

# August is Cataract Awareness Month

Special to The Chronicle-News

Paul D. Rastrelli, M.D., ophthalmologist and surgeon with Rocky Mountain Eye Center, will be hosting a free "Cataract Seminar" from 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009 in the Pueblo North location (27 Montebello Road - just off Jerry Murphy Road).

This seminar is open to the public and Dr. Rastrelli encourages anyone interested in learning more about cataracts to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. August has been designated as "Cataract Awareness Month."

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision. Most cataracts are related to aging and are very common in older people. According to the National Eye Institute, by age 80, more than half of all Americans either have a cataract or have had cataract surgery. Many people have cataracts in both eyes. In these cases, surgery is generally performed on one eye first, with the second procedure to follow in a few weeks.

According to the National Eye Institute, cataract removal is one of the most common operations performed in the United States. It is also one of the safest and most effective types of surgery. A quick survey of most medical office

waiting rooms would find several patients having difficulty in coping with bright lights while driving or performing other daily tasks.

Throughout southeastern Colorado and northern New Mexico, the surgeons at Rocky Mountain Eye Center perform over 3,000 eye procedures annually. Cataract surgery is a safe and common surgical procedure. Prior to the procedure, the patient is given a local anesthetic so he or she will remain awake during the procedure. But the eye will feel numb during the surgery. The use of local anesthesia lowers the risks and recovery time compared to the use of regional anesthesia. Cataract surgeries are conducted on an outpatient basis - no overnight stay is required. Soon after resting, patients are able to go home and have something light to eat or drink. The patient can resume most day-to-day activities quickly, with the exception of heavy lifting.

For more information or to schedule an appointment at Rocky Mountain Eye Center's Trinidad office, please call 719-846-9236. To schedule your next appointment at Rocky Mountain Eye Center's Raton, N.M. office, please call 575-445-2789. Rocky Mountain Eye Center can be reached toll-free at 800-934-3937 or please visit their web site online at [www.rockymountaineyecenter.com](http://www.rockymountaineyecenter.com).



AP Photo/HO, Bureau of Land Management

This photo provided by the Bureau of Land Management shows U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, left, speaking while Jan McCracken, a commissioner from Delta County, Colo., looks on at a ceremony at the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, south of Grand Junction, Colo. The conservation area covers a 50-mile section along the Gunnison River and nearby canyons, cliffs and mesas in western Colorado.

## Salazar rules out yanking Roan Plateau leases

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP)** — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is ruling out withdrawing energy leases issued for the Roan Plateau even though the plan to drill on public land on the western Colorado landmark is being challenged in court.

As a Colorado senator, Salazar was critical of the Bush administration's plan to develop the plateau about 180 miles west of Denver. He started exploring a possible settlement of the lawsuit by environmentalists after taking over as Interior secretary this year.

But Salazar told The Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction Wednesday that the leases have been signed and he is bound to protect the property rights of those who bought them.

Salazar was in Colorado for the formal dedication of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area south of Grand Junction.

In February, Salazar withdrew 77 oil and gas leases in Utah after saying they were too close to national parks. He has left open the possibility that some leases might prove suitable for development after a review.

The process in the Utah leases wasn't as far along as in the

Roan Plateau leases, Salazar said.

A lawsuit by environmental groups claims the federal government's environmental analysis of the potential impacts of development on the Roan Plateau was inadequate. Salazar has encouraged an out-of-court settlement and federal officials, the company that bought the leases and environmental groups have been in negotiations.

Attorneys for environmental groups, however, say a recent change in ownership of the leases has complicated the talks and dimmed hopes for a resolution.

The battle over tapping the Roan Plateau's vast gas reserves and protecting its extensive wildlife habitat and undeveloped backcountry moved to the courts last year after the U.S. Bureau of Land Management approved opening up more areas to drilling.

Last year's auction of federal leases on 54,631 acres of the plateau generated nearly \$114 million, a record for onshore energy lease sales in the lower 48 states.

In 2007, Salazar, then a Democratic senator from Colorado, blocked the confirmation of President George Bush's

nominee to head the BLM until Colorado officials got more time to review the Roan Plateau plan. He urged the BLM to adopt Gov. Bill Ritter's proposal to issue the leases in phases over several years rather than all at once.

Salazar also criticized what he called the Bush administration's rush to approve a plan for the commercial development of oil shale in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Companies are still experimenting with ways to free the oil in the rock formations.

When he took over the Interior Department, Salazar rescinded an offer of a second round of research and development leases on federal land started under the outgoing Bush administration. He said Wednesday that he expects to reopen the second round of leases for oil shale in the next month or so.

The BLM issued six, 160-acre federal leases for oil shale research and development in 2006 and 2007. Five are in northwest Colorado.

Information from: The Daily Sentinel, <http://www.gjsentinel.com>

## Folsom Museum presents Morrow Chautauqua

Continued from page 1

Thompson Smoker returned from Santa Fe to portray Fannie Dale Morrow in a chautauqua presented by the Folsom Museum Saturday at the old Folsom School. Her 35-minute performance included readings from one of the actual scrapbooks Fannie Morrow compiled while the Morrrows served in Washington, D.C., during the 1920s.

Virginia Francis Dale - Fannie - accompanied her large family from Missouri by wagon train when she was sixteen, in 1889; they settled on Johnson Mesa, where Dale Mountain is now named for them. With neighbors, they built the Bell School to attract the new young teacher who had moved to Folsom from Wisconsin. Young John Frances Morrow alternated semesters, one at the Clayton house in Folsom, then one on Johnson Mesa, charging \$1 per student per term.

On stage Saturday, Dorothy Thompson Smoker played Fannie Morrow as she packed boxes to return home to New Mexico at the end of John's third term in the U.S. Congress. She addressed the audience directly as her guests, while she went through scrapbooks of a rich life.

After many dances shared at Folsom, and an 1891 wedding at the Dale home in Bell on Johnson Mesa, John and

Fannie Morrow settled in Raton, where he became the first superintendent of schools in northeastern New Mexico. By 1895, John had become an attorney; the next year he went to the territorial legislature in Santa Fe, where he helped draft the constitution required for New Mexico's statehood. Along with the big Raton house, the Morrrows bought land on Johnson Mesa and downhill to the north and east, into Trinchera Canyon and Folsom. They did some ranching, though it's difficult to imagine how they fit it in.

Smoker told of the Morrrows buying one of the first automobiles in the area; they had to chain it to their shed at night to protect it from theft. Dirt roads were even worse then than now, and John began pushing for road improvements in the legislature. During his career he was instrumental in getting a road graded to the top of Capulin Volcano, along with many other important achievements - including protection of public lands such as Chaco Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns. Smoker, as Fannie, delighted in telling the audience about her adventurous descent into the caverns, which required being lowered in a barrel.

Fannie Dale Morrow kept meticulous records, photographs, and scrapbooks for her growing family. Some of those

records are now on display in the Folsom Museum through the end of the current season - it's open daily through Labor Day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., then weekends through September - and Dorothy Thompson Smoker put them to good use in her chautauqua performance Saturday.

After accepting applause from the Folsom audience of three dozen people, Smoker urged everyone to keep good records of their lives, to keep scrapbooks - even printing out important e-mails - and to tell family stories so they may be passed down to the children and the following generations. That's exactly what she did herself in the portrayal of Fannie Morrow, bringing to life many vibrant stories of lives lived right here, in a time gone by, as our own time will be, soon enough.



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## RATON POLICE BLOTTER

### INCIDENTS:

- 08-12-09 Patricia Stockton - victim of battery
- 08-12-09 Rae D. Valenzuela - victim of criminal damage to property
- 08-13-09 Patricia Bedard - victim of forgery
- 08-13-09 State Oil - victim of forgery/fraudulent use of a credit card

### CITATIONS:

- 08-12-09 Thomas Fred Anaya - battery
- 08-12-09 Maria Uribe - dog at large (2 counts)
- 08-12-09 Kayla Valdez - speeding
- 08-13-09 Adam Chavez - seatbelt violation
- 08-13-09 John A. Salazar - battery

### ACCIDENTS:

- 08-13-09 Florene Draper - involved in hit and run accident, her vehicle was parked unattended
- 08-13-09 Leann Vargas - struck a vehicle owned by Joseph Garcia
- 08-13-09 Jeremy Pacheco - struck vehicles owned by Anthony Duran Jr.

# IS YOUR HOME A HEATING BILL MONSTER

Are your heating bills high? Now is the time to make your home energy efficient!

South Central Council of Governments Housing Rehabilitation Program has loan/grant money available for housing rehabilitation for low to moderate income applicants in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. Our goal is to make your home safe, sanitary, decent and more energy efficient. You must own home and have lived in it for one year prior to applying.

Income guidelines are as follows:

# In household	Maximum income
1	31,150
2	36,150
3	40,600
4	45,100
5	48,700

For more information or an application, contact South Central Council of Governments at 719-455-1133 ext. 208 or 202 or in Walsenburg at 719-738-2205.

This notice paid for with public donations.

## FREE to the public

### Weight Loss & Stop Smoking Hypnosis Clinic

This is a free health service that is paid for with public funding and provided by *New Life Clinics Charitable Trust*, a federal and state-registered non-profit organization.

During this group hypnosis clinic, you will be hypnotized twice by a Board-certified clinical hypnotherapist to stop smoking, lose weight, or both. Stress relief is also included.

Many stop smoking immediately and/or reduce two to three clothing sizes within six weeks.

During the clinic, your dignity is protected at all times (nobody will be hypnotized for comedy or entertainment purposes). It is safe, effective, and enjoyable.

A reservation is not needed. No paper work. Simply sign in at least 30 minutes early, and be treated. No children, please.

Only one two-hour session is needed for desirable results.

*New Life Clinics* relies on public support to continually provide free treatment to many in need. Therefore, a voluntary

five-dollar donation is appreciated when signing in.

**Mon, Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, Trinidad**  
7:30 pm-9:30pm (sign in by 7:00pm)

*Quality Inn*  
3125 Toupal Dr

More Info: (800) 274-3589  
[www.NewLifeHypnosis.org](http://www.NewLifeHypnosis.org)  
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## Call for nominations for school directors

### Hoehne School District • Las Animas County, Colorado

The Board of Education of Hoehne School District in the County of Las Animas, State of Colorado (Board of Education), calls for nomination of candidates for school directors to be placed on the ballot for the regular biennial school election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

At this election five directors will be elected representing the following districts: 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7, for a term of office of four years. To be qualified, a candidate must have been a registered elector of the school district for at least twelve consecutive months before the election and resident of the director district, which will be represented. A person is ineligible to run for school director if he or she has been convicted of committing a sexual offense against a child.

A person who desires to be a candidate for school director shall file a written notice of intention to be a candidate and a nomination petition signed by at least 50 eligible electors who are registered to vote in the regular biennial school election.

Nomination petitions may be obtained at the district office. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Fridays. Completed petitions should be submitted to **Reid Straabe**, the School District's designated election official, no later than 4 p.m. on August 28, 2009.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Board of Education of Hoehne School District, in the County of Las Animas and State of Colorado, has caused this call for nomination to be given this 7th day of August, 2009.