential listing. In March, the commissioners will join their counterparts in Gunnison County to further discuss the listing.

Threatened or Endangered Species listing is always controversial, because it means that FWS will be putting measures into place that may seriously impact how property owners can use their land. Ranchers present said that grazing is very compatible with the grouse, but they were worried that the Fish and Wildlife Service might not see it that way, and would put limits on the use of their lands that would cause their ranching operations to suffer. The BLM will also likely close some roads to protect potential habitat. The local areas affected include those sage-brush areas on both sides of Hwy. 285 near Poncha Pass, as well as large areas in northern and western Saguache County.

The commissioners joined Saguache County Housing Director Evan Samora for a tour of the county's two housing projects in Saguache. Blue Waters has 12 units in a duplex format, each with a small yard and a central shared courtyard. These units are available for Section 8 subsidized individuals and families, where the rent is based on 30% of the household's income. These units are almost always full with a significant waiting list. Puerto del Norte apartment units, located on Hwy. 285, can also accommodate some families requiring subsidies, but it is a different program known as "Home Rents", a HUD program. The subsidies are not as significant, and not everyone in the units has subsidized rents. For these units, there is a shorter waiting list. Both housing complexes offer some help to families need-

ing assistance with rent. The units are clean and warm and conveniently located to the park, library, and shopping in Saguache.

The Council of Governments (COG) in the SLV is a coalition of town and county government officials who, working together, can qualify for grants that would not otherwise be available to the towns individually. Kairina Danforth, Town of Crestone Mayor, will represent the municipalities of the county to the COG for the next two years. Linda Joseph is the county's representative. Several grants have been submitted having to do with economic development, energy assistance projects, trails, niche markets and workforce training.

The legalization of marijuana and industrial hemp in Colorado is causing a lot of discussion around the state. Jason Anderson reports that about 80% of towns and counties have opted out of permitting of marijuana sales. Jason notes, however, that there is a great deal of interest in trying to separate industrial hemp from recreational marijuana, as many farmers and manufacturers are interested in this versatile plant. The uses of hemp are legion, and an agricultural county like Saguache may be a great place for new industries based on the products. So far, Saguache County Commissioners have not made a decision to opt out of retail sales, although Attorney Ben Gibbons says counties may pass ordinances to do so.

Todd Stewart, of Solar Power Financial, gave the commissioners some details on the Solar Garden project proposed for the Baxter property near Saguache and asked them to approve the Conditional Use Permit needed before the project can move forward. This is a PV project that is open to any Xcel subscriber living in Saguache or surrounding counties. Commissioners approved the permit, but asked Stewart to work hard to see that the jobs associated with construction and installation would be filled by county citizens. Stewart said that he is somewhat at the mercy of the financial backers, but that he would do what he could to keep jobs local. The project would be the first of its kind in the valley, although a similar project is expected in Conejos County.

Another application approved is for a cell phone tower for Viaero Wireless on the hill to the east of Saguache. The 75 ft. tower will be much lower than the one in Moffat. It can accommodate two additional carriers, including AT&T and emergency channels. It does not accommodate Verizon. The Viaero representative stated that they intend to put up a number of other towers around the valley in the coming months.

Daniel Johnson, who runs the FireWise program for homeowners, had received a grant for the past three years to provide education on preventing wildfire in the wildland-urban interface, of which the Crestone/Baca area is an example. He has some funds still available for helping homeowners with mitigation and education. He can be reached at 719-480-9764.

POA board has busy schedule

by Earl W. Sutherland

The board of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association had two work sessions (2/7 and 2/14) following its regular monthly meeting on 1/24/13. The 2/7 meeting welcomed the first official appearance of our new manager, Lonnie Nichols.

Fire protection issues

Chief Ben Brack sought Board guidance to establish policies for fire protection for uncovered areas. These include the Colorado College facilities, the Desert Sage, Baca Townhouses, White Eagle Village and most of the spiritual centers, A need for emergency service, such as a fire, at these sites is currently met by our volunteers acting for the most part unofficially. These areas would be covered under the Crestone Emergency Services District, for which they would be billed in a way similar to that of other recipients of the services, but they are not at present eligible. This is because the mill levy hasn't passed and because some residents feel the fire equipment shouldn't be used for non-POA purposes.

The Emergency Services District idea was recommended by the POA board following two outside professional studies. Such a district is the norm for virtually every other property owners association in Colorado. A group in the POA wants to abolish the emergency services district, and an election to decide this fate is to be held on March 5. The board of directors of the POA is emailing members information on the process of voting and also furnishing links to more information previously published by the POA. Diane Dunlap, incorporator of BGCAN, strongly objected to the informational mailing as not reflecting a concern of the POA; she, nevertheless, did provide a list of her arguments in favor of dissolving the district, at a point when it was thought the POA might include a list of pros and cons in the e-mail, an idea subsequently dropped.

Access to the Karma Thesum Tashi Gomang Stupa

Owners of property at the end of Tranquil Way in Chalets II blocked off an informal road across their land late in 2012. During the summer this route was heavily

used, perhaps 30 or more cars daily according to studies enacted by the US Forest Service. It was used chiefly by people going to the KTTG Stupa, but also by those intent on hiking up the Cottonwood Creek drainage. At present access to these points lies on the Mine Road (aka Dream Way) south of Shumei International Institute, a road which is quite narrow in spots, poorly maintained, and apparently the responsibility of the Manitou Foundation, which grants access to KTTG. A current proposal envisions purchase of lots in Chalets II and building a new road south of Shumei in the direction of the Cottonwood Creek trailhead and the stupa. Local residents have expressed disapproval of that plan. If the existing road could be improved, a less expensive and more satisfactory solution might be found.

Eric Karlstrom presented a case that the issue of the closure of the route above Tranquil Way should be a matter for POA involvement. The crucial point seems to be legal issues as to whether that route has become public property owing to long accustomed use. The board of directors expressed the view that this technical point is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Saguache County Commissioners and not, therefore, a POA-related matter. However, issues of fire safety and public access, as well as concerns for the privacy of the owners of the disputed route, do seem to be issues which should engage the POA.

Additional topics

Kyle Grote has proposed that he can generate some income for the POA if he leases the golf course. His application also includes renewal of his current lease on the Pro Shop (now the Yak-N-Cracker Restaurant) and the obtaining of a liquor license (beer and wine) which would also apply to the golf course. Hurdles of insurance and co-use with the Crestone Music Festival were surmounted and the deal seems tentatively closed as of 2/14.

Bids for insulating the POA maintenance shop were discussed as was an update of the POA website.

With the closure of Curt Ward's venerable store the community has lost its only retailer of gasoline. The POA shops have reported

a significant increase in requests for emergency gasoline. Manager Nichols has reviewed this matter with Hammersmith and our insurer and it appears that the practice of dispensing fuel at the shop is untenable. This could be a tremendous problem for our isolated community.

Litigation committee

In an acrimonious Special Session held just before the 2/14 Work Session the need for and composition of a "litigation committee" was argued. Diane Dunlap, and Bruce McDonald (officials in BGCAN), and Nigel Fuller and Janie Thomas, are suing Bill Folk, Treat Suomi, and Russell Schreiber for failure to conduct the recent POA board elections as they thought they ought to have been. It is generally agreed that the form of the balloting needs to return to the historic form to avoid the misunderstandings rampant in the last election. Chairman Suomi stated that Directors Garnett and Moats were not included on the committee because of public statements each had made seeming to be in support of the lawsuit. Since the purpose of the litigation committee is to allow attorney-client communication in a confidential setting, the POA attorney felt the presence of Moats and Garnett would be inappropriate. Director Garnett felt his exclusion was tantamount to being sued himself and demanded the POA provide him an attorney also. The lawsuit was reported to have already cost POA members at least \$5000, the amount of our insurance deductible.

In a Special Session called by Directors Garnett and Moats, the board met on 2/21 for about 45 minutes in executive session, after which an audience of about fifteen was invited into the meeting. There were offered immediately two resolutions, which were passed. The first stated that the board would form a litigation committee, following the recommendation of the board's attorney. Director Schreiber noted that Directors Garnett and Moats opposed the attorney's legal advice. The second resolution proposed to obtain independent legal opinion assuring compliance with CCIOA ("Kiowa"; Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act) and whether the board was proceeding properly according to Section 13 of the POA By-Laws. This resolution passed four votes to one, Director Schreiber abstaining. Director Garnett then invoked Section 13 of the By-Laws as prohibiting indemnification of the defendants in this lawsuit. That would seem to be a matter for the above indicated additional lawyer to study. Director Schreiber stated that Director Garnett had approached the board's insurer to request non-payment of the legal expenses. Garnett did not respond to this assertion.

Lawsuit cites POA board members over election

by Earl W. Sutherland

A complaint was filed in Saguache District Court on 1/31/13 naming William Folk, Russell Schreiber, and Treat Suomi for their actions in the November, 2012, balloting for the directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association board. The plaintiffs are Diane Dunlap, Nigel Fuller, Bruce McDonald, and Janie Thomas, the latter two having lost in the election they're contesting. Many feel that the ballots used in the last election were at times confusing and that a return to the pre-2009 mailed ballot would be a better, albeit more expensive, method. Indeed, a task force has been raised to accomplish this, consisting (as of 1/24/13) of Lisa Cyriacks, Wood-dora Eisenhauer, Nigel Fuller, Diana Moats, Matie Belle Lakish, and Russell Schreiber.

The legal documents of the lawsuit are available on the BGCAN website. The chief complaint is that the ballots were not secret. While many possibilities could be imagined as we each looked at the "proxy ballot", in fact there were statements (*Crestone Eagle*, December, 2012) that the ballots were delivered as they came in directly to the election tellers for counting and that there was no compromise of privacy.

Although the complaint seems to be aimed at the defendants as individuals more than as representatives of the POA board, the insurer's attorney has deemed that the insurance will apply to their defense. This case may have already cost POA members \$5000 . . . and counting. Not to mention the stress and seemingly never-ending unpleasantness generated by lawsuits.

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by Deputy Clerk
Leanna Bradbury
Shop local!

Local shopping for the last two or three years has been the best in several decades, providing many downtown jobs and enabling local businesses to do well in winter months. The sales tax revenue generated has enabled the town to do a better job of maintaining roads and parks, administer the Youth Work Force, provide teen programs, and offer more services through a larger town hall. At the time this article was written, we had a local shopping challenge of the gas pumps closing. Hopefully this is a temporary situation, but any local loss of a service or type of goods can send people on a 100-mile round-trip shopping spree without thinking about the local effects. Here are some ways you can support your local economy and cut down on the carbon footprint of city shopping trips.

Purchase everything you can locally before driving to a city. Quite a few items, particularly organic and conventional produce, are less expensive in Crestone.

When city shopping, stock up on items you can only get there so you don't have to travel again as soon.

Ask local merchants about special orders, which might be available in small quantities and are often less expensive than city retail prices. They may choose to add those items to their regular stock.

When gas is not available or simply to reduce fossil fuel use, set up neighborhood car pools for downtown errands, particularly regular ones such as post office, grocery, and school trips.

Not recommended is storage of excess gasoline. It's quite dangerous, pollutes ground water if spilled, and our community is in a very flammable forest during a drought. Storage of over twenty gallons of gasoline or diesel fuel is illegal within the town limits.

Moratorium on recreational marijuana

Last month the town trustees adopted Ordinance 2013-001, a

one-year moratorium on applications to license retail sales, production, or processing of recreational marijuana. The reason was that state regulations and licensing procedures have not yet been set, and the trustees want to review them before making any decisions. After complete state information is available and the trustees have considered the consequences of their options, they will replace the moratorium with an ordinance enabling, limiting, or prohibiting licensed retail marijuana establishments. Medical marijuana regulations are unaffected. This moratorium also does not affect Amendment 64 rights of individuals over 21 to possess up to one ounce of recreational marijuana or grow a few plants for personal use. As with alcohol, public consumption of marijuana is illegal.

Changes to water system regulations

Ordinance 2013-004 has been adopted to define the municipal water service area as the boundaries of the town. Water hookup is voluntary, but the Colorado Division of Water Resources is unlikely to issue new well permits to properties near a municipal water main. A second amendment is that tap fees are no longer refundable.

Annual fire protection fees have been increased by Resolution 003-2013. Previous rates were providing a little over \$8,000 total annual revenue to pay for and maintain the fire hydrants and extra-large water tank installed in 2009. However, annual maintenance of the fire protection part of the water system actually costs over \$15,000, and the shortfall was being covered by tap fees paid by water customers. Town utilities have no supporting mill levy, with their revenue coming entirely from those who receive their services. The trustees agreed that the most equitable way to more adequately cover fire protection costs was to increase fire protection fees by about 35%. The mid-March annual billing will be \$24 per 50' commercial lot, \$17 per 50' residential lot, and \$13.50 per rural residential acre in the 2005 and 2010 annexations.



Sandhill cranes in flight. Photo by Wendy Stattil and Bob Rozinski, authors of Valley of the Cranes, Exploring Colorado's San Luis Valley. For more info visit www.dancingpelican.com.

Monte Vista Crane Festival to happen March 8-10

The sandhill cranes have begun their spring migration back into the San Luis Valley. We cordially invited everyone to the 30th annual Monte Vista Crane Festival, March 8-10.

The 2013 Monte Vista Crane Festival will feature our traditional crane viewing tours (7am & 4pm Friday and Saturday, 8am Sunday); Friday evening guest presentation: Ted Floyd - My Favorite Bird. Craft & Exhibit Fair Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday 6am-4pm, Sunday 9am-2pm; Valley Raptor Tours Saturday & Sunday 10am; Bare Naked Birding Tour Saturday 10am; Saturday Evening Dinner 7pm, \$20 (Seating limited to 100 people).

Saturday educational workshops include Susan J. Tweit, Field Notes, Creative Writing at the Monte Vista Refuge; Kirk Navo, Bats of the San Luis Valley; Dale Stahlecker, Life With Lefty; Evelyn Horn, Whooping Cranes

Viewing tours, birding tour, field note workshop and dinner reservations are recommended. Reservation and payments must be made by March 5. For more information call 719-852-3552 or visit our website at www.cranefest.com.

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Looking back & looking ahead at Baca water & sanitation district

by **Cindy Reinhardt**
for the **BGWSDB**
Board & Staff

The BGWSDB Board of Directors took time at its annual planning retreat on February 15 to look back at the many accomplishments of 2012 and to engage in strategic planning for 2013 and beyond.

2012 accomplishments

The themes of 2012's accomplishments were completion, redundancy, and technology. On the water side of district operations, construction was completed on the new Well 18 booster station and back-up Well 17 and well house. Redundant water transfer pumps are now operational at the Fallen Tree and Shumei transfer stations. Automation of the Moonlight and Ridge View Way transfer stations was completed. The district began using soda ash to meet corrosion control requirements mandated by the state and initiated a Corrosion Control Study to determine optimum corrosion control treatment. Operations staff completed a four-year fire hydrant maintenance project for the entire fire hydrant inventory.

Sanitary sewer system improvements over the last three years included completion of new lift stations at Wagon Wheel and Mobile Home Estates, new UV treatment for effluent wastewater, a new chemical dosing pump and new influent and effluent flow meters at the Aspen wastewater treatment facility. A used Vactor truck was purchased for cleaning the sanitary sewer collection system, and operators completed cleaning 60,000 linear feet, about 25% of the system.

A new telemetry system is

in place to support the automated monitoring of the status of the water system (pumping, reservoir levels, etc.) and the wastewater collection and treatment system. To the extent possible, district operations staff was used in the construction and implementation of these water and wastewater improvement projects, resulting in significant savings to the district.

2013 strategic goals

Looking to the remaining months of 2013 and beyond, the board set several key priorities: water conservation, water rights acquisition, preventive maintenance, redundancy, green project completion, and operations and administrative training.

One high priority is formulating a multi-year Water Conservation Plan, with initial planning and applying (and hopefully being approved) for grant funding to be accomplished in 2013. Components of the plan include a hydraulic study, leak detection and mitigation, and metering. Another priority is the completion of "the green project", a bio-solids reed bed at the Aspen WWTF. This project was negotiated by the district with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in lieu of paying significant fines for past wastewater treatment violations.

Other projects and priorities for this year include continuing negotiations with US Fish and Wildlife for the purchase of water rights, completion of the corrosion control study, ongoing planning for redundant systems, completing the GIS mapping project, staff development, and planning beyond 2013 to establish long term capital improvement needs.



One "MoMo"—a great idea for a local currency, but it never did catch on. Designs were done by Janet Woodman and James Rodrick.

'Mountain Money' is being recalled; redeem by March 31

Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (ScSEED) is issuing a recall for all Mountain Money (Saguache County's local currency). As of April 1, 2013, the Mountain Money program will be discontinued and currency will no longer be valid at local retailers. To redeem cash for Mountain Money currency, please contact Julie Mach with

ScSEED by March 31, 2013 at development@scseed.org or 719-966-7060. Currency will be liquidated and no refunds will be issued after March 31.

The Mountain Money (MoMo) program was initiated in 2011 to help stimulate the local economy and keep money circulating among local businesses and residents. Saguache County residents and visitors could obtain one MoMo for 95 cents at the local credit union and then utilize it to purchase one US dollar's worth of goods or services at over 20 businesses in the county. Some businesses allowed customers to pay for their entire purchase in Mountain Money, while others accepted 10% or \$10 towards each purchase. Mountain Money was used to purchase groceries, enjoy a meal out, stock up on spirits, buy clothes, have a driveway or business parking lot plowed, purchase books, art, gifts, receive body work and more.

Mountain Money was modeled after the BerkShares, a currency in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. The BerkShares was started by the E.F. Schumacher Society in 2006. Since then, over 2.4 million BerkShares have circulated throughout the region. It is one of the most successful local currencies and has been replicated in many other communities, including the Plenty in North Carolina and Toronto Dollars in Toronto, Canada.

Unfortunately in Saguache County, very few residents and visitors joined the program and the currency did not circulate effectively among local businesses. Currently the structure of the program has not provided enough economic benefit to the county and it will be discontinued due to lack of enthusiasm at this time.

ScSEED would like to thank all of the participating businesses, residents and visitors who utilized Mountain Money as well as those who brought the idea to fruition including: Jessie DuBoe, Kim Smoyer, the ScSEED Board of Directors, and the Saguache Credit Union.

For more information on ScSEED's current activities and programs visit: www.scseed.org or contact Julie Mach, ScSEED Development Coordinator, 719-996-7060, Development@scseed.org.

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Crestone Artisans Gallery.

photo by Patrick Moore

Artful new beginnings & other news from the Crestone Artisans Gallery

by Patrick Moore

Renovations, new show, new art and little know facts about the gallery.

Renovations at the gallery

Something new is happening at the gallery! The gallery artists began a renovation project on

February 25 to freshen the gallery space. Walls will be patched, painted and moved, pedestals refurbished, display spaces reorganized and the floor refinished. New art is being brought in and creatively displayed. It's not unusual for artists to continually be working on new, inspired, innovative works of expression; they do that every moment of their lives. It's much less common for them to get organized as a group, as any artist will admit, but organizing they are doing, with beauty of course. The renovations will take time so the gallery will reopen on Wednesday, March 6th, from noon to 4pm, Wednesday through Saturday.

New show

After the renovations are completed, the gallery will hosts its first new show of 2013 on Saturday, March 23 from 2 to 4pm. The show will be a celebration of "Artful New Beginnings" for the gallery, the artists and the community as a

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Chuck Pyle, Jenny Bird and Don Richmond
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To benefit the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund

Thursday, March 7 - 7pm

Leon Memorial Hall, Adams State campus, Alamosa

\$25 for adults, \$15 for students

Advance tickets available: All Good Things in Monte Vista, the Narrow Gauge Newsstand in Alamosa and the Green Spot in Alamosa.

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whole. The artists will reveal the fresh new gallery space, their inspired new works of art and their renewed commitments to beauty and innovative expression for the community. It will be an event for the community to gather in symbolic support of new, inspired beginnings! Please come to see the new space, new works of art and to share in this symbol of renewal.

Little known facts about the gallery

This is a cooperative gallery, so no one truly owns it. It belongs to the entire community and its presence is sustained directly by each of the member artists and indirectly by the community's support. You may ask how can that be in our culture where everything is owned

by someone? Its rent, upkeep and maintenance are paid for by the artists, from commissions the gallery makes from the sale of the art and by the artists' volunteered time. All facets required to ensure its existence are provided free by our artists, from bookkeeping to cleaning, advertising, staffing, paying rent and utilities, organizing special shows and events, decorating for holidays, renovating and grounds maintenance. The gallery exists not just for the artists, it's a community center of inspiration and creativity. Please join us on March 23 to renew and affirm these commitments to the community.

Art quote of the month:

"Fortunately, art is a community effort . . ." —Allen Ginsberg

Why to Vote NO on the Dissolution of the Crestone Emergency Services District on the March 5th Election

The Crestone Emergency Services District (CrESD) was legally formed and approved by voters in 2010 to improve public safety and emergency services in the Crestone-Baca area. On Tuesday March 5th there will be an election to determine if the voters want the new Crestone Emergency Service District (CrESD) to be dissolved. [Please help defeat this measure by voting NO!](#)

THIS ELECTION IS NOT ABOUT TAXES

How the district will be funded will be decided by the voters in a future election.

RELIABLE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS ARE NEEDED

Because CrESD is a governmental District, it can be a partner for the valley-wide inter-governmental aid agreements, which provide CrESD with crucial resources for larger incidents. Unfortunately, in early 2012, the POA has lost its inter-governmental aid agreements with all other fire departments in the Valley except the Northern Saguache Fire District. Fire Chief Ben Brack has explained that lawyers have advised the other districts not to renew their agreements with the Baca Grande POA Fire Department because it is a private organization. Fire Chief Brack has been misquoted as saying: 'that all Mutual Aid Agreements are functioning splendidly', but this is simply not correct.

BOTH THE POA AND THE TOWN OF CRESTONE SUPPORT THE CrESD

In 2010, a POA feasibility study determined that it was in the best interest of their members to support the formation of an Emergency District. The POA Board of Directors has consistently indicated that there would be a dues reduction when the District is funded. In fact, the POA board approved two budgets for 2011. One budget included a \$70 dues reduction if the emergency services operations were funded by the District and a second budget in case funding remained solely within the POA. The Trustees of the Town of Crestone also support consolidating their emergency services into CrESD.

A UNIFIED FIRE AND EMERGENCY DISTRICT WAS INTENDED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

When the Baca Grande Property Owners Association was formed in the 1970s, the Board stated that all purchased equipment and assets were intended for use by a future Fire District, which would serve both Crestone and the Baca (BGPOA News Letter, Fall 2011). In this light, the CrESD would use and maintain the same fire equipment, which is currently used by the Baca Grande and Crestone Fire Departments.

THE LIABILITY ISSUES ARE REAL

CrESD is a governmental organization and there are established caps on insurance awards. This is not the case for a private organization like the POA. If the POA was sued for any reason, every Baca Grande property owner could be held liable for sharing the cost of any court award exceeding POA insurance coverage. Attorney R. Lyons stated in the Crestone Eagle, August 2011: "The seriousness of the liability faced in the Baca is just now beginning to come to light."

FASTER RESPONSE TIME

CrESD will resolve complicated dispatch procedures. Currently, the Crestone Fire Department is still dispatched from the Sheriff's office. This sometimes causes dangerous delays because 911 in Alamosa has to relay emergency information by telephone to the Sheriff's Office, and then the Sheriff's Office dispatches to our local emergency personnel.

WHO CAN VOTE? HOW DO I VOTE?

Everyone living in the Crestone Baca CrESD Area can vote (even renters!). And every Colorado Voter listed as a property owner within the new district can vote in this election. Every Vote Counts!

Vote in person on Tuesday, March 5th from 7 AM to 7 PM in the Crestone Community Building (the Old School House).

Please vote NO on dissolution so the money and hard work to come this far have not been wasted. There is no taxation associated with a NO vote. It is a vote of confidence to allow CrESD to continue working for a brighter and more stable future for our emergency services.

—Supporters of a Unified Emergency Services

Neighbors Helping Neighbors presents March Madness Cabin Fever Talent Show

On Saturday, March 9 at 6:30pm, Neighbors Helping Neighbors will present the March Madness Cabin Fever Talent Show at the Crestone Charter School.

In keeping with the tradition of lifting spirits during the long, cold winter, Neighbors Helping Neighbors presents local talent

for an evening of fun, laughter and community spirit!

Your \$10 donation to the funds of NHN goes toward helping Crestone/Moffat neighbors in crisis. All monies are returned in this way to the community. So, please come on out for a great evening of entertainment!

Saguache Democrats elect new leadership

Saguache County Democrats elected new party officers at their annual reorganization meeting on Feb. 4 in Saguache. Lynne Thompson (Center) is the new chair of the county party. David Burrill (Crestone) is Vice Chair, Barbara Tidd (Moffat/Villa Grove) is Secretary and Judy Marrold (Saguache) is Treasurer. The County Central Committee is comprised of these officers as well as precinct committeepersons and elected officials

from the party (currently the commissioners, sheriff, coroner, and assessor). At this time in Saguache County, these same people serve as the Vacancy Committee to fill any of the positions on the County Central Committee should it be necessary. Randy Arredondo was elected Precinct 1 committee person replacing Judy Marrold, who did not wish to remain in the position.

We look forward to engaging more of our community in the workings of our local Democratic Party, and we will do our best to keep you informed. We want to thank the party's past leadership, Randy Arredondo, Pete Peterson, and Jackie Stephens, for their dedicated service to the party, and thank you to everyone who has served and continues to give their time to the party.

If you have questions or concerns or want to be more involved with the party, please contact Lynne Thompson 719-754-9163, sheebalt@yahoo.com or Barbara Tidd, 719-256-5436, btidd19@fairpoint.net. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We want to hear from you!

Spring Grant Cycle for Saguache County Tourism

Saguache County Tourism Council is accepting applications for tourism grants for the spring grant cycle. Tourism Council Grants help advertise events that draw tourists to Saguache County, and is funded by the Saguache County Lodging Tax. Applications must follow the new format found on the Saguache County Tourism Website, www.saguachetourism.com. The deadline for applications for summer and fall 2013 events is March 30. The summer cycle, with a deadline of July 27, will be for winter 2013 and spring 2014 events. The application can be downloaded from the website and printed. Four hard copies must be mailed to Saguache County Tourism Council, P.O. Box 176, Saguache, CO 81149, and must be received by 3:00 pm on March 30.

Saguache County Health Fair April 5 in Center

The Annual Saguache County Health Fair will be held on Friday, April 5 at the Head Start Building at 301 East Third Street in Center, Colorado. The Health Fair will be from 7 to 11am.

There will be several screenings/displays provided free of charge, including hearing, vision, blood sugar testing and much more.

The following blood tests will be available at the Health Fair:

Blood Chemistry Profile - \$30.00

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) - \$25.00

Hemoglobin A1C - \$25.00

Vitamin D Level - \$40.00

Complete Blood Cell Count (CBC) - \$15.00

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

If you have any questions about the Health fair or would like to volunteer, please call 754-3191, 754-2773, or 655-2533.

Carmin re-opens shop in Crestone



Carmin Teeple

Carmin Teeple has sold books in Crestone for many years, first in her own thrift store (Ragpicker) and then as part of the CYP thrift store that she helped manage. Now after a two-year break she has started her own store again, focusing mostly on used non-fiction books but also selling cds, cards and prints made with her own photography, and her jewelry made with armadillo shell and other natural materials.

"I really missed the contact I had with people while running a store" Carmin says. She offers cash

or credit for books people bring in, and gladly accepts donations.

Carmin's tiny store is located in the Sangre de Cristo Inn on the corner of Alder and Galena, off the central hallway, next door to the pottery shop. Current hours are 11-3 Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and will be extended in coming months.

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March Madness Cabin Fever

TALENT SHOW

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THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE CRESTONE CHARTER SCHOOL AND OUR M/C WILL BE TOM DESSAIN. PLEASE CONTACT BON DELLAGAR AT CRESTBON@GMAIL.COM FOR AUDITION INFORMATION. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS FAMILIES IN CRISIS IN THE CRESTONE AND MOFFAT AREAS.

MARCH 9, 2013 - 6:30 PM

HAPS

Cremation notification

To the community: Please email me your email if you would like to be notified when someone has died and is going to be cremated. We will keep this list and notify you of the details when they are known.

Rainbow Adler, rainbow-adler@gmail.com

NHN phone book change

Dossenback Steve & Jill:
256-5951

Easy & fun fermented beverages: Kefirs and kombucha

Want a happy belly? Good digestion? And an alternative to sodas and sugary drinks?

There will be a workshop at the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce on Sunday, March 3, from 2 to 4pm. Taste and learn to make fermented beverages and find out why we are so excited about them. We will be demonstrating and teaching about water kefir, dairy kefir, and kombucha.

Learn from bacteria-lovin' babes! Members of the SLV Local Foods Coalition will demonstrate their specialty. Donation of \$5-\$15, sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Please RSVP to the SLV Local Foods Coalition (Julie or Elaine) at 719-937-2319 or email us at SLV-LocalFoods@gmail.com—so that we may provide you with ready-to-use water kefir grains and/or kombucha "mothers" to take home and get started fermenting! We have a very limited supply of take home samples, so be sure to RSVP to be first on the list.

Working with the Mineral Kingdom from a Native perspective

Native American teacher and healer Láné Saán Moonwalker will conduct a workshop which is an introduction to working with minerals, such as rose quartz and amethyst, from a Native American perspective. Minerals are one of the most important sacred tools used by indigenous groups worldwide. People have gone to them for assistance and guidance on both the practical and spiritual levels for millennia. No matter what one's background is in working with minerals, this workshop will provide a unique perspective, based on mutual respect and honoring.

Saturday, March 16 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75. To register, and for location, call Dorje Root, 937-7786, or dorjeroot@yahoo.com.

Willow Wisdom Workshop

Willow is one of the major plants—tree or shrub—found in riparian environments worldwide. It provides food for beavers in addition to providing materials for their dams and lodges. Humans have copied beavers' use of willow in making baskets, arbors, and homes, and even building sweat lodges for sacred purposes. Willow's natural flexibility allows it to be used in so many different ways. That natural flexibility has a lot to teach us, and can even help us with emotional alignment. Riparian Environment Series, Part 4 with Láné Saán Moonwalker.

Sunday, March 17 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75. At the Colorado College Conference Center. To register call Dorje Root, 937-7786, dorjeroot@yahoo.com, or Peter May at earthdance_pdm@yahoo.com, 256-4898.

Shumei Free Movie Night

Shumei Free Movie Night hosts *Our Daily Bread*. Bypassing the human factor, Nikolaus Geyrhalter's provocative documentary offers an intensely clinical look at the machinery of industrial food production. Geyrhalter focuses his lens on high-tech aspects of agriculture, using a rich mix of film techniques to capture machines in action. Humans, animals and crops appear incidentally, with droning conveyor belts, automated crop dusters and other machinery in starring roles. Refreshments provided. Friday, March 15, 7pm, 256-5284.



Three little Easter egg hunters display their bounty in a previous year.

All-community Easter potluck & egg hunt

This year's 15th annual potluck dinner around the campfire will take place at the Earth Knack School site/Blankenship residence on Easter Sunday, March 31, starting at 1pm. Bring a potluck dish, beverage, warm clothes, musical instruments, and something to hide for the kids. Everyone is welcome. For directions: www.earthknack.com.

Photography workshops

Bill Ellzey has two photography workshops coming in April. Both are a go and there are a few spaces left:

April 3-6, Santa Fe photographic workshops, "Composition and Light in Outdoor Photography—Desert Environment". Visit santafeworkshops.com/photography-workshops/workshop/1035

April 15-30, a two part photo workshop-safari in Chile, "Unknown Patagonia and the Torres del Paine". There's more info at billzellzey.com/workshops/patagonia-autumn.

You can contact Bill at 719-937-7787 or bill@billzellzey.com or www.billzellzey.com.

Crestone/Baca Watershed Council meeting March 19

On Tuesday, March 19, the Crestone/Baca Watershed Council will meet to discuss conditions in local streams and wetlands and to make plans for the May Waterfest. This will take place at the Elephant Cloud Studio at 6:30pm. Future meetings: April 16 focuses on education and field days, and the Community Waterfest celebration is on Saturday May 4. Everyone is encouraged to attend: become a part of local conservation and celebration.

The Art of Sustainable Business Models

This is a free introduction to worker owner cooperatives offered by Carol Anne Robinson of CarolAnne Creations on Thursday, Mar. 21, 6:30-8:30pm at Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio.

Join us for a fun and informative evening as we dive more deeply into the worker owner cooperative business model and explore potential for W-O coops here in Crestone!

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Community Calendar—March 2013

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Monthly Events

There is a \$5 charge per calendar listing for for-profit classes/events, with a discount for display advertisers. For more information contact us at 719-256-4956. To list your event, (print or online) please submit via our website: <http://crestoneeagle.com/calendar> (preferred)

~or~ e-mail to: calendar@crestoneeagle.com ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131 by the 22nd of the month. To list calendar items online (between print issues), please fill out the form at www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar.

Friday, March 1

- Welcome to Medicare! – South Central Colorado Seniors All Day Free 719-589-4511
- Teddy and the Tarantulas at the Secret Garden 7:30 pm donation at the door 937-3032

Saturday, March 2

- Alycia & Nick Chambers CD Release Party @ Yak N Cracker 6pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Monday, March 4

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Meeting Crestone Town Hall 7-9pm townofcrestone.org 256-4313

Tuesday, March 5

- Vote on Petition to Dissolve Crestone Fire Protection District – Old Crestone Schoolhouse 7am-7pm
- Senior (over age 60) Bus Service to Salida – Kiosk 9:00 am \$10 256-5084

Wednesday, March 6

- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, March 7

- 64th SLV Regional Science Fair – Plachy Hall, Adams State U All Day 719-587-5412
- Chimney Choir/Laura Goldhamer/Plan Be @Elephant Cloud 7:30-11pm \$10 Suggested Donation www.chimneychoir.com 256-5544

Friday-Sunday, March 8-10

- Monte Vista Crane Festival www.cranefest.com

Saturday, March 9

- Yoga Day at Joyful Journey Hot Springs 10am-4pm \$85.00 719-256-5129
- Arlene Shovald book signing – Saguache Welcome Center 1:00 pm-3:00 pm free 655-2235
- Cabin Fever Talent Show – Crestone Charter School 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 10

- Daylight savings begins (spring forward) 2am
- Shumei's monthly Sampai 10:30 am-12:00 pm Free shumeicrestone.org 256-5284

- Shivaratri all-night Chanting – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 pm-4:00 am 719-256-4108

Monday, March 11

- New-moon Fire Ceremony followed by a meal Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10-11am 256-4108
- Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Meeting Town Hall 1:30-5pm townofcrestone.org 256-4313

Tuesday, March 12

- Crestone End of Life Project monthly open meeting – Topping House 7-9pm free crestoneendoflifeproject.org 256-4247/588-7415

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 12-13

- Suicide Intervention Workshop, 8:30am-4:30pm POA Hall \$35 719-587-7746

Wednesday, March 13

- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, March 14

- Baca Grande Board of Directors' Work Session POA meeting room 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Friday, March 15

- Shumei's Free Movie Night *Our Daily Bread* 7-9pm shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, March 16

- The Sanctuary of Sound & Silence Birch St. Studio 4:30pm donations graciously accepted 256-4211
- CB Jazz Irish @ Yak N Cracker 6-9pm free www.chokureiranch.com 719-256-4700

Sunday, March 17

- Happy St. Patty's Singalong w/Eric Karlstrom @ Yak N Cracker 8am-9pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700
- Shumei's Art Symposium 3:00 pm-5:00 pm free shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday-Friday, March 18-22

- Free course on SLV water – Office of the SLV Water Conservancy District 6-9pm free rgwcd.org

Tuesday, March 19

- Crestone/Baca Watershed Council meeting Birch St. Studio 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 20

- Vernal Equinox 5:02am
- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, March 21

- Intro to worker/owner cooperatives free 6:30-8:30pm Birch St. Studio

Friday, March 22

- Concert at Shumei Indian Classical music 7-9pm \$12 suggested donation www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Saturday, March 23

- "Artful New Beginnings" – Crestone Artisans Gallery 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Eric Karlstrom Banjo/Guitar at Yak N Cracker 6-9pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Wednesday, March 27

- Full-moon Fire Ceremony followed by a Meal Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10-11am 256-4108
- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

Thursday, March 28

- Baca Grande Board of Directors' Meeting – POA meeting room 6-8pm

Friday, March 29

- Eric Karlstrom Banjo/Guitar at Yak N Cracker 6-8:30pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Saturday, March 30

- Elisha McArthur Fiddler & Vocal at Yak N Cracker 6-9pm free www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Sunday, March 31

- All Community Easter Potluck Dinner Earth Knack School Site/Blankenship Residence 1pm 256-4909

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am 719-256-4778
- Dorje Trola Practice White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon free www.whitejewelmountain.org 256-5773
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

Monday

- Zumba Toning Birch St. Studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- Knitting/crocheting class Bliss free 4-5pm
- Hatha Yoga Classes Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 5:00 pm-6:30 pm \$10.00 719-256-5129

Tuesday

- Gentle Yoga class with Joann Connington Birch St. Studio 10:30 am-12:00 pm 719-256-5129
- Savitri Reading Circle - Potluck, reading & meditation Savatri House 6pm 937-7687 or 256-6010
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca library back door 7:30-8:30pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Zumba Fitness Birch street studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 720-352-2078

- Kundalini Yoga The Secret Garden 4:30 pm-6:00 pm \$10 949-355-6236
- Feldenkrais ATM lessons (from prerecorded lessons) 5:30-6:30pm 256-4480
- Community Spiritual Practice at Dharma Ocean 6-7:30pm free kathyg@dharmaocean.org 719-588-3210

Thursday

- Gentle Yoga class with Joann Connington Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10:30 am-12:00 pm 719-256-5129
- Welcome to Medicare! South Central Colorado Seniors All Day Free 719-589-4511
- Rumi Study Circle March 7 & 21 all welcome Tower Tekke 1-3pm free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 256-4290

Friday

- Zumba Sentao Birch street studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

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A night of Indian classical music at Shumei, March 22

Join us for a night of Indian classical music Friday March 22, 7pm at Shumei International Institute. Roshan Bhartiya and Andy Skellenger share the stage again for a night of Indian music known as Raga Sangeet. Raga Sangeet can be traced back nearly two thousand years to its origin in the Vedic hymns of the Hindu temples, the fundamental source of all Indian music.

Ustad Roshan Jamal Bhartiya carries the legacy of a family with an ancient musical history trac-

ing back to the Moghul periods. A student of the iconic Ravi Shankar, Roshan is one of India's premier sitarists. Known for his playfulness of spirit, joy of expression, and virtuosity, Roshan has established himself as one of the most accomplished Indian classical musicians of his generation. He currently resides in Denver.

Salida-based Andy Skellenger has forged a path toward becoming one of the notable young tabla players in the world today. A student of world-renowned tabla masters Za-

kir Hussain, Samir Chatterjee, and Alok Dutta, Andy has become well versed in the traditions of many of India's tabla lineages. 12 years of devoted study and practice have produced an exciting up-and-coming artist.

Tickets are a \$12 suggested donation at the door. Please call Shumei at 719-256-5284 for more information or visit shumeicrestone.org.



Tyler Brandon is Shumei's featured artist for March.

Local potter Tyler Brandon to be featured artist at Shumei International; Symposium Mar. 17

Local potter Tyler Brandon's clay works will be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone for the month of March. A symposium with Tyler will be held on Sunday March 17 starting at 3pm. A reception will follow.

Tyler Brandon creates decorative and functional wheel-thrown ceramic work. His one-of-a-kind pieces are fired in a variety of atmospheres including salt, soda and reduction. Often, pieces are

fired multiple times, resulting in a unique and durable surface.

Brandon holds a BFA from Bradley University with a concentration in ceramics and art history.

He states, "A compulsion to create constantly hovers in my mind, finding such simple pleasure in creating something so perfect from nothing more than dust . . . Throwing, each piece becomes a meditation. Alone, I catch myself so deep in concentration; my spinning wheel becomes the only thing in my existence."

Come meet Tyler and learn more about his work on Sunday March 17, 3pm to 5pm. This event is free to the public. Please visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 256-5284 for more information.

The Shumei gallery is open every day 9 to 5pm.



Roshan and Andy return to Shumei on March 22.



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Shumei International Institute's 11th Anniversary May 18th and 19th, 2013

Exciting anniversary changes
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This year festivities begin at 4pm on Sat. May 18th with Taiko in the Shumei Amphitheater, followed by a World Peace Prayer Sampai.

Sunday begins at 10am for Shumei's 11th Anniversary Ceremony followed by an exhibit in the gallery but instead of a community lunch...

come join us for a night of dinner and entertainment
Dinner starts at 5pm, details will be available soon!

Call today to purchase dinner tickets! Seating is limited.

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Creekside Kitchen

Bob's Baked Cabbage by Daleth McCoy

Cabbage seems to be another one of those "Love/Hate" foods that rarely inspire ambivalence. However, this recipe is so delicious I find myself writing it out for friends that say they usually don't care for cabbage at all. It's turned into one of my family's favorite comfort-foods in side-dish form, and it's also easy and inexpensive.

Bob's Baked Cabbage

- 1 medium head of cabbage, diced into 1" pieces
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 - 1 teaspoon pepper (depending on preference)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4-5 slices bacon (or a few more if preferred)

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix all ingredients except bacon and place in a buttered 9"x13" casserole dish. Lay bacon on top. Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake 15 minutes longer.

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A refurbished Shambala reopens March 15; Fresh roasted coffee and food to live for

by M. Diane Bairstow

Is your mouth watering already? If not, you are one of the few in town who haven't sampled Jim Hill's cooking. He and partner Michelle Kopasz took over the Shambala in March 2012 and made it an instant success. They then opened Jim and Michelle's Farm Table last November, and according to Jim, they've "been doing summer business all winter."

If you haven't been to the Farm Table yet, they're open for break-

fast, lunch and dinner, and the food is to live for. Between 4 and 6 pm, they have a great seniors' special with a choice of three entrees and desert for \$7.99, and the portions are only slightly smaller than Jim's trademark monster portions. "It's how he shows love," Michelle told me, and I thought, well, he must really love us!

Now that they've established the Farm Table, they're rethinking the Shambala. They closed February first to refurbish and reinvent

it. "He's always got the wheels turning," Michelle said flashing her bright, contagious smile.

"I'm bringing in a huge coffee roaster from Italy, and I'm looking for a machine to crack the beans so I can serve absolutely fresh, organic coffee." Jim explained, then continued, "We're going to offer it in a French Press so that people can brew it to taste: strong, weak or medium, and if they order a French Press, they get 2 and 1/2 cups for the price of one, so that's a great deal for coffee drinkers."

They'll be open from 7 to 5 and serve breakfast (all day) and lunch. The menu isn't totally set yet, but Jim's planning on serving gourmet pizzas, panini grills and monster burritos with a choice of basmati rice, beans, pork, chicken, tofu and veggies—something for everyone's diet. "The most beautiful burrito you've ever seen," Jim described it, and my mouth began to water.

"We're also going to have 'grab and goes,'" Michelle added, "fresh fruit, noodle bowls, granola parfaits, that sort of thing." "We'll be bringing back the Monster cookies," Jim chimed in, "and we'll have

fresh baked pies, pastries . . . anything you're in the mood for—you can get it."

Jim, who's been cooking since he was fourteen, is passionate about creating restaurants with great food and wonderful ambience. They're going to repaint the Shambala inside and out, redo the floor and landscape it. Inside there will be all new furniture with love seats, couches, padded chairs and end tables. Jim described the atmosphere as a "top ten coffee shop."

They're going to have a well-trained staff at both places, and Jim and Michelle will be going back and forth between them to oversee the operations and ensure quality in both food and service.

In both places they will have as much fresh, local food as possible. All their eggs are local from Woodrow Barnes in Saguache. Synergistically, their kitchen scraps go back with Woodrow to feed the chickens. You can also buy fresh eggs at both restaurants.

When you drive into town and smell the coffee, follow your nose to the new and improved Shambala. You'll be glad you did.

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Monthly Shows of Local Artists

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Who We Are

Michael Bertin; from monkeywrench to master architect

by Gussie Fautleroy

Early on summer mornings in 1958, just as construction crews were starting work in a rural, wooded, soon-to-be-suburban area of Long Island, New York, 12-year-old Michael Bertin could sometimes hear the earsplitting screech of a bulldozer engine whose gas tank had received the extra ingredient of sand. He secretly smiled. At the dinner table, his parents talked of a wave of vandalism sweeping through the blocks of

chael explains. It takes into account and makes use of all the natural forces acting on the site, including sun, water, air patterns, landforms and subtle energies. Incorporating the use of low-impact, regionally available resources, the biome approach sees the built environment as a living entity whose needs—and those of its inhabitants—for energy, nourishment, waste processing and the spiritual qualities of beauty and comfort are all encompassed within its harmonious design.

Out of the marshes, into the golden mean

All of this came later, of course. Back on Long Island, square houses went up. Michael was surrounded, for the first time,

by neighborhoods filled with kids his age. “All of a sudden I had a social life,” he grins. “I dragged myself out of the swamps, got a transistor radio and had lots of friends.” He also became fascinated by drawing houses, discovering that along with musical facility, his artistically talented



Dharma Ocean House, which inspired spiritual teacher Reggie Ray to ask Michael to design the Dharma Ocean Retreat Center.

photo by Michael Bertin

look-alike houses rising from what had been marshland and woods. Michael quietly listened and feigned shock. Then he went to his room and planned his next move.

“I became, in my own mind anyway, an infamous saboteur,” he says, smiling at the memory. “I put my creative genius to rather destructive ends. I was singlehandedly trying futilely to stop the development.”

Of course it didn’t stop. And Michael didn’t get caught. But the seemingly sudden and senseless destruction of forests and tidal marshland where he’d virtually lived outdoors throughout his boyhood made a profound impact on his sense of right and wrong in the world. It also pointed him in the direction of his future career—as an architect dedicated to building in harmony with, rather than displacing, the natural world.

This deeply felt, ahead-of-its-time notion gradually developed into what Michael now calls biome design. Based on the example of complex, delicately balanced and self-sustaining pristine ecosystems and the living earth itself, the biome model envisions the built environment as a highly intentional melding of the sacred and sustainable. A biome-designed structure or community functions as an integral part of its local ecology, Mi-

grandfather had passed on a natural ability to incorporate perspective in drawing. At a career night event dur-



Michael Bertin (pronounced Bertine).

ing high school, Michael found himself drawn to a display touting the architectural field. He went on to earn an architecture degree from the New York Institute of Technology, where a visionary professor introduced him to the use of sacred geometry and the golden mean.

Manifesting magic

Architecture took a backseat in Michael’s life during the 1970s. Living in Maine and helping his brother develop a business, he lived with a group of friends exploring metaphysics, the occult and what they called “operative magic.” The leader challenged them by declaring: “The nature of reality is not what you think it is. It’s Silly Putty; what are you going to do with it?” The group’s response was an intense,

tions in Boulder he was introduced to Hanne Strong and began visiting Crestone. “Hanne was the first person who connected some dots for me to realize that a sustainable future can only happen in respect of the sanctity of nature,” he says. “That was very influential for me—the fusion of sustainable and sacred.” After moving to Crestone in 1982, he did design work for the Carmelite’s Nada Hermitage, including a couple of its first retreat houses. Over the years his firm, Architectural Harmonics, designed retreat centers for Vajra Vidya and Dharma Ocean, La Capilla de Todos Santos (Chapel of All Saints) in San Luis, and commercial and residential projects in Crestone and the Boulder area.

In 1992 the Manitou Foundation commissioned Michael to design a self-sufficient affordable housing community and educational center



Vajra Vidya Retreat Center. Michael blends elements of sustainability and the sacred in his design of residential, commercial or sacred spaces.

photo by Lori Nagel

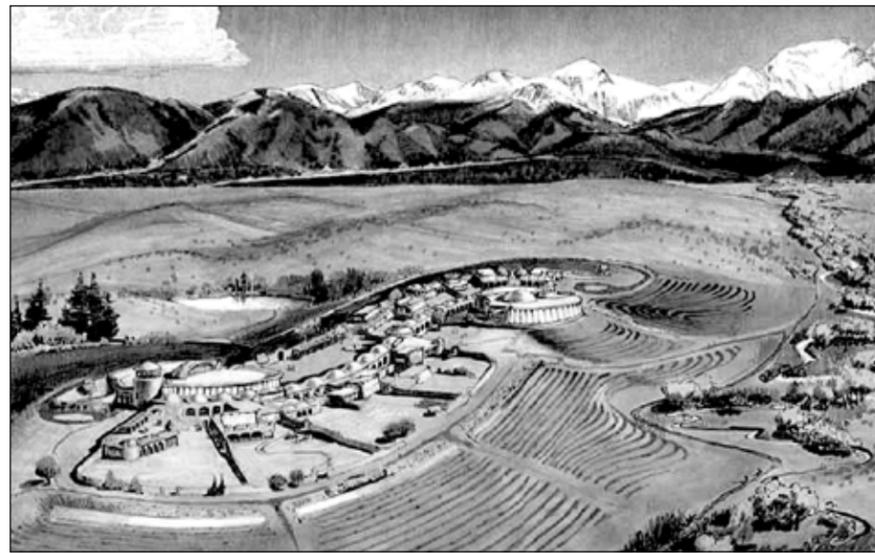
on land in the Grants, to be known as High Altitude Solar Adobe Village. The design included innovative plans for producing all its own energy, growing its own food, processing its own waste and providing an economic base for its residents. (See architecturalharmonics.com for details on this project and biome design.)

Toward self-reliance

While a lack of funding has thus far prevented the project’s realization and its original site was granted to other groups, Michael continues to passionately believe in the concept and would love to see it become reality. Meanwhile he envisions ever-increasing self-reliance for the greater Crestone/Baca community, especially through local production of energy and food. He believes that with cooperation, support and shared resources, the abundance of quietly brilliant innovators and inventors here could spur development of such advances as point-of-use power generation. Based on the ideas of Nikola Tesla and others, these could involve harnessing free energy from sources including the earth’s magnetic field.

Michael also wants to reach back to the proven, ancient technology of the water wheel for local power generation at sites such as Cottonwood Creek. In 2012 he presented such a plan to the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District. It was enthusiastically received but then was sidelined during the controversy over additives in the district’s water system. He hopes to reopen the discussion when funding from a future grant cycle might allow it to move forward. “I do see our potential here as a 100% self-sustaining community with a negative carbon footprint,” Michael reflects. “None of this is new. It’s just a compilation of ideas already there.”

Michael can be reached at 719-256-4854 or architecturalharmonics.com.



Michael is passionate about a project that hasn’t happened yet, but he hopes it will. The High Altitude Solar Adobe Village (or Solar Village) would combine affordable housing with state-of-the-art biome design elements to provide its own power, water, waste processing, food growing and economic opportunities in a sustainable, site-specific community on Crestone-area land.

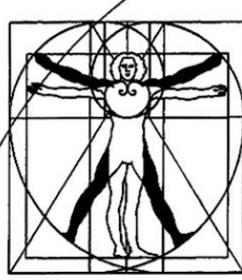
photo and drawing by Michael Bertin

esoteric blend of ancient rituals and Eastern spiritual practices that led to “amazing experiences,” Michael relates. Among them, manifesting a mansion on the Maine coast where the 16 friends lived for six months virtually for free. Synchronicity continued to operate in his life after he left the group. He lived in another Maine coast mansion, used the tide to generate electricity, pursued a passion for gardening and met his future (now ex-) wife Pamela, who like him had long, flaming red hair. In 1980 they and two other couples and kids moved to Boulder after being invited to help start an intentional community there.

Harmonic design

The community didn’t materialize, and Michael joined a small architectural firm. Through connec-

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The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center



Mirra Alfassa, "The Mother" of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, was born in Paris, on February 21, 1878.

A deep of compassion, a hushed sanctuary,

Her inward help unbarred a gate in heaven;

Love in her was wider than the universe,

The whole world could take refuge in her single heart.

—Sri Aurobindo, *Savitri*

In 1926, after experiencing the descent of the Supermind, Sri Aurobindo left the active daily life of the ashram. He retired to his rooms to concentrate on his evolutionary Integral Yoga, while maintaining intimate contact with his disciples by letter. He asked Mirra Alfassa to guide and administer the rapidly growing ashram. She was then 48 years old. There was some resistance to "that Frenchwoman" and questioning of her authority. Around that time, Sri Aurobindo renamed Mirra "The Mother" and wrote *The Mother*, describing the four great aspects of the Divine Mother which Mirra variously embodied.

"The four Powers of the Divine Mother are four of her outstanding Personalities, portions and embodi-

ments of her divinity through whom she acts on her creatures, orders and harmonizes her creations in the worlds and directs the working out of her thousand forces. The Divine Mother is one but she comes before us with differing aspects; many are her powers and personalities, many her emanations and Vibhutis that do her work in the universe.

"Four great Aspects of the Divine Mother, four of her leading Powers and Personalities have stood in front in her guidance of the Universe and in her dealings with the terrestrial play. One is her personality of calm wideness and comprehending wisdom and tranquil benignity and inexhaustible compassion and sovereign and surpassing majesty and all-ruling greatness. Another embodies her power of splendid strength and irresistible passion, her warrior mood, her overwhelming will, her impetuous swiftness and world-shaking force. A third is vivid and sweet and wonderful with her deep secret of beauty and harmony and fine rhythm, her intricate and subtle opulence, her compelling attraction and captivating grace. The fourth is equipped with her close and profound capacity of intimate knowledge and careful, flawless work and quiet and exact perfection in all things. Wisdom, Strength, Harmony, Perfection are their several attributes and it is these powers that they bring with them into the world, manifest in human disguise in their Vibhutis and shall found in the divine degree of their ascension in those who can open their earthly nature to the direct and living influence of the Mother. To the four we give the four great names, Maheshwari, Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, Mahasaraswati."

—Sri Aurobindo, *The Mother*
To be continued.



Shivaratri at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram. All-night chanting Sunday, March 10 from 10pm until 4am and Fire Ceremony Monday, March 11 at 10am followed by a meal.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

Everything is going well at the Ashram. Shri Babaji's Mahasamadhi was quiet and sweet. I have been traveling again since then doing many chanting evenings, havans and paduka pujas in the Front Range and in Florida. I spent my birthday weekend with over 200 friends in the Denver area and Colorado Springs chanting and eating birthday feast after birthday feast. It was really a special way to celebrate a birthday!

Our big celebration this month is Shivaratri. This year it falls on Sunday night, March 10 for all night chanting (10pm until 4am) with a fire ceremony the next morning at 10am followed by a meal. It is always a special time with sacred pujas to the Shiva Lingam throughout the night. It is said to be the night that Lord Shiva is most present on the earth. You may come for any part or all of the celebration.

Our new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, March 11 (Shivaratri) and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Wednesday, March 27. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati will remain at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 6:30am there is a paduka puja (washing of Shri Babaji's sandals) in His kutir (just to the west of the temple) followed by chandan.

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

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

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Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) training offered in Crestone area in March

This ASIST workshop is for caregivers and community members who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Over one million caregivers have participated in this two-day, highly interactive, practical, practice-oriented workshop.

The workshop will take place on Tuesday & Wednesday, March, 12-13, 8:30am-4:30pm (must attend both days for certification) at the POA Hall for \$35 per person (This is the cost of materials only. The workshop is usually offered at a much higher fee).

Please send registration information to laurelcarter@adams.edu or contact: Laurel Carter at 719-587-7746.

The registration fee should be sent to the address below. Checks should be made out to: "Adams State University" and paid in advance.

Adams State University
Attn: Laurel Carter
208 Edgemont Blvd.
Alamosa, CO 81101

Early registration is encouraged as the number of participants is limited.

Colorado remains toward the top of the US in suicide rate per capita, and the San Luis Valley is absolutely at the top of Colorado, again based on per capita suicide rate. In 2009 Colorado was 18.6 per 100,000 which ranked us 6th worst in the nation. That same year the SLV's rate was approximately 28 per 100,000, again recognizing that it's tough to get accurate numbers because suicide is so vastly under-reported in the SLV.

Adams State University (ASU) and the SLV Mental Health Center have partnered together, with some support from a SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant, to train as many community

members in basic suicide first aid as possible. They have provided approximately 10 ASIST trainings over the last 3 years in the SLV, training approximately 150 campus and community people in these vital skills.

All the ASIST trainers are SLV residents with a history of contributing to local mental wellbeing. In this past year, Laurel Carter was appointed to the Consumer-Survivor Advisory Board for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK) and Gregg Elliott was appointed to the Advisory Board of the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association. Laurel and Gregg work out of the Adams State Counseling Center in Alamosa. Kristina Daniels is the new Chief Operations Officer of the SLV Mental Health Center. She has an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and an MBA and an extensive background in both community and campus-based prevention efforts, including the ASIST trainings which empower local community members in suicide prevention.

One of the main purposes of the SAMHSA GLS Campus Suicide Prevention Grant is to help us change the way we talk about mental health concerns and to reduce stigma for asking for and receiving help in coping with those problems. National statistics reflect that greater than 50% of college undergraduates will experience depression significant enough that it will impair their day-to-day functioning at some point in their 4-year college career. So the problems for young people and college students are real and they're out there. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for college-aged people in the US. (This training is being brought to the Crestone area through the effort of Mark Swart, Swaha, and other supportive local community members).

Crestone Music Festival wants you!

It's that time again! We are gearing up for another exciting year for the Crestone Music Festival. If you would like to participate in this year's festival as a performer, a vendor or a sponsor, please let us know!

Notice to performing artists

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival is now accepting entries from local Saguache County performing artists for this year's festival. Local means 50% of the group must live or have a home in Saguache County.

Deadline Tuesday, May 10, 2013

All local performers must submit:

1. A demo tape, C.D., video or written description
2. A short bio, we mean it! (15 to 20 second read!)
3. A contact person, number and address
4. A description of your act including instruments, number of people, who they are and any special needs.
5. Musical acts must also submit a stage diagram

If your entry is musical, the demo should have at least two songs on it. If your entry is dance then you should submit a video and/or music with a description. If your act is poetry or comedy a demo tape or document is fine. Anything else, we are interested, so please submit what it takes to get the point across. While we appreciate the artist's desire to put on the best show possible, your submission is budgeted based on the application information we receive. It is your responsibility to provide wages for additional artists/musicians added after applying. All entries must be postmarked by May 10, 2013. It is recommended that some of you combine your talents, as there will be more applicants than openings.

Send info to:

CMF Local 2013, P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131

Or drop it by the office at the first house in the Baca, upstairs in the Professional Building Suite 204

Attention vendors

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival wants local vendors. If you have arts and crafts, food, information or something else, please apply. Applications are available online at www.crestfest.org or call 719-256-4533 for more information. Vendor spaces are limited so please apply! Applications are also available at local businesses.



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March 16 - 17

Weekend Nature Immersion

Take a break from the hectic pace of modern living!
Fill your senses with the sights and sounds of nature!

This program begins at 10 am Saturday with a guided nature stroll along the base of the towering Sangre de Cristo Mountains. We will travel along the banks of Cottonwood Creek, focused on the sounds of water, the sights of the surrounding woods and the movement of the wind and animals around us. Native plants and their uses will be identified. Then we make our way to the Meteor Site at the edge of the Great National Sand Dunes. Geologic and cultural history will be explored. Bring a journal, a sketch pad and a sack lunch. Upon returning to the Earth Knack School Site you will learn to make a fire from things found in nature. Then we will enjoy an evening buffet with many wild and locally grown organic foods. Evening campfire stories will be followed by a star gazing class. You can choose to camp out along the banks of Cottonwood Creek on the Earth Knack School site or enjoy the accommodations of one of our welcoming and comfortable bed and breakfasts. Sunday morning at 9:30 am we will hold a Communion in the Woods Gratitude Ceremony, followed by a trip to our local hot springs.

Head home refreshed, relaxed and rejuvenated!

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Moving Up Higher Godliness is an inside job

by **Joyce Meyer**

As God's children, we are called to live holy lives. His Word says, . . . *as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living* (1 Peter 1:15).

But what exactly does it mean to live a holy life these days? It's important that we take some time to think about this. There seems to be such a lack of integrity in today's society, with much compromise, dishonesty and injustice.

Now, I know we all face temptations every day, but instead of taking personal responsibility, people tend to blame others or their circumstances for their own negative behavior. And many of these same people go to church each Sunday and come out feeling like they have done their Christian duty for the week.

But Jesus didn't die for us to just go to church on Sunday mornings. The truth is going to church every week won't make you holy any more than sitting in a garage will make you a car! This brings me back to my original question, what does it mean to live a holy life?

From the inside out

If God is in our life, then holiness is there. And He begins working in us to make that holiness apparent on the outside . . . in our everyday living. This is called a work of consecration. He works in us individually, bringing brokenness and humility and ultimately, manifesting the holiness we seek. Our only responsibility is to be obedient to the Holy Spirit as the work is in progress.

Let's get serious

So we see that living holy comes from having a relationship with Christ and being obedient to Him, not from adhering to a bunch of rules. What I mean is, it's not about following a list of do's and don'ts, but following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Holiness is not legalism. God is living in us so remember, that means we have been made holy. But now it's time to get into covenant with Him and let Him work His holiness into our everyday lives, changing us from glory to glory. As that happens, we'll begin to be better representatives of His character.

We must learn how to trust the Holy Spirit to work in us to help us lay down our pride and our own self-serving ideas about how to run our lives. Sure it hurts sometimes

while we are changing, but just look at it as growing pains. God is not as concerned with changing our circumstances as He is with changing us. Trust Him enough to know that He will never do anything to harm us, so even when we experience pain, we can safely trust that God is doing a good work in us.

This is an inside job, meaning it's a work that goes on inside us personally, privately and individually, so it's up to each of us to get serious about our relationship with God. It's up to every one of us to do like Colossians 3:12 tells us in *The Message Bible*, and *dress in the wardrobe God picked out for [us]: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.*

Someone is watching

The world is watching the church, and people need to see something attractive. We need to shine the light of God's love through our behavior, expressing our faith by our works, doing things for others. We can actually be the answer to some of the prayers we pray simply by obeying the Holy Spirit's lead in our lives.

Instead of trying to follow a list of rules and regulations, we should be enjoying our Christian lives. When the world looks at us, they should see what God's doing inside of us by what they see on the outside.

Yes, we need to go to church—to get filled up, edified, strengthened and instructed. And then we need to get back out there and live—from the inside out!

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Playing, purling & planning

by **Lisa Bodey**

Youth Programs Coordinator

Thank you to all of the musicians who have supported the Crestone Creative Council (CCC) Music Jams throughout the last year and to Abby Keturah-Swartz and Trevor Storm for their energy making these gatherings a success. We have decided to join forces with the Open Mic "Original Music Outlet" that is happening on Sundays at the Secret Garden from 1-7pm. Bring your instruments, voices, dancing feet and a willingness to explore your musical talents. All levels and ages are encouraged to play and learn together and each Sunday is a unique experience. Many thanks to Benny Roman and Jennifer Daveler for their dedication to local music, helping everyone feel so welcome and for making these events so fun and full of high energy.

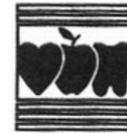
One of CCC's main volunteers, Whitney Gonzales-Gourdin is offering a FREE knitting & crocheting class/group on Mondays from 4-5pm ish in the back of Bliss Café. We have extra yarn, needles and hooks to get you started on a project and we will have many books and copies of patterns for you to choose from. This class is for all levels of knitters and crocheters. Please feel free to donate your old spools of yarn or other materials that could be put to good use by dropping off a bag marked "CCC" at Town Hall.

If you are interested in helping us plan our upcoming events, trips or programs, please join us at one of our next meetings on March 14 or 28 (adults are on an invite-only basis). We typically meet every other Thursday from 5-6:30pm in the back room of Bliss Café. We are also hosting "Game Night" after each meeting from 6:30-8pm, so bring a group game to share or come play chess, checkers or backgammon anytime on the café's boards.

The Crestone Creative Council is a Town of Crestone youth program for 13-24 year olds which focuses on job creation, artistic expression, community service and special events to instill a sense of purpose and positive self identity for participants. We just completed our first annual newsletter thanks to a Saguache County Sales Tax Grant, so look for copies around town to read inspiring stories from our local youth, or call 719-480-5925 or email bodeycrestone@gmail.com to have one sent to you today.

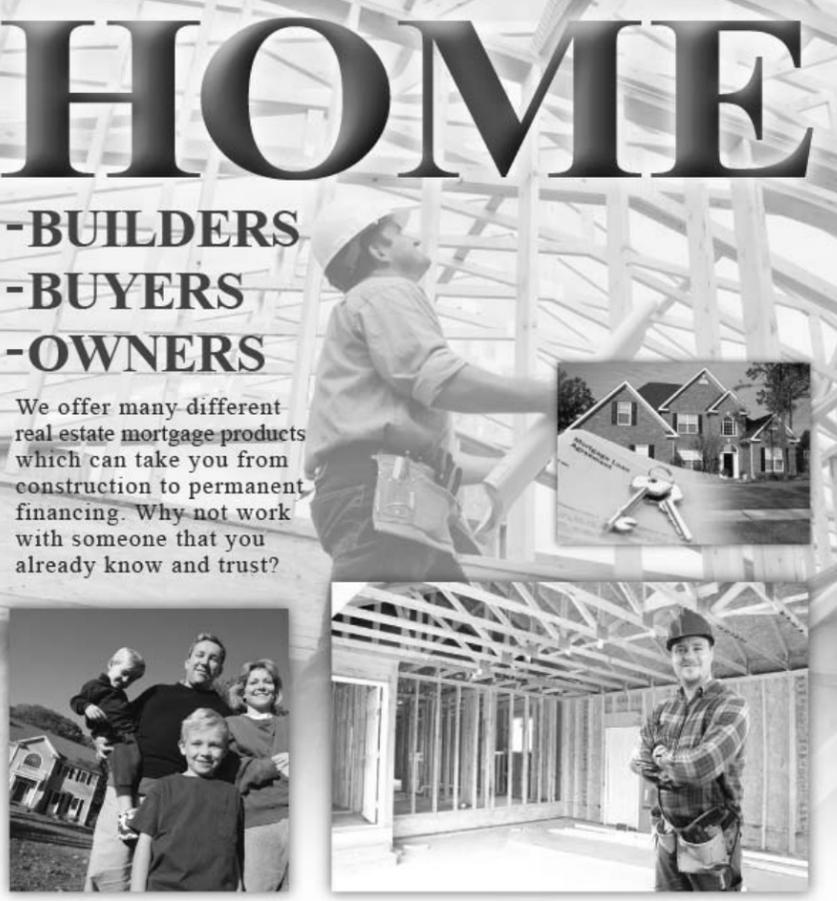
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Soccer needs help to keep kickin'

Hey there Crestone and surrounding areas. Just over a year ago I began a mission to start a soccer league in our area. There has been soccer here before that I heard had much enthusiasm. When I arrived it had unfortunately fizzled out. I would love to bring it back. After three seasons I have realized that I need help. Help not only to keep a program going now but into the future with success.

I have been coaching for ten years in a couple of different formats, and would like to base us on those successful leagues. I realize that a loose structure will never allow us to continue into the future firmly. My vision is to create a self-perpetuating league that may sustain itself and advance into the future as a solid foundation of soccer for our kids.

I am calling out to our community. I am looking to create a board of directors. People for soccer, team sport, and community-minded enthusiasts. I am asking for volunteers to fill the positions of secretary, field maintenance, referees, schedule creators, public relations, special event coordinators, and very importantly, coaches.

Soccer will begin in April. Practices will be twice a week with games on Saturday. We will have an eight-week season and tournaments. We are the M.C. Dragons (Moffat-Crestone Dragons) This year I would like to reach out to our surrounding areas, such as people

from the top of the valley to Center and Saguache to home schoolers, in the ages of 4-16.

The efforts that we put into this will exponentially benefit our children. If we get organized we have the potential to participate in games in Salida, Alamosa, Buena Vista and our home field in Crestone. Plus soccer camps in the summer! This will take the efforts of dedicated parents and volunteers.

You need no soccer experience to participate. Just the love of children participating in community teams and the love of what team sports can provide: sportsmanship, self-esteem, community involvement, and the joy of play!

Please consider calling me if you are interested in supporting our children in fun. Who knows where we could go?

You in? Call Ryken at 719-221-5636.

Thank you! Let's see ya kick it!

Crestone Creative Council

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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ The Harder They Come: A cult classic produced by Roger Corman in 1972, featuring Jimmy Cliff and other great Reggae singers. This story is about a country bumpkin coming to the big city, Kingston, where he very quickly learns what getting ripped off by the movie producers is like. He gets in trouble with the police and the movie unfolds. It has some of the greatest Reggae tracks and a very real taste of the poverty and striving of Jamaica circa early 70s.

2/ The Waiting City: An exquisite travelog of India via an emotionally charged indie movie done rawly and realistically. An adoptive couple have to go through the utter bureaucracy of India's adoptive procedures while having a shaky marriage . . . very moving and well done.

3/ The Edge of Heaven: This compelling drama won Best Screenplay honors at Cannes. It's about a father who accidentally kills a prostitute, and his son tries making amends via her 27-year-old daughter who is part of a closely watched activist group which has fled to Germany from Turkey. Lives of four Turks and two Germans become entwined due to circumstances beyond their control. It's a well done drama.

4/ The Hunger Games: Excellent movie of a dystopian future reality where teenagers are pitted against each other using wits and skills to survive to the death and having one winner . . . meant to elicit pride in the teens representing their various townships. An all-star cast includes: Woody Harrelson, Lenny Kravitz, Stanley Tucci and Donald Sutherland amongst others.

5/ Cat Run: Not for the faint of heart . . . nudity, gore and action. This film doesn't have a strong storyline, but a pair of private eyes get caught up in suspected government conspiracy in an uncommon case.



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If you want to know the "Now" ~
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Moffat School happenings



Moffat Middle School held a Valentine/Mardi Gras dance on Valentines Day. There was a mask-decorating contest with prizes given for the most creative, Alyssa Ginger; the funniest, Felix Roberts; and the mask that most represented the spirit of Mardi Gras was made by Alyssa Chavez. In addition, a Mardi Gras king was selected by using a traditional King's Cake with a Valentine candy hidden inside one of the cake slices; Forrest McNulty was the lucky winner. The queen was selected when all girls were given a covered red rose. When they unwrapped their flowers, the girl with the glitter-covered rose was crowned queen. Alyssa Chavez was our queen. Everyone was a winner with the almost constant tossing of a huge variety of Mardi Gras beads. A big thank you goes out to Moffat Middle School Student Council for organizing the event.



Moffat School staff and administration held an afternoon pep assembly and an evening "send off" to show our support and to congratulate our Mountain Valley Indian 2013 State Wrestling qualifiers (who will be wrestling at the Pepsi Center in Denver February 21-23) and their team coaches: Nick Quintana, Shaulin Rinaldis, Justin Wilson, Cody Mangum and from Mountain Valley Levi Gallegos, along with coaches Eddie Garcia and Aaron Myers. Go Indians!!



The kindergarten/first grade class created their annual Chinese New Year Dragon, believed to get rid of evil spirits, and paraded through the hallways of Moffat School. During this cultural celebrations unit they were also intrigued by the Korean celebration, Lunar New Year.



Tina Gohr from the Colorado Department of Education presented Moffat Schools with two banner awards, one for District Accredited with Distinction and the second one for Moffat Middle Schools Distinguished Improvement Award. Pictured are 6th through 12th grade students, teachers and administration. Our Moffat students and teachers deserve a huge round of applause for their continued achievement and academic growth!



Above: Congratulations to Felix Roberts, Andrew Martinez, and Codie Heikes for having their posters selected to represent the Center Conservation District at the Regional Competition for the Rio Grande Water Conservation "Soil to Spoon" poster competition. The poster competition theme this year emphasized connecting all of the food we consume to the soil, highlighting the importance of maintaining a healthy soil.

Below: Gallian Roberts, Taru Gouldberg, Michael Burns, Stohry Rinaldis, Jodeelee Rigdon, Marlon Jacobi, and Kaytlin Olsen attend the San Luis Valley Regional History Day competition at Adams State University in January. Stohry won second place and Taru took third place. Both have earned a spot at the state competition in May. All of the NHD participants will attend the Denver event to support their team.



The Moffat K-1 class performed "Do you know the animals? Zoo Tour Adventure!" on Thursday, February 21. The young thespians held complicated and informative dialogue, stages prompts and creative costumes.

photo by Krissy Hedstrom



Enoch and the Lizards



Vicki Matthews 719/256-5020

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Crestone Charter School news

by Hester Triplett,
Terry Goergen, Pattison Kane
Director search

After seven years of whole-hearted service Kathryn Brady concludes her term as CCS Director on June 30, and the search for her replacement is actively underway.

The Governing Council received 44 applications in response to the director search. After review the number of applicants was reduced to 11. On February 7 the council met with a committee of parents, teachers and administrators to review these applications. As a result the applications in review was narrowed to 8 candidates. The council conducted secondary screening interviews via Skype with a goal of inviting 3 or 4 applicants to Crestone for formal interviews. Please join us at the Crestone Charter School on March 15 to meet our top candidates for director. This public engagement is scheduled from 6-8pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Multi-Purpose Room now available for community use

The beautiful Multi-Purpose Room is now available for public use. Community use of the room is available starting at 4:30pm M-F and all-day Saturday and Sunday. There is no charge for the use of the space for "non-profit" events and public service offerings. The current fee for "for profit" classes is \$12.50 an hour. Private event rental rates start at \$150, and arrangements can be made for the use of CCS sound and lighting equipment for an additional fee. Anyone wishing more information or to reserve the space for a special event, performance, exercise classes, or even a wedding, may do so by contacting Jessica Brewer at 256-4839.

Red Bandana rocks Valentine's Day Dance

The Second Annual Community Valentine's Day Dance, a fundraiser for Middle School travel, included a very special concert by the Salida girl band Red Bandana. This rockin' group of middle school girls knocked out original songs and entertained all from young to old. Crestone Charter School wishes to thank Tom Dessain and CPI for their generous support in providing the Red Bandana concert.

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* was February's read for Daya Sheide's 8th grade class. Students attended a professional production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts on February 23, followed by viewing the movie *Romeo + Juliet* set in a suburb of modern day Verona yet still retaining its original dialogue. The class was engaged, and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* was brought to life for these young people. "I love the poetry of the language," says Ryan Triplett, quite a compliment coming from a reticent reader. Thank you Daya!

Community Art Show

This spring the Multi-Purpose Room will be turned into an art gallery. Plans are in the works for the 1st Annual Community Art Show, co-sponsored by the Crestone Charter School Governing Council and the Moffat School District Board of Education. Children from both Crestone Charter School and Moffat School will tour the Art Gallery and visit with local artists. The show will be open to the public as well. Watch for the announcement and opening. Lyndsay Duebber and Kristy Knight will be coordinating the show.



Kelly Hosner leading the 4th & 5th graders in their performance at the Crestone Charter School Talent Show on January 24th.
photo by Lori Nagel



The lead singer from Red Bandana made a trip out to the audience as she sang their encore song at the CCS Middle School's Valentine's Day Dance on February 16.
photo by Lori Nagel



Raphael Gordh and Ben Potter sell their tasty creations at the Crestone Charter School Talent Show on January 24.
photo by Lori Nagel

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The Washington Beat

A quiet month shot all to hell

by David Nicholas

February after the swearing-in of a re-elected President is generally quiet. Last month of winter waiting for the temperature to rise above freezing, days getting longer, snow beginning to melt. You wish.

Not this year. You could have fooled an outsider that there had been an election that actually gave an assumed "one-term President" another four years to work his magic.

Although February has only 28 days we had President Obama's State of the Union, Senator Kerry's confirmation as Secretary of State on February 1, Senator Hagel's nightmare performance in his confirmation hearing before Senate Armed Services Committee, and it looks like the Sequester—across the board budget cuts—will begin on March 1.

State of the Union

I thought President Obama's speech was brilliant. Pundits usually pooh-pooh State of the Union speeches because, they say, no one can remember what was said after a week of having every word and intonation examined for nuance, and between-the-lines reading about what the President really meant.

Following his Inauguration speech January 21, I got the impression in his State of the Union that he was taking a page from Martin Luther King's speeches in the intensity of the delivery. At one point, I closed my eyes and just listened to the speech. Towards the end he said, "They deserve a vote", a war cry he repeated again and again, as the crowd got to its feet and cheered, building to a crescendo. The intonation and inflection was similar

to Reverend King's speech pattern.

That said, the highlight was a 102-year-old Miami woman named Desiline Victor, who waited six hours to vote at one of the most popular polling places in Miami. Detailing her story, along with the people who helped and supported her though her waiting in line, the president had all members of Congress standing and straining to get a look at the woman. The speech will be remembered as one of a president intent on achieving an agenda that will give his legacy some meaning. Most, if not all, require fights in Congress and winning people to his causes. This was a warrior's speech, from a man for whom fighting was not a feature of his first term.

If you missed the speech, you can see it and read it online, at whitehouse.gov. You should see it at least once, because unlike most presidencies this is history-making. No matter what Mr. Obama says or does, the first black American to be president elected to two terms is the stuff of historical biographies. This is on a par with Lincoln and the first woman President of the United States, when that happens.

Senator Marco Rubio's response

There is so much to say about sweating and taking a drink of water in the middle of a rebuttal speech, but Colbert covered it brilliantly.

One thing to say is, who watches a response to a presidential State of the Union speech other than politi-



cal mavens, pundits and staffers? This may be the only saving grace for a rising star in the Republican Party who bombed so badly. It should be instantly forgotten until he announces his presidential run in 2016, whereupon it will resurrected and used mercilessly by all his foes.

It was not only this. It was also his "no" vote to extend and expand the Violence Against Women Act, which passed the Senate 78-22. As someone who has presidential ambitions and who would need the women's vote to win office, his conduct is amazingly shortsighted.

Also how he handles his proposal on immigration legislation; it has bipartisan support in various versions but has a long way to go to be agreed to, debated and finalized. However, so far the "his way or the highway" attitude doesn't auger well for his political future.

The Hagel nomination

All things being equal the Hagel nomination should be over by the time you read this. Chuck Hagel made history in that never before has the Senate ever denied a Secretary of Defense nominee confirmation. Never in the history of these United States has there been a vote where the president's choice was blocked by petty and mean-spirited politics.

The hostility was clear in the public hearing held when Senator John McCain (R-AZ) attacked Mr. Hagel relentlessly on questions about whether the 2006 surge was a success or not.

The 2007 surge had been instigated by former commander of US forces in Iraq, General David Petraeus, for a 30,000-troop increase to control Anbar province in western Iraq. This was to prevent well-armed Sunni militias from organizing to destabilize the national government, gaining in strength, and carrying out effective attacks on US military bases in and around Fallujah and Mosul.

Then-Senator Hagel opposed the surge as further ineptitude of Bush43's conduct of the war in Iraq. After initially condoning the invasion, Mr. Hagel had become a relentless crit-

ic. As a Republican, Senator Hagel's outspokenness was considered heresy.

Therefore, while his nomination was always going to be controversial for exactly those reasons, the hatred towards the senator expressed at his seven-and-a-half hour hearing on January 31 was humiliating and designed to push the senator to withdraw his nomination. It didn't work.

The hearing will go down as possibly one of the worst for any nominee in senate history. There was criticism that Mr. Hagel appeared confused and unprepared for the questions, and unwilling to be forthcoming on his views about Israel and gays in the military, but he persevered.

For the record, the senator recanted his opposition to gays in the military and would not alter the policy if he is confirmed. Besides President Obama having endorsed and supported the policy's implementation Hagel is not about to reverse the policy.

Mr. Hagel's ability to interact and function with members of the Senate Armed Services Committee after this bitter nomination is a question one will judge over time.

Had that been it, that would have been enough, but when Armed Services Chairman Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) scheduled the committee vote, the ugliness that offended everyone emerged. This was freshman Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), who attempted to smear Mr. Hagel using Senator Joseph McCarthy's (Google it) tactics to cast suspicion on his patriotism. This was beaten back pretty severely by Senator McCain, but the slur made headlines as did the committee vote, which voted 14-11 to report its confirmation of Mr. Hagel to the full Senate. I watched that vote, and it was shabby.

The vote to close debate (referred to as "cloture") on the Hagel confirmation on the floor, happened Thursday, February 14. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) put the vote knowing he didn't have the 60 votes Republicans signaled would be needed to prevent a filibuster. There were 59 senators who voted aye, 40 nays and one who voted present. They were one

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short. While the vote was on about 30 minutes, Mr. Reid tried to get Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to change his vote rather than vote present to no avail. In order to bring the vote again to the floor, Mr. Reid changed his vote to no making it 58-41.

So that's where it was left as senators went home for the Presidents' Day break to resume the vote again on February 26, when Senator McCain has assured everyone that Mr. Hagel will be confirmed. All things being unequal and uncertain, there should be a new Secretary of Defense on March 1.

SecStat John Kerry

Senator John Kerry was sworn in as the 68th Secretary of State on February 1, 2013. Senator Kerry's nomination and confirmation by comparison to Mr. Hagel's was effortless. Mr. Kerry was confirmed unanimously by the Senate Foreign relations Committee and on the floor of the senate 94-3.

Errata

If and when Senator Hagel is confirmed as Secretary of Defense, he will be joining Secretary of State John Kerry and former General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as three Vietnam War veterans to serve in an administration at the Cabinet level at any one time. Mr. Hagel will be first vet to serve as Secretary of Defense and Mr. Kerry, the second Vietnam vet to serve at State, Colin Powell being the first.

Banking: Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

Just when you thought Wall Street bankers and government regu-

lators were going to get away scot free from being held responsible for the 2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC, it has a title now), comes now Senator Elizabeth Warren. For those of us who have watched Wall Street revert to all the bad habits that led up to the GFC, Senator Warren, elected in 2012 as a freshman senator (now become the senior senator from Massachusetts as a result of Senator Kerry's elevation to Secretary of State), is a breath of fresh air.

Ms Warren held sway at the Senate Banking Committee hearings on Thursday, February 14. She was the lone voice questioning the conduct of Treasury officials when she headed the US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in 2008 and was pressured into resigning.

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, Warren served as chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel created to oversee the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). She later served as Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under President Barack Obama. In the late 2000s, she was recognized by publications such as the *National Law Journal* and *Time* as an increasingly influential public policy figure.

If Wall Street thought that power brokers on the Senate Banking Committee, the most powerful committee on the Congress, would or could hold Ms. Warren in check, were they wrong! In her first five minutes of question-

ing Treasury banking regulators, Ms. Warren asked when was the last time a major Wall Street bank was successfully litigated against to a conclusion.

Faced with silence, Senator Warren offered but received no immediate acceptance to her invitation to the open microphone. "Anyone?" she asked, somewhat incredulously at the reticence of an eminent panel of regulators, which included the chair of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

All those questioned answered that they "weren't required to bring charges". If incredulity has an expression, then Ms. Warren's look in response to that answer would send a signal that resignations should be forthcoming. The phrasing of both the question and the answer was as acutely embarrassing, revealing both SEC enforcement priorities and their implications.

Ms. Warren is a senior senator in one of the safest Democratic seats in the country. As Senate seats are not term-limited, three terms of six years, eighteen years, means that as she rises in seniority to become ranking member and likely chair, bankers who lived by winks and nods with committee members now face a White Knight with a mission.

If bankers escaped blood on the streets up until now, banking regulation just became a whole new ball game. This is a woman to watch.

Israel

I was waiting to hear a reference

to Israel in President Obama's State of the Union, given that his first visit outside the US will be to the Middle East and to Israel and Jordan in particular. I missed it initially.

The line was, "And we will stand steadfast with Israel in pursuit of security and a lasting peace."

Now if that doesn't make you feel all warm and fuzzy that the president is all cock-a-hoop about our relationship with Israel, the mere fact that he mentioned it at all had Israel sweating bricks until they heard it from his lips. However, how did the mention rate in the President's priorities in foreign policy? Not much. Egypt and Syria got more of a mention in the same paragraph.

"In defense of freedom, we will remain the anchor of strong alliances from the Americas to Africa; from Europe to Asia. In the Middle East, we will stand with citizens as they demand their universal rights, and support stable transitions to democracy. The process will be messy, and we cannot presume to dictate the course of change in countries like Egypt; but we can—and will—insist on respect for the fundamental rights of all people. We will keep the pressure on a Syrian regime that has murdered its own people, and support opposition leaders that respect the rights of every Syrian. And we will stand steadfast with Israel in pursuit of security and a lasting peace. These are the messages I will deliver when I travel to the Middle East next month."

Compare that to the reference to Burma, which got a whole paragraph earlier and was clearly an indication of where the President's interest lies.

So in order to be friendly and try to re-establish a sour relationship, Israel's President Shimon Peres will bestow upon the Mr. Obama the Presidential Medal of Distinction. "This is the first time in history a serving US President will receive an award from the President of the State of Israel," according to the Times of Israel.

My take is that there is a clear fear in the Jewish state that Mr. Obama will relegate Israel to a lesser status, not minor, but not as close as Israel has taken for granted in the past. The realization is dawning upon them that if they want Mr. Obama to be a working partner in their domination of the region they are going to have to work at being nice. This doesn't leave a great deal of room for optimism while Bibi Netanyahu remains Prime Minister. So it goes. We will be all ears.

And the Beat goes on.

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Colorado oil & gas drilling regulations receive initial approval, stir debate

by Lisa Cyriacks

Colorado regulators gave initial approval to rules meant to limit the effects of oil and gas drilling on homes, including a rule increasing the distance that rigs must be from occupied buildings. The rules approved by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission are expected to take effect this summer.

Yet decisions by Colorado lawmakers to enact new regulations on hydraulic fracturing do little to protect the public health, water or the environment, environmental activists say.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission described its new measures as some of the toughest in the country.

Earlier this month, the oil and gas commission approved rules requiring groundwater sampling both before and after drilling to ensure drinking water supplies haven't been contaminated.

The rules that got preliminary approval include requirements for operators who plan to drill within 1,000 feet of occupied buildings to meet new measures on limiting noise, odor, dust and emissions and to protect against spills. They'd also have to give expanded notice to residents.

Plans to drill within 1,000 feet of schools, hospitals or other high-occupancy buildings would trigger a hearing in front of the commission.

The state government this week also said it would require energy companies to conduct before and after water sampling for exploration campaigns that would use hydraulic fracturing. Previously the state had required such tests only in parts of the state.

Colorado holds some of the largest unconventional oil and natural gas reserves in the United States. Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is controversial because of the perceived danger that some of the chemicals used in the process may contaminate the groundwater.

Singled out in the debate is Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat and former geologist, criticized for not pressing the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission for greater protections.

Hickenlooper has called for a consistent set of state rules, so companies do not face conflicting local regulations that could drive them to other states. Several counties and local government bodies in Colorado have their own rules—including Saguache County—that are overseen and regulated by the county commissioners.

Oil and gas drilling accounts for nearly 44,000 jobs in Colorado and brought in \$208 million in severance taxes last year.

Proposed health study

Several Coloradans who live near rigs have submitted written testimony outlining health prob-

lems, with the residents and their supporters saying they have a right to be heard. But the Colorado Oil & Gas Association and others say some of the testimony should be tossed because they represent non-expert medical opinions or hearsay.

Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment announced it will launch a three-year, \$1.3 million study of air pollution from oil and gas activity, and its health effects. The study will focus on the northern Front Range.

The study, which will be subcontracted to researchers at Colorado State University, will collect information from July 2013 through June 2016. The second phase, assessing health risks, would begin in January 2016. CSU is currently conducting a similar study in Garfield County.

Environmentalists said the state-sponsored studies are too little, too late, and amount to using people as "lab rats" to determine if they may be suffering health problems because of drilling.

The decisions came on the last day of a three-day hearing to consider updating the state's oil and gas rules.

Statewide ban

At the Denver Capitol on Jan. 9, 2013, anti-fracking activists united to call for a statewide ban on fracking in Colorado. CS Citizens for Community Rights, Earth Guardians, East Boulder Country

United, Frackivist.com, Occupy Denver, and The Mothers Project were organizations that were in attendance. No acknowledgement of the petition has been made by Colorado officials.

Whistleblower Weston Wilson, who worked for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 30 years, attended the anti-fracking rally. Wilson became a whistleblower in 2004 when he contested a report by the EPA that stated hydraulic fracturing "poses little or no threat."

Wilson's letter to Colorado representatives disputed the EPA's methodology, explaining that hydraulic fracturing fluid was toxic and violated the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 2005 the EPA exempted oil and gas operations from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Dr. Theo Colborn, who founded The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, explains that aside from fracking fluid being toxic, fracking releases toxins in the soil such as arsenic that can cause cancer and release volatile organic compounds such as acetone, which can cause headaches, confusion, and birth defects.

Through Colborn's research she has documented over 200 products used in Colorado hydraulic fracturing. Her research found that over 90% of the containing chemicals "caused adverse health effects."

Healthcare

continued from page 1

capital gains. Currently, businesses spend on average 11.8% on health insurance.

In exchange for those costs, all Coloradans who have lived in the state for at least one year by the beginning of 2016 would become part of a statewide health care cooperative and would get the opportunity to participate in a health plan that equals the most generous package of essential benefits under the Affordable Care Act.

Those plans would include primary and specialty care, hospitalizations, emergency visits, prescription coverage, mental health care, substance abuse treatment and some limited dental, vision and hearing benefits. In most cases, patients would not have co-payments or deductibles.

Patients would pick a network of providers and see any doctors who participate in their plan. Aguilar hopes the large providers would serve as "accountable care organizations," competing against each other to provide patients with the best care.

In essence, with the cooperative Coloradans would form their

own self-insurance pool to pay for the cost of medical care. A universal health-care system in Colorado could exist instead of the new federal health-care reform rules under the Affordable Care Act.

Non-profit insurance companies like Kaiser Permanente and Rocky Mountain Health Plans would likely continue as service providers under the new system. For-profit insurance companies would either start managing health care networks or would no longer exist, meaning Aguilar faces a massive battle from lobbyists. Groups representing businesses in Colorado have been waiting to see Aguilar's final bill before deciding whether to support or oppose it.

A new economic study from University of Massachusetts Amherst economist Gerald Friedman estimates Colorado would spend about \$5 billion less on health care in 2016 than if the state proceeded with changes under the Affordable Care Act. The savings would increase over time with an estimated \$10 billion in savings in 2020 and \$16.8 billion in 2024. A group supporting Aguilar's bill, the Colorado Foundation for Universal Care, commissioned Friedman's study with support from the Caring for Colorado Foundation.

Friedman's study found that health care costs have tripled in Colorado and have grown from under 10% of the state's economy in 1997 to over 13% in 2012. The rising cost of health care has prompted more employers to drop coverage as they've seen premiums rise, on average by about 8% each year over the last decade.

Friedman thinks that Colorado and other states considering similar universal care systems will become more attractive to employers. Besides bringing more stable health care costs to business owners, universal health care would cause some upheaval in Colorado's job market, according to Friedman's study. He estimated that 15,000 people would lose jobs in the first year. At the same time, he predicted that expansion of health care

would create about 45,000 new jobs in 2016 and about 50,000 new jobs in 2024.

Co-operate Colorado is building a movement to support and promote the Colorado Health Care Cooperative.

In a statement made by Bill Semple, President of Co-operate Colorado, "The Cooperative will improve the delivery of health care. There will be shift in focus from treating disease to maintaining health. Providers, dealing with one system, will be freed from the bureaucratic nightmares of multiple insurers as well as dealing with patients with no insurance. To learn more and give support, see: HealthCareforAllforLess.org. We can make history happen."

Co-operate Colorado is funded by donations.



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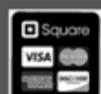
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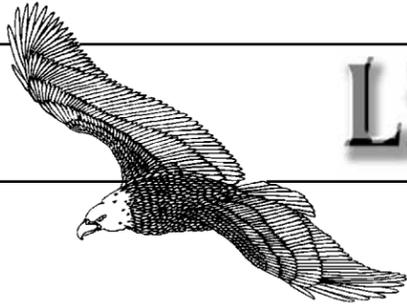


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Living on the Earth

A passive solar cold frame

by Kelly Hart

Last spring I built a simple cold frame to get an early start on plants to set out into the main garden later, and also as a place to keep some plants that particularly love warmer weather. It worked very well for these purposes, providing tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, squashes, peppers, eggplants and many other veggies in abundance.

Then this last Winter Solstice we decided to experiment with planting in the cold frame again, just to see if was possible to use it in the winter for growing food. As a sort of control, we also planted seeds in the adjacent greenhouse at the same time. We chose mostly cool season plants, such as lettuce, arugula, peas, bok choy, kale, rad-

weeks when it never got above freezing outside and with many nights in the minus teens and down to minus thirty here in Casita Park where we live. This, combined with the shortest days of the year, made for harsh growing conditions to say the least.

The seeds were understandably slow to germinate, but nearly all of them did eventually push their tender little feelers into the crisp air. Now, less than two months later, we are eating salad greens daily and will be getting peas soon.

The surprising thing to me is that the cold frame is actually outperforming the greenhouse . . . and this is with a hot tub kept above 100° most of the time in the greenhouse! Why would this be? I'll tell



Cold frame filled with fresh greens

design is that I buried about two feet of 1 1/2" rigid insulation in the ground around the perimeter of the cold frame. This effectively isolates the frozen ground outside the cold frame from cooling the

Ordinarily, I wouldn't advise that people plant seeds in the dead of winter; had I planted earlier, I would have been enjoying salad greens much sooner. What is exciting to me about this experi-



Zana Hart picking greens.

ishes, etc. that we knew could take a light frost.

It turned out to be particularly cold weather, with several

you the secret: basic passive solar design.

As you might be able to tell from the accompanying photos, the cold frame has a wall of large stones stacked against the north side, which is also the insulated foundation wall for the greenhouse. These stones absorb heat from the sun all day long (even on overcast days) and hold the heat, gently releasing it throughout the night.

Another unseen trick to the



This is the finished cold frame situated on the south side of our greenhouse.

soil inside. Even when the air temperature inside the frame might go below freezing, I don't think the soil did. At night, I also place insulation panels on top of the cold frame to help keep it toastier in there.

My cold frame is roughly 16 feet long, 3 feet wide and 2 feet high in the back, tapering to 18 inches in the front. The top is made of two lids that are hinged in the back so they can be lifted and secured up against the greenhouse wall if necessary, or propped open to ventilate the space. Depending on what you might want to grow in such a cold frame, it could be built higher to accommodate larger plants. During the summer when I had peppers and eggplants growing in the cold frame, I just left the lid open all of the time, so the plants grew beyond the height limits. The total cost of the materials for this was about \$250, mostly for the 3/8" twin wall polycarbonate glazing, which I picked up at SLV Building Components in Alamosa.

ment with my cold frame is that it proves that it is possible to grow food in our climate year round, without any heat other than that provided by the sun.

I installed a wireless thermometer gauge inside the cold frame that has a readout on my desk, where I monitor the temperature frequently. If it rises close to 100°F. I will go out and prop open the top of the cold frame to allow ventilation to keep from cooking the veggies. I enjoying keeping track of this, and it is easy since I am home most of the time. But if circumstances were different, I could install a simple thermostatically controlled ventilation system to keep the cold frame from overheating.

On a frosty day when I opened the lid of the cold frame to water or harvest veggies, the steamy interior air would spill over the sides. That wonderful warm, humid environment is perfect for the little plants. They are happy . . . and that makes me happy!



Instant salad!



Astrologically Speaking

... with Ananur

(mountain time zone calculated)

Mercury is still retrograde in Pisces. This began on February 23. There's an attraction to hibernation, which would be the ideal with Mercury retrograde: to be able to dream and fantasize, then come out of it when Mercury goes direct on March 17 and write a novel or a book of fanciful short stories. However, we live in a world where we're drawn out to participate, and pay the bills. Speaking of paying the bills, Jupiter will be in a difficult aspect with Saturn from March 18-27. This aspect took place in December 2012. Jupiter also aspects Pluto, another challenging aspect which will also affect us financially. March 23- April. The best advice is to be thrifty in new ways you hadn't discovered before. It's creative.

March 1 starts off just fine with the Sun in a positive aspect to Saturn and Pluto. This is an incredible offering from the cosmos for all of us to organize and plan out a strategy for health, security and stability. The planets are helping us. If you have a spiritual discipline that you are embracing daily . . . keep it up. Anyone who was born between July 2-4 (with Sun in Cancer) of any year will surely benefit most profoundly at this time. If your physical body needs support and healing, you will indeed find the comfort you're seeking.

March 2-3 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Uranus bringing out the need for self expression through art or performing with others in a spontaneous way.

March 3-4 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Jupiter which is a perfect time for a party or social event, just be careful not to over indulge. The Sun and Mercury are close together in Pisces focusing your mind on the past and what might have been if you had chosen differently.

March 4-7 Mercury and Venus are close together in Pisces and are nicely aspecting Saturn and Pluto. Transformative energies are released through creativity. Writing a unique type of healing/natural/herbal cookbook would be one way of manifesting this energy. Cooking with healing herbs for those in need of your nurturing care would benefit others. They'll feel the love that you're putting into it.

With many planets in Pisces right now there is a call for help. The planets in Pisces are: the Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Chiron and Neptune. If you ever wanted to learn to transmit healing energy this is the time to do so.

March 7-9 it's likely that you're trying to do too much with Mercury and Jupiter in a challenging aspect. You might be so flexible that you are a bit too relaxed about meeting someone when you said you would. That person may still be there waiting for you; meanwhile you've bumped into someone you haven't seen in ages and you've forgotten all about the other person, waiting.

March 11 the New Moon will take place at 1:51pm with the Sun and Moon at 21° of Pisces. This New Moon brings out passion for group gatherings with a spiritual philosophical foundation of camaraderie. The month ahead will find you drawn to finding answers to deep philosophical questions about life and the universe. New discoveries will present themselves in the media in the next 29 days. Also, Mercury is in a positive aspect with Uranus, stimulating your intuition.

March 12 Mars enters Aries, where Mars is at home. With Mars in Aries our physical energy is increased, greatly. The trick with this position of Mars is to know when to stop. There's the risk of overdoing it because you have so much energy and eventually end up exhausted. Mars will remain in Aries until April 20. The Moon will be in Aries and conjunct Mars today from 1:30-4:30am which suggests a huge blast of energy. Wonder if you can sleep?

March 15 the Sun is in a challenging aspect with Saturn, known to promote worrisome thoughts. It's likely that you are experiencing obstacles and delays that are finding you frustrated. With Mars in Aries you're more impatient than usual. Fortunately Mars is making a positive aspect to Neptune which encourages you to give more to help others and put thoughts of self aside.

March 17 Mercury will be turning direct at 2:03pm. Sometimes it takes a few more days for the obstacles and delays to quit acting up. It's important to have balance between action and repose. Hopefully

you've had insights and are ready to incorporate them into your life.

March 18-27 Jupiter is in an awkward aspect with Saturn which is not good for the economy. This aspect also took place in December. I remember it well as being a worrisome time economically, something about falling off the fiscal cliff which we almost did.

March 18 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Saturn which is known to bring about disappointments. This is due to "attachment to outcome."

March 18-19 Mercury is in a favorable aspect with Mars. Speak out and share your ideas and insights. Your mind is sped up.

March 20 the Sun enters Aries, which is considered by some to be the beginning of the year. Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, always ready to begin new projects. There's no holding back enthusiasm for brilliant new ideas and innovations. The Sun will enter Aries at 5:02am.

March 20-22 Mars is now conjunct Uranus in Aries. If you love to drive fast, go to the track, but stay off the road with that passion. This aspect could be incredibly potent for new inventions and new directions. It also signifies a time to be careful in order to avoid accidents as this energy is so fast and so impulsive. Please be aware and put full attention into the moment you're in. Mars and Uranus bring out the rebellious side in human being. Free thinking individualists who refuse to conform may perhaps have a clearer vision, but because of a demanding reckless approach perhaps are not appreciated for the brilliant insight they carry. This aspect could have a profound affect on Egypt.

Maybe the Occupy Movement will be more visible again. I know for a fact the movement has not died out. I've done research on the internet.

March 21 Venus enters Aries. This placement of the planet of romantic love and attraction finds individuals falling madly in love, for a day, or a week, with much passion and playfulness.

March 22-24 the Sun is nicely aspecting Neptune, a spiritually uplifting time which could produce some incredible works of art, poetry and music.

March 23-April 2 Jupiter will be in a challenging aspect now with Pluto. This aspect affects our economy due to religious differences. The law will have to step in to find a balance rather than the overpowering sense of "might is right" with religious leaders demanding that things go their way.

March 24 Venus is in a posi-

tive aspect with Neptune inspiring telepathic synchronistic experiences to occur which are enriching and find you smiling. Your innate inner passion and joy are inspiring your actions.

March 24-26 Mars in Aries is in a fine aspect with Jupiter and Pluto offering us all a huge jolt of enthusiasm and physical energy and motivation. Just be careful not to get too fanatical about "being right."

March 25 Mercury is nicely aspecting Uranus nudging you to trust intuition and not accept everything you hear. Question. Mars is awkwardly aspecting Saturn bringing its usual frustration with slow speed when you're ready to make things happen, fast. Make sure that you have good music in the car in case you get stuck in a traffic jam.

March 26-29 Mercury is aspecting 3 planets! Mercury is now in aspect with Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto. Anyone who loves to write will benefit from taking time out now to utilize this spark of brilliance being offered to us cosmically. Your mind is open and eager to learn and understand and integrate knowledge into your life. The Sun and Venus are conjunct Uranus in Aries. A new trend in art and fashion will take place. We're moving into a new phase of artistic expression, something we haven't seen before.

March 27 the Full Moon takes place at 3:28am with the Moon in Libra and the Sun in Aries close to Uranus. This Full Moon is aspecting Pluto. Fasten your seats belts for this one! We may be hearing more news from Egypt at this point—they are still focused on creating a democratic society there. More revolution? Could be.

Notice how you feel—it might be similar to wanting to turn things upside down and finding a better way that hasn't been tried before.

March 29-31 the Sun and Venus are aspecting Saturn and Pluto. Can you forgive yourself for past relations when you didn't have clarity about your needs and priorities? This is a time for moving forward in love without guilt or past experiences getting in the way of really seeing the other person, as they are.

March 30 the Sun and Venus are in a challenging aspect with Saturn. Try not to be self-critical—it could block the flow of creativity.

Ananur Forma lived in Crestone from 1996-2003. She now resides by the ocean in Rockland Maine. 207-594-2565, www.AstrologyWithAnanur.com, ananur@AstrologyWithAnanur.com.



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by Kim Malville
Almanac

Jupiter continues to dominate the evening skies. It is in the constellation of Taurus close to Aldebaran, the red eye of the Bull. A large trapezoid is formed by Jupiter, Aldebaran, Betelgeuse and Capella.

March 1-2: Saturn rises about 11pm close to the waning moon, and they travel together throughout the night. Saturn lies between Virgo and Libra and is retrograding.

March 7-10: Comet PanSTARRS may become visible to the naked eye. Look low in the west just after sunset.

March 10: Daylight savings time starts at 2am.

March 12-18: This should be the best time to view Comet PanSTARRS.

March 20: Vernal equinox, when the sun moves into the northern hemisphere of the heavens: 5:02am.

March 28, 29: The moon, slightly past full, is close to Saturn.

Comet PanSTARRS

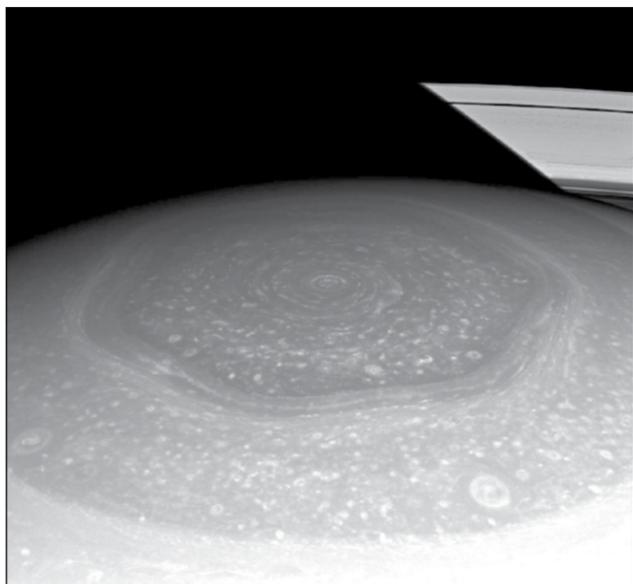
"Comets are like cats. They have tails and they do precisely what they want." David Levy

asteroid that exploded over Russia on Feb 14. The telescope was first put into operation in May 2010 and since then has detected more than 4000 previously known asteroids and 7 completely new ones. It has also discovered 9 supernovae and, of course, one comet. This new comet is falling toward the sun out of the Oort Comet Cloud, where it has been hiding from view for 4.5 billion years. Never before has it felt the heat of the sun, and there's no telling how it will behave. These new comets have coatings of volatile substances, which may evaporate quickly, cause a rapid increase in brightness, and then fade. It will come closest to the sun on March 10, passing within 28 million miles of the sun, well inside the orbit of Mercury. By then it should have grown a long tail. Predictions of its brightness after March 12 have varied from Venus to the stars of the Big Dipper, but it will make March a very special month.

Russia's tiny asteroid

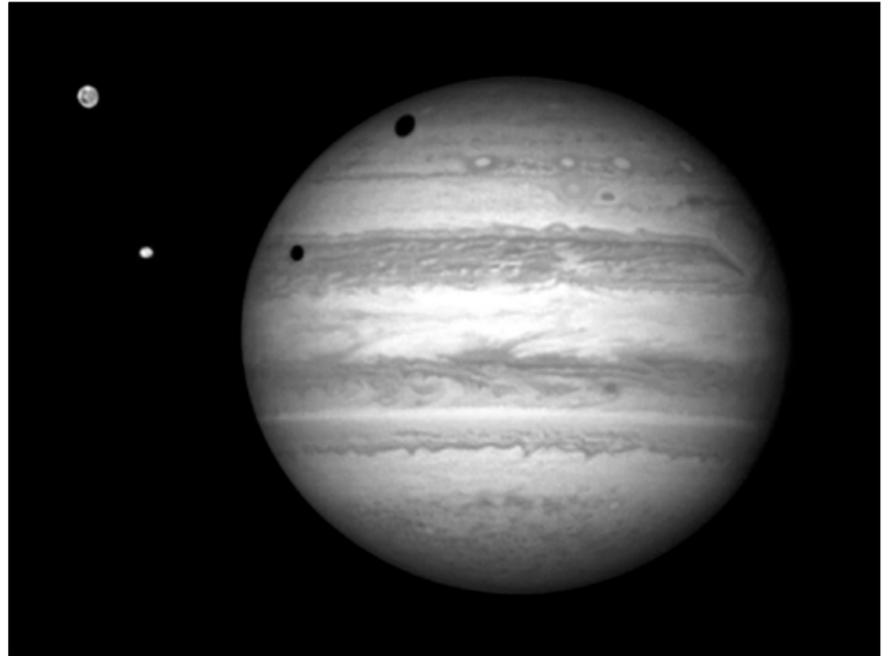
The object that exploded over Russia last month was a tiny asteroid that measured roughly 45 feet across, weighed about 10,000 tons, and traveled about 40,000 mph. The object vaporized 15 miles above the surface of the Earth, causing a shock wave that triggered the global network of listening devices that was established to detect nuclear test explosions. The force of the explosion was between 300 and 500 kilotons, some 30 times larger than the Hiroshima explosion. Some 1500 residents of Chelyabinsk were injured, mostly due to flying glass. Damages are estimated at \$33 million due to the sonic shock striking the city and causing walls to collapse.

The fact that the asteroid hit on the same day that we were expecting the close passage of a larger asteroid is an extraordinary coincidence. The smaller asteroid was traveling in a very different trajectory and much



Hexagonal cloud pattern on the north pole of Saturn. photo courtesy of NASA

This may be the best comet in our skies in years at our latitude. Its funny name comes from the telescope that discovered it: the Panoramic Survey Telescope And Rapid Response System of the University of Hawaii. This new telescope is designed to detect asteroids and comets that come near and possibly threaten the earth. Ironically it missed the



Jupiter with shadows of two moons, Ganymede and Io. photo by D. Peach

more quickly, indicating that the two were not at all related. This is the largest recorded meteorite/asteroid explosion since the Tunguska explosion in 1908, which leveled more than 800 square miles of forest in Russia. This asteroid was too small and too dark for it to be detected by PanSTARRS.

Hexagon on Saturn

It's good to have mysteries. The clouds of the north pole of Saturn contain a very strange and unexplained hexagon. Nobody is sure why. Originally discovered during the Voyager flybys in 1980s, nothing like this has been seen anywhere else in the Solar System. It has lasted more than 20 years. Each of the six well defined sides are of nearly equal length. Four Earths would fit into each side. Beyond the planet in the photo, one can see the shadow of Saturn projected on its rings.

Shadows on Jupiter

Two dark shadows move across the banded and mottled cloud tops of Jupiter in this amazing photograph taken on January 3, 2013. Of the four bright Galilean moons (visible

in binoculars) Io is the smallest and closest to Jupiter, while Ganymede is the largest. Io is the most volcanically active object in the solar system. Its orange color is due to the sulfuric magma that has coated its surface. Were any folks living in the cloud tops of Jupiter, they would experience a total solar eclipse when the shadow passes over them. The great red spot is on the right hand side of Jupiter in this picture.

Dung beetles and the Milky Way

A male dung beetle tries to impress his favorite lady beetle by rolling the biggest ball of excrement it can create along a straight line. Rival males are known to overtake their rivals and claim the affection of the waiting lady. Speed and straightness are vital. It has recently been demonstrated by zoologist Eric Warrant at Lund University in Sweden that these beetles, who work at night, follow the light of stars and the moon. Their eyes are good, about 1000 times better than honey bees. Birds, seals, and, yes, even humans use the stars to navigate, but this is the first time it's been shown that insects can follow starlight. It turns out they are following the bright line of stars in the sky that is our the Milky Way. In an experiment in a planetarium when only the Milky Way was projected on the dome, the beetles followed a straight line across the floor. When the planetarium projector was turned off, they rolled their dung in circles. Because the Milky Way is brighter in the southern hemisphere, life is good for dung beetles south of the equator.



Dung beetle.

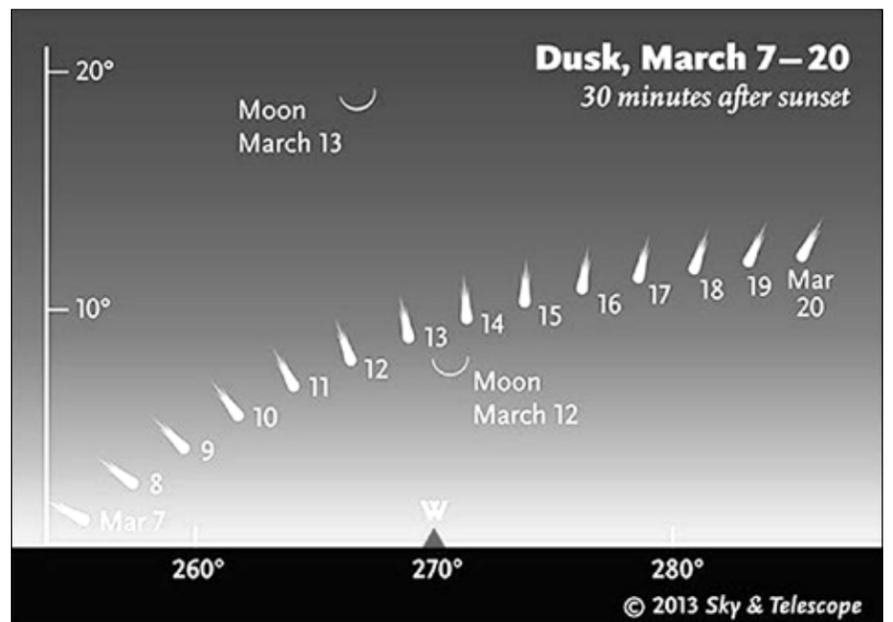
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Finding Chart for Comet PanSTARRS.

photo courtesy of Sky and Telescope

February 2013 Rio Grande Roundtable meeting

by **Bea Ferrigno**

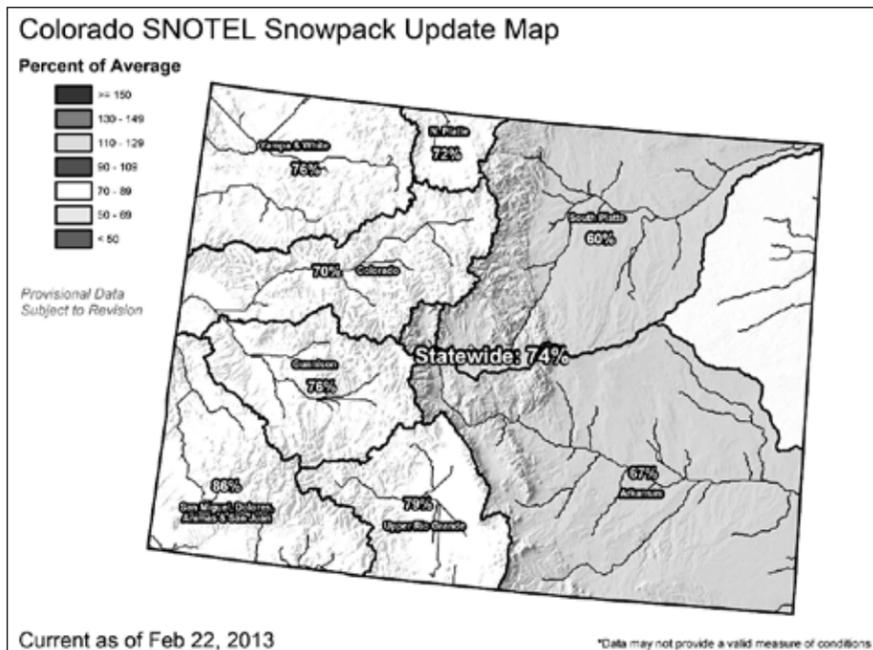
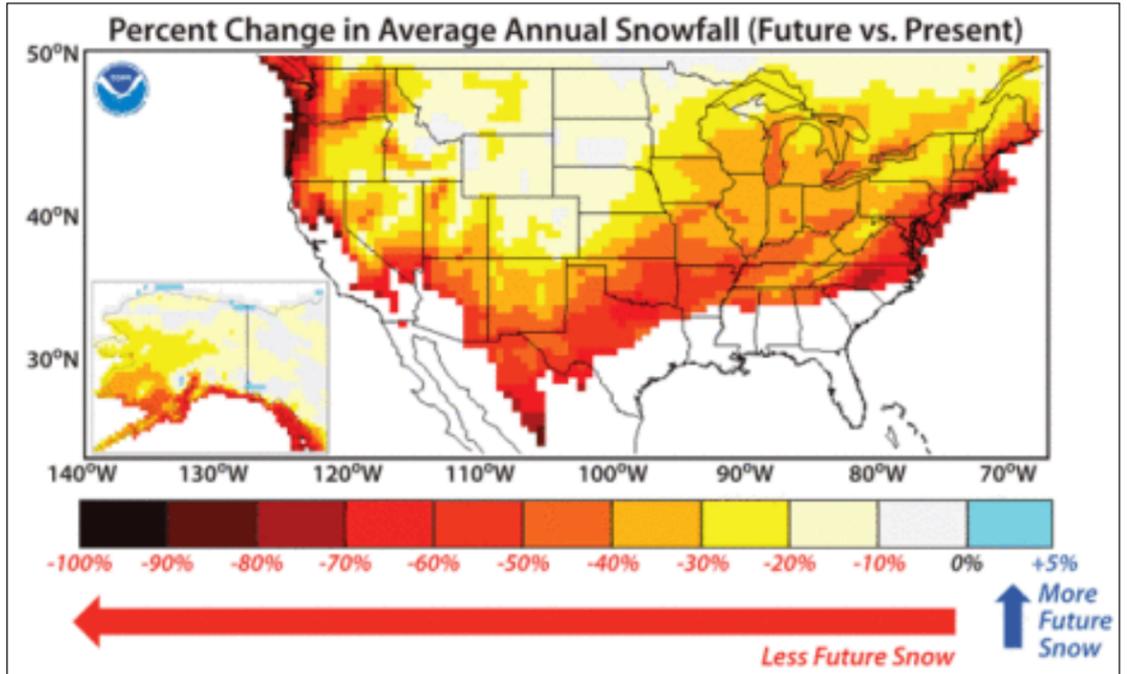
Water Division 3 Engineer Craig Cotten's report to the Rio Grande roundtable (RGRT) meeting in Alamosa on February 12 was marginally more optimistic than in the previous months, with regional snowpack at 86% of average, about the same as on that date last year. Despite the snow brought by winter storm Q, however, on February 22 the Colorado SNOTEL update map showed only 79% of average for snowpack in the upper Rio Grande basin (see graphic 1). The long-term outlook is still for less moisture and warmer-than-average

temperatures, as discussed at the RGRT meeting by Taryn Finnessey of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). To make matters worse, a new climate model (see graphic 2) suggests snowfall is likely to decline as much as 30% in the Colorado mountains; the current *High Country News* cover story, "Farming on the Fringe" details efforts of San Luis Valley farmers to replenish overtapped aquifers (graphic 3); and even the *New York Times* is reporting on the extended Colorado drought: [www.http://nyti.ms/15f2SuE](http://nyti.ms/15f2SuE). Meanwhile, Subdistrict 1 is operating as planned while still waiting for a court decision and ground water models to support operating rules.

What to do? It will take more than reduced pumping by large consumers to maintain agricultural production by restoring aquifers that have been drawn down for years and returning water to dessicated wetlands. Anyone interested in exploring and addressing the complex issues is encouraged to attend a free course on all aspects of valley water sponsored by a group of area water organizations. It will be held evenings March 18-22 in Alamosa. The short application can be downloaded from rgwcd.org and is due by March 1, today!

While the drought has not yet forced many drastic changes in the San Luis Valley, Ms. Finnessey, a Drought and Climate Change Technical Specialist, reported that the economic and social impacts are

being studied by the CWCB, and a drought task force is monitoring effects on agriculture. If conditions warrant, additional groups will address concerns such as impacts on tourism, municipal water supplies, and fire protection. Last year was the second warmest on record (by only 1/10th of a degree) but though less acreage was planted in the valley, agricultural income was not adversely affected because there were high commodity prices. A new website "landing page" will soon serve as a clearing house for information about water restrictions and other drought-related matters.



We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy -- sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.

—Thomas Edison



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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM
THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fuel safety
by Lisa Bodey
Public Education Officer

The current loss of local fuel availability in Crestone raises concerns about bulk fuel storage. We've had this happen several times in the busier tourist months, but we were only inconvenienced a day or two until the return of the fuel tanker. Now we are faced with empty pumps for an indefinite amount of time. This definitely inspired safety discussions amongst local volunteer firefighters and the community. The potential for a fuel-related incident has increased with more people transporting fuel in their vehicles and storing fuel cans around homes and businesses. As responders, we will be exercising more caution when responding to motor vehicle accidents and structure fires. As members of this community our awareness of the situation and need for each of us to exercise caution as individuals is

paramount to our wellbeing.

The first reminder we would like to share is to always call 911 in the event of an emergency so that your local fire department can be dispatched to the scene. We realize that many people will have no choice but to transport and store gasoline to run their vehicles, tractors, and other small equipment such as generators and chainsaws, so we would like to share a few safety tips and precautions.

Never fill a container past its fuel max line or 95% full to allow room for expansion when the can warms up.

Fill portable containers on the ground outside to prevent overflow and spills within your vehicle or home and to give static electricity a ground which prevents sparks from igniting fuel vapors.

Do not leave containers in direct sunlight. Store cans in a cool, well ventilated area.

Never store gasoline inside a

vehicle or home.

Protect fuel from ignition sources and moisture.

Fuel should be stored in an isolated area, downhill and downwind from any ignition sources including buildings. Fuel vapors are heavier than air and will flow downhill.

Have a fire extinguisher in a convenient location near fuel storage.

Gasoline is not flammable as a liquid, it is very stable; however, when it vaporizes it turns to a gas and is highly flammable with explosive potential. Gasoline cans and tanks that are closer to empty are more dangerous than full ones because there is more room for vapors to accumulate and create volatile pressures. The flash point of gasoline is so low that it can vaporize, ignite, and explode at just about any temperature. Gasoline vapors travel and tend to accumulate in low spaces, so water heaters, furnaces, stoves or other appliances with pilot lights can also easily ignite vapors.

Gasoline is also one of the hardest fuels to store because it has a high vapor pressure, will evaporate quickly, and go bad within a

few weeks if not chemically treated. It should be treated with a BHT additive like Sta-Bil and protected from moisture. Use the standard color code for cans which is red for gasoline, blue for kerosene and yellow for diesel fuel. The condition of your container is important—no holes or leaks, and make sure the cap fits securely. A three-can storage system is the preferred method of choice to ensure that fuel is reasonably fresh at all times and is portable. A 90-day supply is typically the maximum amount that is recommended for storage and using a three-can method. In the three-can method, #1 can is full, #2 can is in use, and #3 can is empty and ready for refill and then each can gets rotated accordingly.

If you would like to learn more about fuel storage and safety, please visit one of the following websites:

- **NFPA**
www.nfpa.org;
- **American Burn Association-Gasoline Safety**
[www.ameriburn.org/Preven/GasolineSafetyEducator's Guide.pdf](http://www.ameriburn.org/Preven/GasolineSafetyEducator's%20Guide.pdf);
- **Backwoods Home**
www.backwoodshome.com

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894 Camino Real
 \$480,000



3901 Rarity Way
 \$225,000

1255 Eagle Overlook

Great price reduction-High on the mountain location everyone is looking for! This newer 2006 home is contemporary styled with very private cul-de-sac location. Home features custom woodwork, vaulted ceilings, great passive solar, in floor radiant heat, and open flowing floor plan. Sunroom adjoins the patio area, that looks out on the valley below with complete privacy. Master bedroom features a custom steam room to relax after a workout or long day. Upstairs loft bedroom has a sitting area, and its own bath with soaking tub. New fencing for pets or just a garden area. Sod in many of the yard areas, with flagstone patios. Lovely glass block wall in living area adds to the ambience of this quiet space.

\$297,000



35 Camino Baca Grande
 \$188,500

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realtor.com
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1202 Wagon Wheel
 \$199,000



1679 Kings Hill Overlook
 \$287,000



Enchanted Forest B&B
 \$539,000



780 Palomino Overlook
 \$520,000



1453 Wagon Wheel Road
 \$319,000



31 Sunset Overlook
 \$139,000



400 W Galena
 \$275,000



1297 Moonlight Way
 \$189,900



1279 Meadowlark Road
 \$350,000



1618 Willow Creek Way
 \$168,000



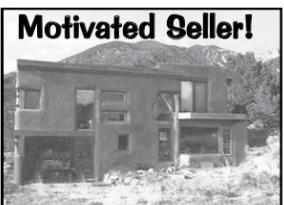
2800 Brook Overlook
 \$45,000



2684 Happy Hollow Way
 \$209,900



3528 Enchanted Way
 \$177,000



4408 Twinview Terrace
 \$140,000



1271 Sycamore Road
 \$235,000

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495 Moonlight Way, High Up & Close In.... \$4,900

Several "Owner Carry" lots in the Grants and Chalets..... Call for Details!!

88 Little Wanderlust—2.82 ac with Panoramic Views! \$4,000

Lot 3266 Carefree Way –Priced for Quick Sale \$2,000 Great Views!

Two consolidated lots on private cul-de-sac, water & sewer to lot, BIG Price Reduction 3725 Enchanted Way \$5,500 for two lots!

1290 Deer Dale Trail 1.64 ac with creek running through & tall trees –Reduced from \$18,000 to \$8,700!!!

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Aventa has made a commitment to continue to communicate with Saguache County on a monthly basis through The Crestone Eagle. Look for informational articles, promotional announcements and comments from the President/CEO of Aventa Credit Union. With the intent to keep open communication as to Aventa's direction in Saguache County, we encourage you to email us your financial topics of interests, questions or comments to feedback@aventa.com.

Consolidated Financial Condition

December 31, 2012 and 2011

ASSETS	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Total Loans	\$117,207,298	\$108,003,240
Less Allowance Loan Losses	(<u>\$1,524,502</u>)	(<u>\$2,120,245</u>)
Net Loans	\$115,682,796	\$105,882,995
Cash and Investments	\$27,441,596	\$21,804,608
Fixed Assets	\$3,986,896	\$3,400,023
National CU Share Insurance Fund Deposit	\$1,241,340	\$1,216,406
Other Assets	<u>\$3,540,428</u>	<u>\$2,683,504</u>
Total Assets	\$151,893,056	\$134,987,536
LIABILITIES, DEPOSITS AND EQUITY		
Total Liabilities	\$2,750,371	\$1,299,069
Total Deposits	\$136,395,935	\$122,171,239
Total Equity	\$12,746,750	\$11,517,227
INCOME AND EXPENSES		
Total Interest Income	\$8,168,104	\$7,918,649
Total Interest Expense	(<u>\$937,392</u>)	(<u>\$1,208,108</u>)
Net Interest Income	\$7,230,712	\$6,710,541
Total Non-Interest Income	\$1,624,492	\$1,484,812
Total Non-Interest Expense	(\$6,830,097)	(\$5,931,700)
Provision for Loan Loss	(\$364,003)	(\$1,380,221)
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>(\$425,686)</u>	<u>(\$146,194)</u>
Net Income	\$1,235,418	\$737,238

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APY is accurate as of 02.15.2013. Please call 800.555.6665 for current rates. Rates subject to change without notice. \$10,000 minimum deposit. Penalty for early withdrawal. Must be a member or qualify for membership. Aventa is not associated with or acting on behalf of Bank A or Bank B. Federally Insured by NCUA.



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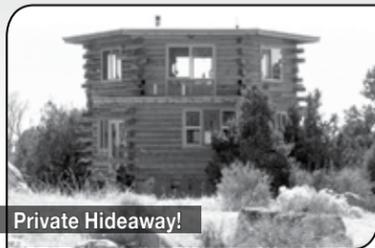
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958 MEDITATION OL: 3 br, 2 bath. Close-in, private, meticulously maintained, energy-wise, bright, creative touches. Solar in-floor heat with electric backup. \$218,000



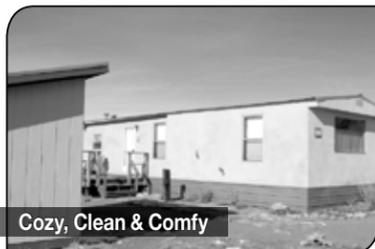
Private Hideaway!

4327 TRANQUIL WAY: Sweet custom 2-story hexagon log home, private greenbelt/creek location. Upstairs master, expansive views, adjacent lot. \$189,000



Great Value at \$119,000!

3510 ENCHANTED: 3 br, 2 bath, 1833 sf. Spacious rooms, large master br & two tankless water heaters for hot water & central heat. Nice location & lot. \$139,900 now \$119,000.



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13 CAMINO DE LA PLATA: Legal duplex. Live in one half, rent the other, or a great income investment in Casita Park. Great opportunity. Nice! \$49,000



Convenient Chalet | Location!

635C PANORAMA: 3 br, 2 bath, 1504 sf. Bright, high ceilings, quality-built, clerestory windows bring in beautiful light, great floor plan, well maintained. Good neighborhood close to town. \$195,000.



Opportunity in Pueblo

1525 E. 19TH, PUEBLO: 2 br, 1 bath, 1128 sf, great rental and investment property, and charming home on large lot. Two single car garages, many updates. \$79,000.



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Who ya gonna call? 911

by Pam Gripp
Paramedic/Administrator
Baca/Crestone Ambulance,
E911 Authority Board Secretary

I read Kizzen's editorial last month and was taken aback by the person who called the newspaper to get the 911 number . . . Holy mackerel! These days they have dogs trained to dial 911, so clearly I have not been doing my job as your E911 Authority Board Representative.

The 911 system was started in the 1960s by the federal government with a telephone surcharge of 50¢ per land line. Now virtually all the United States has E911 service. Granted, Saguache County does have three separate dispatch systems. It could, at times, be a few minutes faster to call in for a fire response to the proper department, but if you dial 911 and give them your location (i.e. Baca, Town of Crestone, a County address) the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch will page it out or make sure that the proper agency is notified. If a 911 call comes in to their center, they will immediately page their best guess response agency and get someone out the door. For example, if they paged out Saguache Ambulance in error, Saguache Ambulance would head out the door but radio back to CSP that the address is out of their district and to page the Baca/Crestone Ambulance. Saguache would continue on its way until it was told to stand down by either Baca/Crestone or Colorado State Patrol Dispatch.

Now throw cell phones into the mix. There was no such technology when the 911 system began. Most all cell phones now have GPS locators in them so that when 911 is dialed, the Phase 3 compliant cell phone carrier's tower sends that information to our E911 call center and bingo . . . they know exactly your coordinates and where the emergency is located. Hold the phone . . . because of our lack of cell towers and anti-competitive laws, the San Luis Valley does not have that capability. The 911 call center is Phase 3 Compliant but not all the carriers have upgraded their towers. Verizon is one of the big ones that is non-compliant. So if you are on Highway 17 heading towards Salida and you are using Verizon, for example, there is a really good chance your 911 call will go to the Pueblo call center that covers Chaffee and Custer Counties. Pueblo will then call the Alamosa Center and transfer the call to them.

All in all it's not a bad system. None of them are perfect for every caller. Currently E911 boards are looking at how to integrate VoIP (Voice over Internet Providers) and texting into the system. The VoIP providers not only don't have to pay for 911 service but the addressing coordinates are bizarre. I have a daughter on that system and the caller ID shows phone numbers from all over the United States.

Bottom Line . . . If you have an emergency and aren't sure, dial 911 and our Alamosa Call Center will get help on the way.

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NEW LISTINGS!



1216C Chaparral Way \$259,000
Immaculate 3bd/2.5ba custom home built by Keith Teahen on 1.132acres. Beautiful master suite w/ elegant master bath. Located on quiet street.



Guest House
3615C Splendid Terrace \$239,000
This spacious & bright 1938sf, 3bd/2.5ba, southwestern style home sits on 1.79acres. Guest house w/full bath + kitchenette. GREAT VALUE!



Close to new Crestone School
375 S. Cedar \$149,000
Charming 2-story home filled with light, 1100sf, 2bd/1ba Conveniently located in downtown Crestone. Easy walk to stores, restaurants, bank, post office and Charter School.



RETAIL!
200 Cottonwood - \$575,000
Curt's Olde Country Store. 6,320sf retail property w/ fixtures included and gas pumps. Prime Downtown Crestone Real Estate - GREAT VALUE!



UNDER CONTRACT
62 E. Horsetooth Trail - \$399,950
Single OR dual (2000sf, 2bd/2ba & 1550sf, 2bd/1ba) living space, 10' ceilings, fine finishes, courtyard on 3.21 acres.



UNDER CONTRACT
3435C W. Graceful Ct - \$184,999
Private 3bd/2ba, 1872sf 2-story newer frame home on 1.467 acres in CH2 w/ wood floors, wood stove, good views, & 436sf wrap-deck.



UNDER CONTRACT
3862 Cordial Way - \$169,000
CREEK SIDE in the trees, 1352sf 3bd/2ba bright home built in 2004. Upstairs Master Suite w/balcony. Quiet retreat setting in CH2.

UNDER CONTRACT!



Price Drop! Was \$155,000
826C Ridgeview Way - \$140,000
Adorable 1bd+loft/1ba 1119sf (35'-diameter) monolithic dome on .904 acres, high in Chalet I. Flagstone patio.



Bank Owned
\$83/sf!
3486C Graceful Way-\$249,000
3000+sf, 5bd/2.75ba home w. separate studio apartment, sun-room, radiant floor heat, oversized garage, courtyard/garden, an AMAZING \$83/sf!



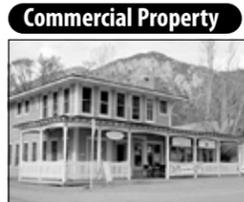
Off-Grid
364 E Birch Trail-\$115,000
1207sf + Greenhouse on 10+ acres (Lots 362-365). Horse property, strawbale, solar off-grid.



Retreat Properties
WAS \$1,170,000 NOW - \$669,000
Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!



23 Acres!
3926 Cordial Way NOW - \$689,000
4100sf, 4bd/3.5ba, architecturally designed palatial main home amid trees, and 550SF guest cottage. Over-sized 2-car garage. Beautiful!



Commercial Property
121 E. Galena - \$495,000
Premiere, newly renovated drtwn commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt. and 3 rentals 1st floor, one w/commercial kitchen. Great opportunity.



Bed & Breakfast
Willow Springs (Moffat) Was \$349,000 NOW \$299,000
9 Bd/3Ba 3600sf; includes everything for a turnkey operation. Great Well!

Baca Meadows



Townhouse 6, - \$199,000
Renovated & furnished 3bd/3ba 1622sf single-level townhouse w. granite tile counters, pantry, arch & walled courtyard.



Townhouse 9 - \$159,000
2-story 2bd/2ba 1480sf corner townhouse with mountain views. Wrap around patio and balcony. Peaceful & relaxing. Immaculate condition.

Town of Crestone



Close to new Crestone School
345 S. Cedar, Crestone - \$189,000
1434sf 3bd/2ba Cottage Neighborhoods. Downtown Crestone, walk to the grocery stores, Post Office, bank, shopping, restaurants & new school.



Single family OR Duplex
370 South Alder - \$187,500
Flexible space with 5 BD/2BA or two separate units. 1950sf. Part of Cottage Neighborhoods downtown Crestone.

Off-Grid Green Living



573C Cottonwood Creek Tr \$324,000
CUSTOM OFF-GRID STRAWBALE 1855sf 2bd/1.75 on 8.59acres. Garage 808sf. Fine finishes. Open floorplan. Views. Exquisite!



Reduced- Was \$175,000
1381 Saddlerock Trail - \$165,000
Cute 1100sf 2bd/1ba strawbale home. Solar hot water, radiant heat bamboo floors, sunroom, views, courtyard.

Baca Grande Properties



786C Panorama Way - \$459,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/SR/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.

Baca Grande Properties



Was \$499,000
1234C Brookview NOW - \$459,000
Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.



HUGE DROP! Was \$499,000
1230C N Indian Bend - \$375,000
1950sf 3BD/2BA; 3.69 acres; 1450sf garage/workshop/studio w. full bath, landscaped Courtyard with trees.



Horse Property
1342 Badger Rd - \$349,000
2bd/1.75ba/office/screen porch/864sf 2-car garage. SW-style home on 13.5 acres. Backs to creek/trees, 2 stalls/paddocks/pastures. Expansive views.



Was \$349,000
42 C Serene Way - \$319,000
Immaculate 2500sf 3-level home on .98ac, 5bd/2.75ba. Walkout basement includes den/yoga room, radiant floor heat, bricked patio.



Detached Studio
1540C Willow Creek Way \$315,000
This classic farmhouse has 3bd/2.5ba, large deck w/hot tub, 2 screen porches, hardwood floors, large studio w/bath & kitchenette.



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



22 Alpine Way - \$295,000
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New Construction



1647C Willow Creek Way - \$269,000
Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1780sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt. Views.



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1142 East Badger Rd - \$254,000
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Rooftop Deck Views!
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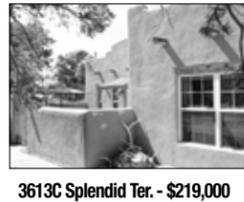
3869C Jubilant Terrace - \$235,000
10 sided two story home on 2.08 acres on greenbelt w. creek. Private cul-de-sac. 360° views/large deck. Possible Owner Financing



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4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$225,000
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233CR Sweetgrass OL - \$219,000
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3613C Splendid Ter. - \$219,000
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Was \$249,000
Motivated Seller
2681C Happy Hollow Wy \$179,000
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Reduced-Was \$179,000
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3485 E. Graceful Ct - \$159,000
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In Search of Economic Reality

Divide and Conquer

by Ed Lyell

Corporations and the wealthy have lowered their tax burdens by using the old fashioned military strategy of divide and conquer. Our elected governments at national, state, county and local levels have capitulated to this lose-lose game.

A corporation will approach a government group and promise to create new jobs if only the corporation can be exempted from taxes for a number of years. Then when that time period is up the same corporation threatens to move unless the tax breaks are made longer term or permanent. Thus the basic service provided—roads, bridges, schools—must be paid for by local citizens, not corporations. Over the decades this “tax increment funding” has reduced the tax revenue needed to provide services by large amounts and shifted the burden from business to individuals.

In the 1950’s corporations paid enough profit taxes to provide almost half of all federal revenue. They also provided a universal employee health care and state and local taxes. Now corporations pay less than 8% of the federal revenue, and in many communities no local taxes for years. To me this has become a major extortion game that should be stopped and reversed.

Professional sports billionaire owners win at this terrible game. The billionaire owner threatens to move the local team to another county or state unless they are giv-

en government tax breaks and local taxpayers promise to fund and build a new stadium. The cost of the stadium is paid for by local taxpayers, yet all of the profit goes to the billionaire owners. Recently when San Francisco would not play this game the NFL Forty Niners started their move toward San Jose who would play.

Other companies have discovered that they can play the same game. A Wal-Mart type store or mall, or a production factory, will promise to build a new facility in a certain place if they are exempt from local taxes. When one town or county says no, then that big corporation goes to a nearby city or county and gets the deal they want. By playing local governments off each other the corporation always wins, and the local citizens and small businesses lose. Corporations that are too big to fail are also too big to tax.

The New York Times has investigated and reported that local governments lose over \$80 billion a year in taxes through this corporate extortion. *The Times* analyzed more than 150,000 awards and created a searchable database of incentive spending, (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html). *The Times* concluded that mayors and governors who are desperate to create jobs are outmatched by multinational corporations. Federal tax exemptions and credits are created in the same manner when companies threaten

to move jobs overseas if they did not get subsidies in the United States. States get played off of one another. A recent report stated that Shell Oil (A primarily Dutch multinational) has been offered a tax credit worth as much as \$1.6 billion over 25 years from Pennsylvania, which competed with West Virginia and Ohio for an energy production facility. Royal Dutch Shell, the parent company, made \$31 billion in profits in 2011—about \$3.5 million every hour. The company’s chief executive made \$13.1 million last year. Yet each pays few taxes in the USA.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that Twitter played this game for a win in San Francisco. The city exempted Twitter from what could total \$22 million in payroll taxes, and the company agreed to stay put. The city estimates that Twitter’s work force could grow to 2,600 employees and Twitter will pay no city taxes. Twitter was not short on money — it soon received a \$300 million investment from a Saudi prince and \$800 million from a private consortium. The two investors received Twitter equity, but San Francisco got a different sort of deal.

This tax avoidance and bur-

den shifting is also true for wealthy people who change their primary residence from a high-income tax state to a no-tax state. Top end professional athletes compete for teams in high-tax states but declare a home in a no-tax state. Companies like Google have a majority of their employees in California, yet make their official headquarters in Nevada, avoiding California taxes yet getting costly government services paid for by others. Of course the GEs, Googles and Apples can play the game internationally and avoid paying taxes in any country or municipality. A logical, but scary, defense of wealthy corporate executives and investors might claim “why should they pay more taxes for roads, police and schools when this class now commutes by helicopter, have gated communities with private security forces, and send their children to private schools”.

All of this is another major step in the loss of democracy and the middle class in America. It is a new top down communism by corporation. Even Sarah Palin had it figured out when she correctly called it crony capitalism. Books titled *Concentrated Capitalism*, *Corporatism*, *Corporate Conspiracies*, all describe the details. The US Congress, state and local government are all giving in to these corporate powers at the expense of the citizen majority.



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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

First of all, we would like to thank those who brought snacks to our Valentine's Open House last month. Over eighty individuals attended the event that celebrated the library's love for our patrons! We think that folks enjoyed "A Blind Date With A Book" (wrapped

up books that concealed their titles). Many were checked out by folks willing to take a risk!

As mentioned in our article last month, our new AspenCat automation system is now in place. In addition to patrons having control of their personal library account online (seeing what items are checked out and when they are due, renewing and putting holds on items), it is now possible to download free ebooks to your computer and/or other devices (like iPads, eReaders, phones, etc.). All you need to do is download the appropriate "Reader App" and you are set to view and download books from the 3M eBook Collection. You can check out three books and have five on hold

at a time. They are checked out for 21 days and can be renewed if there are no holds on the item. After 21 days, they are no longer available on your device. In consideration of other patrons, please check them in if you are done early. Sorry, but they cannot be downloaded using library computers.

The four new desktop computers are installed with the Ubuntu operating system. According to the developers, they selected the name "Ubuntu" because it is an African word that means both "humanity to others" and "I am what I am because of who we all are." The word emphasizes the nature of Ubuntu as a free, community-driven (open source) operating system. It re-

quires no virus protection, comes with a word-processing program (Libre) that reads Microsoft Office programs, and a password protection feature that keeps them "frozen" to library settings. The two new laptops for public use are installed with Windows 7 for those who prefer the traditional system.

Reminder: In order to receive automated messages with information about items that are coming due, please give us your email address so that we can add it to your account. The service is active immediately.

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

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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

Other than a blue hole off to the west, from which a late afternoon sun throws a promised-land glow over the hills south of Del Norte, we are driving under a woolen gray February sky. Crossing over the Rio Grande, gusts of Wolf Creek wind carry billowing sheets of snow down the frozen river toward the ranch where my daughter and I are headed.

Several miles east of Del Norte, we turn off the highway and follow the signs—old-fashioned white figure skates dangling from fence posts and pasture gates—to the river. There we find several people standing around a fire, a little girl roasting a marshmallow, someone cooking brats and chili on a nearby grill, an assortment of grown ups and kids skating between two home-made hockey goals, and a pack of ranch dogs circling the commotion and chasing the puck, all of this out on a shoveled-off rink of Rio Grande river ice.

Pond hockey, or in this case river hockey, gets in your blood. It has been in mine for a long time. And now as I sit down on a log bench to lace up my blades, and I hear skates carving up the ice and sticks slapping pucks, I flashback briefly to a frozen scene some forty-five years ago: I'm with a good pal, long strong striding into the great beyond of a glassy black-iced lake, sliding the puck back and forth across the smoothness of it all, faster and further, faster and further, world without end, amen.

I could live in that flashback, but duty calls and I help my daughter lace up her skates. I grab her a short stick and show her how to lean on it for balance. She's a little wobbly, but she'll do fine. So I grab myself a stick out of the pile and soon we are out in the fray. And it's slapstick, slapstick, and poke away the puck. And it's weave left, weave right, and steer through a maze of long legs and short legs. I forget, for a short while, that I am now 57 and out of shape.

This ice, like any natural freeze, as opposed to the Zambonied surface most skaters are used to, has its own topography—bumps, ripples, criss-crossing fissures, mushy edges. I relearn this as I get the puck on a fast break and catch a blade in a soft spot, flying face first into a snowbank. "Yeah, it's a little soft over there," say one of my teammates.

All too soon, the sun has gone down "Where's the moon when you need it?" I hear someone say. By now our silhouetted herd of puck-chasers has thinned out and we part ways even more to let the little skaters make some memories. My daughter gets the puck and slaps and whiffs and slaps and whiffs and then shoots again. Score!!

I will learn on the drive home that this game is now in her blood too. Yes, I tell her, we will play again soon.

Everyone should have a river they can skate away on.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Willow (Salix spp.)



by Dorje Root

Our native willows here in Crestone are the shrub variety, rather than full trees. There are several species which can cross pollinate—making it difficult to positively identify the species. Our willows grow along the creeks interspersed with red osier dogwood, also called "red willow" but not an actual willow. Someone unfamiliar with our narrow-leaf cottonwoods might

of a tree, take a few smaller branches in their entirety, sparing the tree as a whole. The fresh or dried plant parts can be tinctured in alcohol, or decocted to make medicine. They can also be used as a compress or poultice for painful or injured limbs. Willow, like its cousin aspen, can be very useful for the pain associated with urinary tract infections.

Willow has been used traditionally wherever flexibility was



Willow blossoms

mistake them for willows. Willows bloom in the spring with catkins (think pussy willow) that emerge just before the leaves come out.

Willows grow worldwide near water sources, or in wet soil. They can easily be started by sticking a cutting into wet ground. I have seen a beautifully crafted arched willow garden-gate take root and begin to grow leaves, adding to the magic of that particular garden.

Medicinally, willow has been used for pain and inflammation. Containing salicylic acid, it was the precursor to aspirin, and like aspirin, can irritate the lining of the stomach if not used carefully (combined with other herbs or taken after eating). The inner bark, twigs, and leaf are the parts used. The best time to gather willow is in the spring, when the sap is rising from the roots to the budding leaves. When using the bark or inner bark

needed, such as in the making of a sweat lodge, or the weaving of a basket. This flexibility is one of the strongest characteristics of willow.

Willow as a flower essence is used to clear resentment. And in Plant Spirit Medicine it is one of the plants that helps balance the wood element, which is associated with springtime. The emotion connected to the wood element is anger, so in both systems willow, in its flexibility, helps to soften the rigidity of anger or resentment.

To go deeper with willow, see Haps for information on the Willow Wisdom workshop this month with Láné Sáan Moonwalker.

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

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tion of a Marijuana Cultivation
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juana Testing Facilities or Retail
Marijuana Stores" was adopted
on February 11, 2013.

Approved: Kairina Dan-
forth, Mayor

Ordinance #2013-004, "An
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ing a Municipal Water System
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outdoor deck facing the mountains
and bathroom with beautiful tiles and
woodwork for \$500 per month; two
rooms and private bathroom on third
floor for \$400 per month; one bedroom
with bathroom on first floor for \$350
per month. All rental spaces include
use of shared kitchen, dining/living
area. Call 719 588 7144 for details.

Commercial Property for Rent

Large Sacred Space for Rent

Exceptionally High Vibrational
Geometric 12 sided-space available.
Ideal for gatherings, groups, small
retreats, classes. 719-256-5768
annelkellycrestone@yahoo.com
enchantedforestcrestone.weebly.com

House Rental Wanted

Share Crestone Home or Caretake

Share home (rent) or caretake (utilities,
watch over). Will travel some. If
caretaking, can vacate when needed.
Start May, clean, veggie, dog, writer,
practical 970-507-0634

Wanted to Rent

Cottage/apt. for immaculate, mature
woman with no pets - 1-bedroom,
bathroom, kitchen, livingroom,
unfurnished, in town preferred, clean,
no carpeting, quiet, long-term, \$350-
\$450 including utilities/heat. Contact
Sandra 588-9595.

NOTICE OF POLLING PLACE ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF DISSOLUTION OF THE CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT doing business as CRESTONE EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ("District"):

DATE AND HOURS OF ELECTION: A polling place election will be held March 5, 2013, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

POLLING PLACE: The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place: The Community Building, 240 North Cottonwood Street, Crestone, CO.

BALLOT QUESTION: At said election, the eligible electors of the District shall vote on the following bal-
lot question: "SHALL THE CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DOING BUSINESS AS THE CRESTONE
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT) BE DISSOLVED?"

ELIGIBLE ELECTORS: An eligible elector for the purpose of this special election is a person registered to
vote pursuant to the "Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992;" and (i) who has been a resident of the District for
not less than thirty (30) days, or (ii) who, or whose spouse, owns taxable real or personal property within the District,
whether said person resides within the District. A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase
taxable property within the District shall be considered an owner of taxable property for the purpose of qualifying as
an eligible elector. If not already registered to vote, the last day to register to vote in this special dissolution election is
February 4, 2013.

APPLICATION FOR MAIL-IN BALLOT: In addition to voting in person on election day, eligible electors living
within the District, and non-resident eligible electors, may apply for a mail-in ballot from the Designated Election Official
by filling out an application form or by sending an application letter requesting a mail-in ballot (include applicant's full
printed name, date of birth, phone number and address of residency within Colorado or alternative address for where
you want the ballot mailed, and signature). Mail the signed completed application form or signed application letter to:
Linda Stagner, PO Box 1254, Crestone, CO 81131 or fax to (719)256-4517. The application form/letter shall be filed
no later than 5:00 P.M. on March 1, 2013 except that if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the
application shall be filed no later than the close of business on February 26, 2013.

DELIVERY OF MAIL-IN BALLOT: Ballots may be returned by mail to the mailing address below (or physically
delivered to the Designated Election Official at the delivery address below; please call 719 256-5165 to arrange deliv-
ery) prior to Election Day, or delivered to the polling place listed above on election day between the hours of 7:00 AM
and 7:00 PM. All mail-in ballots (whether mailed or delivered) must be mailed or delivered using the return envelope
provided, the affidavit on the return envelope must be signed, and the ballot received by the Designated Election Of-
ficial no later than 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 (postmark dates do not count as received).

SUMMARY OF PLAN OF DISSOLUTION: The Plan of Dissolution calls for the provision of services by the
existing service providers because the District has not, to date, provided any such services. The Plan further states
that there are no financial obligations outstanding. A copy of the Plan may be obtained or reviewed by the public at
the Saguache District Court, at the Baca Grande Library, 67581 County Road T, Crestone, CO, online at http://www.
crestoneemergencyservices.org/ or by calling (719) 256-5165.

CRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
/s/ David Hillman, Secretary and Designated Election Official
Mailing address: Linda Stagner PO Box 1254, Crestone, CO 81131
Delivery address: 190 Cascade Overlook Crestone, CO

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

Services

Xplore Design

Your Website is an Investment. Ridiculously good customer service and seriously inspired design. 719-239-3300 or markt@xplore-design.com

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

Is a reliable handyman escaping you? Not sure what to do? Call BIG BLUE!

Not sure what to do? Call BIG BLUE! Big Blue HANDYMAN SERVICE: Driving and hauling; Construction/demolition/remodeling; General repairs and maintenance; Housecleaning, organizing, shelf installation; That list of various "git-er-done" tasks – no matter how small! Experienced, affordable, free estimates, local references. "The courage to get a job done right" Matthew Clark 719-221-4861 m.lyon.c@gmail.com

Colormax House Painting

Colormax House Painting—many local references including Curt's Store and the Crestone Credit Union. Large color swatches for easy color selection. 25 years experience. Repairs. Excellent craftsmanship. Neat, fast & perfect. Chris Argenta 256-5243.

SNOWPLOWING SERVICES

CRESTONE PLOW! Don't get stuck in the snow! Commercial and Residential Rates available, average drive way \$25 – \$30. Call Karl at 588-5066 or leave message at 256-4707.

Want Help Self-Publishing?

Want to self-publish a book? I can help with layout, design and uploading to the publisher. Reasonable rates. Call 256-5912.

Computer Service/Repairs

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

Garden Guru

Put a half-century of gardening experience to work for you. Garden planning, soil improvement, variety selection, fruit tree planting and pruning. Reasonable rates, trades considered. Matie Belle Lakish, 937-7807 or matieb42@gmail.com.

Bob's Repairs and Maintenance

Bob's Repairs and maintenance around your home, 30 years experience in framing interior trim, decks, fencing, door and windows. 719-256-5253.

"No Swett Upholstery"

Tired of that old tattered fabric? See yourself sitting comfortably on that newly upholstered favorite chair. Antiques, office furniture, sofas and more. Call Sandy for estimate 719-221-5644

IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN!

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

DirecTV Sales, Installation, and Service

DirecTV For Sales, Installation and Service call Dennis at 256-4110.

Craig Electric Services

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

Recycle-Creede Recycling Services

Recycle-Creede provides drop-off recycling services in Crestone the 3rd Saturday of every month in The Laughing Buddha parking lot. We take almost everything! For more details call 303-503-9975; visit us on Facebook and at www.creede.org.

Soul Full Healing

Brennan Science Healing Practitioner~20+ years exp.~Deep,transformational results. Home,Office& Remote Sessions. Tamara,MS,BSHP Contact: coachmara@gmail.com

Looking for a Healthcare Practitioner?

Looking for a health care practitioner in Crestone? Massage therapists, herbalists, energy healers, douglas, and more. Also lodging, hot springs, gift certificates. www.crestonehealers.com.

Crestone Talks! Email Discussion Group

Crestone Talks! Email Discussion Group for Crestone. Events, perspectives, queries, and the uncategorizable. To subscribe, send a blank email: crestonetalks-subscribe@yahoo.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted – Full Time

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District is accepting applications to fill a receptionist / administrative assistant position. The position will be filled with one full-time, or two part-time employees. Candidates must have excellent customer service and organizational skills, proficient use of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Outlook) and have the ability to learn new software programs. High School diploma or equivalent is required. Prior customer service and office experience is preferred. Experience with Special Districts a plus. Applications can be found at bacawater.com/forms. Submit a completed application and resume to: Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District PO Box 520 Crestone, CO 81131 Application deadline is March 15, 2013. No phone calls please.

CAREGIVER NEEDED

LIVE IN CAREGIVER WANTED for elderly man with Parkinson's & dementia in Crestone. Full or semi-full time. Rm./bd. + wages. References required. Also seeking part time help. Call 588-8727.

Join a Great Team!

An award winning holistic health and wellness company is looking to expand with your help! They are truly passionate about helping families. Call KaDawna for more information. 719-496-6864

Misc. Wanted

WANTED: Straw Bales – New or Old

Straw bales: New & golden or old & moldin', our garden needs 'em. Please call Janet at 4230 or stop by the Crestone Eagle office.

Misc. for Sale

CYP Thrift Store SALE

The Luck o' the Irish be with ya at the CYP Thrift Store in March! ALL Winter Items are 50% off March 15th! LAST CHANCE!

"WE'RE MOVING" SALE!

Moving Sale: tv's, couch, chairs, kitchen table,refrigerator, tables, lamps, dresser,mirrors, juicer, double bed, recliner,art and more. Good quality items, pre-estate sale. 256-5333 or 970-596-8610

New and used books and CDs Cards and jewelry by Carmin

New store in Sangre de Cristo Inn. Off the central hallway, next to the pottery shop. Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 11-3 For more info call Carmin at 256-4511.

Misc. For Sale

Never used 2011 hot tub \$3500 OBO. Direct vent LP heater \$400. 25 stoves and chimney in stock. Green house covering by Solexx. Service work by David Lindsey 256-4400. Call Nathan at Shangrilah Stove 256-4768.

A Piece of Crestone

Send a chunk of Crestone to your loved ones! A small Crestone Conglomerate rock, complete with explanatory reprint from The Crestone Eagle, attractively packaged in a 3"x3" box for only \$5. All sales benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Available at His & Hers Hairstyling and The Crestone Eagle

• **Solar Panels, Pieces & Parts** • 250 watt solar panels call for current pricing. • 1 -30 amp MPPT charge controller. \$300 • 6 volt 370 amp hour deka solar batteries \$260.00 • Many additional system components. Future@NewGenEnergy.Com

Vehicles for Sale

Car for Sale

1997 Chev Cavalier, mouseproofed, reliable local transportation. \$750 obo. See at Davin Rude's shop in Moffat or call Bea, 480-2737 or wrldwyz@gmail.com

Community Service

Emotional and Spiritual Counseling

Change your life for free. "Change your mind/change your reality/expand consciousness through grace." Alice Blaszak provides free emotional and spiritual counseling to local residents. Privacy maintained. Phone Alice at 256-5670 for appointment.

Need a Caregiver?

I can help you find a local caregiver for you or a loved one. I have several names and numbers of individuals with a variety of skills and experience. (I am also looking for more trained caregivers/CNA) For in-home assistance, elderly care, ongoing illness, etc. call Kris at 719-256-4786; LM—Please speak clearly, I'll return your call.

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

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

Need Food? Crestone Food Bank is now Open

Crestone Food Bank is now open in the Crestone Town Center, SW corner of Galena & Alder. Open Wednesdays from 1-3pm, and as needed. Call Denise 256-4644.

Need Food?

Emergency Food Supply-

Need Food? The Moffat Food Bank will provide an emergency supply of food for 3 days to anyone in need. Open 2-4 Tuesdays. Call for information at 256-4226.

Lost and Found

REWARD – LOST IPOD!

Lost iPod, somewhere in the town of Crestone on Valentine's Day evening... Black, with no case, with earphones. \$100 REWARD. 720-334-2477, no questions asked.

Free

Designing the Future Together:

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

Free Manure

Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-4756

Events

What's Happening in Crestone?

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

*The dogs will bark,
the kids will squall;
Sometimes her life
Seems like a brawl.
But Daleth we love;
May she stand tall!
And on her birthday
Celebrate we all.*

—Lots of love on March 27 from the Eaglettes

Saguache County Landfill 2013 Holiday Closures

Tuesday, January 1	New Years Day
Tuesday, January 22	Martin Luther King's Birthday
Tuesday, February 19	Presidents Day
Friday, March 29	Spring Holiday
Tuesday, May 28	Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4	4th of July
Tuesday, September 3	Labor Day
Tuesday, November 12	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas

Saguache County Road and Bridge 2013 Holiday Closures

Tuesday, January 1	New Years Day
Monday, January 21	Martin Luther King's Birthday
Monday, February 18	Presidents Day
Friday, March 29	Spring Holiday
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4	4th of July
Monday, September 2	Labor Day
Monday, November 11	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas



Ask the Weatherman
by Keno
I've always wondered, since heat rises, why at higher altitude do the temperatures normally get colder rather than warmer?

Great question! There are a number of factors involved here.

First, yes, it's true that warm air rises, but as it does, it becomes much thinner and expands, which in turn causes the air to cool. On our high mountain ranges, as you know, the surrounding atmospheric air is also thinner; that results in not as much surrounding air to hold the heat when the sun warms the mountain, which causes much



The three prongs of the trident represent the threefold essences of nature: becoming, being, passing away. Other threefold meanings offered by Neptune's trident include: birth, life, death; mind, body, spirit; and past, present, future. photo by Kate Steichen

of the warming effect to escape. Secondly, high mountain tops

(at least here in Colorado) are around 2 miles higher up from the thermal heat at the earth's center compare to sea level areas. On top of Mt Everest, it's even more, around 5.5 miles above sea level.

The third reason for this is the unusual angle at which the sun's rays meet the earth's surface on top of a mountain. For instance, on flat ground with an overhead sun shining, the sun's rays meet the flat earth surface directly. So let's look at this from a simple point of reference. At sea level, a 3-mile stretch of sun affects about 3 miles of the earth's surface from directly above. However, when the sun meets the mountain side at an angle of say, 60°, then the same amount of sun will cover only 2 miles of ground; so its overall warming effect is greatly lessened. This takes place to some degree whenever the sun shines on mountains, and is yet another reason for the cooler temperatures.

Now I know what some of you are thinking, that in our area in winter, the lower your elevation, the colder the temps to be had. But that has to do with another phenomenon all together, called cold air drainage, which isn't what this question is about.

On winter mornings we often see thick fog lying down the center of the San Luis Valley. It's often very cold on those mornings. Where does the moisture come from and why does it appear mainly in the morning?

What you're seeing is normal morning freezing fog. Alamosa and the center of the valley get more of this than Crestone because of where they are located (i. e. in a lower area), and it usually doesn't make its way into Crestone. The elevation is the main reason, but not the only one.

Fog forms when the difference between temperature and dew point is generally less than 4°F, and normally occurs with the relative humidity near 100%. But with snow on the ground, the added moisture in the air from the snow forms fog even with lower humidity values.

As far as only seeing this in the morning, that's because of the rising sun. The sun burns off the fog by drying out the air, and this is why the fog dissipates usually before noon.

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno
January 21 to February 20

Total precipitation for period:
Liquid precip: 0.48"
Snow: 4.9"
Measurable precipitation fell on 6 days.

Measurable snow fell on 5 days.
Measurable rain fell on 1 day.
A trace of snow fell on 3 days
No thunderstorms or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 0.29"
Total snow to date
Since Jan 1: 5.6"
Snow season (7/1 to 6/30): 26.5"

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 44.1°F on January 27
Low temp: 0.3°F on January 30
Avg. high: 36.5°F
Avg. low: 12.0°F
Days with high at or above 40°: 9
Days with high above 32°: 24
Days with low at or below 10°: 12
Days with low at or below 0°: 1

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 4.5 mph
Highest gust: 33 mph February 8
Main direction: Out of the east

Weather Summary

We could not have been any closer to normal temperature-wise for this period; in fact, temps for February as of the 20th were exactly at normal, something which almost never happens! Precip-wise, we were a bit below normal, and the only record to report for this period would be for rainfall of all things, yes, record rainfall in January—all in one day, on January 26. Up until that day, no measurable rain had ever been recorded in the month before. It had only rained once before in January, and that was a trace which lasted for less than 5 minutes.

Outlook for March

For March, we average .93" of precipitation, most of that in the form of snow, with 12.6" of snow falling on average. The snowiest March on record was in 1983, when 40.3" accumulated on the ground, and the wettest March was in 1990, when 2.89" liquid precip was recorded.

Temperature-wise, for the first week in the month we average highs and lows of 43° and 18°, and by the end of the month, the average high warms up to 52°, with the low averaging 24°. The warmest March temp ever recorded was 71°, and was set on the last day of the month—just last year, do you remember? The coldest day was -10°, set on March 3, 2002.

The NWS 30-day outlook for March is calling for near normal temperatures, along with very much below normal snow-fall/precip, just what we don't need, so let's hope this doesn't turn out to be the case.

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

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Contradictions

If the "No" vote you give,
You will help the CrESD to live.

If the "Yes" vote you choose,
You will help the CrESD to lose.

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